

A Service of Ashing and Holy Communion for Ash Wednesday



The sacrifice of God is a broken spirit: a broken and contrite heart you will not despise.

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all

And also with you.

Introduction and Collect

Let us pray for grace to keep Lent faithfully.

Almighty and everlasting God you hate nothing that you have made and forgive the sins of all those who are penitent. Create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that, lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, we may receive from you, the God of all mercy, perfect forgiveness and peace: through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:20-6:10

So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. For he says,

‘At an acceptable time I have listened to you,
and on a day of salvation I have helped you.’

See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation! We are putting no obstacle in anyone’s way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, riots, labours, sleepless nights, hunger; by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, truthful speech, and the

power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; in honour and dishonour, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see—we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 51

Have mercy on me, O God, in your great goodness;
according to the abundance of your compassion blot out my offences.
Wash me thoroughly from my wickedness and cleanse me from my sin.

have mercy on us O Lord, for we have sinned

For I acknowledge my faults and my sin is ever before me.

Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight,
So that you are justified in your sentence and righteous in your judgement.
I have been wicked even from my birth, A sinner when my mother
conceived me.

have mercy on us O Lord, for we have sinned

Behold, you desire truth deep within me and shall make me understand
wisdom in the depths of my heart. Purge me with hyssop and I shall be
clean; wash me and I shall be whiter than snow. Make me hear of joy
and gladness, that the bones you have broken may rejoice.

have mercy on us O Lord, for we have sinned

Turn your face from my sins and blot out all my misdeeds.

Make me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

Cast me not away from your presence and take not your holy spirit from
me. Give me again the joy of your salvation and sustain me with your
gracious spirit; Then shall I teach your ways to the wicked and sinners
shall return to you.

have mercy on us O Lord, for we have sinned

Deliver me from my guilt, O God, the God of my salvation, and my
tongue shall sing of your righteousness. O Lord, open my lips and my
mouth shall proclaim your praise. For you desire no sacrifice, else I
would give it; you take no delight in burnt offerings. The sacrifice of God
is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not
despise.

have mercy on us O Lord, for we have sinned

Gospel Matt 6:1-6, 16-21

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew

Glory to you, O Lord.

‘Beware of practising your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven.

‘So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

‘And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

‘And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

‘Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

This is the gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Liturgy of Penance

Let us now call to mind our sin and the infinite mercy of God.

God the Father,

Have mercy on us.

God the Son,

Have mercy on us.

God the Holy Spirit,

Have mercy on us.

From all evil and mischief; from pride, vanity, and hypocrisy;
from envy, hatred, and malice; and from all evil intent,

Good Lord, deliver us.

From sloth, worldliness, and love of money;
from hardness of heart, and contempt for your world and your laws,

Good Lord, deliver us.

From sins of body and mind;
from the deceits of the world, the flesh and the devil,

Good Lord, deliver us.

In all times of sorrow; in all times of joy;
in the hour of death, and at the day of judgement,

Good Lord, deliver us.

By the mystery of your holy incarnation; by your birth, childhood
and obedience;

by your baptism, fasting and temptation,

Good Lord, deliver us.

By your ministry in word and work; by your mighty acts of power;
and by your preaching of the kingdom,

Good Lord, deliver us.

By your agony and trial; by your cross and passion;
and by your precious death and burial,

Good Lord, deliver us.

By your mighty resurrection; by your glorious ascension;
and by your sending of the Holy Spirit,

Good Lord, deliver us.

Give us true repentance;
forgive us our sins of negligence and ignorance, and our deliberate sins;
and grant us the grace of your Holy Spirit to amend our lives
according to your holy word.

**Holy God,
holy and strong,
holy and immortal,
have mercy upon us.**

Make our hearts clean, O God;
and renew a right spirit within us.

**Father eternal, giver of light and grace,
we have sinned against you and against our neighbour,
in what we have thought, in what we have said and done,
through ignorance, through weakness,
through our own deliberate fault.
We have wounded your love, and marred your image in us.
We are sorry and ashamed, and repent of all our sins.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, who died for us,
forgive us all that is past;
and lead us out from darkness to walk as children of light.
Amen.**

Prayer over the ashes

As a sign of the spirit of penitence with which we shall keep this season of preparation for Easter, I invite you to receive on your head in ash the sign of the cross, the symbol of our salvation.

God our Father, you create us from the dust of the earth: grant that these ashes may be for us a sign of our penitence and a symbol of our mortality; for it is by your grace alone that we receive eternal life in Jesus Christ our Saviour. **Amen.**

Imposition of ashes

Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.
Turn away from sin and be faithful to Christ.

At the end of the ashing, when all have returned to their seats:
Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in life eternal, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Peace

Being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. The peace of the Lord be always with you
And also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord is here.
His Spirit is with us.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give thanks and praise.

Father, we give you thanks and praise through your beloved Son Jesus Christ, your living Word,
through whom you have created all things;
who was sent by you in your great goodness to be our Saviour.

By the power of the Holy Spirit he took flesh;
as your Son, born of the blessed Virgin
he lived on earth and went about among us;
he opened wide his arms for us on the cross;
he put an end to death by dying for us;
and revealed the resurrection by rising to new life;
so he fulfilled your will and won for you a holy people.

And now we give you thanks because through Him
you have given us the spirit of discipline,
that we may triumph over evil and grow in grace.

Therefore with angels and archangels,
and with all the company of heaven,
we proclaim your great and glorious name,
for ever praising you and saying:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness;
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit,
and according to your holy will,
these gifts of bread and wine may be to us
the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ;
who, in the same night that he was betrayed,
took bread and gave you thanks;
he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper he took the cup and gave you thanks;
he gave it to them, saying:
Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

And so, Father, calling to mind his death on the cross,
his perfect sacrifice made once for the sins of the whole world;
rejoicing in his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension,
and looking for his coming in glory,
we celebrate this memorial of our redemption.
As we offer you this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving,
we bring before you this bread and this cup
and we thank you for counting us worthy
to stand in your presence and serve you.

Send the Holy Spirit on your people
and gather into one in your kingdom
all who share this one bread and one cup,
so that we, in the company of the Blessed Virgin Mary, St Peter
and all the saints,
may praise and glorify you for ever,
through Jesus Christ our Lord;

by whom, and with whom, and in whom,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father,
for ever and ever.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer.

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us:

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name;
Thy kingdom come;
Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
And forgive us our trespasses
As we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
The power and the glory,
For ever and ever. Amen.**

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

**Though we are many, we are one body,
because we all share in one bread.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
grant us peace.**

Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.
Happy are those who are called to His supper.

**Lord, I am not worthy to receive You,
but only say the word, and I shall be healed.**

All who are confirmed or regularly receive Communion are welcome to receive here. If you do not receive Communion please come up with your hands crossed or carrying a book to receive a blessing.

Blessed is the one who meditates day and night on the law of the Lord: he will yield fruit in due season.

Prayer after Communion.

Lord our God, grant us grace to desire you with our whole heart;
that so desiring we may seek and find you,
and so finding, may love you;
And so loving, may hate those sins
from which you have delivered us;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Almighty God,
we thank You for feeding us
with the Body and Blood of Your Son Jesus Christ.
Through Him we offer you our souls and bodies
to be a living sacrifice.
Send us out in the power of Your Spirit
to live and work to Your praise and glory. Amen.**

Christ give you grace to grow in holiness,
to deny yourselves, take up your cross, and follow Him;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always. Amen.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
In the name of Christ. Amen.