

# Ash Wednesday

## INTRODUCTION

In the name of the Father,  
and of ✠ the Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.

*All respond: Amen.*

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

**And also with you.**

*The priest introduces the Liturgy.*

KYRIE ELEÏSON *follows.*

Lord, have mercy. *℟.* **Lord, have mercy.**  
Christ, have mercy. *℟.* **Christ, have mercy.**  
Lord, have mercy. *℟.* **Lord, have mercy.**

*All remain standing for the COLLECT.*

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 we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, may receive from you, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING

*Joel 2.1–2,12–17*

A reading from the prophet Joel.

Blow the trumpet in Zion; sound the alarm on my holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble, for the day of the Lord is coming, it is near – a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness! Like blackness spread upon the mountains a great and powerful army comes; their like has never been from of old, nor will be again after them in ages to come.

Yet even now, says the Lord, return to me

with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; rend your hearts and not your clothing. Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing. Who knows whether he will not turn and relent, and leave a blessing behind him, a grain-offering and a drink-offering for the Lord, your God? Blow the trumpet in Zion; sanctify a fast; call a solemn assembly; gather the people. Sanctify the congregation; assemble the aged; gather the children, even infants at the breast. Let the bridegroom leave his room, and the bride her canopy. Between the vestibule and the altar let the priests, the ministers of the Lord, weep. Let them say, ‘Spare your people, O Lord, and do not make your heritage a mockery, a byword among the nations. Why should it be said among the peoples, “Where is their God?”’

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

*from Ps 51*

*℟.* Have mercy on us, Lord, for we have sinned. (*All repeat*)

Have mercy upon me, O God, in your great love.

In your compassion blot out my offences.  
Wash me thoroughly from my guilt,  
and cleanse me from all my sin. *℟.*

To you I confess my faults,  
for my sin is ever before me.  
Against you it is that I have sinned,  
and done what is evil in your sight. *℟.*

Make me a clean heart, O God,  
and renew a right spirit within me.  
Cast me not out of your sight,  
nor deprive me of your holy Spirit. *℟.*

Sustain me with your help again,  
and strengthen me with perseverance.  
Open my lips, O Lord,  
and my mouth shall show forth your praise. *℟.*

A reading from the second letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

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 the Lord 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.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Ps 95.3,7,8*

Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory. The Lord is a great God, O that today you would listen to his voice:

Harden not your hearts.

**Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.**

GOSPEL READING

*Mt 6.1–6,16–21*

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** Hear the Gospel ✠ of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus said to the disciples: “Beware of practising your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them, for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven.

“Thus, when you give to the needy, sound no trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be praised by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

“And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when 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 when you fast, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, that your fasting may not be seen by others but by your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys 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.**

A SERMON *may follow.*

**LITURGY OF PENITENCE**

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

All *kneel for the* LITANY.

God the Father,     ℟. **Have mercy upon us.**  
God the Son,       ℟. **Have mercy upon us.**  
God the Holy Spirit, ℟. **Have mercy upon us.**  
Holy, blessed, and glorious Trinity,  
                                  ℟. **Have mercy upon 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  
word 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 delib-  
erate 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.**

*Silence is kept; the* CONFESSIO*n is then said.*

℣. Make our hearts clean, O God;  
℟. **And renew a right spirit within us.**

**Lord God, we have sinned against you;  
we have done evil in your sight.  
We are sorry and repent.  
Have mercy on us according to your love.  
Wash away our wrongdoing  
and cleanse us from our sin.  
Renew a right spirit within us  
and restore us to the joy of your salvation,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*The priest blesses the ashes.*

Dear friends in Christ, I invite you to receive  
these ashes as a sign of the spirit of penitence  
with which we shall keep this season of Lent.

God our Father, you create us from the dust of  
the earth: bless ✠ these ashes, that they 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.**

*The people may come forward to receive the*  
IMPOSITION OF ASHES. *These words are used:*  
Remember that you are dust, and to dust you  
shall return.

*After the Imposition, the priest says:*

God our Father, the strength of all who put  
their trust in you, mercifully accept our  
prayers; and because, in our weakness, we  
can do nothing good without you, grant us  
the help of your grace, that in keeping your  
commandments we may please you, both in  
will and deed; through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

## LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

*All stand as the priest introduces the* PEACE.  
The peace of the Lord be always with you.  
**And also with you.**

*All may sit for the* OFFERTORY. *The priest may*  
*praise God for his gifts, to which all respond:*  
**Blessed be God for ever.**

All *stand* for the PRAYER over the OFFERINGS.

Pray, my brothers and sisters, that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

**May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands, for the praise and glory of his name, for our good, and the good of all his Church.**

Lord, help us to resist temptation by our Lenten works of charity and penance, that by this sacrifice we may be prepared to celebrate the death and resurrection of Christ our Saviour and be cleansed from sin and renewed in spirit; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

#### EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**  
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

*The PREFACE follows.*

All *respond* with the SANCTUS & BENEDICTUS.

**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.**

All *kneel*. After the Consecration, all acclaim:

Jesus Christ is Lord:  
**Lord, by your cross and resurrection you have set us free.**  
**You are the Saviour of the world.**

*The Eucharistic Prayer continues, and ends:*  
... for ever and ever. **Amen.**

## RITE OF COMMUNION

*The priest introduces the LORD'S PRAYER.*

**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.**

*The priest breaks the Host; AGNUS DEI is said.*

**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.**

*The priest gives the COMMUNION INVITATION.*

Draw near with faith. Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ which he gave for you, and his blood which he shed for you.

Eat and drink in remembrance that he died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

*Holy Communion is distributed.*

*The priest says the POST-COMMUNION prayer.*

Almighty God, you have given your only Son to be for us both a sacrifice for sin and also an example of godly life; give us grace that we may always most thankfully receive these his inestimable gifts, and also daily endeavour to follow the blessed steps of his most holy life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## CONCLUSION

*The priest gives the BLESSING and DISMISSAL.*

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Bow your heads and pray for God's blessing.

May God the Father, who does not despise the broken spirit, give to you a contrite heart.  
**Amen.**

May Christ, who bore our sins in his body on the tree, heal you by his wounds. **Amen.**

May the Holy Spirit, who leads us into all truth, speak to you words of pardon and peace. **Amen.**

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 the peace of Christ. **Thanks be to God.**