

Ash Wednesday



St. James, Hampton Hill

The Gathering

The Greeting

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

All Amen.

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

All and also with you.

Introduction

Brothers and sisters in Christ,
since early days
Christians have observed with great devotion
the time of our Lord's passion and resurrection
and prepared for this
by a season of penitence and fasting.
By carefully keeping these days,
Christians take to heart the call to repentance
and the assurance of forgiveness
proclaimed in the gospel, and so grow in faith
and in devotion to our Lord.
I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church,
to the observance of a holy Lent,
by self-examination and repentance;
by prayer, fasting, and self-denial;
and by reading and meditating
on God's holy word.

Lord, have mercy,
All Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.
All Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy,
All Lord, have mercy.

The Collect

Let us pray for grace to keep Lent faithfully.

Silence is kept

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.

All Amen

The Liturgy of the Word

First Reading *Isaiah 58.1-12*

A reading from the Prophet Isaiah

Shout out, do not hold back!
Lift up your voice like a trumpet!
Announce to my people their rebellion,
to the house of Jacob their sins.
Yet day after day they seek me
and delight to know my ways,
as if they were a nation that practised righteousness
and did not forsake the ordinance of their God;
they ask of me righteous judgements,
they delight to draw near to God.
Why do we fast, but you do not see?
Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?
Look, you serve your own interest on your fast-day,
and oppress all your workers.
Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight
and to strike with a wicked fist.
Such fasting as you do today
will not make your voice heard on high.
Is such the fast that I choose, a day to humble oneself?
Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush,
and to lie in sackcloth and ashes?
Will you call this a fast, a day acceptable to the LORD?
Is not this the fast that I choose:
to loose the bonds of injustice,
to undo the thongs of the yoke,
to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke?
Is it not to share your bread with the hungry,
and bring the homeless poor into your house;
when you see the naked, to cover them,
and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,
and your healing shall spring up quickly;
your vindicator shall go before you,
the glory of the LORD shall be your rearguard.
Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer;
you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am.
If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the
finger, the speaking of evil, if you offer your food to the
hungry—and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your
light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the
noonday. The LORD will guide you continually, and satisfy
your needs in parched places, and make your bones strong;
and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of
water, whose waters never fail. Your ancient ruins shall be
rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many
generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach,
the restorer of streets to live in.
This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm *Psalm 51.1-18*

Have mercy on us, Lord, for we have sinned.

All Have mercy on us, Lord, for we have sinned.

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.

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

All Have mercy on us, Lord, for we have sinned.

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.

All Have mercy on us, 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.

All Have mercy on us, Lord, for we have sinned.

Make me hear of joy and gladness,
that the bones you have broken may rejoice.

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.

All Have mercy on us, Lord, for we have sinned.

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.

All Have mercy on us, 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.

All Have mercy on us, Lord, for we have sinned.

Gospel Reading

John 8.1-11

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.

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

The Lord be with you

All and also with you.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to John.

All Glory to you, O Lord.

Early in the morning Jesus came again to the temple. All the people came to him and he sat down and began to teach them. The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery; and making her stand before all of them, they said to him, 'Teacher, this woman was caught in the very act of committing adultery. Now in the law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?' They said this to test him, so that they might have some charge to bring against him. Jesus bent down and wrote with his finger on the ground. When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, 'Let anyone among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her.' And once again he bent down and wrote on the ground. When they heard it, they went away, one by one, beginning with the elders; and Jesus was left alone with the woman standing before him. Jesus straightened up and said to her, 'Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?' She said, 'No one, sir.' And Jesus said, 'Neither do I condemn you. Go your way, and from now on do not sin again.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All Praise to you, O Christ.

Address

The Liturgy of Penitence

Self-examination and Confession

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

God the Father,
All have mercy on us.

God the Son,
All have mercy on us.

God the Holy Spirit,
All have mercy on us.

Holy, blessed, and glorious Trinity,
All have mercy on us.

From all evil and mischief;
from pride, vanity, and hypocrisy;
from envy, hatred, and malice;
and from all evil intent,
All good Lord, deliver us.

From sloth, worldliness, and love of money;
from hardness of heart
and contempt for your word and your laws,
All good Lord, deliver us.

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

All good Lord, deliver us.

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

All good Lord, deliver us.

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

All good Lord, deliver us.

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

All good Lord, deliver us.

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

All 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.

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

Silence is kept

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

All 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,
and in the good we have not 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.

The Imposition of 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:
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.

All Amen.

Please come forward to the altar rail for the imposition of ashes

After the imposition the president says

The Lord enrich you with his grace,
and nourish you with his blessing;
the Lord defend you in trouble
and keep you from all evil;
the Lord accept your prayers,
and absolve you from your offences,
for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Saviour.

All Amen.

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

The Peace

Since we are justified by faith,
we have peace with God
through our Lord Jesus Christ,
who has given us access to his grace.
The peace of the Lord be always with you

All and also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Prayer at the Preparation

Merciful Father,
turn us from sin to faithfulness
and from disobedience to love,
and prepare us to celebrate
the death and resurrection of Christ our Saviour
who is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

All Amen.

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you
All and also with you.

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

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

It is indeed right and good
to give you thanks and praise,
almighty God and everlasting Father,
through Jesus Christ your Son.
For in these forty days
you lead us into the desert of repentance
that through a pilgrimage of prayer and discipline
we may grow in grace
and learn to be your people once again.
Through fasting, prayer and acts of service
you bring us back to your generous heart.
Through study of your holy word
you open our eyes to your presence in the world
and free our hands to welcome others
into the radiant splendour of your love.

As we prepare to celebrate the Easter feast
with joyful hearts and minds
we bless you for your mercy
and join with saints and angels
for ever praising you and saying:

**All 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 glory be to you, our heavenly Father,
who, in your tender mercy,
gave your only Son our Saviour Jesus Christ
to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption;
who made there by his one oblation
of himself once offered
a full, perfect and sufficient sacrifice,
oblation and satisfaction
for the sins of the whole world;
he instituted, and in his holy gospel
commanded us to continue,
a perpetual memory of his precious death
until he comes again.

Hear us, merciful Father, we humbly pray, and grant that,
by the power of your Holy Spirit,
we receiving these gifts of your creation,
this bread and this wine,
according to your Son our Saviour
Jesus Christ's holy institution,
in remembrance of his death and passion,
may be partakers of his most blessed body and blood;

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.

Jesus Christ is Lord:

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

Therefore, Lord and heavenly Father,
in remembrance of the precious death and passion,
the mighty resurrection and glorious ascension
of your dear Son Jesus Christ,
we offer you through him this our sacrifice
of praise and thanksgiving.
Grant that by his merits and death,
and through faith in his blood,
we and all your Church may receive forgiveness of our sins
and all other benefits of his passion.
Although we are unworthy,
through our manifold sins,
to offer you any sacrifice,
yet we pray that you will accept this
the duty and service that we owe.

Do not weigh our merits, but pardon our offences,
and fill us all who share in this holy communion
with your grace and heavenly blessing;

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.

All Amen.

Silence will be kept

The Lord's Prayer

Lord Jesus, remember us in your kingdom
and teach us to pray.

**All 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.**

Breaking of the Bread

Every time we eat this bread,
and drink this cup

**All we proclaim the Lord's death
until he comes.**

**All 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.**

Giving of Communion

Jesus is the Lamb of God
who takes away the sin of the world.
Blessed are those who are called to his supper.

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

All are welcome to come forward for communion or a blessing

Prayer after Communion

Silence will be kept

Let us pray.
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.

All Amen.

The Dismissal

The Lord be with you
All and also with you.

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

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

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

And the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit
be among you and remain with you always.
All Amen.

Go in the peace of Christ.
All Thanks be to God.

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