

Ash Wednesday Service | 17 February 2021

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.

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

Readings

Isaiah 58:1-12

Psalm 51

John 8:1-11

The sacrifice of God is a broken spirit;
a broken and contrite heart God will not despise.
Let us come to the Lord, who is full of compassion,
and acknowledge our transgressions in penitence and faith.

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.

Trinity of love,

All have mercy on us.

All Most merciful God,

**Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
we confess that we have sinned
in thought, word and deed.**

We have not loved you with our whole heart, and mind, and strength.

We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.

We have not forgiven others, as we have been forgiven.

All Lord, have mercy.

We have been deaf to your call to serve, as Christ served us.

We have not been true to the mind of Christ.

We have grieved your Holy Spirit.

All Lord, have mercy.

We confess to you, Lord ...

all our past unfaithfulness: the pride, hypocrisy and impatience of our lives.

All Lord, have mercy.

Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people.

All Lord, have mercy.

Our anger at our own frustration

and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves.

All Lord, have mercy.

Our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts and our dishonesty in daily life and work.

All Lord, have mercy.

Our negligence in prayer and worship

and our failure to commend the faith that is in us.

All Lord, have mercy.

Accept our repentance, Lord ...

for the wrongs we have done,

for our blindness to human need and suffering,

and our indifference to injustice and cruelty.

All Accept our repentance, Lord.

For all false judgements,
for uncharitable thoughts towards our neighbours
and for our prejudice and contempt towards those who differ from
us.

All Accept our repentance, Lord.

For our waste and pollution of your creation
and our lack of concern for those who come after us.

All Accept our repentance, Lord.

Restore us, good Lord, and let your anger depart from us.

All Favourably hear us, for your mercy is great.

Accomplish in us the work of your salvation,

All that we may show your glory in the world.

By the cross and passion of your Son our Lord,

All bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.

Silence is kept.

All We have not loved you with our whole heart.

We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.

In your mercy

forgive what we have been,

help us to amend what we are,

and direct what we shall be;

that we may do justly,

love mercy,

and walk humbly with you, our God.

Amen.

Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.

Turn away from sin and be faithful to Christ.

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.

All Amen.

Silence is kept.

**All God of our pilgrimage,
you have fed us with the bread of heaven.
Refresh and sustain us
as we go forward on our journey,
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Responsory

This is love, not that we loved God,
All but that he loved us and sent his Son.
He is the sacrifice for our sins,
All that we might live through him.
If God loves us so much
All we ought to love one another.
If we love one another
All God lives in us.

cf 1 John 4.12

The Blessing

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.

All Amen.

The Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All In the name of Christ. Amen.