



The Liturgy of Ash Wednesday

17th February 2021

'The sacrifice of God is a broken spirit:
a broken and contrite heart, O God,
thou wilt not despise.'

Psalm 51.17

The Gathering

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

The Greeting

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

Words of welcome and an introduction follow.

The Collect

The Lord be with you: **and also with you.**
Let us pray for grace to keep Lent faithfully.
A moment of silent prayer follows.

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

The Liturgy of the Word

Gospel Reading

The Reading

Isaiah 58:1-12

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 25

- 1 To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul;
O my God, in you I trust; •
let me not be put to shame;
let not my enemies triumph over me.
- 2 Let none who look to you be put to shame, •
but let the treacherous be shamed and frustrated.
- 3 Make me to know your ways, O Lord, •
and teach me your paths.
- 4 Lead me in your truth and teach me, •
for you are the God of my salvation;
for you have I hoped all the day long.
- 5 Remember, Lord, your compassion and love, •
for they are from everlasting.
- 6 Remember not the sins of my youth
or my transgressions, •
but think on me in your goodness, O Lord,
according to your steadfast love.
- 7 Gracious and upright is the Lord; •
therefore shall he teach sinners in the way.
- 8 He will guide the humble in doing right •
and teach his way to the lowly.
- 9 All the paths of the Lord are mercy and truth •
to those who keep his covenant and his testimonies

John 8:1-11

When the Gospel is announced **Glory to you, O Lord.**

At the end of the Gospel reading **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Homily

The Liturgy of Penitence

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

The Litany follows:

God the Father, **have mercy on us.**

God the Son, **have mercy on us.**

God the Holy Spirit, **have mercy on us.**

Holy, blessed and glorious Trinity, **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.

A number of petitions follow, all with the response

Good Lord, deliver us.

The Litany concludes

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.**

After a period of silence

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, 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

Open your pot of ready-mixed 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:
may these ashes 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.**

For times when we have not loved others,

Lord have mercy.

For times when we have not loved ourselves,

Lord have mercy.

*Use this ash and oil mix to make the sign of the cross on your forehead. We say
together:*

**We remember that we are dust and to dust we shall return. Help us
turn from sin and be faithful to Christ. Amen**

Priest prays:

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. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Lord Jesus, remember us in your Kingdom and teach us to pray:

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name;
your kingdom come, your will be done
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive them who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours,
now and for ever and ever, Amen.**

The Blessing

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

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

The Call to Keep a Godly and faithful Lent

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.

Material from 'Common Worship: Services and prayers for the Church of England', 2000; which has been used in this service, is copyright © The Archbishops' Council.