

ASH WEDNESDAY Holy Communion Service - 7.30pm on 17th February 2021

Welcome & The Gathering

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

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

Introduction

The Collect

Holy God,
our lives are laid before you:
rescue us from the chaos of sin
and through the death of your Son
bring us healing and make us whole
in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Old Testament reading: Joel 2:1-2,12-17

Gospel reading: Matthew 6:1-6,16-21

Reflection

The Liturgy of Penitence

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

**Holy and merciful God,
we confess to you,
that we have sinned through our own fault
in thought, and word, and deed:
in what we have done
and in what we have failed to do.**

We have not loved you with all our heart, soul, mind and strength.
We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.
We have not forgiven others, as we have been forgiven.
We have grieved your Holy Spirit.

Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.

We confess to you, O God, all our past unfaithfulness:
the pride, hypocrisy and impatience of our lives,
our self-indulgence and our exploitation of other people.

Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.

We confess our preoccupation with worldly goods and comforts,
and our envy of others.

Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.

We confess our blindness to human need and suffering,
our indifference to injustice and cruelty,
our misuse and pollution of creation,
and our lack of concern for the generation to come.

Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.

We confess our negligence in prayer and worship
and our failure to commend the faith that is in us.

Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.

Silence is kept

**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 Imposition of Ashes

The minister says:

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 the ashes we have in our homes
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 minister says:

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

We sign ourselves, or a member of our household signs us with a cross on the forehead. Alternatively, we might like to make the sign of the cross on our palm.

Prayer

The Lord enrich you with his grace,
and nourish you with his blessing;
the Lord defend you in troubles 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 Liturgy of the Sacrament

The Peace

The peace of the Lord be always with you
and also with you.

Preparation of the Table

Eucharistic Prayer A

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.

It is indeed right and good
to give you thanks and praise....
....we bless you for your mercy
and join with saints and angels
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.**

Accept our praises, heavenly Father...
....we look for the coming of your kingdom,
and with this bread and this cup
we make the memorial of Christ your Son our Lord.

Great is the mystery of faith.
**Christ has died:
Christ is risen:
Christ will come again.**

Accept through him, our great high priest,
this our sacrifice of thanks and praise...

.....with all who stand before you in earth and heaven,

we worship you, Father almighty,
in songs of everlasting praise:

**Blessing and honour and glory and power
be yours for ever and ever.
Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

**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 those 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.
Amen.**

Breaking of the Bread

**Jesus, Lamb of God,
have mercy on us.
Jesus, bearer of our sins,
have mercy on us.
Jesus, redeemer of the world,
grant us peace.**

Invitation to Communion

**The body of Christ
The blood of Christ**

We take some moments in the quiet, as we receive spiritual nourishment through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Prayer after Communion

**God of our pilgrimage,
who feeds 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.**

The Blessing

The Dismissal

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

