



Ash Wednesday

A Contemplative service of repentance, reflection and preparation

The Invocation and Greeting

Blessed be the Lord who forgives all our sins,
whose mercy endures for ever.

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

The Sentence

LA: When you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that your fasting may be seen not by others but your Father who is in secret.

Matthew 6.17-18

The Kyrie and Trisagion

As far as the east is from the west, so far has God set our sins from us.

All: Lord, have mercy Kyrie eleison

Christ, have mercy Christe eleison

Lord, have mercy Kyrie eleison

All: Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,
have mercy on us.

The Collect

Let us pray.

Silence

Almighty and everlasting God,
you hate nothing that you have made,
and you 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 brokenness,
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, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Hymn: Forty days and forty nights
https://youtu.be/QmXn_0c0yJs

Sisters and brothers in Christ, from the earliest days of the Church, Christians have observed with great devotion the time of our Lord's passion and resurrection. It became the custom of the church to prepare for this by a season of penitence and fasting.

At first this season was observed by those who were preparing for baptism at Easter and by those who, having been excommunicated, were to be restored to the communion of the church. By keeping these days with care and attention Christians might take to heart the call to repentance and the assurance of forgiveness proclaimed in the gospel, and grow in faith and devotion to our Lord.

So, by self-examination and repentance, by prayer and fasting, by self-denial and acts of generosity and by reading and meditating on the word of God, let us keep a holy Lent.

Silence is kept.

Confessional litany

Gather the people together,
prepare them for a sacred meeting.

Bring the old people, gather the young, even tiny babies,
everyone is to leave their past and come into the house of the
Lord.

Loving God,

**we are gathered together, young and old;
we have left our pasts to come before you, to prepare
ourselves.**

Confessional litany

Repent sincerely, says the Lord.
Return to me with fasting and weeping and mourning;
let your broken heart show sorrow.

Loving God,
we are ready to confess our sins,
to say sorry for the wrong we have done
and the good we have not done.
Have pity on us.

> SILENCE

Come back to the Lord your God,
who is kind and full of mercy.
God is faithful and always ready to forgive.

**Jesus Christ says to us when we confess our sin:
'Your sins are forgiven.'
Amen. Thanks be to God.**

A reading from the prophet Joel 2.1-2, 2.12-17

1 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—
2 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.
12 Yet even now, says the Lord ,
 return to me with all your heart,
with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;
13 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.

14 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?

15 Blow the trumpet in Zion;
sanctify a fast; call a solemn assembly;

16 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.

17 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?" '

For the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 51.1-17

¹ Have mercy on me, O God, in your enduring goodness:
according to the fullness of your compassion blot out my offences.

**² *Wash me thoroughly from my wickedness:
and cleanse me from my sin.***

³ For I acknowledge my rebellion:
and my sin is ever before me.

**⁴ *Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil in your eyes:
so you will be just in your sentence and blameless in your judging.***

⁵ Surely in wickedness I was brought to birth:
and in sin my mother conceived me.

**⁶ *You that desire truth in the inward parts:
O teach me wisdom in the secret places of the heart.***

⁷ Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean:
wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

**⁸ *Make me hear of joy and gladness:
let the bones which you have broken rejoice.***

9 Hide your face from my sins:
and blot out all my iniquities.

***10 Create in me a clean heart, O God:
and renew a right spirit within me.***

11 Do not cast me out from your presence:
do not take your holy spirit from me.

***12 O give me the gladness of your help again:
and support me with a willing spirit.***

13 Then will I teach transgressors your ways:
and sinners shall turn to you again.

***14 O Lord God of my salvation, deliver me from bloodshed:
and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness.***

15 O Lord, open my lips:
and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.

***16 You take no pleasure in sacrifice, or I would give it:
burnt-offerings you do not want.***

17 The sacrifice of God is a broken spirit:
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

A reading from St Paul's 2nd letter to the Corinthians 5.20b-6.10

5 ²⁰ So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

²¹ For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. **6**

¹ As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain.

² For he 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!

³ We are putting no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry,
⁴ but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities,

⁵ beatings, imprisonments, riots, labours, sleepless nights, hunger;

⁶ by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love,

⁷ truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left;

⁸ in honour and dishonour, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; ⁹ as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see—we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; ¹⁰ as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

For the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Prayer before the Gospel

*All: Jesus, saviour and friend.
Open our hearts to your word, your spirit and your way.
Help us to hear, see and listen for you in scripture and
in our gathering of worship.
Amen.*

*The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to St Matthew Chapter 6 various verses.
All: **Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ***

¹ 'Beware of practising your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven. ² 'So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ³ But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴ so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. ⁵ 'And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ⁶ But whenever 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. ¹⁶ 'And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ¹⁷ But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, ¹⁸ so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. ¹⁹ 'Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; ²⁰ but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

*This is the Gospel of the Lord.
All: **Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.***

Hymn: Christ has no body now but yours
<https://youtu.be/zoV6R6qk4vY>

The Ash Wednesday Litany

Eternal God, maker of heaven and earth,
have mercy on us.

Incarnate Word, redeemer of the world,
have mercy on us.

Abiding Spirit, giver of light and life,
have mercy on us.

Eternal God, maker of heaven and earth,
have mercy on us.

For turning away from your presence, for disobeying your
word and commandments,
forgive us, Lord.

For trusting in our own strength instead of yours, for betraying your trust and the trust of others,
forgive us, Lord.

For resisting your grace and refusing your blessings, for holding back from proclaiming our faith in you,
forgive us, Lord.

For damaging this earth and exploiting its creatures, for neglecting and wasting the gifts you have given us,
forgive us, Lord.

For failing to forgive as we have been forgiven. for judging others and bearing grudges,
forgive us, Lord.

For skimping on our commitments and relationships, for failing in hospitality,
forgive us, Lord.

For tolerating oppression, injustice, and wrong, for keeping silent when we should have spoken up,
forgive us, Lord.

For turning away when others have offered us love, for closing our hearts when others have needed compassion,
forgive us, Lord.

For all we have done unkindly, unjustly and dishonestly, for our careless speech and hurtful words,
forgive us, Lord.

Most merciful God,
we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed,
and in what we have failed to do:
we have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves;
we repent, and are sorry for all our sins.
Father, forgive us.
Strengthen us to love and obey you in newness of life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The absolution.

With our hearts turned to God in repentance,
with the knowledge of our sins laid bare before the cross of
Jesus Christ, in the name of the living God, your sins are forgiven.
Receive God's mercy, take hold of your forgiveness,
and, in the power of the Holy Spirit.
walk in the light of Christ. **Amen.**



Visual liturgy:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=46JcTyCGxIM&feature=youtu.be>

Silence with a personal prayer for each of us

*God, you chose to limit yourself for the sake of your people.
Let me walk with you this Lent as I face my own limitations and
seek to be your presence in the world.
Create in me a clean heart that I might know, love, and serve you
better through my service of others. **Amen.***

Ashes Song: <https://youtu.be/pJvOejpJItA>

The Sending prayer

Lord, bless to us this season of Lent.
Bless the things we give up,
that we might appreciate the things we have more gratefully.
Lord, bless to us this season of Lent.

Bless the things we take up,
that we might learn what it means to live well in your world.
Lord, bless to us this season of Lent.

Bless the things we give away,
that we might understand the true meaning of compassion.
Lord, bless to us this season of Lent.

Bless the things we lend,
that we might share in your story as disciples and followers.
Bless to us this season of Lent. Amen.

Hymn: God of justice we must go

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b3NeIRb1LY4>

The Bidding and Blessing

Go from this place,
in the peace of Christ who died to save you.
Seek to make the world a better place
and love the Lord your God
with all your heart and mind and strength.
Amen.

Grant, merciful Lord, to your faithful people pardon and
peace, that they may be cleansed from all their sins and
serve you with a quiet mind; through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

The Dismissal

God of life and death,
from the fullness of yourself you
have created all that is;
through the power of your
love you call us towards you;
in the giving of your Son our
salvation has been wrought.
Our flowering and our
passing, all the seasons of the
vine, belong to you.
Bless us now and in all our days,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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

Artwork: "True Contrition And Selfless Worship - We Can Break Through To Meet Jesus"
By Elizabeth Wang



Next Wednesday - [Forgiveness a Lent Study](#) - Session 1
1st Sunday of Lent this Sunday 9am