

A Midday Liturgy for Ash Wednesday

Gathering

God is with you
And also with you

O God, make speed to save us.
O Lord, make haste to help us.

My trust is in you, O Lord.
I have said 'You are my God.'
Psalm 31.14

Call to Confession

Christ the great reconciler calls us to be reconciled to God, one another, and within ourselves. Let us open ourselves to God's calling to healing and wholeness and acknowledge our brokenness and longing for

Confession

**Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us,
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your name. Amen.**

A prayer for forgiveness:

Almighty God have mercy upon us,
pardon and deliver us from all our sins,
confirm and strengthen us in all goodness,
and keep us in eternal life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

The Readings

Psalm 22.1-11

- 1 My God, my God, why have you forsaken me, ♦
**and are so far from my salvation,
from the words of my distress?**
- 2 O my God, I cry in the daytime,
but you do not answer; ♦
and by night also, but I find no rest.
- 3 Yet you are the Holy One, ♦
enthroned upon the praises of Israel.
- 4 Our forebears trusted in you; ♦
they trusted, and you delivered them.
- 5 They cried out to you and were delivered; ♦
they put their trust in you and were not confounded.
- 6 But as for me, I am a worm and no man, ♦
scorned by all and despised by the people.
- 7 All who see me laugh me to scorn; ♦
they curl their lips and wag their heads, saying,
- 8 'He trusted in the Lord; let him deliver him; ♦
let him deliver him, if he delights in him.'
- 9 But it is you that took me out of the womb ♦
and laid me safe upon my mother's breast.
- 10 On you was I cast ever since I was born; ♦
you are my God even from my mother's womb.
- 11 Be not far from me, for trouble is near at hand ♦
and there is none to help.

Short reading

While we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person - though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us.

Romans 5.6-8

The Prayers of the People - A Litany of Reconciliation by Indigenous Peoples of Canada

Creator, we long for wholeness in our church.

For honest, open communications. To say what we need to say, in safety and without fear.
Hear our Prayer, O God,
and in your love, answer.

Creator, help us to stay close, to never let go of one another, in joy as well as in pain. To embrace, to feel the physical presence of one another, and to be truly present, one to another.

Hear our Prayer, O God,
and in your love, answer.

Creator, we need to feel connected to our families, and to the church family. To learn and to grow. To be part of a web of relationships. To pass on values, love and a sense of closeness. To be part of an inner circle of safety. To spiral out to an open circle that welcomes others in.

Hear our Prayer, O God,
and in your love, answer.

Creator, we long for a gentle time of warmth and wholeness. For time and energy to nourish relationships. For honest sharing out of genuine love for all members of the church community.

Hear our Prayer, O God,
and in your love, answer.

Creator, at this time, we pray for the needs of our community, near and far. (*Prayers for the sick, our neighbourhood, those preparing for baptism, reception or reaffirmation, etc. If appropriate, silence may be offered for people to name their needs and the needs of others*).

Hear our Prayer, O God,
and in your love, answer.

Creator, we long to dance. To move into the centre of the circle. To touch and grow together in community into completeness.

Hear our Prayer, O God,
and in your love, answer.

- *Worship in the Vision of the New Agape, The Anglican Church of Canada (2004)*

The Disciples Prayer

Longing for the fullness of the reign of God, we pray as Jesus taught his friends

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 our sins as we forgive those who sin against us

Save us from the time of trial

And deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours

Now and forever. Amen

Collect for Ash Wednesday

O God,

you delight not in pomp and show,

but in a humble and contrite heart.

Overturn our love of worldly possessions

and fix our hearts more firmly on you,
so that, having nothing,
we may yet possess everything,
a treasure stored up for us in heaven. Amen.

Revised Common Lectionary Prayers (2002), alt.

The Grace

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, be with us all,
evermore. Amen

Dismissal

Let us bless God, our merciful Creator,

Thanks be to God