

# The Liturgy of Ash Wednesday



## Hymn

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.**

## Introduction

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.

**Holy God, holy and strong, holy and immortal, have  
mercy upon us.**

## The Collect

Let us pray for grace to keep Lent faithfully.  
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. **Amen.**

## Reading

### Hymn

### Gospel Reading

*When the Gospel is announced the reader says*

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to *N.*

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## Sermon

### The Liturgy of Penitence

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

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

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

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

Trinity of love, **have mercy on us.**

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

And so, Father, calling to mind his death on the cross, his  
perfect sacrifice made once for the sins of the whole  
world; rejoicing in his mighty resurrection and glorious  
ascension, and looking for his coming in glory, we  
celebrate this memorial of our redemption. As we offer  
you this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, we bring  
before you this bread and this cup and we thank you for  
counting us worthy to stand in your presence and serve  
you.

Send the Holy Spirit on your people and gather into one in  
your kingdom all who share this one bread and one cup,  
so that we, in the company of [*N and*] all the saints, may  
praise and glorify you for ever, through Jesus Christ our  
Lord; by whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity  
of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory be yours, almighty  
Father, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

### The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

**Our Father, which art in heaven, hallowed be thy  
name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done, in earth as  
it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And  
forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive them that  
trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation;  
but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the  
power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

### Breaking of the Bread

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

**Though we are many, we are one body, because we all  
share in one bread.**

### Giving of Communion

Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the  
world. Blessed are those who are called to his supper.

**Lord, I am not worthy to receive you, but only say the  
word, and I shall be healed.**

### Prayer after Communion

**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.**

### Hymn or Song

### Blessing

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.**

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. **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. **Lord, have mercy.**

We confess to you, Lord ...  
all our past unfaithfulness: the pride, hypocrisy and impatience of our lives. **Lord, have mercy.**  
Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people. **Lord, have mercy.**  
Our anger at our own frustration and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves. **Lord, have mercy.**  
Our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts and our dishonesty in daily life and work. **Lord, have mercy.**  
Our negligence in prayer and worship and our failure to commend the faith that is in us. **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. **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.  
**Accept our repentance, Lord.**  
For our waste and pollution of your creation and our lack of concern for those who come after us.  
**Accept our repentance, Lord.**

Restore us, good Lord, and let your anger depart from us.  
**Favourably hear us, for your mercy is great.**  
Accomplish in us the work of your salvation,  
**that we may show your glory in the world.**  
By the cross and passion of your Son our Lord, **bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.**

*Silence is kept.*

**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.**

#### **The Imposition of Ashes**

*If the imposition of ashes is to follow, the president 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.

Let us pray: God our Father, you create us from the dust of the earth: grant that these ashes 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.**

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

#### **The Peace**

Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given us access to his grace. *cf Romans 5.1,2*

The peace of the Lord be always with you  
**and also with you.**  
Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

#### *Hymn*

#### **The Eucharistic Prayer**

*The president says*

The Lord be with you

**And also with you.**

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, almighty God and everlasting Father, through Jesus Christ your Son.

For in these forty days you lead us into the desert of repentance that through a pilgrimage of prayer and discipline we may grow in grace and learn to be your people once again. Through fasting, prayer and acts of service you bring us back to your generous heart. Through study of your holy word you open our eyes to your presence in the world and free our hands to welcome others into the radiant splendour of your love. As we prepare to celebrate the Easter feast with joyful hearts and minds 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.**

Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness; grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit, and according to your holy will, these gifts of bread and wine may be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ; who, in the same night that he was betrayed, took bread and gave you thanks; he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper he took the cup and gave you thanks; he gave it to them, saying: Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

**Christ has died,  
Christ is risen,  
Christ will come again.**