



DIOCESE
of
QU'APPELLE

Ash Wednesday Eucharist

To mark the beginning of Lent



Introduction

Lent is the 40 days (not counting 6 Sundays) that fall between Ash Wednesday and Holy Saturday (Easter Eve). **Sundays are not counted** in the 40 days of Lent because every Sunday is considered a “little Easter.”

In the early church, Lent was a time of final preparation for people who were seeking to be baptized. During Lent, the church community adopted a 40-day discipline of fasting, almsgiving, and prayer:

- **Prayer:** *for the healing of our souls*
- **Fasting:** *for the healing of our bodies*
- **Almsgiving:** *for the building of a caring community*

Lent is the time to look truthfully at ourselves and make the necessary changes. During Lent, the selected scripture readings remind us that God calls us to live humble lives filled with justice and kindness. When we fall short of this vision, scripture assures us that God will forgive us and help us start fresh. When we err because we take too much upon ourselves, Genesis reminds us that we are made from the dust of the earth. When we fall short because of feelings of fear or desolation, we are reminded we are made in God’s image.

The biblical theme of Lent is the journey to Jerusalem. As Jesus turned toward Jerusalem, we turn to face our own vulnerability. We come to healing and wholeness by allowing our former self to come apart. Just as Jesus’ body was pierced on the cross, our sufferings on the cross of our spiritual unfolding may be painful to body, mind, and spirit. We have to let go of many kinds of illusions which hold our false sense of security together. We have to let go of “false” attachments – anything we attach our souls to instead of to God. Like the prophets of old, we go through our “dark night” to become the whole persons God intends. Risking coming apart, we come together anew in “at-one-ment.” To be whole is to be at peace with God. Atonement is the peace of God, a peace the world, without God, cannot give. Atonement frees us for justice and kindness.

Our personal Lent may not always coincide with a particular season of the Christian Year, but Lent and Holy Week shape us to be people who can deal constructively with suffering when we need to. As God’s creations, we will always have Lenten times because we are always “becoming.” We are constantly called upon to change. Lent draws us into the faithful persistence of transformation. With Jesus we yield, come apart, and even die– so we can be born anew into God’s promised future. And time and time again God is present, not just in strength but also in weakness. God is working creatively with pain in human history, and working creatively in us. Our changing self is getting ready for our part in building God’s peace.

Gathering and Welcome

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

All **And also with you.**

Everyone is made welcome; the Presiding Priest may use the following or alternative words:

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.

Ash Wednesday has been in the Christian calendar since the 8th century. I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church and in accordance with ancient tradition, 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.

Collect (Gathering Prayer) for the Day

Almighty and everlasting God, you despise 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 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, for ever and ever.

Amen.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Readings

A reading from the book of the prophet Joel:

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 — 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. Yet even now, says the Lord, return to me
with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; 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. 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? Blow the trumpet in Zion; sanctify a fast;

call a solemn assembly; 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. 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

All **Thanks be to God**

Psalm 103: 8-18

Response **(R)** **The Lord remembers that we are but dust.**

8 The Lord is full of compassion and mercy, *
slow to anger and of great kindness.

9 He will not always accuse us, *
nor will he keep his anger for ever. **(R)**

10 He has not dealt with us according to our sins, *
nor rewarded us according to our wickedness.

11 For as the heavens are high above the earth, *
so is his mercy great upon those who fear him. **(R)**

12 As far as the east is from the west, *
so far has he removed our sins from us.

13 As a father cares for his children, *
so does the Lord care for those who fear him. **(R)**

14 For he himself knows whereof we are made; *
he remembers that we are but dust.

15 Our days are like the grass; *
we flourish like a flower of the field;

16 When the wind goes over it, it is gone, *
and its place shall know it no more. **(R)**

17 But the merciful goodness of the Lord endures for ever on those who fear him, *
and his righteousness on children's children;

18 On those who keep his covenant *
and remember his commandments and do them. **(R)**

A reading from the second letter of Paul to the Church in Corinth:

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

As we work together with him, we entreat you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. For he says,

“At an acceptable time I have listened to you,
and on a day of salvation I have helped you.”

Look, now is the acceptable time; look, now is the day of salvation! We are putting no obstacle in anyone’s way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: in great endurance, afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, riots, labours, sleepless nights, hunger; in purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; in honour and dishonour, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors and yet are true, as unknown and yet are well known, as dying and look—we are alive, as punished and yet not killed, as sorrowful yet always rejoicing, as poor yet making many rich, as having nothing and yet possessing everything.

For the Word of the Lord

All **Thanks be to God**

We STAND, as able, for the Gospel reading.

Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.

The Lord is a great God, O that today you would listen to his voice.

Harden not your hearts.

cf Psalm 95: 3, 8

Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew

All **✠Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

+Jesus said: “Beware of practicing your righteousness before others in order to be seen by them, for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven.

“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. But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your alms may be done in secret, and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

“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. 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.

“And whenever you fast, do not look sombre, like the hypocrites, for they mark their faces to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, 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.

“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal, but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

The Gospel of Christ

All **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

SERMON / HOMILY

Priest Every year at the time of the Christian Passover we celebrate our redemption through the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. Lent is a time to prepare for this celebration and to renew our life in the paschal mystery. We begin this holy season by remembering our need for repentance, and for the mercy and forgiveness proclaimed in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Penitential Rite and Ashing

We begin our journey to Easter with the sign of ashes, an ancient sign, speaking of the frailty and uncertainty of human life, and marking the penitence of the community as a whole. Let us kneel before our Creator and Redeemer.

Silence is then kept for reflection.

Psalm 51. 1–18

Refrain (R) Create in me a clean heart, O God.

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your loving kindness; *
in your great compassion blot out my offences.

Wash me through and through from my wickedness *
and cleanse me from my sin. **(R)**

For I know my transgressions, *
and my sin is ever before me.

Against you only have I sinned *
and done what is evil in your sight.
And so you are justified when you speak *
and upright in your judgement.
Indeed, I have been wicked from my birth, *
a sinner from my mother's womb. **(R)**
For behold, you look for truth deep within me, *
and will make me understand wisdom secretly.
Purge me from my sin, and I shall be pure; *
wash me, and I shall be clean indeed.
Make me hear of joy and gladness, *
that the body you have broken may rejoice. **(R)**
Hide your face from my sins *
and blot out all my iniquities.
Create in me a clean heart, O God, *
and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from your presence *
and take not your Holy Spirit from me. **(R)**
Give me the joy of your saving help again *
and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.
I shall teach your ways to the wicked, *
and sinners shall return to you.
Deliver me from death, O God, *
and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness,
 O God of my salvation. **(R)**
Open my lips, O Lord, *
and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.
Had you desired it, I would have offered sacrifice, *
but you take no delight in burnt-offerings.
The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit; *
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise. **(R)**

Priest Praying together:
All **Most holy and merciful Father,**
 we confess to you, to one another,
 and to the whole communion of saints in heaven and on earth,
 that we have sinned by our own fault 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, and mind, and strength.
We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.
We have not forgiven others, as we have been forgiven.

All **Have mercy on us, Lord.**

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.

All **Have mercy on us, Lord.**

We confess to you, Lord, all our past unfaithfulness:
the pride, hypocrisy, and impatience of our lives

All **We confess to you, Lord.**

Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people,

All **We confess to you, Lord.**

Our anger at our own frustration,
and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves,

All **We confess to you, Lord.**

Our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts,
and our dishonesty in daily life and work,

All **We confess to you, Lord.**

Our negligence in prayer and worship,
and our failure to commend the faith that is in us,

All **We confess to you, Lord.**

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,

All **Accept our repentance, Lord.**

For all false judgements, for uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbours,
and for our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us,

All **Accept our repentance, Lord.**

All For our waste and pollution of your creation,
and our lack of concern for those who come after us,
Accept our repentance, Lord.

All Restore us, good Lord, and let your anger depart from us;
Hear us, Lord, for your mercy is great.

Priest Almighty God, from the dust of the earth you have created us.
May these ashes be for us a sign of our mortality and penitence,
and a reminder that only by your gracious gift are we given eternal life;
through Jesus Christ our Saviour.

All **Amen.**

*Those who desire to receive ashes come forward, and the ashes are applied to the forehead
of each person with the following words.*

Remember you are dust, and to dust you shall return.

After the imposition of ashes, the Priest says

All Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation,
That we may show forth your glory in the world.



All By the cross and passion of your Son, our Lord,
Bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.

Priest Almighty God have mercy on you,
forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ,
strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit
keep you in eternal life.

All **Amen.**

LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

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.

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

All may exchange a sign of Christ's peace with those around us, saying 'Peace be with you.'

Prayer over the Gifts

Priest Merciful God, turn us from sin to faithfulness.
Accept our offering, and prepare us to celebrate
the death and resurrection of Christ our Saviour,
who is alive and reigns with you now and for ever.
All **Amen.**

Eucharistic Prayer

All The Lord be with you
And also with you'

All Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

All Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of heaven and earth,
because you bid your faithful people to cleanse their hearts
and to prepare with joy for the paschal feast;
that reborn through the waters of baptism
and renewed in the eucharistic mystery,
we may be more fervent in prayer
and more generous in the works of love.
Therefore we raise our voices to you in praise
to proclaim the glory of your name:
All **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.**

We give thanks to you, Lord our God,
for the goodness and love you have made known to us in creation;
in calling Israel to be your people;
in your Word spoken through the prophets;
and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus your Son.

For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Saviour and Redeemer of the world.

In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you.

In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, a death he freely accepted, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said,

“Take, eat: this is my body which is given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.”

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said,

“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.
Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.”

All Therefore, Father, according to his command,
**we remember his death,
we proclaim his resurrection,
we await his coming in glory;**

and we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts, that they may be the sacrament of the body of Christ and his blood of the new covenant.

Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we, made acceptable in him, may be sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

In the fullness of time, reconcile all things in Christ, and make them new, and bring us to that city of light where you dwell with all your children; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation; by whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory are yours, almighty Father, now and for ever.

All **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour, Christ, has commanded and taught us, so we 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 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

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

All **We, being many, are one body for we all share in the one Bread.**

The gifts of God for the People of God.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Everyone invited to come to the altar for communion or a blessing.

All are welcome to receive communion or a blessing.

After communion a period of SILENT prayer may be kept by everyone.

We STAND, as able, for the Prayer after Communion

Priest God of compassion, through your Son Jesus Christ
you reconciled your people to yourself.

Following his example of prayer and fasting,
may we obey you with willing hearts and serve one another in holy love;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

Blessing and Dismissal

May God the Father, who does not despise the broken spirit,
give to you a contrite heart.

May Christ, who bore our sins in his body on the tree,
heal you by his wounds.

May the Holy Spirit, who leads us into all truth,
speak to you words of pardon and peace.

And the blessing of God almighty,
the ✠Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

All **Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God**