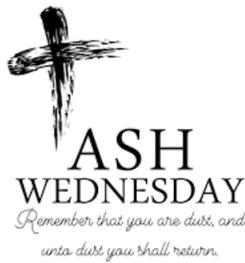




Service of the Word



Ecclesiastes 3:20

We say together the text in **bold type**

GATHERING

Officiant 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 Officiant 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.

Ash Wednesday has been in the Christian calendar since the 8th century. I invite you 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 for the Day

Officiant 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.

All **Amen.**

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The appointed readings for day from the Revised Common Lectionary are shared.



First Reading

The reading is announced, "A reading from the book of Joel"

At the end of the reading, the reader says,

Reader The word of the Lord

All **Thanks be to God** (Joel 2:1-2, 12-17)

Psalm

Psalm 103: 8-18 is then shared, either with a refrain, or responsively by half or whole verse.

Second Reading

The reading is announced, "A reading from the Second letter of Paul to the Corinthians".

At the end of the reading, the reader says,

The word of the Lord

All **Thanks be to God** (2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10)

Gospel Reading

The Gospel reading is then read,

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*

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

The holy gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew
All **+Glorify to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

The Gospel (Mt 6: 1-6, 16-21) is read, at the end of which is said,

The gospel of Christ

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

A SERMON is preached or a reflection read aloud

Officiant Every year at the time of the Christian Passover we celebrate our redemption through the death a 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)**

Officiant 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.**

Officiant 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.**

For our waste and pollution of your creation,
and our lack of concern for those who come after us,

All **Accept our repentance, Lord.**

Restore us, good Lord,
and let Your anger depart from us;

All **Hear us, Lord, for your mercy is great.**

Officiant 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 Officiant says

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

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

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

All **Amen.**

The Prayers

In the power of the Spirit and in union with Christ,
let us pray:

Lord, govern and direct your holy Church;
fill it with love, truth and unity.

All **Hear us, good Lord.**

Enable us to live the Way of Christ;
and help us to be open to your Holy Spirit.

All **Hear us, good Lord.**

Guide all who lead and govern;
may they follow in the ways of peace and justice.

All **Hear us, good Lord.**

Comfort and help the sick, the lonely,
the bereaved and the oppressed;
help us, in your name, to provide for the hungry,
the homeless, the abused and the destitute.

All **Hear us, good Lord.**

Keep in safety those who travel,
and all who are in danger.

All **Hear us, good Lord.**

Show your pity on all prisoners, refugees
and all who are in trouble.
Enable us to be signs of your hope
in a world full of oppression and hardness of heart.

All **Hear us, good Lord.**

Forgive all who slander, who give time to idle gossip,
and turn their hearts.

All **Hear us, good Lord.**

We pray for our dead, that they may share with you
a place of happiness, light and peace

All **Hear us, good Lord. Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Officiant We unite our prayers in the words Jesus gave us:
Our Father...

The Peace

Officiant The peace is the seal on our prayers, and so may
the peace of the Lord be always with you.

All **and also with you.**

Everyone may exchange a sign of Christ's peace

Dismissal

Officiant Having been blessed by this time together,
go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**