

# The Liturgy of Ash Wednesday



## *The Gathering*

*At the entry of the ministers a hymn may be sung.*

In the name of the Father, and of the Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.

**All Amen.**

*The president greets the people*

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

**All and also with you.**

## **The Greeting**

*The president explains the meaning of Lent and invites the people to  
observe it faithfully*

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.

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

## Readings

A reading from Scripture.

*At the end of the reading the reader may say*

This is the word of the Lord. *All Thanks be to God.*

*Gradual Hymn*

## Gospel Reading

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

*All Glory to you, O Lord*

*At the end of the reading*

This is the Gospel of the Lord. *All Praise to you, O Christ.*

## Sermon

### Self-examination and Confession

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

*Silence is kept*

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

*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.

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. **All Amen.**

*The president and people receive the imposition of ashes, the  
president first receiving the imposition from another minister. At  
the imposition the minister says to each person*

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

*During the imposition silence may be kept, or a hymn, anthem or  
psalm may be sung.*

God our Father,  
the strength of all who put their trust in you,  
mercifully accept our prayers;  
and because, in our weakness,  
we can do nothing good without you,  
grant us the help of your grace,  
that in keeping your commandments  
we may please you, both in will and deed;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**All Amen.**

### **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.  
The peace of the Lord be always with you

**All and also with you.**

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

*All may exchange a sign of peace.*

**Offertory hymn.**

### **Preparation of the Table**

Risen Lord and Saviour,  
present among us with the wealth of your love.

Cleanse us from sin and give us the faith  
to offer our praise and grow in your grace.

**All Amen.**

The Lord be with you

**All and also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**All We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**All 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

Your 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:

**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 praise and bless you, loving Father, through Jesus Christ, our Lord;  
and as we obey his command,  
send your Holy Spirit,  
that broken bread and wine outpoured  
may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died he had supper with his friends  
and, taking bread, he praised you.  
He broke the bread, gave it to them and said:  
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;  
do this in remembrance of me.

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine.  
Again he praised you, 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.  
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did,  
in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice  
made once for all upon the cross.  
Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation,  
we proclaim his death and resurrection  
until he comes in glory.

Great is the mystery of faith

**All Christ has died:  
Christ is risen:  
Christ will come again**

Lord of all life,  
help us to work together for that day  
when your kingdom comes  
and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth.

Look with favour on your people,  
gather us in your loving arms  
and bring us with all the saints  
to feast at your table in heaven.  
Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all honour and glory are yours,  
O loving Father, for ever and ever. **All Amen.**

### **The Lords prayer**

Lord Jesus, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to 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.

## **The Agnus Dei**

Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us  
Jesus bearer of our sins. have mercy on us  
Jesus redeemer of the world, grant us peace

## **Giving of Communion**

Draw near with faith. Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ which he gave for you, and his blood which he shed for you. Eat and drink in remembrance that he died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith with thanks giving.

*If you are a communicant member of the church you usually attend you are warmly welcome to receive Holy Communion today. If you wish to receive a blessing, please bring this order of service with you to the rail.*

## **Post Communion prayer**

Almighty God,  
you have given your only Son to be for us both a sacrifice for sin  
and also an example of godly life.  
give us grace that we may always most thankfully  
receive these his inestimable gifts,  
and also daily endeavour to follow the blessed steps of his most holy  
life;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**All 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.**

## **Final Hymn**

## ***The Dismissal***

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

***All Amen.***

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

***All Amen.***

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

***All Amen.***

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

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

*The ministers and people depart.*