



## *A Service of the Word for Ash Wednesday*

Welcome

We meet in the name of God:

**All Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**

The sacrifice of God is a broken spirit: a broken and contrite heart you will not despise

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.**

## Collect

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,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and forever.

**All Amen.**

## A Reading from the Bible: Matthew 6:1-6 & 16-21

This is the word of the Lord.

**All Thanks be to God.**

## Talk

## Song

## The Confession

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

Make our hearts clean, O God;

**All and renew a right spirit within us.**

**All Father eternal, giver of light and grace,  
we have sinned against you and against our  
neighbour,  
in what we have thought,  
in what we have said and done,  
through ignorance, through weakness,  
through our own deliberate fault.  
We have wounded your love,  
and marred your image in us.**

**We are sorry and ashamed,  
and repent of all our sins.  
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,  
who died for us,  
forgive us all that is past;  
and lead us out from darkness  
to walk as children of light.  
Amen.**

## The Imposition of Ashes

*We are all invited to sign ourselves with the cross in ash on our foreheads (use ash if you have it or just use your thumb)*

*When everyone has been marked with the ash, we pray:*

You have given all to me;

**All to you, Lord, I return it.**

Everything is yours;

**All do with it what you will.**

Give me only your love and your grace;

**All that is enough for me.**

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.**

Song

## Prayers of Intercession

*We sit to pray. This response may be used after each prayer:*

Lord, in your mercy  
**All**    **hear our prayer.**  
          **Amen.**

## The Lord's Prayer

**All**    **Our Father, who art in heaven,**  
          **hallowed be thy name;**  
          **thy kingdom come;**  
          **thy will be done;**  
          **on earth as it is in heaven.**  
          **Give us this day our daily bread.**  
          **And forgive us our trespasses,**  
          **as we forgive those who 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.**

## The Blessing

Christ give you grace to grow in holiness,  
to deny yourselves, take up your cross, and follow him;  
and the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be upon you and remain with you always.  
**All**    **Amen.**

## The Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
**All**    **In the name of Christ. Amen.**