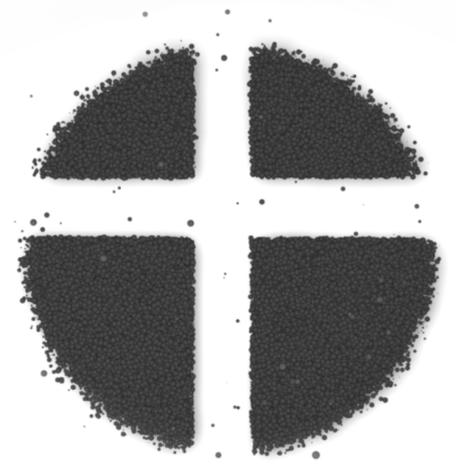


# PENITENTIAL SERVICE FOR ASH WEDNESDAY



The Lord be with you...

## **COLLECT FOR PURITY**

**Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known,  
and from whom no secrets are hidden;  
Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts  
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,  
that we may perfectly love you,  
and worthily magnify your holy name;  
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Let us pray (in silence) for grace to keep Lent faithfully.

Silence

Almighty and merciful God,  
you hate nothing that you have made  
and forgive the sins of all who are penitent;  
create in us new and contrite hearts,  
so that when we turn to you and confess our sins  
we may receive your full and perfect forgiveness;  
through Jesus Christ our Redeemer  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God now and for ever. **Amen.**

## **THE FIRST READING .**

A reading from the second letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

We entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. For the Lord says, 'At an acceptable time I have listened to you, and on a day of salvation I have helped you.' See, now is the acceptable time; see, 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: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, riots, labours, sleepless nights, hunger; by 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 see – 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.

This is the word of the Lord...

2 Corinthians 5.20b - 6.10

### **Psalm 51:1-4a, 10-12, 15**

Have mercy on me O God in your great kindness:  
in the fullness of your mercy blot out my offences.

Wash away all my guilt:

and cleanse me from my sin.

For I acknowledge my faults:

and my sin is always before me.

Against you only have I sinned

and done evil in your sight.

Create in me a clean heart O God:

and renew a right spirit within me.

Do not cast me away from your presence:

do not take your holy spirit from me.

Give me the joy of your help again:

and strengthen me with a willing spirit.

O Lord open my lips:

and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Glory....

### **THE GOSPEL Matthew 6.1-6, 16-21**

Jesus said to the disciples, 'Beware of practising your piety 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 dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as 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.'

## **SERMON**

### **LITANY OF PENITENCE**

We have not loved you with all our heart, and soul, 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.

**Lord have mercy.**

We have been deaf to your call to serve.

We have been unfaithful, proud, and hypocritical.

Christ have mercy.

**Christ have mercy.**

We have been self-centered, and have taken advantage of others.

Lord have mercy.

**Lord have mercy.**

We have been envious of those more fortunate than ourselves.

Christ have mercy.

**Christ have mercy.**

We have loved worldly goods and comforts too much.

We have been dishonest in daily life and work.

Lord have mercy.

**Lord have mercy.**

We have neglected prayer and worship, and have failed to commend the faith that is in us.

Christ have mercy.

**Christ have mercy.**

We have been blind to human need and suffering, and indifferent to injustice and cruelty.

Lord have mercy.

**Lord have mercy.**

We have thought uncharitably about others, and we have been prejudiced towards those who differ from us.

Christ have mercy.

**Christ have mercy.**

We have wasted and polluted your creation, and lacked concern for those who come after us.

Lord have mercy.

**Lord have mercy.**

**Merciful God,  
we have sinned  
in what we have thought and said,  
in the wrong we have done  
and in the good we have not done.  
We have sinned in ignorance:  
we have sinned in weakness:  
we have sinned through our own deliberate fault.  
We are truly sorry.  
We repent and turn to you.  
Forgive us, for our Saviour Christ's sake,  
and renew our lives to the glory of your name. Amen.**

**ABSOLUTION:**

Through the cross of Christ, God have mercy on you,  
pardon you and set you free.  
Know that you are forgiven and be at peace.  
God strengthen you in all goodness  
and keep you in life eternal. **Amen.**

**The Peace**

Jesus said, A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another:  
even as I have loved you, that you also love one another

**CELEBRATING AT THE LORD'S TABLE**

**We do not presume to come to this your table,  
merciful Lord,  
trusting in our own righteousness  
but in your manifold and great mercies.  
We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table.  
But you are the same Lord,  
whose nature is always to have mercy.  
Grant us, therefore, gracious Lord,  
so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ,  
and to drink his blood,  
that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body,  
and our souls washed through his most precious blood,  
and that we may evermore dwell in him and he in us. Amen.**

Loving Father,  
whether we receive the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ  
with our hands or with our hearts,  
may we be filled with his love and with his presence.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Christ our Passover has been sacrificed for us:  
**Therefore let us keep the feast.**

**PRAYER 1**    lch 209

The Lord is here.  
**His Spirit is with us.**

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

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

Father, almighty and everliving God, at all times and in all places  
it is right to give you thanks and praise:  
through Jesus Christ our Lord, who was in every way tempted as we are  
yet did not sin; by whose grace we are able to overcome all our temptations:

And so with all your people,  
with angels and archangels,  
and with all the company of heaven,  
we proclaim your great and glorious name,  
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!**

Blessed are you, Father,  
the creator and sustainer of all things;  
you made us in your own image, male and female you created us;  
even when we turned away from you,  
you never ceased to care for us,  
but in your love and mercy you freed us from the slavery of sin,  
giving your only begotten Son to become man  
and suffer death on the cross to redeem us;  
he made there the one complete and all-sufficient sacrifice  
for the sins of the whole world: he instituted,  
and in his holy Gospel commanded us to continue,  
a perpetual memory of his precious death until he comes again:

On the night that he was betrayed he took bread;  
and when he had given thanks to you, 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 when he had given thanks to you,  
he gave it to them, saying, Drink this, all of you,  
for 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.

Therefore, Father, with this bread and this cup  
we do as Christ your Son commanded:  
**we remember his passion and death,  
we celebrate his resurrection and ascension,  
and we look for the coming of his kingdom.**

Accept through him, our great high priest,  
this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving;  
and as we eat and drink these holy gifts,  
grant by the power of the life-giving Spirit  
that we may be made one in your holy Church  
and partakers of the body and blood of your Son,  
that he may dwell in us and we in him:

Through the same Jesus Christ our Lord,  
by whom, and with whom, and in whom,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
**all honour and glory are yours, Almighty Father,  
for ever and ever. Amen.**

As our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are bold to say  
**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 BREAKING OF THE BREAD**

The bread which we break  
is a sharing in the body of Christ.

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

### **THE COMMUNION**

Jesus Christ is the Lamb of God, who has taken away the sins of the world.  
Happy 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.**

### **Post- communion Collect**

Lord our God,  
grant us grace to desire you with our whole heart;  
that so desiring, we may seek and find you;  
and so finding, may love you;  
and so loving, may hate those sins  
from which you have delivered us;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Almighty God, we thank you for feeding us  
with the spiritual food  
of the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.  
Through him we offer you our souls and bodies  
to be a living sacrifice.  
Send us out in the power of your Spirit  
to live and work to your praise and glory. Amen.**

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

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