

**Ash Wednesday**  
**Service of Holy Communion**  
**Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2023**



**The Greeting**

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

**All** and also with you.

**Call to Worship**

Sisters and brothers 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.**

**Musical Meditation – *Glory, Love, Praise and Honour***

**The Collect**

Let us pray for grace to keep Lent faithfully.

Holy God,  
our lives are laid open before you:

rescue us from the chaos of sin  
and through the death of your Son  
bring us healing and make us whole  
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All Amen.**

### **Old Testament Reading – Joel 2.1-2,12-17**

A reading from the book of the Prophet Joel.

<sup>1</sup> Blow the trumpet in Zion;  
sound the alarm on my holy hill.  
Let all who live in the land tremble,  
for the day of the LORD is coming.  
It is close at hand—  
<sup>2</sup> a day of darkness and gloom,  
a day of clouds and blackness.  
Like dawn spreading across the mountains  
a large and mighty army comes,  
such as never was in ancient times  
nor ever will be in ages to come.

<sup>12</sup> “Even now,” declares the LORD,  
“return to me with all your heart,  
with fasting and weeping and mourning.”  
<sup>13</sup> Rend your heart  
and not your garments.  
Return to the LORD your God,  
for he is gracious and compassionate,  
slow to anger and abounding in love,  
and he relents from sending calamity.  
<sup>14</sup> Who knows? He may turn and relent  
and leave behind a blessing—  
grain offerings and drink offerings  
for the LORD your God.  
<sup>15</sup> Blow the trumpet in Zion,  
declare a holy fast,  
call a sacred assembly.  
<sup>16</sup> Gather the people,  
consecrate the assembly;  
bring together the elders,  
gather the children,  
those nursing at the breast.

Let the bridegroom leave his room  
and the bride her chamber.  
17 Let the priests, who minister before the LORD,  
weep between the portico and the altar.  
Let them say, "Spare your people, LORD.  
Do not make your inheritance an object of scorn,  
a byword among the nations.  
Why should they say among the peoples,  
'Where is their God?'"

This is the word of the Lord.

**All Thanks be to God.**

### **Gradual Hymn – *All my hope on God is founded (no. 19)***

**All All my hope on God is founded;  
he doth still my trust renew.  
Me through change and chance he guideth,  
only good and only true.  
God unknown, he alone  
calls my heart to be his own.**

**Human pride and earthly glory,  
sword and crown betray his trust;  
what with care and toil he buildeth,  
tower and temple, fall to dust.  
But God's power, hour by hour,  
is my temple and my tower.**

**God's great goodness aye endureth,  
deep his wisdom, passing thought:  
splendour, light and life attend him,  
beauty springeth out of naught.  
Evermore, from his store  
new-born worlds rise and adore.**

**Still from earth to God eternal  
sacrifice of praise be done,  
high above all praises praising  
for the gift of Christ his Son.  
Christ doth call one and all:  
ye who follow shall not fall.**

## Gospel Reading – Matthew 6.1-6, 16-21

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.**

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

**All Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup> “Be careful not to practice your righteousness in front of others to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven.

<sup>2</sup> “So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honoured by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. <sup>3</sup> But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, <sup>4</sup> so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

<sup>5</sup> “And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. <sup>6</sup> But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

<sup>16</sup> “When you fast, do not look sombre as the hypocrites do, for they disfigure their faces to show others they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full.

<sup>17</sup> But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, <sup>18</sup> so that it will not be obvious to others that you are fasting, but only to your Father, who is unseen; and your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

<sup>19</sup> “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. <sup>20</sup> But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. <sup>21</sup> For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

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

## Homily

### Self-examination and Confession

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

God the Father,  
**All have mercy upon us.**

God the Son,  
**All have mercy upon us.**

God the Holy Spirit,  
**All have mercy upon us.**

Holy, blessed and glorious Trinity,  
**All have mercy upon us.**

From all evil and mischief;  
from pride, vanity, and hypocrisy;  
from envy, hatred, and malice;  
and from all evil intent,  
**All good Lord, deliver us.**

From sloth, worldliness and love of money;  
from hardness of heart  
and contempt for your word and your laws,  
**All good Lord, deliver us.**

From sins of body and mind;  
from the deceits of the world, the flesh and the devil,  
**All good Lord, deliver us.**

In all times of sorrow;  
in all times of joy;  
in the hour of death,  
and at the day of judgement,  
**All good Lord, deliver us.**

By the mystery of your holy incarnation;  
by your birth, childhood and obedience;  
by your baptism, fasting and temptation,  
**All good Lord, deliver us.**

By your ministry in word and work;  
by your mighty acts of power;  
and by your preaching of the kingdom,  
**All good Lord, deliver us.**

By your agony and trial;  
by your cross and passion;  
and by your precious death and burial,  
**All good Lord, deliver us.**

By your mighty resurrection;  
by your glorious ascension;  
and by your sending of the Holy Spirit,  
**All good Lord, deliver us.**

Give us true repentance;  
forgive us our sins of negligence and ignorance  
and our deliberate sins;  
and grant us the grace of your Holy Spirit  
to amend our lives according to your holy word.  
**All Holy God,  
holy and strong,  
holy and immortal,  
have mercy upon us.**

*Silence is kept.*

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**

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.**

*People can come up to receive the imposition of ashes if they wish – on the forehead or on back of the hand.*

*At the imposition the minister says to each person (and to those watching online):*

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

*Silence is kept.*

**All The Lord enrich us with his grace,  
and nourish us with his blessing;  
the Lord defend us in trouble and keep us from all evil;  
the Lord accept our prayers,  
and absolve us from our offences,  
for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Saviour.  
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.

*Romans 5.1,2*

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

*We offer one another a sign of peace.*

### **Offertory Hymn – Ride on, Ride on in Majesty (583)**

**All** Ride on, ride on in majesty!  
Hark, all the tribes hosanna cry:  
thy humble beast pursues his road  
with palms and scattered garments strowed.

Ride on, ride on in majesty!  
In lowly pomp ride on to die:  
O Christ, thy triumphs now begin  
o'er captive death and conquered sin.

Ride on, ride on in majesty!  
The wingèd squadrons of the sky  
look down with sad and wond'ring eyes  
to see th'approaching sacrifice.

Ride on, ride on in majesty!  
Thy last and fiercest strife is nigh:  
the Father, on his sapphire throne  
awaits his own anointed Son.

Ride on, ride on in majesty!  
In lowly pomp ride on to die;  
bow thy meek head to mortal pain,  
then take, O God, thy pow'r, and reign.

### **Eucharistic Prayer**

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 is here.

**All** **God's Spirit is with us.**

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  
you 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.

Jesus Christ is Lord:

**All Lord, by your cross and resurrection  
have set us free.  
You are the Saviour of the world.**

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 Lord's Prayer

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

**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.

## Breaking of the Bread

*The consecrated bread is broken.*

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

**All** Though we are many, we are one body,  
because we all share in one bread.

## Agnus Dei

**All** 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

Jesus is the Lamb of God  
who takes away the sin of the world.

Blessed are those who are called to his supper.

**All** Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,  
but only say the word, and I shall be healed.

*Please come up to receive communion or a blessing.*

### **Prayer After Communion**

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.

**All** 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 Worship Song – The Lord's my Shepherd** *(Psalm 23)*

**All** The Lord's my Shepherd, I'll not want.  
He makes me lie in pastures green.  
He leads me by the still, still waters,  
His goodness restores my soul.

And I will trust in You alone.  
And I will trust in You alone,  
For Your endless mercy follows me,  
Your goodness will lead me home.

He guides my ways in righteousness,  
And He anoints my head with oil,  
And my cup, it overflows with joy,  
I feast on His pure delights.

**And I will trust in You alone.  
And I will trust in You alone,  
For Your endless mercy follows me,  
Your goodness will lead me home.**

**And though I walk the darkest path,  
I will not fear the evil one,  
For You are with me,  
and Your rod and staff  
Are the comfort I need to know.**

**And I will trust in You alone.  
And I will trust in You alone,  
For Your endless mercy follows me,  
Your goodness will lead me home.**

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And I will trust in You alone,  
For Your endless mercy follows me,  
Your goodness will lead me home.**

**For Your endless mercy follows me,  
Your goodness will lead me home.**

## **Final Blessing**

**All** This is love, not that we loved God,  
**but that he loved us and sent his Son.**  
He is the sacrifice for our sins,  
**All** **that we might live through him.**  
If God loves us so much  
**All** **we ought to love one another.**  
If we love one another  
**All** **God lives in us.**

*cf 1 John 4.12*

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.

**All Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**All In the name of Christ. Amen.**

**Please join us in person or online on Wednesdays at  
7.30pm (starting next week – 1<sup>st</sup>) as we journey  
through the *Stations of the Cross*.**

**Each week we will visit three stations, hear from  
scripture and have time to reflect on an image  
accompanied by original music specially composed by  
Daniel King Smith and Andy Smith.**

*Let us all have a holy Lent and time to pray on the immense sacrifice of  
Christ's redemptive act on the cross.*