

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE ORDER

1. Processional Song

2. Introductory Sentence

The sacrifice of God is a broken spirit: a broken and contrite heart he will not despise. (Psalm 51:17)

3. The Preparation

Lay Reader : The Lord be with you.

All : and also with you

Lay Reader : Dear Brothers and Sisters, the first Christians observed with great devotion the days of our Lord's passion and resurrection, and it became the custom of the Church to prepare for them by a season of penitence and fasting.

This season of Lent provided a time in which converts to the faith were prepared for Holy Baptism. It was also a time when those who, because of notorious sins, had been separated from the body of the faithful were reconciled by penitence and forgiveness, and restored to the fellowship of the Church.

Thereby, the whole congregation was put in mind of the message of pardon and absolution set forth in the Gospel of our Saviour, and of the need which all Christians continually have to renew their repentance and faith.

I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church, to the observance of the holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading, meditating on God's Holy Word and caring for God's creation.

And to make a right beginning of repentance, and as a mark of our mortal nature, let us now kneel before the Lord, our maker and redeemer.

All : We come before God this night, Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent, to hear God's Word , to confess our sins, and to ask God to strengthen us in our faith that we might live more holy lives.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

4. Collect for Ash Wednesday

All : 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 obtain of you, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness ; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

5. The Ministry of Word

(Readings for Ash Wednesday is taken from the lectionary. All four are to be read.)

Old Testament (Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 or Isaiah 58:1-12)

Psalm (51:1-18)

New Testament (2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10)

Gospel (Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21 or John 8:1-11)

Sermon

6. The Nicene Creed *(stand)*

All : We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth,

of all that is seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father.

God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God, begotten, not made,
one in Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us men and for our salvation
he came down from heaven;
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he was born of the Virgin Mary, and became man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered, died, and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in fulfillment of the Scriptures,
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son,
he is worshipped and glorified.
He has spoken through the Prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism
for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

7. Litany (*kneel*)

Leader : Most holy and merciful Father:
We confess to you and 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.
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.

Leader : 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.

Leader : Our self-indulgent appetites and ways,
and our exploitation of other people,

All : We confess to you, Lord.

Leader : Our anger at our own frustration,
and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves,

All : We confess to you, Lord.

Leader : Our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts,
and our dishonesty in daily life and work,

All : We confess to you, Lord.

Leader : Our negligence in prayer and worship,
and our failure to commend the faith that is in us,

All : We confess to you, Lord.

Leader : 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.

Leader : For all false judgments,
for uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbours,
and for our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us,

All : Accept our repentance, Lord.

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

All : Accept our repentance, Lord.

Leader : Restore us, good Lord,
and let your anger depart from us;

All : Favorably hear us, for your mercy is great.

Leader : Accomplish in us the work of your salvation,

All : That we may show forth your glory in the world.

8. Invitation to confession

Priest : Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. Let us confess our sins remembering before God the times when we have fallen from temptation into sin.

Make our hearts clean O God.

9. Confession of sin

All : And renew a right spirit with us. 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 and through weakness, through our 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 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.

Priest : May Almighty God pardon and absolves all those who truly repent, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

10. Imposition of Ashes

Priest : Dear friends in Christ I invite you to receive these ashes, as a sign of the spirit of penitence with which we shall keep the season of Lent.
Next line- add God our Father you create us from the dust of the earth , grant that these ashes may be to 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. Amen.

Those who receive ashes now come forward. The priest will sign you with ashes saying, "Remember you are dust, and to dust you shall return, turn away from sin and be faithful to Christ."

Priest : Hear the good news: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. He gave power to his disciples to declare and pronounce to His people, being penitent, the absolution and remission of their sins. I declare to you, therefore, that God is just, and may be trusted to forgive your sins and cleanse you from every kind of wrong. IN the name of Christ, I tell you, your sins are forgiven. If you would have the life God intends for you, be you likewise forgiving.

11. The Peace

Priest : 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 our Lord be with you.

All : And also with you.

12. Offertory Song

All : Merciful Father turn us from sin to faithfulness and from disobedience to love, and prepare us to celebrate the death and resurrection of Christ our Saviour who is alive and reigns, now and forever. Amen.

13. Eucharistic Prayers.

Priest : The Lord is here.

All : His Spirit is with us.

Priest : Lift up your hearts.

All : We lift them to the Lord.

Priest : Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All : It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Priest : It is indeed right and good to give you thanks and praise, almighty God an 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 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 forever 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.**

Priest : On the night He gave up Himself for us all, Jesus took bread and gave you thanks. 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 gave you thanks; He gave it to them, saying, "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 your drink it, in remembrance of me.”

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

Priest : Therefore, we proclaim the death that he suffered on the cross.
We celebrate His resurrection.
We rejoice that he reigns at your right hand on high.
We long for His return in glory.

All : Accept through him, our great High Priest, this our sacrifice of thanks and praise, and as we eat and drink these holy gifts in the presence of Your divine majesty, renew us by Your Spirit, inspire us with Your love, and unite us in the body of Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Priest : Through Him, with Him, and in Him, by the power of the Holy Spirit, with all who stand before You in earth and heaven, we worship You, Father Almighty, in songs of everlasting praise!

All : Blessing and honour and glory and power be Yours forever and ever. Amen.

14. Lord's Prayer

All : Lord Jesus, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.
Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours, now and forever.
Amen.

15. Breaking of Bread

Priest : Every time we eat this bread and drink this cup,

All; we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Humble Access

**All :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 we may evermore dwell in him,
and he in us. Amen.**

16. Agnes Dei

All : Jesus, Lamb of God: have mercy on us.
Jesus, bearer of our sins: have mercy on us.
Jesus, redeemer of the world: give us your peace.

17. Giving Communion

Priest : 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.**

18. Post Communion Prayer

**All : May the Sacrament we have received sustain us, O Lord, that our
Lenten fast may be pleasing to you and be for us a healing
remedy. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

19. Thanksgiving Prayer

**All : Almighty God,
we thank you for feeding us with 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 you Spirit
to live and work to your praise and glory. Amen.**

20. The Blessing

**Priest : 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.

Priest : Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All : In the name of Christ. Amen.

21. Announcement

22. Thanksgiving Song.