

The Parish of Worthing, Christ Church

The Liturgy of Ash Wednesday



*Registered Charity no: 1152846
Parochial Church Council of Worthing Christ Church
Website: www.christchurchworthing.org.uk*

The Liturgy of Ash Wednesday

The Greeting *[Please stand]*

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

All **and also with you.**

cf 1 Timothy 1.2

Hymn 95 – Forty days and forty nights

Introduction *[Please sit]*

The priest 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.

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

The Collect

Let us pray for grace to keep Lent faithfully.

Silence is kept.

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 for ever.

All **Amen.**

The Liturgy of the Word

1st Reading

At the end the reader may say

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn 495 Lead, kindly light [*Please stand*]

Gospel Reading [*Please remain standing*]

When the Gospel is announced the reader says

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

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

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All sing **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon [*Please sit*]

After which a short period of silence is kept.

The Liturgy of Penitence *[Please remain seated]*

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

All God the Father,
have mercy upon us.

All God the Son,
have mercy upon us.

All God the Holy Spirit,
have mercy upon us.

All Holy, blessed and glorious Trinity,
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.

All **Make our hearts clean, O God;
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.**

Ash Wednesday



*Remember that you are dust,
and to dust you shall return.*

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.**

*The priest and people receive the imposition
of ashes. 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.*

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 Liturgy of the Sacrament

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.

cf Romans 5.1,2

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

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

All may exchange a sign of peace.

***Please respect those who may prefer to
sit quietly with their heads bowed in
prayer***

Preparation of the Table

Taking of the Bread and Wine

[Please stand]

Hymn 97 - Lord Jesus, think on me

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 for ever.

All **Amen.**

The Eucharistic Prayer *[Please sit or kneel]*

All The Lord be with you
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 right to praise you, Father, Lord of all
creation;
in your love you made us for yourself.
When we turned away
you did not reject us,
but came to meet us in your Son.

All **You embraced us as your children
and welcomed us to sit and eat with you.**

In Christ you shared our life
that we might live in him and he in us.

All **He opened his arms of love upon the
cross and made for all the perfect
sacrifice for sin.**

On the night he was betrayed,
at supper with his friends
he took bread, and gave you thanks;
he broke it and gave it to them, saying:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for
you; do this in remembrance of me.

All **Father, we do this in remembrance of
him: his body is the bread of life.**

At the end of supper, taking the cup of wine,
he gave you thanks, and said:
Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the
new covenant,
which is shed for you for the forgiveness of
sins; do this in remembrance of me.

All **Father, we do this in remembrance of
him: his blood is shed for all.**

As we proclaim his death and celebrate his rising in glory,
send your Holy Spirit that this bread and this wine may be to us the body and blood of your dear Son.

***All* As we eat and drink these holy gifts
make us one in Christ, our risen Lord.**

With your whole Church throughout the world we offer you this sacrifice of praise and lift our voice to join the eternal song of heaven:

***All sing* Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.**

The Lord's Prayer

As Jesus taught us so we 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

Every time we eat this bread
and drink this cup,
All **we proclaim the Lord's death
until he comes.**

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

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 thanksgiving.

*Authorized words of distribution are used
and the communicant replies*

Amen.

Prayer after Communion

Silence is kept.

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.**

The Dismissal

Hymn 582 – Take up thy cross

Responsory

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

cf 1 John 4.10-12

The Dismissal Gospel

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

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

John testified, 'I saw the Spirit descending
from heaven like a dove, and it remained on
him. I myself did not know him, but the one
who sent me to baptize with water said to me,
"He on whom you see the Spirit descend and
remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy
Spirit." And I myself have seen and have
testified that this is the Son of God.' *John*
1.32-34

At the end the reader says

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All sing **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Blessing

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

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

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

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.**

The ministers and people depart in silence.

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