



Common

Worship

Services and Prayers for the Church of England

Ash Wednesday

The Order for Mass.

*St. John the Evangelist,
Upper St. Leonards-on-Sea.*

Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday is forty days before Easter, not counting Sundays. It marks the start of the Church's holiest penitential season, Lent, a season during which the people of God prepare themselves for Easter by self-examination, repentance, prayer, fasting, self-denial and alms-giving.

The marking in ash with the sign of the cross, which is at the heart of this service and gives the day its name, is an ancient sign of penitence, reminding us of our mortality.

¶ *The Gathering*

The president may say

In the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

All **Amen.**

The Greeting

The president greets the people

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

All **and also with you.**

Introduction

The president 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.

Kyrie Eleison

Lord, have mercy.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

Christ, have mercy.

All **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord, have mercy.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

The Collect

The president introduces a period of silent prayer with the words

Let 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 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*

Sit

Readings

At the end of each the reader says

This is the word of the Lord

All **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Reading

An acclamation may herald the Gospel reading.

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.

All **Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.**

When the Gospel is announced the reader says

The Lord be with you

All **and also with you.**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to N

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

At the end

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

¶ *The Liturgy of Penitence*

Self-examination and Confession

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

God the Father,

All **have mercy on us.**

God the Son,

All **have mercy on us.**

God the Holy Spirit,

All **have mercy on us.**

Trinity of Love,

All **have mercy on us.**

All **Most merciful God,
Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
we confess that we have sinned
in thought, word and deed.**

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 **Lord, have mercy.**

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 **Lord, have mercy.**

We confess to you, Lord . . .

All our past unfaithfulness: the pride, hypocrisy and impatience of our lives.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

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

All **Lord, have mercy.**

Our anger at our own frustration

and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

Our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts
and our dishonesty in daily life and work.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

Our negligence in prayer and worship
and our failure to commend the faith that is in us.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

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.**

For all false judgements,
for uncharitable thoughts towards our neighbours
and for our prejudice and contempt towards those who differ from us.

All **Accept our repentance, Lord.**

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

All **Accept our repentance, Lord.**

Restore us, good Lord, and let your anger depart from us.

All **Favourably hear us, for your mercy is great.**

Accomplish in us the work of your salvation,

All **that we may show your glory in the world.**

By the cross and passion of your Son our Lord,

All **bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.**

Silence is kept.

All **We have not loved you with our whole heart.
We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.**

In your mercy

forgive what we have been,

help us to amend what we are,

and direct what we shall be;

that we may do justly,

love mercy,

and walk humbly with you, our God.

Amen.

The Imposition of Ashes

The president says

God our Father,
you create us from the dust of the earth:
grant that these ages 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.**

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

The president says this prayer

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

All **Amen.**

¶ *The Liturgy of the Sacrament*

Stand

The Peace

The president says

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 the Lord be always with you

All **and also with you.**

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Preparation of the Table Taking of the Bread and Wine

The altar is prepared and bread and wine are placed upon it.

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 president takes the bread and wine.

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord is here.

All **His 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.**

Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness;
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit,
and according to your holy will,
these gifts of bread and wine
may be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ;

who, in the same night that he was betrayed,
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, 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 you drink it,
in remembrance of me.

This acclamation is used

Praise to you, Lord Jesus:

All **Dying you destroyed our death,
rising you restored our life:
Lord Jesus, come in glory.**

And so, Father, calling to mind his death on the cross,
his perfect sacrifice made once for the sins of the whole world;
rejoicing in his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension,
and looking for his coming in glory,
we celebrate this memorial of our redemption.
As we offer you this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving,
we bring before you this bread and this cup
and we thank you for counting us worthy
to stand in your presence and serve you.

Send the Holy Spirit on your people
and gather into one in your kingdom
all who share this one bread and one cup,
so that we, in the company of [N and] all the saints,
may praise and glorify you for ever.
through Jesus Christ our Lord;

by whom, and with whom, and in whom,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father,
for ever and ever.

All **Amen.**

We keep silence for a space.

The Lord's Prayer

Lord 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 president breaks the consecrated bread.

Every time we eat this bread
and drink this cup,

All **We proclaim the Lord's death
until he comes.**

The Agnus Dei may be used as the bread is broken

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

Prayer after Communion

When all have received communion, silence is kept.

The Post Communion or another suitable prayer is said.

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 may say

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*

A Hymn may be sung.

Responsory

This responsory may be used

This is love, not that we loved God,
All **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

The Dismissal Gospel

This Dismissal Gospel may be used

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

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

Which of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbours, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.' Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous people who need no repentance.

The is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

The Blessing

This blessing is used

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.**

A minister says

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

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

The ministers and people depart.

Acknowledgements

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