

The Liturgy of Ash Wednesday

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. **Amen.**

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 4.12*)

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

Which one 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. *Luke 15.4-7*

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

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 among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Go in the peace of Christ. **Thanks be to God.**

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

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.**

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. **Amen.**

Readings

At the end of each the reader may say

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Reading

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to *N.*
Glory to you, O Lord.

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

Liturgy of Penitence

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

God the Father, **have mercy on us.**

God the Son, **have mercy on us.**

God the Holy Spirit, **have mercy on us.**

Trinity of love, **have mercy on us.**

**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.

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.

Lord, have mercy.

We confess to you, Lord all our past unfaithfulness: the pride,
hypocrisy and impatience of our lives.

Lord, have mercy.

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

Lord, have mercy.

Our anger at our own frustration and our envy of those more fortunate
than ourselves.

Lord, have mercy.

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

Lord, have mercy.

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

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.

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.

Accept our repentance, Lord.

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

Accept our repentance, Lord.

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

Favourably hear us, for your mercy is great.

Accomplish in us the work of your salvation,

that we may show your glory in the world.

By the cross and passion of your Son our Lord,

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

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.**

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.

How to prepare ashes

1. Take last years palm cross, an old metal tray or baking sheet and a fire lighter
 2. Outside on a calm day, cut palmcross into inch long pieces, place in centre of tray
 3. Using a fire lighter hold a flame to the pile of palmcross pieces until burnt through. You may need to hold the flame on them constantly.
 4. Crush charred remains (use pestle and mortar). Ash is now ready to sprinkle.
- This video from the USA shews a similar method <https://youtu.be/hZaG46H72sQ>

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. **Amen.**

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