

# Holy Communion for Ash Wednesday, with the imposition of Ashes

## *Hymn*

We gather in the name of the living God,  
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.  
Grace, mercy and peace  
from God our Father  
and the Lord Jesus Christ  
be with you:  
**and also with you.**

The sacrifice of God is a broken spirit:  
A broken and contrite heart God will not  
Despise.

*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.

Let us pray for grace to keep Lent faithfully.

Almighty and everlasting God,  
you hate nothing that you have made  
and forgive the sins of all those who are peni-  
tent: 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.

**Amen.**

## *Reading*

### *Psalm 51*

*The response to the Psalm is:*

**Have mercy on us, O Lord, for we have sinned.**

Have mercy on me, O God, in your great  
goodness; according to the abundance of your  
compassion blot out my offences.

Wash me thoroughly from my wickedness and  
cleanse me from my sin.

For I acknowledge my faults, and my sin is ever  
before me.

Against you only have I sinned and done what is  
evil in your sight, so that you are justified in  
your sentence and righteous in your judgment.

## **Response**

I have been wicked even from my birth.  
A sinner when my mother conceived me.  
Behold, you desire truth deep within me; and  
shall make me understand wisdom in the  
depths of my heart.

Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;  
Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.  
Make me hear of joy and gladness;  
That the bones that you have broken may  
rejoice.

## **Response**

Turn your face from my sins,  
And blot out all my misdeeds.  
Make me a clean heart, O God, and renew a  
right spirit within me.  
Cast me not away from your presence and take  
not your Holy Spirit from me.  
Give me again the joy of your salvation, and  
sustain me with your gracious spirit.  
Then shall I teach your ways to the wicked and  
sinners shall return to you. **(Response)**

Deliver me from my guilt, O God,  
The God of my salvation, and my tongue shall  
sing of your righteousness.  
O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth shall pro-  
claim your praise.  
For you desire no sacrifice, else I would give it;  
You take no delight in burnt offerings.  
The sacrifice of God is a broken spirit; a broken  
and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

### **Response**

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

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*At the end*

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Sermon*

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

God the Father:     **Have mercy upon us**  
God the Son:        **Have mercy upon us**  
God the Holy Spirit: **Have mercy upon us**  
Trinity of love:    **Have mercy upon 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 our-  
selves.  
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 our-  
selves.

**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 neigh-  
bours and for our prejudice and contempt to-  
wards 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.**

*(silence)*

**...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*

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.  
**Amen.**

*As we receive the Ashes the Minister says: -*

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

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.**

### *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.

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

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.

**Amen.**

The Lord be With you

**And also with you**

Lift up your hearts

**We lift them to the Lord**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

**It is right to give thanks and praise.**

it is indeed right,  
it is our duty and our joy,  
at all times and in all places  
to give you thanks and praise,  
holy Father, heavenly King,  
almighty and eternal God,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
And now we give you thanks  
because you give us the spirit of discipline,  
that we may triumph over evil and grow in  
grace, as we prepare to celebrate the paschal  
mystery with mind and heart renewed.

Therefore, with angels and archangels,  
and with all the company of heaven,  
we proclaim your great and glorious name,  
for ever praising you and saying:

**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.]**

All glory be to you, our heavenly Father,  
who, in your tender mercy,  
gave your only Son our Saviour Jesus Christ  
to suffer death upon the cross for our redemp-  
tion; who made there by his one oblation...

...of himself once offered a full, perfect and sufficient sacrifice, oblation and satisfaction for the sins of the whole world; he instituted, and in his holy gospel commanded us to continue, a perpetual memory of his precious death until he comes again. Hear us, merciful Father, we humbly pray, and grant that, by the power of your Holy Spirit, we receiving these gifts of your creation, this bread and this wine, according to your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ's holy institution, in remembrance of his death and passion, may be partakers of his most blessed body and blood, 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; 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 you drink it, in remembrance of me.

Christ is the bread of life:  
**When we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim your death, Lord Jesus, until you come in glory.**

Therefore, Lord and heavenly Father, in remembrance of the precious death and passion, the mighty resurrection and glorious ascension of your dear Son Jesus Christ, we offer you through him this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Grant that by his merits and death, and through faith in his blood, we and all your Church may receive forgiveness of our sins and all other benefits of his passion. Although we are unworthy, through our manifold sins,

to offer you any sacrifice, yet we pray that you will accept this the duty and service that we owe. Do not weigh our merits, but pardon our offences, and fill us all who share in this holy communion with your grace and heavenly blessing; 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.**

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

**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.**

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

**Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world,  
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world,  
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world,  
grant us peace.**

Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Blessed are those who are called to his supper.

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

*The President and people receive communion.*

*The President prays the Post-Communion  
Prayer...*

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.

**Amen.**

**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 Gospel*

This is love, not that we loved God,  
**but that he loved us and sent us 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.**

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? 5 When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. 6 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.’ 7 Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who

repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Blessing*

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 peace to love and serve the Lord.

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