

PARISH OF ESHER  
Christ Church, Esher with St George's, West End

# A Service for Ash Wednesday



*'Make me a clean heart, O God,  
and renew a right spirit within me.'*

Psalm 51.11



# The Gathering

## 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.**

*An opening hymn is sung.*

Brothers and sisters in Christ: since early days Christians have observed with great devotion the time of the Lord's passion and the 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 on 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.**

# The Liturgy of the Word

## Readings

*Either one or two readings from scripture precede the Gospel reading.  
At the end of each the reader may say:*

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## 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.

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

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ ...

**Glorify to you, O Lord.**

*At the end:*

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*The president will give a short Address, followed by a time of silence  
and/or a piece of music for reflection.*

# The 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 judgments,  
for uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbours,  
and for our prejudice and contempt  
toward 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.**

*The president and people receive the imposition of ashes,  
the president first receiving the imposition from another minister.  
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.

*At the end:*

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.**

Risen Lord and Saviour,  
present among us with the wealth of your love,  
cleanse us from sin and give us the faith  
to offer our praise and grow in your grace.

**Amen.**

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

*The peace is shared. A hymn is sung, or a piece of music is played.*

## Online Offertory

Thank you for your ongoing generosity to the Parish of Esher. Like most parishes there's been a real pressure on our income recently, so if you're in a position to do so, please consider supporting our mission and ministry. Donations can be made today or online – simply search 'Give a Little Parish of Esher' or click on this link: <https://givealittle.co/campaigns/d9f42eab-78e6-4ce8-880b-215b3f77c260>. Or to donate to our Parish bank account, please contact the Parish Office or Parish Treasurer for details and Gift Aid forms.

# The Liturgy of the Sacrament

The Lord is here.

**His Spirit is with us.**

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 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:

**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.**

We praise and bless you, loving Father,  
through Jesus Christ, our Lord;  
and as we obey his command,  
send your Holy Spirit,  
that broken bread and wine outpoured  
may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died  
he had supper with his friends  
and, taking bread, he praised you.  
He broke the bread, gave it to them and said:  
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;  
do this in remembrance of me.

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine.  
Again he praised you, gave it to them and said:  
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.

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did;  
in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice  
made once for all upon the cross.  
Bringing before you the bread of life  
and cup of salvation,  
we proclaim his death and resurrection  
until he comes in glory.

Great is the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died:**

**Christ is risen:**

**Christ will come again.**

Lord of all life,  
help us to work together for that day  
when your kingdom comes  
and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth.

Look with favour on your people,  
gather us in your loving arms  
and bring us with all the saints  
to feast at your table in heaven.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father,  
for ever and ever.

**Amen.**

As our Saviour taught us, so we 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 for ever.**

**Amen.**

We break this bread  
to share in the body of Christ.

**Though we are many, we are one body,  
because we all share in one bread.**

**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.**

*In line with the Church of England guidance on Spiritual Communion  
at this time of the Coronavirus those unable to receive the consecrated  
bread and wine today may wish to use this prayer at home:*

Thanks be to you, Lord Jesus Christ,  
for all the benefits you have given me,  
for all the pains and insults you have borne for me.  
Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally,  
I ask you to come spiritually into my heart.  
O most merciful redeemer, friend and brother,  
may I know you more clearly,  
love you more dearly,  
and follow you more nearly, day by day.  
Amen.

*During the distribution, music may be sung or played.*

## Prayer after Communion

*Silence is kept.*

*After communion, the minister says:*

Lord our God,  
grant us grace to desire you with our whole heart;  
that so desiring, we may seek and find you;  
and so finding, may love you;  
and so loving, may hate those sins  
from which you have delivered us;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

*Then all say together:*

**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

*Notices may be given at this point.*

*A closing hymn is sung.*

## The Blessing

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

**Amen.**

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

**Amen.**

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

**Amen.**

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.**



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Christ Church, Esher