

**Strength and protection may thy passion be,
O blessed Jesu, hear and answer me;
Deep in thy wounds, Lord, hide and shelter me,
So shall I never, never part from thee.**

**Guard and defend me from the foe malign,
In death's dread moments make me only thine;
Call me and bid me come to thee on high
Where I may praise thee with thy saints for ay.**

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.**

We thank you, Lord, that you have fed us in this Holy Sacrament, united us with Christ, and given us a foretaste of the heavenly banquet prepared for all people. Amen.

SOLEMN BLESSING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

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.**

THE DISMISSAL

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
In the name of Christ. Amen.



HYMN

**God forgave my sin in Jesus' name;
I've been born again in Jesus name;
And in Jesus name I come to you
To share his love as he told me to.**

**He said, "freely, freely, you have received;
freely, freely, give.**

**Go in my name, and because you believe,
others will know that I live."**

**All power is given in Jesus' name,
In earth and heaven in Jesus' name;
And in Jesus' name I come to you
To share his power as he told me to.**



**God gives us life in Jesus' name,
He lives in us in Jesus name;
And in Jesus name I come to you
To share his peace as he told me to.**

ASH WEDNESDAY

Welcome to St Mary's Church & online.

*In Church, please set hearing aids to T for use of our hearing loop.
Before the service begins, we keep a time of quiet reflection and prayer, and music may be played.
This service sheet contains everything you need for this Ash Wednesday Liturgy. Please don't sing out loud in Church.
Please do join in within the singing from home!*

*Online please use the **DONATE** button in place of the usual financial collection / offering — thank you for your generosity.
In Church please place your donation in a basket as you leave. If you pay UK income tax, please gift-aid your donation by completing the front of a yellow envelope with your details and placing your donation inside. Thank you.*

Order for the Liturgy of Ash Wednesday

HYMN

**Lord Jesus, think on me,
and purge away my sin;
from earth-born passions set me free,
and make me pure within.**



**Lord Jesus, think on me,
with care and woe oppressed,
let me Thy loving servant be,
and taste Thy promised rest.**

**Lord Jesus, think on me,
nor let me go astray;
through darkness and perplexity
point Thou the heav'nly way.**

**Lord Jesus, think on me,
that, when the flood is past,
I may eternal brightness see,
and share Thy joy at last.**

THE GATHERING

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

THE GREETING

The Lord be with you
and also with you.



God so loved the world that he gave his only Son Jesus Christ to save us from our sins, to be our advocate in heaven, and to bring us to eternal life.

INTRODUCTION

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.**

COLLECT

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 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. **Amen.**

FIRST READING

Joel 2.1–2, 12–17

A reading from the book of the prophet Joel.
Blow the trumpet in Zion; sound the alarm on my holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble, for the day of the LORD is coming, it is near – a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness! Like blackness spread upon the mountains a great and powerful army comes; their like has never been from of old, nor will be again after them in ages to come. Yet even now, says the LORD, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; rend your hearts and not your clothing. Return to the LORD, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing. Who knows whether he will not turn and relent, and leave a blessing behind him, a grain-offering and a drink-offering for the LORD, your God? Blow the trumpet in Zion; sanctify a fast; call a solemn assembly; gather the people. Sanctify the congregation; assemble the aged; gather the children, even infants at the breast. Let the bridegroom leave his room, and the bride her canopy. Between the vestibule and the altar let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep. Let them say, 'Spare your people, O LORD, and do not make your heritage a mockery, a byword among the nations. Why should it be said among the peoples, "Where is their God?"' This is the Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM Psalm 51.1–18

R Have mercy on me, O God,
[and cleanse me from my sin].

HAVE MERCY
ON US LORD



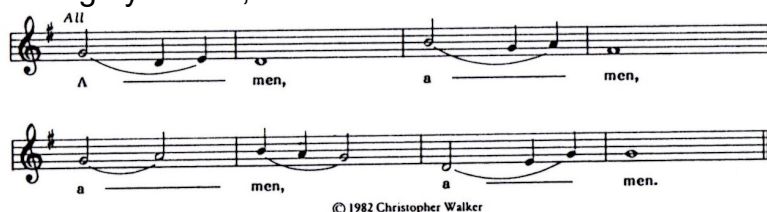
Have mercy on me, O God, according to your loving-kindness; in your great compassion blot out my offences. Wash me through and through from my wickedness and cleanse me from my sin. For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight. **R**

And so you are justified when you speak
and upright in your judgement. **R**

Indeed, I have been wicked from my birth, a sinner from my mother's womb. For behold, you look for truth deep within me, and will make me understand

The Prayer continues to praise the Trinity (the doxology), which concludes:

Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Spirit, all glory and honour be yours, almighty Father, for ever and ever:



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THE LORD'S PRAYER

Lord Jesus, remember us in your kingdom
and teach us to pray

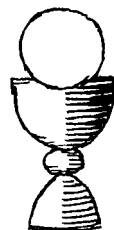
**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come; the will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.**

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.**

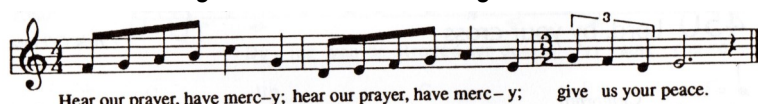


BREAKING OF THE BREAD

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

THE AGNUS DEI

The Cantor sings the verse and we sing this refrain:



INVITATION TO COMMUNION

This 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.**

**Most merciful Lord, your love compels
us to come in. Our hands were unclean,
our hearts were unprepared; we were not fit
even to eat the crumbs from under your table.
But you, Lord, are the God of our salvation,
and share your bread with sinners. So, cleanse
and feed us with the precious body and blood
of your Son, that he may live in us and we in
him, and that we, with the whole company of
Christ, may sit and eat in your kingdom. Amen.**



**Please follow the one way system and
instructions from the wardens. Thank you.**

Hand gel is available. A time of quiet prayer is kept.

HYMN

**Soul of my Saviour sanctify my breast,
Body of Christ, be thou my saving guest,
Blood of my Saviour, bathe me in thy tide,
Wash me with water flowing from thy side.**

**Breathe through the heats of our desire
Thy coolness and thy balm;
Let sense be dumb, let flesh retire;
Speak through the earthquake, wind, and fire,
O still small voice of calm!**

OFFERTORY PRAYER

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 EUCHARISTIC PRAYER *Prayer A*

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 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. And so with all the choirs of angels in heaven, we proclaim your glory and join in their unending hymn of praise:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



The priest continues the prayer as we recall the Last Supper, when Jesus broke the bread, then we are invited to profess our faith;



wisdom secretly. Purge me from my sin and I shall be pure; wash me and I shall be clean indeed. **R**

Make me hear of joy and gladness, that the body you have broken may rejoice. Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. **R**

Cast me not away from your presence and take not your holy Spirit from me. Give me the joy of your saving help again and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit. I shall teach your ways to the wicked, and sinners shall return to you. **R**

Deliver me from death, O God, and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness, O God of my salvation. **R**

Open my lips, O Lord, and my mouth shall proclaim your praise. **R**

Had you desired it, I would have offered sacrifice, but you take no delight in burnt-offerings. The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise. **R**



SECOND READING 2 Corinthians 5.20b – 6.10

A reading from the second letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

We entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. For the Lord says, 'At an acceptable time I have listened to you, and on a day of salvation I have helped you.' See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation! We are putting no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, riots, labours, sleepless nights, hunger; by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; in honour and dishonour, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as Impostors, and yet are true; as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see – we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything. This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**Praise to you, O Christ, our Saviour.
Word of the Father, calling us to life.
Son of God who leads us to freedom.
Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**



GOSPEL

John 8.1–11

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. Early in the morning he came again to the temple. All the people came to him and he sat down and began to teach them. The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery; and making her stand before all the people, they said to Jesus, 'Teacher, this woman was caught in the very act of committing adultery. Now in the law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?' They said this to test Jesus, so that they might have some charge to bring against him. Jesus bent down and wrote with his finger on the ground. When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, 'Let anyone among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her.' And once again he bent down and wrote on the ground. When they heard it, they went away, one by one, beginning with the elders; and Jesus was left alone with the woman standing before him. Jesus straightened up and said to her, 'Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?' She said, 'No one, sir.' And Jesus said, 'Neither do I condemn you. Go your way, and from now on do not sin again.' This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Praise to you, O Christ, our Saviour.
Word of the Father, calling us to life.
Son of God who leads us to freedom.
Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

HOMILY

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. Let us pray:

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 priest and people receive the imposition of ashes, the priest 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.

**Just as I am, without one plea,
But that Thy blood was shed for me,
And that Thou bidst me come to Thee,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.**

**Just as I am, though tossed about
With many a conflict, many a doubt,
Fightings and fears within, without,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.**

**Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind;
Sight, riches, healing of the mind,**

**Yea, all I need in Thee to find,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.**

**Just as I am, Thou wilt receive,
Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
Because Thy promise I believe,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.**

**Just as I am, Thy love unknown
Hath broken every barrier down;
Now, to be Thine, yea, Thine alone,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.**

**Just as I am, of that free love
The breadth, length, depth, and height to prove,
Here for a season, then above,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come!**

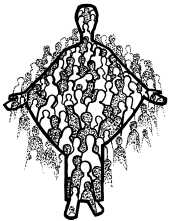
After the priest pronounces the absolution:

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.**

INTERCESSIONS

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

**Merciful Father, accept these prayers,
for the sake of your Son, our Saviour,
Jesus Christ. 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. *Romans 5.1,2*

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

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

HYMN

**Dear Lord and Father of mankind,
Forgive our foolish ways!
Re-clothe us in our rightful mind,
In purer lives thy service find,
In deeper reverence praise.**

**In simple trust like theirs who heard,
Beside the Syrian sea,
The gracious calling of the Lord,
Let us, like them, without a word
Rise up and follow thee.**

**O Sabbath rest by Galilee!
O calm of hills above,
Where Jesus knelt to share with thee
The silence of eternity,
Interpreted by love!**

**Drop thy still dews of quietness,
Till all our strivings cease;
Take from our souls the strain and stress,
And let our ordered lives confess
The beauty of thy peace.**