

THE PRIORY CHURCH  
CHRISTCHURCH



**Ash Wednesday 2021**

**Eucharist  
with  
Imposition of Ashes**

THE GREETING

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

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

*All* **and also with you.**

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.

THE COLLECT

*President* 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.**

*The Liturgy of the Word*

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Joel 2. 1—2, 12—17

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?'

*At the end of the reading*

This is the word of the Lord.

*All*      **Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

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.**

## GOSPEL READING

Matthew 6. 1—6, 16—21

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

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

‘Beware of practising your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven.

‘So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

‘And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

‘And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

‘Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

*After the Gospel*

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

## SERMON

### *The Liturgy of Penitence*

*President* My brothers and sisters, let us now call to mind our sin  
and the infinite mercy of God,

*Silence is kept*

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

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

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

Holy, blessed and glorious Trinity,  
**have mercy on us.**

From all evil and mischief; from pride, vanity, and hypocrisy,  
from envy, hatred, and malice; and from all evil intent,  
**Good Lord, deliver us.**

From sloth, worldliness, and love of money;  
from hardness of heart  
and contempt for your word and your laws,  
**Good Lord, deliver us.**

From sins of body and mind;  
from the deceits of the world, the flesh and the devil,  
**Good Lord, deliver us.**

In all times of sorrow; in all times of joy;  
in the hour of death, and at the day of judgement,  
**Good Lord, deliver us.**

By the mystery of your holy incarnation,  
by your birth, childhood, and obedience;  
by your baptism, fasting and temptation,  
**Good Lord, deliver us.**

By your ministry in word and work;  
by your mighty acts of power;  
and by your preaching of the kingdom,  
**Good Lord, deliver us.**

By your agony and trial;  
by your cross and passion;  
and by your precious death and burial,  
**Good Lord, deliver us.**

By your mighty resurrection; by your glorious ascension;  
and by your sending of the Holy Spirit,  
**Good Lord, deliver us.**

Give us true repentance;  
forgive us our sins of negligence and ignorance  
and our deliberate sins;  
and grant us the grace of your Holy Spirit  
to amend our lives according to your holy word.

**Holy God,  
holy and strong,  
holy and immortal,  
have mercy upon us.**

*All* Make our hearts clean, O God;  
**and renew a right spirit within us.**

*All* **Father eternal, giver of light and grace,  
we have sinned against you and against our neighbour,  
in what we have thought,  
in what we have said and done,  
through ignorance, through weakness,  
through our own deliberate fault.  
We have wounded your love  
and marred your image in us.**

**We are sorry and ashamed  
and repent of all our sins.  
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,  
who died for us,  
forgive us all that is past  
and lead us out from darkness  
to walk as children of light. Amen.**

## THE IMPOSITION OF ASHES

*The president introduces the imposition of ashes.*

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.**

*At the imposition of ashes:*

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

*The President then says*

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 Liturgy of the Sacrament***

### THE PEACE

*President* Since we are justified by faith,  
we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,  
who has given us access to his grace.

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

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

*As we are able, please exchange a sign of peace*

*President* 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.**

## OFFERTORY HYMN

Forty days and forty nights  
Thou wast fasting in the wild,  
Forty days and forty nights  
Tempted and yet undefiled.

Sunbeams scorching all the day,  
Chilly dewdrops nightly shed,  
Prowling beasts about thy way,  
Stones thy pillow, earth thy bed.

Let us thine endurance share,  
And awhile from joys abstain,  
With thee watching unto prayer,  
Strong with thee to suffer pain.

And if Satan, vexing sore,  
Flesh or spirit should assail,  
Thou, his vanquisher before,  
Grant we may not faint nor fail.

So shall we have peace divine,  
Holier gladness ours shall be,  
Round us too shall angels shine,  
Such as ministered to thee.

Keep, O keep us, Saviour dear,  
Ever constant by thy side,  
That with thee we may appear  
At the eternal Eastertide.

*Words: G. H. Smyttan & F. Pott*

*Tune: Aus der Tiefe*

## OFFERTORY PRAYERS

*President* Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation. Through your goodness we have this bread to set before you, which earth has given and human hands have made. It will become for us the bread of life.

*All* **Blessed be God for ever.**

*President* Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation. Through your goodness we have this wine to set before you, fruit of the vine and work of human hands. It will become for us the cup of salvation.

*All*            **Blessed be God for ever.**

## THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

*President*    The Lord be with you

*All*            **and also with you.**

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.**

*President*    Accept our praises, heavenly Father,  
through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ,  
and as we follow his example and obey his command,  
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit

these gifts of bread and wine  
may be to us his body and his 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.

Therefore, heavenly Father,  
we remember his offering of himself  
made once for all upon the cross;  
we proclaim his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension;  
we look for the coming of your kingdom,  
and with this bread and this cup  
we make the memorial of Christ your Son our Lord.

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

*President* Accept through him, our great high priest,  
this our sacrifice of thanks and praise,  
and as we eat and drink these holy gifts  
in the presence of your divine majesty,  
renew us by your Spirit,  
inspire us with your love  
and unite us in the body of your Son,  
Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through him, and with him, and in him,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
with all who stand before you in earth and heaven,  
we worship you, Father almighty,  
in songs of everlasting praise:

*All* **Blessing and honour and glory and power  
be yours for ever and ever. Amen.**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us.

*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

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

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

**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.**

## GIVING OF COMMUNION

Draw near with faith. Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ which he gave for you, and his blood which he shed for you. Eat and drink in remembrance that he died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

## 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.**

## ***The Dismissal***

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

*All* He is the sacrifice for our sins,  
**that we might live through him.**

*All* If God loves us so much  
**we ought to love one another.**

*All* If we love one another  
**God lives in us.**

### **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.**

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