



CHRIST CHURCH

THE ANGLICAN/EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN VIENNA

ASH WEDNESDAY WITH THE IMPOSITION OF ASHES
22 FEBRUARY 2023

LENTEN PROSE

**Hear us, O Lord, have mercy upon us:
for we have sinned against thee.**

To thee, Redeemer, on thy throne of glory:
lift we our weeping eyes in holy pleadings:
listen, O Jesu, to our supplications.

**Hear us, O Lord, have mercy upon us:
for we have sinned against thee.**

O thou chief cornerstone, right hand of the Father:
way of salvation, gate of life celestial:
cleanse thou our sinful souls from all defilement.

**Hear us, O Lord, have mercy upon us:
for we have sinned against thee.**

God, we implore thee, in thy glory seated:
bow down and hearken to thy weeping children:
pity and pardon all our grievous trespasses.

**Hear us, O Lord, have mercy upon us:
for we have sinned against thee.**

Sins oft committed, now we lay before thee:
with true contrition, now no more we veil them:
grant us, Redeemer, loving absolution.

**Hear us, O Lord, have mercy upon us:
for we have sinned against thee.**

Innocent captive, taken unresisting:
falsely accused, and for us sinners sentenced,
save us, we pray thee, Jesu, our Redeemer.

**Hear us, O Lord, have mercy upon us:
for we have sinned against thee.**

GREETING

Grace, mercy, and peace from God our Father
And the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all
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. It has become the custom of the Church to prepare 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.**

COLLECT

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.

LESSON

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

A reading from the Prophet Joel:

¹ 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—
² 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.

¹² Yet even now, says the LORD, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; ¹³ 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.
¹⁴ 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? ¹⁵ Blow the trumpet in Zion; sanctify a fast; call a solemn assembly; ¹⁶ 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.
¹⁷ 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?'"

PSALM

Psalms 51.1-18

- 1 Have mercy on me, O God, in your great goodness;
according to the abundance of your compassion
blot out my offences.
- 2 **Wash me thoroughly from my wickedness
and cleanse me from my sin.**
- 3 For I acknowledge my faults
and my sin is ever before me.
- 4 **Against you only have I sinned
and done what is evil in your sight,**

- 5 So that you are justified in your sentence
and righteous in your judgement.
- 6 **I have been wicked even from my birth,
a sinner when my mother conceived me.**
- 7 Behold, you desire truth deep within me
and shall make me understand wisdom
in the depths of my heart.
- 8 **Purge me with hyssop and I shall be clean;
wash me and I shall be whiter than snow.**
- 9 Make me hear of joy and gladness,
that the bones you have broken may rejoice.
- 10 **Turn your face from my sins
and blot out all my misdeeds.**
- 11 Make me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.
- 12 **Cast me not away from your presence
and take not your holy spirit from me.**
- 13 Give me again the joy of your salvation
and sustain me with your gracious spirit;
- 14 **Then shall I teach your ways to the wicked
and sinners shall return to you.**
- 15 Deliver me from my guilt, O God,
the God of my salvation,
and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness.
- 16 **O Lord, open my lips
and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

17 For you desire no sacrifice, else I would give it;
you take no delight in burnt offerings.

18 **The sacrifice of God is a broken spirit;
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.**

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

GOSPEL

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

6 '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. ²'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. ³But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. ⁵'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. ⁶But 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. ... ¹⁶'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. ¹⁷But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, ¹⁸so 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. ¹⁹'Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; ²⁰but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

This is the Gospel of the Lord:

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

THE LITURGY OF PENITENCE

Please kneel.

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.

Holy, blessed, and glorious Trinity,

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 Christ loves us.

We have not forgiven others, as we have been forgiven.

Lord, have mercy.

We have been deaf to your call to serve, as Christ serves 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.

Silence is kept for a time.

Make our hearts clean, O God;
And renew a right spirit within us.

**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 for 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

As a sign of the spirit of penitence with which we shall keep this season of
preparation of Easter, I invite you to receive on your head in ash the sign of the
cross, the symbol of our salvation.

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 celebrant and people receive the imposition of ashes, the celebrant first.
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.

During the imposition silence is kept.

Almighty God,
Who forgives all who truly repent,
Have mercy upon you,
Pardon and deliver you from all your sins,
Confirm and strengthen you in all goodness
And keep you in life eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

THE PEACE

The celebrant introduces the Peace with a suitable sentence:

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.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

All exchange an appropriate sign of peace.

HYMN 118

- 1 **Drop, drop, slow tears,
and bathe those beautiful feet,
which brought from heaven
the news and Prince of Peace.**
- 2 **Cease not, wet eyes,
his mercies to entreat;
to cry for vengeance
sin doth never cease.**
- 3 **In your deep floods
drown all my faults and fears;
nor let his eye
see sin, but through my tears.**

EUCCHARIST

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.

Eucharistic Prayer E

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 [N and] 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.

LORD'S PRAYER

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

**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

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.**

AGNUS DEI

**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.

Amen.

The celebrant distributes communion.

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.

Almighty God,

we thank you for feeding us

with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.

Through him we offer you our souls and bodies

to be a living sacrifice.

Send us out

in the power of your Spirit

to live and work

to your praise and glory.

Amen.

THE RESPONSORY

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.

THE DISMISSAL GOSPEL

Luke 15:4-7

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

⁴Which 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? ⁵When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. ⁶And 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." ⁷Just 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.

This is the Gospel of the Lord:

Praise to you, O Christ.

BLESSING

The celebrant may use a seasonal blessing, or another suitable 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.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ. Amen.

NOTICE OF COPYRIGHT

This liturgy is taken from The Archbishop's Council 2000, *Common Worship* (London: Church House Publishing, 2000). The hymns are taken from *Ancient & Modern* (Norwich: Canterbury Press, 2013). Scripture reference, unless otherwise noted, are from the NRSV translation of *The Holy Bible*.

TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Currently we are not taking a collection during any of the services in the church building, because of Covid-19 restrictions. We ask those of you who would otherwise make your donations to Christ Church to consider setting up regular standing orders or some other electronic means of contributing. More information is available on our website.

Your contributions make a difference, and we are thankful for them.