



# **The Liturgy of Ash Wednesday**

## **Eucharistic Prayer B**

*Welcome to our church and to this service of Holy Communion, also known as the Eucharist – the act which stands at the heart of all Christian worship. Since earliest days, Christians have met to break bread and share wine in obedience to our Lord’s command, in thanksgiving and in remembrance of Him.*

*If you normally receive communion in your own church, you are welcome to receive communion here. If you wish to receive a blessing rather than the bread and the wine, please come up to the communion rail, but keep your hands below the rail so that the priest leading the service knows you need a blessing. If you do not want to come up to the rail, you are welcome to remain in your pew; please reflect or pray in silence while everyone else is receiving communion.*

*The Diocese of York’s policy is to ban intinction (the dipping of the wafer into the cup, rather than drinking from the cup). Whilst we do not want to be so directive here, we would ask you to refrain from doing so. Dipping your wafer into the cup means that those who are gluten intolerant feel unable to drink from it.*

*While communion is being distributed, we would ask for a reflective silence to be kept so that others can also reflect in peace if they so wish. There is plenty of time for fellowship after the service.*

# The Gathering

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

**All Amen.**

# The Greeting

*Words of welcome or introduction may be said.*

*A hymn may be sung.*

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

**All and also with you.**

*cf 1 Timothy 1.2*

# Introduction

*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.

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

## The Collect

Let us pray for grace to keep Lent faithfully.

*Silence is kept.*

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.

**All Amen.**

# The Liturgy of the Word

## Readings

*At the end of each reading the reader may say*

This is the word of the Lord.

**All Thanks be to God.**

*A hymn may be sung.*

## 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.

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

*When the Gospel is announced the reader says*

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

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

*At the end*

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

## Sermon

# The Liturgy of Penitence

*A minister now leads a corporate examination of conscience.*

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

God the Father,

**All have mercy on us.**

God the Son,

**All have mercy on us.**

God the Holy Spirit,

**All have mercy on us.**

Trinity of love,

**All have mercy on us.**

**All 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.

**All 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.

**All Lord, have mercy.**

We confess to you, Lord ...  
all our past unfaithfulness: the pride, hypocrisy and impatience  
of our lives.

**All Lord, have mercy.**

Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of  
other people.

**All Lord, have mercy.**

Our anger at our own frustration  
and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves.

**All Lord, have mercy.**

Our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts  
and our dishonesty in daily life and work.

**All Lord, have mercy.**

Our negligence in prayer and worship  
and our failure to commend the faith that is in us.

**All 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.

**All 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.

**All Accept our repentance, Lord.**

For our waste and pollution of your creation  
and our lack of concern for those who come after us.

**All Accept our repentance, Lord.**

Restore us, good Lord, and let your anger depart from us.

**All Favourably hear us, for your mercy is great.**

Accomplish in us the work of your salvation,

**All that we may show your glory in the world.**

By the cross and passion of your Son our Lord,

**All bring us with all your saints to the joy of his  
resurrection.**

*Silence is kept.*

**All 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

*The president says*

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.

**All 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.

# The Liturgy of the Sacrament

## 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.

*cf Romans 5.1,2*

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

*These words may be added*

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

*All may exchange a sign of peace.*

# Taking of the Bread and Wine

*A hymn may be sung.*

*The gifts of the people may be gathered and presented.*

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.

**All Amen.**

*The president takes the bread and wine.*

## Eucharistic Prayer B

The Lord is here.

**All His Spirit is with us.**

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.**

Father, we give you thanks and praise  
through your beloved Son Jesus Christ, your living Word,  
through whom you have created all things;  
who was sent by you in your great goodness to be our  
Saviour.

By the power of the Holy Spirit he took flesh;  
as your Son, born of the Blessed Virgin,  
he lived on earth and went about among us;  
he opened wide his arms for us on the cross;  
he put an end to death by dying for us;  
and revealed the resurrection by rising to new life;  
so he fulfilled your will and won for you a holy people.

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:

**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.**

Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness;  
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit,  
and according to your holy will,  
these gifts of bread and wine  
may be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ;

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.

Great is the mystery of faith:

**All** **Christ has died:**  
**Christ is risen:**  
**Christ will come again.**

And so, Father, calling to mind his death on the cross,  
his perfect sacrifice made once for the sins of the whole  
world;

rejoicing in his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension,  
and looking for his coming in glory,  
we celebrate this memorial of our redemption.

As we offer you this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving,  
we bring before you this bread and this cup  
and we thank you for counting us worthy  
to stand in your presence and serve you.

Send the Holy Spirit on your people  
and gather into one in your kingdom  
all who share this one bread and one cup,  
so that we, in the company of [*N and*] all the saints,  
may praise and glorify you for ever,  
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.**

# The Lord's Prayer

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

**All**    **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.**

## Breaking of the Bread

*The president breaks the consecrated bread.*

Every time we eat this bread  
and drink this cup,

**All**    **we proclaim the Lord's death  
until he comes.**

# Giving of Communion

*The president says the invitation to 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.

**All** **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.**



*The president and people receive communion.  
Authorized words of distribution are used and the communicant  
replies*

**Amen.**

*Any consecrated bread and wine which is not required for purposes  
of communion is consumed at the end of the distribution or after  
the service.*

## Prayer after Communion

*Silence is kept.*

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.

**All** 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

### Blessing

May God the Father,  
who does not despise the broken spirit,  
give to you a contrite heart, and keep your hearts  
and minds in the knowledge  
and love of God, and  
of His Son Jesus Christ our Lord  
and the blessing of God Almighty;  
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit;  
be among you and remain with you always.

**All** **Amen.**

*A hymn may be sung*

*A minister says*

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

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

*The ministers and people depart.*



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