

# Ash Wednesday

2 March 2022

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**Acknowledgement of Country.** As a community, we recognise that the church is built and our worship is offered on the traditional lands of the Kurna people, and close to Tarntanyangga (Victoria Square), which is still an important meeting place for the Kurna people today. We express our gratitude in the sharing of this land; our sorrow for the personal, spiritual and cultural costs of that sharing; and our hope that we may walk together in harmony, in the spirit of Reconciliation.

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**COVID Safety and Face Masks.** The Emergency Management (Activities—General No 3) (COVID-19) Direction 2021 and the Emergency Management (Activities—Associated Direction No 16) (COVID-19) Direction 2021 provide that face masks must be worn at all times other than when a person is reading or otherwise leading worship.

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*When the bell rings, all stand.*

## THE INTRODUCTORY RITES

### Greeting

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

**Amen.**

The grace and peace of God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

**And also with you.**

*The priest or another minister may briefly introduce the Mass of the day.*

### Entrance Antiphon

Wisdom 11.24-25, 27

*The choir sings the Entrance Antiphon.*

You are merciful to all, O Lord,  
and despise nothing that you have made.  
You overlook people's sins, to bring them to repentance,  
and you spare them, for you are the Lord our God.

### Penitential Act

*The priest, deacon, or another minister says*

Compassion and forgiveness belong to the Lord our God,  
though we have rebelled and wandered far off.

*Silence.*

Let us then ask for mercy, confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

Lord Jesus, you raise the dead to life in the Spirit:

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you bring pardon and peace to the sinner:

Christ, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you bring light to those in darkness:

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

*The priest says:*

May almighty God have mercy on us,  
forgive us our sins,  
and bring us to everlasting life. **Amen.**

## **Collect**

Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God,  
you hate nothing that you have made,  
and you forgive the sins of all who are penitent:  
create and make in us new and contrite hearts,  
that we, worthily lamenting our sins,  
and acknowledging our brokenness,  
may obtain of you, the God of all mercy,  
perfect remission and forgiveness;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

### **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?”’

For the word of the Lord,  
**thanks be to God.**

### **Responsorial Psalm**

from Psalm 51

**℟. Have mercy on me, O God, and cleanse me from my sin.**

- 1 Have mercy on me, O God, according to your loving-kindness;  
in your great compassion blot out my offences.
- 2 Wash me through and through from my wickedness  
and cleanse me from my sin. **℟**

- 3 For I know my transgressions,  
and my sin is ever before me.
- 4 Against you only have I sinned  
and done what is evil in your sight. *R.*
- 11 Create in 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. *R.*
- 13 Give me the joy of your saving help again  
and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.
- 16 Open my lips, O Lord,  
and my mouth shall proclaim your praise. *R.*

## Second Reading

2 Corinthians 5.20b – 6.10

A reading from the first 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.

For the word of the Lord,  
**thanks be to God.**

## Gospel Acclamation

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

Harden not your hearts today,  
but listen to the voice of the Lord.

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

## Gospel

Matthew 6.1-6, 16-21

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

✠ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Jesus said to the disciples, ‘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.'

For the Gospel of the Lord,

**praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

## Homily

*Silence may be kept.*

## Blessing and Distribution of Ashes

*The celebrant introduces the rite, and the ashes are made.*

Dear friends, let us humbly ask God to bless with abundant grace these ashes, which we will put on our heads in penitence.

*After a brief prayer in silence, the celebrant continues,*

O God, you desire not the death of sinners,  
but their conversion,  
mercifully hear our prayers  
and in your kindness be pleased to ✠ bless these ashes,  
which we intend to receive upon our head,  
that we, who acknowledge we are but ashes  
and shall return to dust,  
may, through a steadfast observance of Lent,  
gain pardon for sins and newness of life  
after the likeness of Jesus Christ,  
who lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen.**

*Then the celebrant sprinkles ashes on the head of all those present who come forward, saying to each:*

Repent, and believe in the Gospel.

*or:*

Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.

*After the distribution of ashes, the celebrant and any others who have participated wash their hands and proceed to the Prayers of the People.*

## Prayers of the People

*Pray for the world and for the church.*

## Greeting of Peace

We are the body of Christ.

**God's Spirit is with us.**

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**And also with you.**

## THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

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*Taking the paten with the bread, the priest says*

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation,  
for through your goodness we have received  
the bread we offer you:  
fruit of the earth and work of human hands,  
it will become for us the bread of life.

**Blessed be God for ever.**

*Taking the chalice, the priest says*

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation,  
for through your goodness we have received  
the wine we offer you:  
fruit of the vine and work of human hands,  
it will become our spiritual drink.

**Blessed be God for ever.**

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*When all is prepared, the priest says,*

Pray, brothers and sisters, that my sacrifice and yours  
may be acceptable to God, the Father almighty.

**May the Lord accept our sacrifice  
for the praise and glory of God's name,  
for our good, and the good of all God's holy Church.**

## Prayer over the Offerings

Merciful God,  
turn us from sin to faithfulness.  
Accept our offering,  
and prepare us to celebrate  
the death and resurrection of Christ our Saviour,  
who is alive and reigns with you now and for ever. **Amen.**

## The Eucharistic Prayer

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 him thanks and praise.**

It is truly right and our greatest joy  
to give you thanks and praise,  
eternal God, creator and ruler of the universe.

You are our God,  
and we are the creatures of your hand.  
You made us from the dust of the earth,  
breathed into us the breath of life,  
and set us in your world to love and serve you.

When we rejected your love and ignored your wisdom,  
you did not reject us.  
You loved us still  
and called us to turn again to you  
in obedience and in love.

Therefore we praise you,  
joining our voices with angels and archangels  
and with all the faithful of every time and place,  
who forever sing to the glory of your name:

**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.**

You are holy, O God of majesty,  
and blessed is Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.  
Out of your great love for the world,  
you sent Jesus among us  
to set us free from the tyranny of evil.  
He lived as one of us,  
sharing our joys and sorrows.  
By his dying and rising,  
he releases us from bondage to sin  
and frees us from the dominion of death.

We give you thanks that the Lord Jesus,  
on the night before he died,  
took bread,  
and after giving thanks to you,  
he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take, eat.  
This is my body, given for you.  
Do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way he took the cup, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood,  
shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.  
Whenever you drink it,  
do this in remembrance of me.

Remembering all your mighty and merciful acts,  
we take this bread and this wine from the gifts you have given us,  
and celebrate with joy the redemption won for us in Jesus Christ.  
Accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving  
as a living and holy offering of ourselves,  
that our lives may proclaim the One crucified and risen.

Gracious God,  
pour out your Holy Spirit upon us  
and upon these your gifts of bread and wine,  
that the bread we break  
and the cup we bless  
may be the communion of the body and blood of Christ.  
By your Spirit make us one with Christ,  
that we may be one with all who share this feast,  
united in ministry in every place.  
As this bread is Christ's body for us,  
send us out to be the body of Christ in the world.

Keep our eyes fixed on Jesus Christ  
until this mortal life is ended,  
and all that is earthly returns to dust.  
Give us strength to serve you faithfully  
until the promised day of resurrection,  
when, with the redeemed of all the ages,  
we will feast with you at your table in glory.  
Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all glory and honour are yours, almighty God,  
now and forever. **Amen.**

#### THE COMMUNION RITE

##### **The Lord's Prayer**

As our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are confident to 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.  
Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.**

Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil, graciously grant peace in our days, that, by the help of your mercy, we may be always free from sin and safe from all distress, as we await the blessed hope and the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,  
now and for ever. Amen.**

##### **The Breaking of the Bread**

*The priest breaks the bread, saying*

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.  
We who are many are one body,  
**for we all share in the one bread.**

*While the bread is broken Agnus Dei is said –*

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace.**

### **Invitation to Communion**

Behold the Lamb of God,  
behold him who takes away the sins of the world.  
Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

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

*All receive Holy Communion. Communion will be administered in one kind only. Communicants should approach in single file, maintaining physical distance, returning via the side aisles. Communicants should remove their face masks immediately prior to receiving Holy Communion, replacing them afterwards.*

### **Communion Antiphon**

Ps 1.2-3

They who ponder the law of the Lord day and night  
will yield fruit in due season.

### **Prayer after Communion**

Let us pray.  
Faithful God,  
in this holy bread you increase our faith and hope and love.  
Lead us in the path of Christ who is your Word of life.  
We ask this in his name. **Amen.**

## THE CONCLUDING RITES

### **Prayer over the People and Blessing**

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**  
Grant, merciful Lord,  
to your faithful people pardon and peace,  
that they may be cleansed from all their sins  
and serve you with a quiet mind;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Christ our Saviour draw you to himself,  
that you may find in him crucified  
a sure ground for faith,  
a firm support for hope,  
and the assurance of sin forgiven;  
and the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

*The priest, deacon, or another minister says*

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