

Ash Wednesday

17 February 2021

When the bell rings, all stand and sing the hymn.



Lord! Who throughout these forty days,
For us did fast and pray,
Teach us with you to mourn our sins,
And close by you to stay.

2 As You did hunger bear, and thirst,
So teach us, gracious Lord,
To die to self, and always live
By your most holy Word.

3 And through these days of penitence,
And through your Passion-tide,
Forevermore, in life and death,
Jesus with us abide.

4 Abide with us that when this life
Of suffering is past,
An Easter of unending joy
We may attain at last!

Claudia Frances Hernaman 1838-98

THE INTRODUCTORY RITES

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.

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.

Penitential Act

The choir sings

Kyrie eleison. Christe eleison. Kyrie eleison.

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.

**Merciful God,
our maker and our judge,
we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed,
and in what we have failed to do:
we have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves;
we repent, and are sorry for all our sins.
Father, forgive us.
Strengthen us to love and obey you in newness of life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The priest says:

Almighty God,
who has promised forgiveness
to all who turn to him in faith:
pardon ✠ you and set you free from all your sins,
strengthen you in all goodness,
and keep you in eternal life,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **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. **℟**
- 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. **℟**
- 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. **℟**

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

Fr Graeme Kaines

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.

Meanwhile, the following or other appropriate antiphons may be said or sung:

Antiphon 1

cf Joel 2:13

Let us change our raiment for sackcloth and ashes:
let us fast and mourn before the Lord;
for our God is merciful to forgive us our sins.

Antiphon 2

cf Joel 2:17, Esther 4:17

Let the priests, the ministers of the Lord,
weep between the porch and the altar, and let them say:
Spare, O Lord, spare thy people, and shut not up, O Lord,
the mouths of them that praise thee.

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.

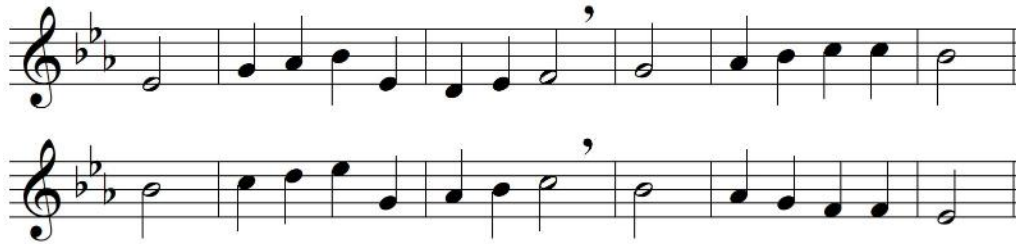
God's Spirit is with us.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

During the preparation of the gifts, all sing the hymn



O for a closer walk with God,
A calm and heavenly frame;
A light to shine upon the road
That leads me to the Lamb!

2 Return, O holy Dove, return,
Sweet messenger of rest;
I hate the sins that made thee mourn,
And drove thee from my breast.

3 The dearest idol I have known,
Whate'er that idol be,
Help me to tear it from thy throne,
And worship only thee.

4 So shall my walk be close with God,
Calm and serene my frame;
So purer light shall mark the road
That leads me to the Lamb.

William Cowper, 1731-1800

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.

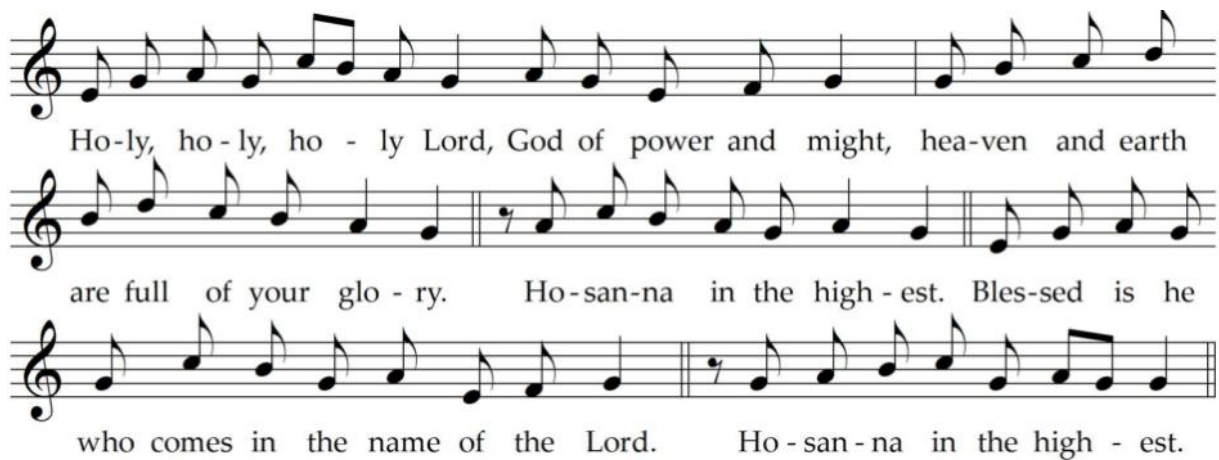
It is truly right and our greatest joy
to give you thanks and praise,
eternal God, creator and ruler of the universe.

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:



Ho-ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and might, hea-ven and earth
are full of your glo - ry. Ho-san-na in the high - est. Bles-sed is he
who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

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.

Lead us, O God, by the power of your Spirit
to live as the Lord requires:
to do justice,
to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with you, our God.
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 sung.

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us.

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin 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 are asked to approach in single file, maintaining physical distance, returning to their places via the side aisles.

Those who are not to receive the Blessed Sacrament are invited to unite themselves with Jesus by making a Spiritual Communion.

Act of Spiritual Communion

St Alphonsus Liguori

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the most Blessed Sacrament. I love you above all things and I desire to receive you into my soul. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come spiritually into my heart. I embrace you as if you were already there, and unite myself wholly to you. Never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.

Communion Antiphon

Ps 1.2-3

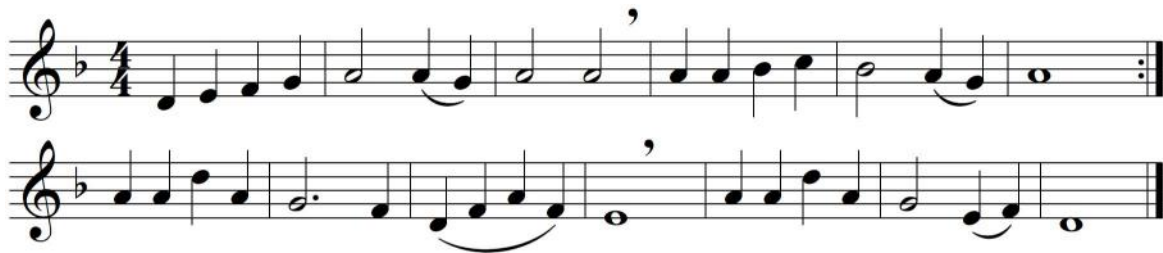
They who ponder the law of the Lord day and night
will yield fruit in due season.

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.**

Postcommunion Hymn



1 Love will be our Lenten calling,
love to shake and shatter sin,
waking every closed, cold spirit,
stirring new life deep within,
till the quickened heart remembers
what our Easter birth can mean.

2 Peace will be our Lenten living
as we turn for home again,
longing for the words of pardon,
stripping off old grief and pain,
till we stand, restored and joyful,
with the Church on Easter day.

3 Truth will be our Lenten learning:
hear the Crucified One call!
Shadowed by the Saviour's passion,
images and idols fall,
and, in Easter's holy splendour,
God alone is all in all.

Elizabeth J. Smith b.1956

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.