

CHRIST  
CHURCH  
West Didsbury



# The Eucharist

## Ash Wednesday

## THE GATHERING

*The president may say*

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

*All*     **Amen.**

### The Greeting

*The president greets the people*

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

*The president introduces a period of silent prayer*

Let us pray for grace to keep Lent faithfully.

*Silence is kept.*

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.

*All*

**Amen.**

## First Reading - Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

<sup>1</sup>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. <sup>12</sup>Yet even now, says the LORD, return to me with all your  
heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; <sup>13</sup>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. <sup>4</sup>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?  
<sup>15</sup>Blow the trumpet in Zion; sanctify a fast; call a solemn assembly;

<sup>16</sup>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. <sup>17</sup>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?"'

This is the word of the Lord.

All

**Thanks be to God.**

### **Psalm 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.**
- 5.
- 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.**

## **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 Matthew.

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

Jesus said to the disciples, <sup>1</sup>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.

<sup>2</sup>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. <sup>3</sup>But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, <sup>4</sup>so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

<sup>5</sup>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. <sup>6</sup>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.

<sup>16</sup>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. <sup>17</sup>But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, <sup>18</sup>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. <sup>19</sup>Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; <sup>20</sup>but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. <sup>21</sup>For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## Homily

### 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.**

*All* Trinity of love,  
**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,  
**that we may show your glory in the world.**

*All*

By the cross and passion of your Son our Lord,  
**bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.**

*All*

*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**

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 sprinkling of ashes.*



*Before the sprinkling the ministers says these words.*

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

*At the end.*

God our Father,  
the strength of all who put their trust in you,  
mercifully accept our prayers;  
and because, in our weakness,  
we can do nothing good without you,  
grant us the help of your grace,  
that in keeping your commandments  
we may please you, both in will and deed;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All**        **Amen.**

## **Prayers of Intercession**

# **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

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

## **Preparation of the Table**

## **Taking of the Bread and Wine**

*The table is prepared and bread and wine are placed upon it.*

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 Eucharistic Prayer**

*The president says*

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.**

*The president praises God for his mighty acts and all respond*

*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.**

The president recalls the Last Supper,  
and one of these four acclamations may be used

Jesus Christ is Lord

*All* **Lord, by your cross and resurrection  
you have set us free. You are the Saviour of the world.**

*The Prayer continues and leads into the doxology, to which all  
respond boldly*

*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**

Every time we eat this bread  
and drink this cup,

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

*The president breaks the consecrated bread.*

## **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.

*The president and people receive communion.*

## 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. Amen.

**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

### 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.**

*cf 1 John 4.10-12*

## The Dismissal Gospel

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

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

Which 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? When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. And 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.' Just 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.

Luke 15.4-7

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

## 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.

*All* **Amen.**

*A minister says*

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

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

*The ministers and people depart.*