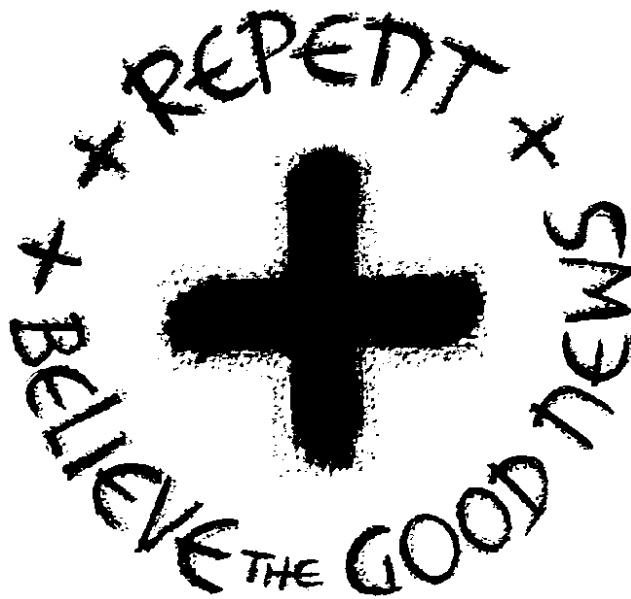




THE CATHEDRAL AND METROPOLITICAL CHURCH OF CHRIST, CANTERBURY

Sung Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes



Ash Wednesday

14th February 2024

5.30pm

Nave

Welcome to Canterbury Cathedral for this Service

We are grateful to the Voices of St John and All Saints for singing our service today.

The Ordinary is
William Byrd (c. 1540-1623), Mass for four voices

Please ask the priest if you require a gluten-free communion wafer

Livestreaming

This service will be livestreamed and you may be seen on camera, although we will not deliberately take any close-ups of the congregation. By attending you agree to be seen in this way. If you have any concerns please speak to a member of the clergy.

Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent, a time of preparation and penitence. Through self-examination and spiritual discipline – study, abstinence and acts of service – Christians prepare for the pivotal celebration in the church’s calendar – Holy Week and Easter. Ashes are an ancient sign of penitence and in this service we bless ash as a sign of our desolation at being apart, our need for forgiveness, and God’s reconciling love in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.



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Please ensure that mobile phones are switched off. No form of visual or sound recording, or any form of photography, is permitted during Services. Thank you for your co-operation.



An induction loop system for the hard of hearing is installed in the Cathedral. Hearing aid users should adjust their aid to T.



Large print orders of service are available from the stewards and virgers. Please ask.

The Gathering

Stand to sing



Jesu, Lover of my soul,
let me to thy bosom fly,
while the nearer waters roll,
while the tempest still is high:
hide me, O my Saviour, hide
till the storm of life is past;
safe into the haven guide,
O receive my soul at last.

³Thou, O Christ, art all I want;
more than all in thee I find;
raise the fallen, cheer the faint,
heal the sick, and lead the blind.
Just and holy is thy name,
I am all unrighteousness;
false and full of sin I am,
thou art full of truth and grace.

²Other refuge have I none,
hangs my helpless soul on thee;
leave, ah, leave me not alone,
still support and comfort me.
All my trust on thee is stayed,
all my help from thee I bring;
cover my defenceless head
with the shadow of thy wing.

⁴Plenteous grace with thee is found,
grace to cover all my sin;
let the healing streams abound,
make and keep me pure within.
Thou of life the fountain art:
freely let me take of thee,
spring thou up within my heart,
rise to all eternity.

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-88)

Tune: ABERYSTWYTH

AM 128

The President says

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

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

The President welcomes the congregation and introduces the service saying

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.

Remain standing as the choir sings

Kyrie Eleison

Kyrie eleison.

Lord, have mercy.

Christe eleison.

Christ, have mercy.

Kyrie eleison.

Lord, have mercy.

The Collect

Let us pray for grace to keep Lent faithfully.

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.

Amen.

Sit

The Liturgy of the Word

Old Testament Reading

Joel 2.1-2, 12-17

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?" '

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Remain seated as the choir sings Psalm 51.1-18

Have mercy upon me, O God, after thy great goodness :
according to the multitude of thy mercies do away mine offences.

Wash me thoroughly from my wickedness :
and cleanse me from my sin.

For I acknowledge my faults :
and my sin is ever before me.

Against thee only have I sinned, and done this evil in thy sight :
that thou mightest be justified in thy saying, and clear when thou art judged.

Behold, I was shapen in wickedness :
and in sin hath my mother conceived me.

But lo, thou requirest truth in the inward parts:
and shalt make me to understand wisdom secretly.

Thou shalt purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean :
thou shalt wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

Thou shalt make me hear of joy and gladness :
that the bones which thou hast broken may rejoice.

Turn thy face from my sins :
and put out all my misdeeds.

Make me a clean heart, O God :
and renew a right spirit within me.

Cast me not away from thy presence :
and take not thy holy Spirit from me.

O give me the comfort of thy help again :
and stablish me with thy free Spirit.

Then shall I teach thy ways unto the wicked :
and sinners shall be converted unto thee.

Deliver me from blood-guiltiness, O God, thou that art the God of my health :
and my tongue shall sing of thy righteousness.

Thou shalt open my lips, O Lord :
and my mouth shall shew thy praise.

For thou desirest no sacrifice, else would I give it thee :
but thou delightest not in burnt-offerings.

The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit :
a broken and contrite heart, O God, shalt thou not despise.

O be favourable and gracious unto Sion :
build thou the walls of Jerusalem.

Stand as the choir sings the first line then we join in



You are the Word who calls us out of darkness;
you are the Word who leads us into light;
you are the Word who brings us through the desert:
glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

**Praise to you, O Christ, our Saviour,
Word of the Father, calling us to life:
Son of God who leads us to freedom:
glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ!**

The Gospel

Matthew 6.1-6, 16-21

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

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.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Homily *Please sit when the homily has been introduced*

The Liturgy of Penitence

Self-examination and Confession

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

Please kneel or sit

God the Father,
have mercy upon us.

God the Son,
have mercy upon us.

God the Holy Spirit,
have mercy upon us.

Holy, blessed and glorious Trinity,
have mercy upon us.

From all evil and mischief;
from pride, vanity and hypocrisy;
from envy, hatred and malice; and from all evil intent,
good Lord, deliver us.

From sloth, worldliness and love of money;
from hardness of heart and contempt for your word and your laws,
good Lord, deliver us.

From sins of body and mind;
from the deceits of the world, the flesh and the devil,
good Lord, deliver us.

From famine and disaster;
from violence, murder and dying unprepared,
good Lord, deliver us.

In all times of sorrow; in all times of joy;
in the hour of our death, and at the day of judgement,
good Lord, deliver us.

By the mystery of your holy incarnation;
by your birth, childhood and obedience;
by your baptism, fasting and temptation,
good Lord, deliver us.

By your ministry in word and work;
by your mighty acts of power;
and by your preaching of the kingdom,
good Lord, deliver us.

By your agony and trial;
by your cross and passion;
and by your precious death and burial,
good Lord, deliver us.

By your mighty resurrection;
by your glorious ascension;
and by your sending of the Holy Spirit,
good Lord, deliver us.

Give us true repentance;
forgive us our sins of negligence and ignorance
and our deliberate sins;
and grant us the grace of your Holy Spirit
to amend our lives according to your holy word.

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

Silence is kept

Make our hearts clean, O God;
and renew a right spirit within 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.
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:
+bless these ashes, that they 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.

All are invited to come forward to receive the Imposition of Ashes

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

The Motet

Civitas sancti tui facta est deserta.
Sion deserta facta est,
Jerusalem desolata est.

*Your holy city has become a wilderness.
Zion has become a wilderness,
Jerusalem has been made desolate.*

Words: Isaiah 64.10

Music: William Byrd (c. 1540-1623)

After the Imposition of Ashes, the President says

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.

Amen.

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

The Peace

Stand

The President says

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.

Members of the congregation greet one another.

Remain standing to sing

The Offertory Hymn *during which the table is prepared and the gifts of the people are gathered and presented.*

If you would prefer to give by text-message*, or use the QR code

- To give £5 – text SERVICE to 70560
- To give £10 – text SERVICE to 70580

*In addition to any text donation, you will incur your standard network message charge.



When the thurifer turns to bow to the congregation, all turn to the altar



From ashes to the living font
your Church must journey, Lord,
baptized in grace, in grace renewed
by your most holy word.

²Through fasting, prayer and charity
your voice speaks deep within
returning us to ways of truth
and turning us from sin.

³From desert to the mountaintop
in Christ our way to see,
so, tempered by temptation's might,
we might transfigured be.

⁴For thirsting hearts let water flow,
our fainting souls revive;
and at the well your waters give
our everlasting life.

⁵From ashes to the living font,
your Church must journey still;
through cross and tomb to Easter joy,
in Spirit-fire fulfilled.

Words: Alan J. Hommerding (b. 1956)

Tune: BANGOR

AM 123

The President takes the bread and wine and praises God

Risen Lord and Saviour,
present among us with the wealth of your love.
Cleanse us from sin and give us the faith
to offer our praise and grow in your grace.

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 thanks and praise.

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 singing:

Sanctus, sanctus, sanctus,
Dominus Deus Sabaoth.
Pleni sunt coeli et terra gloria tua.
Hosanna in excelsis.

*Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might.
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.*

Benedictus qui venit
In nomine Domini.
Hosanna in excelsis.

*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.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus:
**Dying you destroyed our death,
rising you restored our life:
Lord Jesus, come in glory.**

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 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.**

The Lord's Prayer

The President says

As we join our prayers with the Church Universal, so we say,
each in our own language, the prayer that Jesus taught us.

**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.**

Notre Père...

Vater Unser...

Onze Vader...

Padre Nuestro...

Ojczy Nasz...

Baba Yetu...

E to matou Matua...

Ein Tad...

Remain standing for

Breaking of the Bread

The President breaks the consecrated bread, saying

Every time we eat this bread and drink this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Jesus is the Lamb of God
who takes away the sin of the world.
Blessed are those who are called to his supper.
**Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,
but only say the word, and I shall be healed.**

Sit as the President and other ministers begin

The Distribution of Communion

*Please come up for Communion as directed by the stewards. All who are regular communicants in their own tradition are welcome to receive the sacrament. If you are not a communicant, you are welcome to come forward at this point in the service to receive a blessing, keeping your hands to your sides. Please ask the priest if you **need a gluten-free host.***

*We request that **you do not intinct (dip) your host in the wine** but either take a sip from the cup or remain with your head bowed. This is for the reasons of good hygiene.*

If you wish to receive communion in your place, please inform a steward.

*We keep a **prayerful silence** during Communion to allow others to prepare to receive the sacrament or pray afterwards.*

During Communion, the choir sings the Agnus Dei

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis.
Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, dona nobis pacem.

*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.*

Prayer after Communion

The President says

Let us pray.

Please stand to pray in silence before the President says

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 most blessed steps of his most holy life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

All then say

**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.**



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