Eucharist
with Blessing of Ashes

Ash Wednesday
17th February 2021
5.30pm
Nave
Welcome to Canterbury Cathedral for this Service

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

For your safety

Please keep social distance at all times

Please stay in your seat as much as possible

Please use hand sanitiser on the way in and out

Please avoid touching your face and touching surfaces

Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent, a time of preparation and penitence. Through self-examination and spiritual discipline – perhaps 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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The Gathering

The Choir enter in silence, then sing the Lent Prose, during which the Clergy enter the Nave

Hear us, O Lord, have mercy upon us: for we have sinned against thee.
To thee, Redeemer, on thy throne of glory, lift we our weeping eyes in holy pleadings, listen, O Jesu, to our supplications.
O thou chief Corner-stone, Right Hand of the Father, Way of Salvation, Gate of Life Celestial cleanse thou our sinful souls from all defilement.
God, we implore thee, in thy glory seated, bow down and hearken to thy weeping children, pity and pardon all our grievous trespasses.
Sins oft committed now we lay before thee, with true contrition, now no more we veil them, grant us, Redeemer, loving absolution.
Innocent, captive, taken unresisting, falsely accused, and for us sinners sentenced, save us, we pray thee, Jesu our Redeemer.

Words: The Lent Prose  Tune: ATTENDE

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 introduces the service and says

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.
**Kyrie Eleison**

Kyrie eleison.  
Christe eleison.  
Kyrie eleison.  

Lord, have mercy.  
Christ, have mercy.  
Lord, have mercy.

*Music: Mass for three voices*  
William Byrd (1540-1623)

**The Collect**

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.  

*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 51.1-7*

Have mercy upon me, O God, after thy great goodness: according to the multitude of thy mercies do away mine offences. Wash me throughly 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.
Stand as the Gospeller says

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

The Gospel Matthew 6.1-6, 16-21

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.
Glory to you, O Lord.

‘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.
The Liturgy of Penitence

Self-examination and Confession

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

*Please remain standing*

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 Blessing of Ashes

Dear friends in Christ,
we bless these ashes
as a sign of the spirit of Lenten penitence,
as a mark of our desolation at being separated from one another,
and as a token of our hope that,
when our mortal bodies have returned to the earth,
we may, at the last, inherit the gift of everlasting life.

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.

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

Remain standing as the Choir sings

The Motet

Hear my prayer, O Lord, and let my crying come unto thee.
O hide not thy face from me in the time of my trouble:
incline thine ear unto me, O Lord; O hear me and that right soon.
Words: Psalm 102
Music: Thomas Tomkins (1572-1656)

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.

The Offertory

Please sit

The choir sings

Forty days and forty nights
Thou wast fasting in the wild,
Forty days and forty nights
Tempted and yet undefiled.

Sunbeams scorching all the day,
Chilly dewdrops nightly shed,
Prowling beasts about thy way,
Stones thy pillow, earth thy bed.

And if Satan, vexing sore,
Flesh or spirit should assail,
Thou, his vanquisher before,
Grant we may not faint nor fail.

So shall we have peace divine,
Holier gladness ours shall be,
Round us too shall angels shine,
Such as ministered to thee.

Let us thine endurance share,
And awhile from joys abstain,
With thee watching unto prayer,
Strong with thee to suffer pain.

Keep, O keep us, Saviour dear,
Ever constant by thy side,
That with thee we may appear
At the eternal Eastertide.

Words: G H Smyttan (1822-70)
and Francis Pott (1832-1909)

Tune: AUS DER TIEFE

The President takes the bread and wine and praises God for his gifts

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.

The President praises God for his mighty acts

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 saying:

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

Music: Mass for three voices

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

William Byrd (1540-1623)
The President recalls the Last Supper

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, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

Notre Père...
Vater Unser...
Onze Vader...
Padre Nuestro...
Ojcze 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 for

The Distribution of Communion

Please **remain seated in your place**. Communion will be brought to you by a priest. Please remain seated as you receive Communion.

Please **hold out your open hands** and the sacrament will be gently dropped into them by the priest in silence. This is the only way you are allowed to receive communion at present, you should not make any contact with the priest’s fingers.

Please ask the priest if you would **prefer a blessing or a gluten-free host**.

At **this time of infectious disease, Communion is distributed in one kind only**. The Church of England, together with the whole Catholic Church, teaches that, in receiving in one kind, the entirety of the Sacrament of our Lord’s Body and Blood is received.

We keep a **prayerful silence** together during Communion as we prepare to receive the sacrament and to pray afterwards.

During Communion, the choir sing 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**

Silence is kept

**Stand as the President says**

Let us pray.

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.

The President says

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.
Amen.

Go in the peace of Christ.
Thanks be to God.

The Choir and Clergy depart while a Cantor sings

O kind Creator, bend thine ear
To mark the cry, to know the tear
Before thy throne of mercy spent
In this thy holy fast of Lent.

2 Our hearts are open, Lord, to thee:
Thou knowest our infirmity;
Pour out on all who seek thy face
Abundance of thy pardoning grace.

3 Our sins are many, this we know;
Spare us, good Lord, thy mercy show;
And for the honour of thy name
Our fainting souls to life reclaim.

4 Give us the self-control that springs
From discipline of outward things,
That fasting inward secretly
The soul may purely dwell with thee.

5 We pray thee, holy Trinity,
One God, unchanging Unity,
That we from this our abstinence
May reap the fruits of penitence. Amen.

Words: Latin, ascribed to St Gregory (540-604)
Tr. T A Lacey (1853-1931)  
Tune: Audi Benigne  
NEH 60
For your safety

Please **leave the building straight away** after the service, it is safer to talk outside than to mingle in the building.

Please remember to **keep social distance** at all times and give one another space as you exit through doorways.

Please **take this order of service away** with you and dispose of it yourself.

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