



**Ash Wednesday - 17/2/2021**

**We gather to worship God**

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

**And also with you.**

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.

*Hymn*

**PRAISE MY SOUL THE KING OF HEAVEN**

to his feet your tribute bring.

Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,  
evermore his praises sing.

Praise Him, Praise Him!

Praise the everlasting King!

Praise him for his grace and favour  
to his people in distress.  
Praise him, still the same as ever,  
slow to chide, and swift to bless.  
Praise Him, Praise Him!  
Glorious in his faithfulness!

Fatherlike he tends and spares us;  
well our feeble frame he knows.  
In his hand he gently bears us,  
rescues us from all our foes.  
Praise Him, Praise Him!  
Widely yet his mercy flows!

Angels, help us to adore him;  
you behold him face to face.  
Sun and moon, bow down before him,  
dwellers all in time and space.  
Praise Him, Praise Him!  
Praise with us the God of grace!

### **We Listen to God's Word**

#### The Collect

Holy God,  
our lives are laid open before you:  
rescue us from the chaos of sin  
and through the death of your Son  
bring us healing and make us whole  
in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

## Reading

Luke 15:11-32 (Margaret Scruby)

## Talk (Chris Scruby)

## Self examination and confession

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

Father God,  
**have mercy on us.**

Lord Jesus,  
**have mercy on us.**

Holy Spirit,  
**have mercy on us.**

Trinity of love,  
**have mercy on 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,  
and mind, and strength.  
We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.  
We have not forgiven others,  
as we have been forgiven.  
**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.

**Lord, have mercy.**

We confess to you, Lord ...

all our past unfaithfulness: the pride, hypocrisy  
and impatience of our lives.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Our self-indulgent appetites and ways,  
and our exploitation of other people.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Our anger at our own frustration and our envy of  
those more fortunate than ourselves.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts  
and our dishonesty in daily life and work.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Our negligence in prayer and worship and our fail-  
ure to commend the faith that is in us.

**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.

**Accept our repentance, Lord.**

## Response of Praise

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.**

## The 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.

**Amen**

*Hymn:* **TAKE HEART (Emu Music)**  
**Broken one, take heart**  
**For your King has entered in**  
**Made your heart His home**  
**When He washed away your sin**  
**In the darkest day, know your shame is all gone**  
**When He looks at you, God will see His Son**  
**At the throne of grace, He says "sinner, come"**

**Hurting one, take heart**  
**For your King will walk beside**  
**With each rising sun**  
**Every grace He will provide**  
**In the hardest day, He will never forsake**  
**For He knows your grief and He feels your pain**  
**When the world gives way, Jesus will remain**

**Waiting one, take heart**  
**For your King will soon return**  
**Ending every strife**  
**He will reign upon the earth**  
**In the longest day, know the vict'ry is won**  
**Do not fear the world, He has overcome**  
**You are safe in Him covered by His love**  
**Do not fear the world, He has overcome**  
**You are safe in Him covered by His love**

For all false judgements, for uncharitable thoughts  
towards our neighbours and for our prejudice and  
contempt towards those who differ from us.  
**Accept our repentance, Lord.**

For our waste and pollution of your creation and our  
lack of concern for those who come after us.  
**Accept our repentance, Lord.**

Restore us, good Lord,  
and let your anger depart from us.  
**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.**

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

*Silence is kept.*

**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 Lord enrich you with his grace,  
and nourish you with his blessing;  
the Lord defend you in trouble  
and keep you from all evil;  
the Lord accept your prayers,  
and absolve you from your offences,  
for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Saviour. **Amen.**

### **We Share God's Peace**

Christ came and proclaimed the gospel,  
peace to those who are far off  
and peace to those who are near.  
The peace of the Lord be always with you.  
**And also with you**

*Hymn*

### **I HEARD THE VOICE OF JESUS SAY**

**'Come unto me and rest;  
lay down, thou weary one, lay down  
thy head upon my breast.'  
I came to Jesus as I was,  
so weary, worn and sad;  
I found in him a resting place,  
and he has made me glad.**

**I heard the voice of Jesus say,  
'Behold, I freely give  
the living water, thirsty one;  
stoop down and drink and live.'  
I came to Jesus, and I drank  
of that life-giving stream;  
my thirst was quenched, my soul revived,  
and now I live in him.**

**I heard the voice of Jesus say,  
'I am this dark world's light;  
look unto me, thy morn shall rise,  
and all thy day be bright.'  
I looked to Jesus, and I found  
in him my star, my sun;  
and in that light of life I'll walk  
till trav'ling days are done.**

### **We Bring Our Prayers to God**

**Intercessions** (Eve Lockett)

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

As our Saviour taught us, so we 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.  
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**