



# Ash Wednesday

CHORAL EUCHARIST  
WITH AN  
EXTENDED LITURGY OF PENITENCE  
AND  
THE IMPOSITION OF ASHES

WEDNESDAY 14TH FEBRUARY 2024  
8.00pm

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## **MUSICAL SETTING**

Missa secunda - *Hans Leo Hassler (1564 - 1612)*

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### **LIVE-STREAMING**

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# THE GATHERING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

*All stand for the*

## **HYMN OF THE PROCESSION**

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.

Let us thine endurance share,  
and awhile from joys abstain,  
with thee watching unto prayer,  
strong with thee to suffer pain.

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.

Keep, O keep us, Saviour dear,  
ever constant by thy side,  
that with thee we may appear  
at the eternal Eastertide.

*G. H. Smyttan (1822-1870) and Francis Pott (1832-1909)*

## **THE GREETING**

The Lord 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.

## THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

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.**

## PROCLAIMING AND RECEIVING THE WORD

*Sit for*

### THE FIRST READING

Joel 2: 1-2, 12-17

*At the end of the reading the reader says*

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### PSALM 51: 1-12

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.

*Sit for*

**THE SECOND READING**

*2 Corinthians 5: 20b - 6: 10*

*At the end of the reading the reader says*

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Stand for the*

**HYMN OF THE GRADUAL**

Lord Jesus, think on me,  
and purge away my sin;  
From earthborn passions set me free,  
and make me pure within.

Lord Jesus, think on me,  
with care and woe opprest;  
Let me thy loving servant be,  
and taste thy promised rest.

Lord Jesus, think on me,  
amid the battle's strife;  
In all my pain and misery  
be thou my health and life.

Lord Jesus, think on me,  
nor let me go astray;  
Through darkness and perplexity  
point thou the heavenly way.

Lord Jesus, think on me,  
when flows the tempest high:  
When on doth rush the enemy  
O Saviour, be thou nigh.

**THE GOSPEL**

*Matthew 6: 1-6, 16-21*

*Reader:* Hear the Gospel of our Saviour Christ according to Saint Matthew,  
chapter six, beginning at verse one.

*All sing:* **Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

*At the end of the Gospel*

*Reader:* This is the Gospel of the Lord.

*All sing:* **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

*The hymn continues*  
Lord Jesus, think on me,  
that, when the flood is past,  
I may the eternal brightness see,  
and share thy joy at last.

*Greek, Synesius of Cyrene (375 - 430);  
Tr A. W. Chatfield (1808 - 1896)*

## **THE LITURGY OF PENITENCE**

### **SELF-EXAMINATION AND CONFESSION**

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

*All kneel.*

*The Choir sings the*

### **KYRIES**

Kyrie eleison, Christe eleison, Kyrie eleison  
*Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy, Lord have mercy.*

*The celebrant continues:*

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

God the Son,  
**have mercy on us.**

God the 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, O 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 failure 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.**

For all false judgments,  
for uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbours,  
and for our prejudice and contempt toward 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 and then all say:*

**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**

*The celebrant says*

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. **Amen.**

*The celebrant and people receive the imposition of ashes, the celebrant first receiving the imposition from another minister or one of the congregation.*

*At the imposition the celebrant says to each person*  
Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.  
Turn away from sin and be faithful to the Gospel.

*The celebrant 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.**

*Stand for*

### **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.

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



## THE HYMN AT THE OFFERTORY

O Love, how deep, how broad, how high!  
How passing thought and fantasy  
that God, the Son of God, should take  
our mortal form for mortals' sake.

He sent no angel to our race  
of higher or of lower place,  
but wore the robe of human frame,  
and he himself to this world came.

For us baptized, for us he bore  
his holy fast, and hungered sore;  
for us temptations sharp he knew;  
for us the tempter overthrew.

For us to wicked men betrayed,  
scourged, mocked, in crown of thorns arrayed;  
for us he bore the cross's death;  
for us at length gave up his breath.

For us he rose from death again,  
for us he went on high to reign,  
for us he sent his Spirit here  
to guide, to strengthen, and to cheer.

All honour, laud, and glory be,  
O Jesu, Virgin-born, to thee,  
all glory, as is ever meet,  
to Father and to Paraclete. Amen.

*Latin, 15<sup>th</sup> century; Tr Benjamin Webb (1819- 1885)*

## CELEBRATING AT THE LORD'S TABLE

### THE PREPARATION OF THE TABLE

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. **Amen.**

### THE TAKING OF THE BREAD AND WINE

Christ our passover has been sacrificed for us.  
**Therefore let us celebrate the feast.**

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord is here.  
**His Spirit is with us.**

Lift up your hearts:  
**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God:  
**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Father, almighty and everliving God,  
at all times and in all places it is right to give you thanks and praise,  
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.  
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:

*The **SANCTUS** and **BENEDICTUS** are sung.*

Blessed are you, Father, the creator and sustainer of all things;  
you made us in your own image, male and female you created us;  
even when we turned away from you, you never ceased to care for us,  
but in your love and mercy you freed us from the slavery of sin;  
giving your only begotten Son to become man  
and suffer death on the cross to redeem us;  
he made there the one complete and all-sufficient sacrifice  
for the sins of the whole world:  
he instituted, and in his holy Gospel commanded us to continue,  
a perpetual memory of his precious death until he comes again:

On the night that he was betrayed he took bread; and when he had given thanks  
to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, Take, eat, this is my body  
which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper he took the cup; and when he had given thanks to  
you, he gave it to them, saying, Drink this, all of you, for 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.

Therefore, Father, with this bread and this cup  
we do as Christ your Son commanded:  
**we remember his passion and death,**  
**we celebrate his resurrection and ascension,**  
**and we look for the coming of his kingdom.**

Accept through him, our great high priest,  
this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving;  
and as we eat and drink these holy gifts,

grant by the power of the life-giving Spirit  
that we may be made one in your holy Church  
and partakers of the body and blood of your Son,  
that he may dwell in us and we in him;

Through the same Jesus Christ our Lord,  
by whom, and with whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
**all honour and glory are yours, Almighty Father,  
for ever and ever. Amen.**

### **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

As our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are bold to say:  
**Our Father who art in heaven ...**

### **THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD**

The bread which we break is a sharing in the body of Christ  
**We, being many, are one body for we all share in the one bread.**

*The AGNUS DEI is sung.*

### **THE COMMUNION**

The gifts of God for the people of God.  
**Jesus Christ is holy, Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.**

*The Choir sings the*

### **COMMUNION MOTET**

*Miserere mei - Gregorio Allegri (1582-1652)*

### **THE GREAT SILENCE**

*Silence is kept for thanksgiving and reflection*

*Stand to sing the*

### **POST-COMMUNION HYMN**

Father of heaven, whose love profound  
a ransom for our souls hath found,  
before thy throne we sinners bend:  
to us thy pardoning love extend.

Almighty Son, incarnate Word,  
our Prophet, Priest, Redeemer, Lord,  
before thy throne we sinners bend:  
to us thy saving grace extend.

Eternal Spirit, by whose breath  
the soul is raised from sin and death,  
before thy throne we sinners bend:  
to us thy quickening power extend.

Thrice Holy! Father, Spirit, Son,  
Mysterious Godhead, Three in One,  
before thy throne we sinners bend:  
grace, pardon, life to us extend.

*Edward Cooper (1770 - 1833)*

## GOING OUT AS GOD'S PEOPLE

### THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYERS

Almighty God,  
you have given your only Son to be for us  
both a sacrifice for sin and 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 say this prayer*

**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 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 with you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

### THE DISMISSAL

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
**In the name of Christ. Amen.**

### ORGAN VOLUNTARY

Ich ruf zu dir, Herr Jesu Christ - *J. S. Bach (1685-1750)*

*Please remain in your seat in silence until the Organ Voluntary is over.*