



*A Liturgy for*  
*Ash Wednesday 2024*

The First Day of Lent

Eucharist with the Imposition of Ashes



Church of the Resurrection. Macedon

A LITURGY FOR ASH WEDNESDAY  
The First Day of Lent

*The bell rings and the people stand as the ministers process.  
The invocation is then said by the Presider.*

THE GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE

Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins,  
**whose mercy endures for ever.**

*The Presider greets the people in these words.*

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**

Sisters and brothers in Christ, from the earliest days of the church, Christians have observed with great devotion the time of our Lord's passion and resurrection. It became the custom of the church to prepare for this by a season of penitence and fasting.

At first this season was observed by those who were preparing for baptism at Easter and by those who, having been excommunicated, were to be restored to the communion of the church. By keeping these days with care and attention Christians might take to heart the call to repentance and the assurance of forgiveness proclaimed in the gospel, and grow in faith and devotion to our Lord.

So, by self-examination and repentance, by prayer and fasting, by self-denial and acts of generosity and by reading and meditating on the word of God, let us keep a holy Lent.

*The Trisagion is said or sung.*

F C7

1,3 Ky - ri - e e - lei - son, Ky - ri - e e - lei - son,  
 2 Chris - te e - lei - son, Chris - te e - lei - son,  
 1,3 Lord, \_\_\_\_\_ have mer - cy, Lord, \_\_\_\_\_ have mer - cy,  
 2 Christ, \_\_\_\_\_ have mer - cy, Christ, \_\_\_\_\_ have mer - cy,

F Bb F/C C7 F

1,3 Ky - ri - e e - le - - - i - son.  
 2 Chris - te e - le - - - i - son.  
 1,3 Lord, \_\_\_\_\_ have mer - - - cy.  
 2 Christ, \_\_\_\_\_ have mer - - - cy.

Ho - - ly God, Ho - ly and Might - y,

3

Ho - ly Im - mor - tal One, have mer - cy up - on us.

*The prayer of the day is said by the Presider.*

Let us pray.

*Silence*

Gracious God,  
out of your love and mercy  
you breathed into dust the breath of life,  
creating us to serve you and one another:  
call forth our penitence and acts of love,  
and strengthen us to face our mortality,  
so that we may look with confidence for your salvation;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. Amen.

## THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

*The people sit for the reading from the Hebrew scriptures.*

First Lesson                      Joel 2.1-2,12-17

*After the lesson, the reader says*

For the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*In response to the first reading **Psalm 51** is said in alternate verses.*

Have mercy on me, O God, in your enduring goodness:  
according to the fullness of your compassion  
blot out my offences.

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

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

**Against you only have I sinned  
and done what is evil in your eyes:  
so you will be just in your sentence  
and blameless in your judging.**

Surely in wickedness I was brought to birth:  
and in sin my mother conceived me.

**You that desire truth in the inward parts:**

**O teach me wisdom in the secret places of the heart.**

Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean:

**wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.**

**Make me hear of joy and gladness:**

**let the bones which you have broken rejoice.**

Hide your face from my sins:

and blot out all my iniquities.

**Create in me a clean heart, O God:**

**and renew a right spirit within me.**

Do not cast me out from your presence:

do not take your holy spirit from me.

**O give me the gladness of your help again:**

**and support me with a willing spirit.**

Then will I teach transgressors your ways:

and sinners shall turn to you again.

**O Lord God of my salvation, deliver me from bloodshed:**

**and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness.**

O Lord, open my lips:

and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.

**You take no pleasure in sacrifice, or I would give it:**

**burnt-offerings you do not want.**

The sacrifice of God is a broken spirit:

a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

*The people remain seated for the second reading.*

Second Lesson

2 Corinthians 5.20b-6.10

*After the lesson, the reader says*

For the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**



*The ashes are placed on each person's forehead in silence, or with the words  
Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return.  
Each person may answer **Amen.***

## A LITANY OF PENITENCE

Eternal God, maker of heaven and earth,  
**have mercy on us.**

Incarnate Word, redeemer of the world,  
**have mercy on us.**

Abiding Spirit, giver of light and life,  
**have mercy on us.**

For turning away from your presence,  
for disobeying your word and commandments,  
**forgive us, Lord.**

For trusting in our own strength instead of yours,  
for betraying your trust and the trust of others,  
**forgive us, Lord.**

For resisting your grace and refusing your blessings,  
for holding back from proclaiming our faith in you,  
**forgive us, Lord.**

For damaging this earth and exploiting its creatures,  
for neglecting and wasting the gifts you have given us,  
**forgive us, Lord.**

For failing to forgive as we have been forgiven,  
for judging others and bearing grudges,  
**forgive us, Lord.**

For skimming on our commitments and relationships,  
for failing in hospitality,  
**forgive us, Lord.**

For tolerating oppression, injustice, and wrong,  
for keeping silent when we should have spoken up,  
**forgive us, Lord.**

For turning away when others have offered us love,  
for closing our hearts when others have needed compassion,  
**forgive us, Lord.**

For all we have done unkindly, unjustly and dishonestly,  
for our careless speech and hurtful words,  
**forgive us, Lord.**

Most merciful God,  
**we have sinned against you in thought,  
word, and deed,  
and in what we have failed to do:  
we have not loved you with our whole heart;  
we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves;  
we repent, and are sorry for all our sins.  
Father, forgive us.  
Strengthen us to love and obey you  
in newness of life;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*The Presider pronounces the absolution in these words.*

We have turned our hearts to God in repentance  
and our sins are laid bare before the cross of Jesus Christ.  
In the name of the living God, your sins are forgiven.

**We receive God's mercy  
and take hold of our forgiveness.  
Lead us, Holy Spirit to walk again in the light of Christ. Amen.**

*The people stand for the Greeting of Peace.*

## THE GREETING OF PEACE

We are the body of Christ..  
**His Spirit is with us.**  
The peace of the Lord be always with you.  
**And also with you.**

*The people stand and sing the hymn while the gifts of bread and wine are brought forward. [CoR]*

**1. We rise again from ashes,  
from the good we've failed to do.  
We rise again from ashes,  
to create ourselves anew.  
If all our world is ashes,  
then must our lives be true,  
an offering of ashes, an offering to you.**

2. We offer you our failures,  
we offer you attempts,  
the gifts not fully given,  
the dreams not fully dreamt.  
Give our stumblings direction,  
give our visions wider view,  
an offering of ashes, an offering to you.

3. Then rise again from ashes,  
let healing come to pain,  
though spring has turned to winter,  
and sunshine turned to rain.  
The rain we'll use for growing,  
and create the world anew  
from an offering of ashes, an offering to you.

4. Thanks be to the Father,  
who made us like himself.  
Thanks be to his Son,  
who saved us by his death.  
Thanks be to the Spirit  
who creates the world anew  
from an offering of ashes, an offering to you.

*Ashes by Tom Conry. © 1978 OCP Publications.*

*The people remain standing and the Presider says*

With this bread that we bring  
**we shall remember Jesus.**

With this wine that we bring  
**we shall remember Jesus.**

Bread for his body,  
wine for his blood,  
gifts from God to his table we bring.

**Bless your table, Lord,  
by the coming of the Holy Spirit,  
and teach us, through love of one another,  
to be true witnesses of your peace.**

**We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

# THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

*The people remain standing and the Presider says*

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 God thanks and praise.**

*Divine Praise*

All glory and honour be yours always and everywhere,  
mighty Creator, everliving God.

We give you thanks and praise for our Saviour Jesus Christ who by the  
power of your Spirit was born of Mary and lived as one of us.

*Embracing our humanness*

He was tempted in every way as we are,  
yet he did not sin.

By his death on the cross,  
and rising to new life,

he offered the one true sacrifice for sin  
and obtained an eternal deliverance for his people.

*God's gift to us*

By his grace we are able  
to triumph over every evil,  
and to walk in the way of his love.

*The Angelic song*

Therefore with angels and archangels,  
and with all the company of heaven,  
we proclaim your great and glorious name,  
for ever praising you and saying:

**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!**

or



- Choir: Hosanna in the highest.  
Response: **Hosanna in the highest.**  
Choir: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might.  
Response: **Hosanna in the highest.**  
Choir: Heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Response: **Hosanna in the highest.**  
Choir: Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Response: **Hosanna in the highest.**

*Sanctification of the gifts*

Merciful God, we thank you  
for these gifts of your creation,  
this bread and wine,  
and we pray that by your Word and Holy Spirit,  
we who eat and drink them  
may be partakers of Christ's body and blood.

*With this bread...*

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

*With this wine...*

After supper he took the cup,  
and again giving you thanks  
he gave it to his disciples, saying,  
'Drink from this, all of you.  
This is my blood of the new covenant  
shed for you and for many  
for the forgiveness of sins.  
Do this, as often as you drink it in remembrance of me.

*Amenesis: our remembering*

Therefore we do as our Saviour has commanded:  
proclaiming his offering of himself  
made once for all upon the cross,  
his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension,  
and looking for his coming again,  
we celebrate, with this bread and this cup,  
his one perfect and sufficient sacrifice  
for the sins of the whole world.

*The minister says*

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith.

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

*or the following is sung*



*One with all of Christendom*

Renew us by your Holy Spirit  
unite us in the body of your Son,  
and bring us with all your people  
into the joy of your eternal kingdom;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
with whom, and in whom,  
in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,  
we worship you, Father,  
in songs of never-ending praise:

**Blessing and honour and glory and power  
are yours for ever and ever.**

*The Great Amen may be sung, first by the Choir and then the people:*



*The Minister says*

As our Saviour Christ has taught us,  
we are confident to 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.**

**Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours  
now and for ever. Amen.**

## THE BREAKING THE BREAD AND THE COMMUNION

*The Presider says*

We break this bread to share  
in the body of Christ.

We who are many are one body,  
**for we all share in the one bread..**

*The people sing or say the Agnus Dei.*

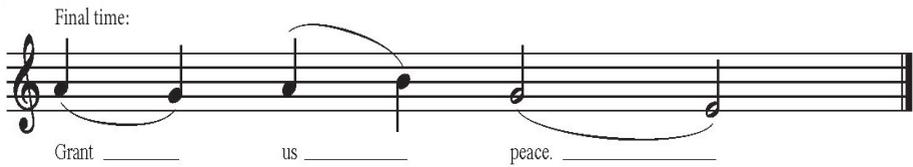
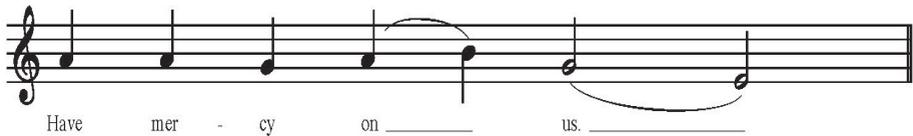
Lamb of God,  
you take away the sins of the world,  
**have mercy on us.**

Lamb of God,  
you take away the sins of the world,  
**have mercy on us.**

Lamb of God,  
you take away the sins of the world,  
**grant us peace.**

*The Presider invites the people to come and receive Holy Communion.*

*for SUNG Responses,  
please see next page*



## THE SENDING OUT OF GOD'S PEOPLE

Let us stand to pray

*The Presider says a post-communion prayer.*

God of mercy,  
may we who have shared in this holy meal  
know your forgiveness in our lives,  
bring your reconciliation to others,  
and be a sign of your wholeness  
in this broken world.

*or*

Compassionate and loving God,  
through your Son Jesus Christ you have fed us  
and have reconciled your people to yourself.  
Following his example of fasting and prayer,  
may we obey you with willing hearts  
and serve one another in holy love.

Father,

**we offer ourselves to you as a living sacrifice  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Send us out in the power of your Spirit  
to live and work to your praise and glory.**

*The people may sing the hymn while the table is cleared by the ministers.  
TiS 463 May this Lenten Discipline*

*May this Lenten discipline,  
which we undertake with love,  
turn our minds to things above.*

**Sin has sundered us from God,  
selfish we have grown and cold,  
foolish were the ways we trod,  
evil habits keep their hold.**

*May this Lenten discipline...*

**Now we fast that we may feast  
where the Lord of Life presides;  
may our hunger be increased  
for the bread which he provides.**

*May this Lenten discipline...*

**As we keep this Lent with prayer  
and from pleasures are withdrawn,  
minds and bodies we prepare  
for the joy of Easter dawn.**

*May this Lenten discipline...*

TIS 463

James Philip McAuley

1917-76

*The Presider says a prayer over the people in place of the usual blessing.*

Christ our Saviour draw you to himself,  
that you may find in him crucified,  
a sure ground for faith,  
a firm support for hope,  
and the assurance of sin forgiven.

*The minister says:*

We go in the peace of Christ.  
**Thanks be to God. Amen.**

## **Sunday Services for Lent 1**

**Sunday February 18th**

10.00 am Church of the Resurrection Macedon Ranges

5.00pm Sunday Arvo@5 St John's Riddells Creek

## **Lent Studies Begin This Week**

**Wednesday Afternoons at 2.00pm** in the Parish Centre Gisborne

**Thursday Evenings online at 7.30pm** via this link:

<https://us05web.zoom.us/j/89756040053?pwd=5mMwwTEZXtv4oag1dPR4Unm3Z7KAx9.1> (please refer to parish email)

**All Are Welcome!**

*Sources: The Liturgical Commission of the Anglican Church of Australia, A Prayer Book for Australia (© 1995), Celebrating the Christian Year (Volume 2), resources prepared by the Gisborne Anglican Parish.*

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