

# ASH WEDNESDAY

*Saint Peter's Brighton Beach*



Priest:  
Father Jon

**22nd FEBRUARY 2023**  
**EUCCHARIST**

## INTRODUCTION TO THE SEASON OF LENT

Lent may originally have followed Epiphany, just as Jesus' sojourn in the wilderness followed immediately on his baptism, but it soon became firmly attached to Easter, as the principal occasion for baptism and for the reconciliation of those who had been excluded from the Church's fellowship for apostasy or serious faults. This history explains the characteristic notes of Lent – self-examination, penitence, self-denial, study, and preparation for Easter, to which almsgiving has traditionally been added.

Now is the healing time decreed  
for sins of heart and word and deed,  
when we in humble fear record  
the wrong that we have done the Lord.

*(Latin, before 12th century)*

As the candidates for baptism were instructed in Christian faith, and as penitents prepared themselves, through fasting and penance, to be readmitted to communion, the whole Christian community was invited to join them in the process of study and repentance, the extension of which over forty days would remind them of the forty days that Jesus spent in the wilderness, being tested by Satan.

Ashes are an ancient sign of penitence; from the middle ages it became the custom to begin Lent by being marked in ash with the sign of the cross. The calculation of the forty days has varied considerably in Christian history. It is now usual in the West to count them continuously to the end of Holy Week (not including Sundays), so beginning Lent on the sixth Wednesday before Easter, Ash Wednesday. Liturgical dress is the simplest possible. Churches are kept bare of flowers and decoration. *Gloria in excelsis* is not used. The Fourth Sunday of Lent (*Laetare* Refreshment Sunday) was allowed as a day of relief from the rigour of Lent, and the Feast of the Annunciation almost always falls in Lent; these breaks from austerity are the background to the modern observance of Mothering Sunday on the Fourth Sunday of Lent.

As Holy Week approaches, the atmosphere of the season darkens; the readings begin to anticipate the story of Christ's suffering and death, and the reading of the Passion Narrative gave to the Fifth Sunday its name of Passion Sunday. There are many devotional exercises which may be used in Lent and Holy Week outside the set liturgy. The Stations of the Cross, made popular in the West by the Franciscans after they were granted custody of the Christian sites in the Holy Land, are the best known. *(Source: The CoE's 'A Common Worship')*

**PLEASE ENSURE ALL MOBILE PHONES ARE TURNED OFF  
CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSES ARE PRINTED IN BOLD**

## **GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME**

*The priest greets the people*

In the name of God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

**Amen**

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

## **Introduction**

*The priest explains the meaning of Lent and invites the people to observe it faithfully*

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 Trisagion is said*

**All Holy God,  
holy and strong,  
holy and immortal,**

have mercy upon us.

## The Collect

*The priest introduces a period of silent prayer with the words*

Let us pray for grace to keep Lent faithfully.

*Silence is kept.*

Let us pray together 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.**

**All Amen.**

## THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

*please sit*

### FIRST READING

A reading from the book of 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, abounding in steadfast love,  
and relenting from punishment.

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;  
consecrate a fast;  
call a solemn assembly;  
gather the people.

Consecrate 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?' "

For the word of the Lord,

**thanks be to God.**

### **PSALM 51.1-17**

#### **Prayer for Cleansing and Pardon**

Have mercy on me, O God:

according to your steadfast love.

According to your abundant mercy:

blot out my transgressions.

Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity:

and cleanse me from my sin.

For I know my transgressions:

and my sin is ever before me.

Against you, you alone, have I sinned:

and done what is evil in your sight.

So that you are justified in your sentence:

and blameless when you pass judgment.

Indeed, I was born guilty:

a sinner when my mother conceived me.

You desire truth in the inward being:

therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.

Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean:

wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

Let me hear joy and gladness:

let the bones that you have crushed rejoice.

Hide your face from my sins:

and blot out all my iniquities.

Create in me a clean heart, O God:

and put a new and right spirit within me.

Do not cast me away from your presence:

and do not take your holy spirit from me.

Restore to me the joy of your salvation:

and sustain in me a willing spirit.

Then I will teach transgressors your ways:

and sinners will return to you.

Deliver me from bloodshed, O God,  
O God of my salvation:  
and my tongue will sing aloud of your deliverance.  
O Lord, open my lips:  
and my mouth will declare your praise.  
For you have no delight in sacrifice:  
if I were to give a burnt offering, you would not be pleased.  
The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit:  
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

## **SECOND READING**

A reading from the second letter of Paul to the Corinthians. *2 Cor 5.20b-6.10*

So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. For he says,

“At an acceptable time I have listened to you,  
and on a day of salvation I have helped you.”

See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation! We are putting no obstacle in anyone’s way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see—we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

For the word of the Lord,

**thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION & READING

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

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.

*cf Psalm 95.3, 8*

**Alleluia!**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Saint Mark. *Mk 7:14-23*

**Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

Then Jesus called the crowd again and said to them, 'Listen to me, all of you, and understand: there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile.'

When he had left the crowd and entered the house, his disciples asked him about the parable. He said to them, 'Then do you also fail to understand? Do you not see that whatever goes into a person from outside cannot defile, since it enters, not the heart but the stomach, and goes out into the sewer?' (Thus he declared all foods clean.) And he said, 'It is what comes out of a person that defiles. For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: fornication, theft, murder, adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly. All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person.'

For the Gospel of the Lord,  
**praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

*Sermon*

## THE LITURGY OF PENITENCE

*please kneel or sit*

## SELF-EXAMINATION AND CONFESSION



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

God the Father,  
**All have mercy upon us.**

God the Son,  
**All have mercy upon us.**

God the Holy Spirit,  
**All have mercy upon us.**

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

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

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

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

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

By the mystery of your holy incarnation;  
by your birth, childhood and obedience;  
by your baptism, fasting and temptation,

**All good Lord, deliver us.**

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

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

By your mighty resurrection;  
by your glorious ascension;  
and by your sending of the Holy Spirit,  
**All 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.

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

*Silence is kept.*

Make our hearts clean, O God;

**All and renew a right spirit within us.**

**All Father eternal, giver of light and grace,  
we have sinned against you and against our neighbour,  
in what we have thought,  
in what we have said and done,  
through ignorance, through weakness,  
through our own deliberate fault.  
We have wounded your love,**

and marred your image in us.  
We are sorry and ashamed,  
and repent of all our sins.  
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,  
who died for us,  
forgive us all that is past;  
and lead us out from darkness  
to walk as children of light. Amen.

*The priest pronounces the absolution.*

Almighty God,  
who has promised forgiveness to all who turn to him in faith:  
pardon you and set you free from all your sins,  
strengthen you in all goodness,  
and keep you in eternal life,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## THE GREETING OF PEACE

*please stand*

*The priest 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.

*Romans 5.1,2*

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

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

*All may exchange a sign of peace.*

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.

**All Amen.**

## **THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

*The priest begins 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 our 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:

**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.**

...Let us proclaim the mystery of faith.

**Christ has died.  
Christ is risen.  
Christ will come again.**

... in songs of never-ending praise:

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

*The priest says*

Lord Jesus, remember us in your kingdom  
and teach us 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 OF THE BREAD AND COMMUNION

*The priest breaks the consecrated bread*

Every time we eat this bread  
and drink this cup

**All we proclaim the Lord's death  
until he comes.**

***The Agnus Dei is sung.***

Jesus is the Lamb of God  
who takes away the sin of the world.  
Blessed are those who are called to his supper.

**All Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,  
but only say the word, and I shall be healed.**

## THE SENDING OUT OF GOD'S PEOPLE

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

*Silence is kept.*

*The Post Communion prayer is said*

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 blessed steps of his most holy life;

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All Amen.**

*All say*

**All 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.**

### **Responsory**

*The priest introduces the responsory*

This is love, not that we loved God,

**All but that he loved us and sent his Son.**

He is the sacrifice for our sins,

**All that we might live through him.**

If God loves us so much

**All we ought to love one another.**

If we love one another

**All God lives in us.**

*cf 1 John 4.12*

### **The Dismissal Gospel**

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

**All Glory to you, O Lord.**

Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbours, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.' Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous people who need no repentance.

*Luke 15.4-7*

For the Gospel of the Lord.

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

### ***The Blessing***

May God the Father,  
who does not despise the broken spirit,  
give to you a contrite heart.

**All Amen.**

May Christ,  
who bore our sins in his body on the tree,  
heal you by his wounds.

**All Amen.**

May the Holy Spirit,  
who leads us into all truth,  
speak to you words of pardon and peace.

**All Amen.**

And the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always.

**All Amen.**

### **The Dismissal**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**All In the name of Christ. Amen.**