

Ash Wednesday 2021

John 8. 1-11

Greeting

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

Introduction

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the Lenten season; those 40 days before Easter when we allow more time for quiet reflection and attempt to look honestly at our relationship with God and with the world. We can do this by various disciplines: that of denial, when we give something up or maybe we take something up which will be difficult or inconvenient. The Discipline of prayer also calls us; we may spend the time praying for one particular thing or for a set time each day. Finally, we pay attention to the Bible either by personal reading or by joining a Lent Group. However, the Lenten season is for you to journey, in your way, with the guidance of the Church Let us pray that God will open our eyes so we can see ourselves as he sees us assured of God's grace and love for each one of us.

The Collect for Ash Wednesday

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:
that 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.

The Reading

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

Glory to you, O Lord

This is the Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you O Christ

Short Address

Act of Penitence and Confession

We confess to you our selfishness and lack of love:

Fill us with your Spirit.

Lord have mercy

Lord have mercy

We confess to our fear and failure in sharing our faith:

Fill us with your Spirit

Lord have mercy
Lord have mercy

We confess to you our stubbornness and lack of trust:
Fill us with your Spirit
Lord have mercy
Lord have mercy

We now enter a time of personal reflection. I will say the traditional prayer used before the imposition of ashes. Then I will invite you into your own time of reflection in which you can mark yourself with the cross, or chose something to focus on. The hymn "Father hear the prayer we offer will be played but if you prefer silence please turn the volume down.

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**

As a sign of the spirit of penitence with which we shall keep this season of preparation for Easter, I invite you to spend some time in quiet reflection and, if you wish, make the mark of the cross with ash.

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

Silence

The Absolution

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

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 Thanksgiving Prayer

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 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

It is right to praise you, Father, Lord of all creation;
In your love you made us for yourself.

When we turned away
you did not reject us,
but came to meet us in your Son.
**You embraced us as your children
and welcomed us to sit and eat with you.**

In Christ you shared our life
that we might live in him and he in us.
**He opened his arms of love upon the cross
and made for all the perfect sacrifice for sin.**

On the night he was betrayed,
at supper with his friends
he took bread, and gave you thanks;
he broke it and gave it to them, saying:
Take, eat: this is my body which is given for you:
Do this in remembrance of me
**Father, we do this in remembrance of him:
his body is the bread of life.**

At the end of supper, taking the cup of wine,
he gave you thanks, and said:
Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins;
do this in remembrance of me.
**Father we do this in remembrance of him;
his blood is shed for all.**

As we proclaim his death and celebrate his rising in glory,
send you Holy Spirit that this bread and this wine
may be to us the body and blood of your dear Son

**As we eat and drink, *in our hearts,*
these holy gifts
make us one in Christ, our risen Lord.**

With your whole Church throughout the world
we offer you this sacrifice of praise
and lift our voice to join the eternal song of heaven.

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

**Our Father 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.**

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ
**Though we are many we are one body,
because we all share in one bread.**

The body and blood of Christ

**Feed on him in your hearts
With faith and thanksgiving.**

As we walk,
God be our way.
As we learn,
God, be our truth.
As we grow,
God be our life.
Amen.

*From a prayer by John Harvey and Millicent from Eggs and
Ashes Wild Goose Publications*

God give you grace to grow in holiness,
To deny yourselves, take up your cross, and follow him:
And the blessing of God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit.
Be with you now and always.
Amen.