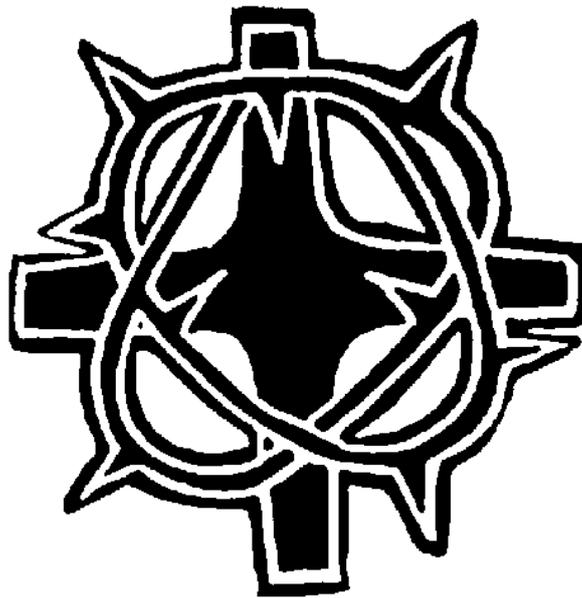


**The Parish Church of All Saints
Peterborough**



The Holy Eucharist

Ash Wednesday (on Zoom)

17th February, 2021

Welcome to this special service to mark the beginning of Lent. Since at least the fourth century, Christians have observed a substantial period of fasting, which almost immediately became a penitential preparation for the great celebration of Christ's Passion and Resurrection at Easter.

The Sermon on the Mount shows us that Jesus strongly associated fasting with almsgiving and prayer, and many of the great Fathers of the Church picked this up in their preaching. By the middle of the fourth century, the *Catechumenate* had developed - the rite of preparing aspiring new Christians for their baptism at the great Vigil Service on Easter Eve, and this period of fasting became the traditional time for the final and most intense part of the catechetical process. As Christians have also understood Christ's death and resurrection as having a vital part to play in our reconciliation with God, it became customary to readmit excommunicated sinners to the body of the Church at this Vigil, and thus Lent also became a time to prepare for and seek reconciliation.

While many Christian practices have changed and developed over the last 1600 years or so, Lent remains for us today, a special season of holiness and humility, in which we should consider anew our response to God's Word, in terms of our own almsgiving and abstinence, our attempts to seek God through study and prayer, and our acceptance of our need of forgiveness and reconciliation with him. Over the centuries, the custom emerged of using ash in today's liturgy, as an outward sign of our acceptance of our human frailty and our need of God's forgiveness. Hence we know today as Ash Wednesday.

In accordance with this tradition, ashes will be blessed after the sermon, and all who wish to may use the ash that has been provided or made at home to mark their forehead.

Greg Roberts, Parish Priest

The president greets the people recalling the baptism which all Christian people share:

In the name of the Father, and of the Son
and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

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

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.

Silence is kept.

The Trisagion is sung

Holy God, Holy Strong, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us

The president introduces a brief period of silent prayer before saying the Opening Prayer on behalf of the congregation.

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**

A reading from the book of the prophet Joel

(2:12-18)

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, and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing. 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; sanctify a fast; call a solemn assembly; gather the people. Sanctify 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?"' Then the Lord became jealous for his land, and had pity on his people.

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 51 (3-6, 12-14)

Response: Have mercy on us, O Lord, for we have sinned.

Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness.

In your compassion blot out my offence.

wash me more and more from my guilt

and cleanse me from my sin.

Response

My offences truly I know them;

my sin is always before me.

Against you, you alone, have I sinned:

what is evil in your sight I have done.

Response

A pure heart create for me, O God,

put a steadfast spirit within me.

Do not cast me away from your presence,

nor deprive me of your holy spirit.

Response

Give me again the joy of your help;

with a spirit of fervour sustain me,

Lord, open my lips

and my mouth shall declare your praise. ***Response***

Praise to you O Christ, king of eternal glory!

A pure heart create for me, O God, and give me again the joy of your help.

Praise to you O Christ, king of eternal glory!

The Lord be with you.

And also with you

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

Glory to you, O Lord. (8:1-11)

While Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. Early in the morning he came again to the temple. All the people came to him and he sat down and began to teach them. The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery; and making her stand before all of them, they said to him, "Teacher, this woman was caught in the very act of committing adultery. Now in the law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?" They said this to test him, so that they might have some charge to bring against him. Jesus bent down and wrote with his finger on the ground. When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, "Let anyone among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her." And once again he bent down and wrote on the ground. When they heard it, they went away, one by one, beginning with the elders; and Jesus was left alone with the woman standing before him. Jesus straightened up and said to her, "Woman, where

are they? Has no one condemned you?" I I She said, "No one, sir." And Jesus said, "Neither do I condemn you. Go your way, and from now on do not sin again."

This is the Gospel of the Lord **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Address Prebendary David Roberts

Imposition of Ashes

The Ashes are first blessed and then the congregation is invited to mark their own forehead, or family members mark each other.

President 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: + bless these ashes and make them holy grant that they may be for us a symbol of our penitence and our mortality; for it is by your grace alone that we receive eternal life in Jesus Christ our Saviour. **Amen**

Here follows the signing with the cross; these words are said:

Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return.

Litany of Penitence

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

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, 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 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.**

Hymn: Jesu, lover of my soul *sung by St Martin's Voices*

Jesu, lover of my soul,
let me to thy bosom fly,
while the gath'ring waters roll,
while the tempest still is high:
Hide me, O my Saviour, hide,
till the storm of life is past;
safe into the haven guide,
O receive my soul at last.

Other refuge have I none,
hangs my helpless soul on thee;
leave, ah, leave me not alone,
still support and comfort me.
All my trust on thee is stayed,
all my help from thee I bring;
cover my defenceless head
with the shadow of thy wing.

Plenteous grace with thee is found,
grace to cover all my sin;
let the healing streams abound,
make and keep me pure within.
Thou of life the fountain art,
freely let me take of thee,
spring thou up within my heart,
rise to all eternity.

Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

The president introduces 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.

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 president begins **the Eucharistic Prayer** - the great prayer of thanksgiving over the bread and wine that recalls all that God has done for the world.*

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 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 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.**

Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness;
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit,
and according to your holy will,
these gifts of bread and wine
may be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ;

who, in the same night that he was betrayed,
took bread and gave you thanks;
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 gave you thanks;
he gave it to them, saying:

Drink this, all of you;
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.

Jesus Christ is Lord:

**Lord, by your cross and resurrection
you have set us free.**

You are the Saviour of the world.

And so, Father, calling to mind his death on the cross,
his perfect sacrifice made once for the sins of the whole world;
rejoicing in his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension,
and looking for his coming in glory,
we celebrate this memorial of our redemption.

As we offer you this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving,
we bring before you this bread and this cup
and we thank you for counting us worthy
to stand in your presence and serve you.

Send the Holy Spirit on your people
and gather into one in your kingdom
all who share this one bread and one cup,

so that we, in the company of all the saints,
may praise and glorify you for ever,
through Jesus Christ our Lord;

by whom, and with whom, and in whom,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father,
for ever and ever. **Amen.**

*The president introduces **the Lord's Prayer.***

**Our Father, who art 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.**

The president breaks the consecrated bread.

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 **Agnus Dei** is said*

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
grant us peace.**

The president invites the people to receive Communion:

Jesus is the Lamb of God
who takes away the sin of the world.
Blessed are those who are called to his supper.
**Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,
but only say the word, and I shall be healed.**

After communion the post-communion prayers are 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. **Amen.**

**God of our pilgrimage,
you have fed us with the bread of heaven.
Refresh us and sustain us
as we go forward on our journey,
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

Final Hymn

Responsory

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 Dismissal Gospel

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

This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

The president blesses the people and dismisses them to go out into the world taking the Good News of Jesus Christ to all those they meet.

The Lord be with you.
And also with you

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**

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

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