



## Holy Communion

Ash Wednesday

### GATHERING HYMN

*(for hymns see separate sheet)*

### GREETING

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

**All Amen.**

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

**All and also with you.**

*The president 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.

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

### COLLECT

*The president introduces a period of silent prayer with the words:*

Let us pray for grace to keep Lent faithfully.

*Silence is kept.*

Almighty and everlasting God,  
you hate nothing 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**

### **FIRST READING**

*At the end the reader may say*

This is the word of the Lord.

**All      Thanks be to God.**

### **PSALM 51.1-18**

- 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.
- 13 Give me again the joy of your salvation  
and sustain me with your gracious spirit;
- 14 Then shall I teach your ways to the wicked and sinners shall return to you.
- 15 Deliver me from my guilt, O God, the God of my salvation,  
and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness.
- 16 O Lord, open my lips and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.
- 17 For you desire no sacrifice, else I would give it;  
you take no delight in burnt offerings.
- 18 The sacrifice of God is a broken spirit;  
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

## **SECOND READING**

*At the end the reader may say*

This is the word of the Lord.

**All Thanks be to God.**

## **GRADUAL HYMN**

## **GOSPEL READING**

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.

**All Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory.**

*When the gospel is announced the reader says:*

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to *N*.

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

*At the end:*

This is the gospel of the Lord.

**All Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **SERMON**

### **SELF-EXAMINATION & CONFESSION**

*A minister now leads a corporate examination of conscience.*

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

God the Father,

**All have mercy on us.**

God the Son,

**All have mercy on us.**

God the Holy Spirit,

**All have mercy on us.**

Holy, blessed, and glorious Trinity,

**All have mercy on 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.*

**All Make our hearts clean, O God;  
and renew a right spirit within us.**

**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,  
and in the good we have not 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.**

## **IMPOSITION OF ASHES**

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.

**All      Amen.**

*The president and people receive the imposition of ashes, the president first receiving the imposition from another minister. At the imposition the minister says to each person:*

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

*During the imposition silence may be kept, or a hymn, anthem or psalm may be sung.*

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

**All      Amen.**

## **THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT**

### **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.

**All** 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.*

## **OFFERTORY HYMN**

### **PREPARATION OF THE TABLE**

*During the hymn, the table is prepared and bread and wine are placed upon it.*

*At the preparation of the table this prayer may be said:*

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.**

## **EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER**

*The president uses one of the authorized eucharistic prayers with one of the proper prefaces.*

**All** The Lord be with you  
**and also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**All** **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**All** **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*:

**All**     **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.

Great is the mystery of faith:

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

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 [*N and*] 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.

**All      Amen.**

Lord Jesus, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**All      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.**

## **BREAKING OF THE BREAD**

*The president breaks the consecrated bread.*

Every time we eat this bread and drink this cup:

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

## **AGNUS DEI**

**All      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.**

## **GIVING OF COMMUNION**

*The president says*

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 president and people receive communion. Authorized words of distribution are used and the communicant replies **Amen.***

*During the distribution hymns and/or anthems may be sung.*

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

*Silence is kept.*

*This post communion prayer or other suitable 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 immeasurable gifts,  
and also daily endeavour to follow  
the blessed steps of his most holy life;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All      Amen.**

*All may say this prayer:*

**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.**

## DISMISSAL

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.**

## SENDING HYMN

### 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*

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

### BLESSING

Christ give you grace to grow in holiness,  
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.  
**All Amen.**

## DISMISSAL

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

*The ministers and people depart.*