

Service Sheet for Livestream Service for Ash Wednesday

17th February 2021

Joel 2.1-2,12-17; Psalm 51.1-18; 2 Corinthians 5.20b-6.10; Matthew 6.1-6,16-21

A Service for the Imposition of Ashes and
Spiritual Communion for the beginning of Lent

The ashes are made from the blessed palms used in the Palm Sunday celebration of the previous year. The ashes symbolise being sorry for our human frailty, and a reminder that God is gracious and merciful to those who call on Him with repentant hearts. The ceremony is also a sign of mortality to remind us of our death....



PREPARING THE SPACE...

Please feel free to message and commune during the service as you are so inspired to do. There will be people you recognise who are gathered with you and feel free to say hello to them and to say hello to those whom you don't yet know ☺ Perhaps you might like to light a candle, still yourself as you listen to the music, and allow yourself to take time out and rest in the peace of the time to come as we gather together to worship, reflect and pray....

Let's give thanks that as St Beale's online community, we join as one with St Peter's as a Church family together in fellowship.

HYMN – Sung by St Martin's Voices

From ashes to the living font your Church must journey, Lord,
baptised in grace, in grace renewed by your most holy word.

Through fasting, prayer, and charity your voice speaks deep within,
returning us to ways of truth and turning us from sin.

From desert to the mountaintop in Christ our way we see,
so, tempered by temptation's might we might transfigured be.

For thirsting hearts let waters flow our fainting souls revive;
and at the well your waters give our everlasting life.

From ashes to the living font your church must journey still:
through cross and tomb to Easter joy, in Spirit-fire fulfilled.

The Preparation

The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart,
God will not despise. *Psalm 51 v 17.*

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with
you all. *cf 1 Timothy 1.2* **All** And also with you.

An invitation to observe Lent faithfully

After a period of silence:

Lord, have mercy upon us
Lord, have mercy upon us

Christ, have mercy upon us
Christ, have mercy upon us

Lord, have mercy upon us
Lord, have mercy upon us

The Collect - *we pray for grace to keep Lent faithfully- silence is kept*

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**

First Reading - *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.

12, 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?"

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

Psalm 51- *we say together:*

Have mercy on me, O God, in your constant love; in the fullness of your mercy blot out my offences. Wash away all my guilt, and cleanse me from my sin. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Give me the joy of your help again and strengthen me with a willing spirit.

Gospel reading: Matthew 61-6, 16-21

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.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St Matthew

All: Glory to you, O Lord

Jesus said to the disciples, ¹Beware of practising your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven.

²So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ³But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

⁵And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ⁶But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

¹⁶And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ¹⁷But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, ¹⁸so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. ¹⁹Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; ²⁰but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord **All:** Praise to you O Christ

SERMON

The Liturgy of Penitence - *Self-examination and Confession*

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

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

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

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

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

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

By the mystery of your holy incarnation; by your birth, childhood and obedience; by your baptism, fasting and temptation, **good Lord, deliver us.**

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

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

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

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

A short period of silence for reflection will follow.

Make our hearts clean, O God; **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 Imposition of Ashes

Dear friends in Christ, I invite you to receive on your head in ash the sign of the cross as a sign of the spirit of penitence with which we shall keep this season of Lent in preparation for Easter.

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.**

You are invited to administer the imposition of ashes by making a sign of the cross upon your forehead, saying to yourself:

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

Almighty God, the strength of all who put their trust in you, mercifully accept our prayers; and because, in our weakness, we can do nothing good without you, grant us the help of your grace, that in keeping your commandments we may please you, both in will and deed; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

ANTHEM: Lent Prose - sung by St Martin's Voices
'Attende, Domine', anonymous Latin from the Mozarabic Breviary (5th to 8th century), compiled by Dom Pothier (fl. 1824)

Refrain: Hear us, O Lord, have mercy upon us: for we have sinned against thee.

To thee, Redeemer, on thy throne of glory: lift we our weeping eyes in holy pleadings: listen, O Jesu, to our supplications. *Refrain*

O thou chief Corner-stone, Right Hand of the Father way of Salvation, Gate of Life Celestial cleanse thou our sinful souls from all defilement. *Refrain*

God, we implore thee, in thy glory seated bow down and hearken to thy weeping children pity and pardon all our grievous trespasses. *Refrain*

Sins oft committed now we lay before thee with true contrition, now no more we veil them grant us, Redeemer, loving absolution. *Refrain*

Innocent, captive, taken unresisting falsely accused, and for us sinners sentenced, save us, we pray thee, Jesu our Redeemer. *Refrain*

Prayers of Intercession

Eternal God, through the sacrifice of your Son you have filled our suffering with your presence; help us in our trials and strengthen us in our weakness; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

As we remember those who are in need of comfort, strength, hope and healing, as we remember those places of conflict and people estranged, and as we

remember all those working on the frontline of the pandemic crisis and those affected through sickness, death and other hardships of this time, we pray:

Keep watch, dear Lord, with those who work, or watch, or weep this night; and give Your Angels charge over those who sleep. Tend the sick, give rest to the weary. Sustain the dying, calm the suffering, and pity the distressed; all for Your love's sake, O Christ our Redeemer. **Amen**

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.

The Peace

Being 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.**

Preparation of the Table

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.**

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.

Father, on the night before he died, Jesus shared a meal with his friends. He took the bread, and thanked you. He broke it, and gave it to them, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this to remember me.

After the meal, Jesus took the cup of wine. He thanked you, and gave it to them, saying: Drink this, all of you. This is my blood, the new promise of God's unending love. Do this to remember me.

Great is the mystery of faith:

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

Father, as we bring this bread and wine, and remember his death and resurrection, send your Holy Spirit, that we who share these gifts may be fed by Christ's body and his blood. **Amen.**

Pour your Spirit on us that we may love one another, work for the healing of the earth, and share the good news of Jesus, as we wait for his coming in glory.

Amen

For honour and praise belong to you, Father, with Jesus your Son, and the Holy Spirit: one God, for ever and ever. **Amen**

You are invited to hold out your hands and open your heart to receive our Lord Jesus Christ spiritually, feeding on him in your heart by faith with thanksgiving.

We say together:

Thanks be to you, Lord Jesus Christ,
for all the benefits you have given us,
for all the pains and insults you have borne for us.
Since we cannot now receive you sacramentally,
we ask you to come spiritually into our hearts.
O most merciful redeemer,
friend and brother, may we know you more clearly,
love you more dearly, and follow you more nearly, day by day. Amen

Prayer after Communion

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.**

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.

The Sending Out

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 Blessing

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

All In the name of Christ. Amen.

FINAL HYMN: Led by St Martin's Voices

'Forgive our sins as we forgive', you taught us, Lord, to pray,
but you alone can grant us grace to live the words we say.

How can your pardon reach and bless the unforgiving heart
that broods on wrongs, and will not let old bitterness depart?

In blazing light your cross reveals the truth we dimly knew,
how small the debts men owe to us, how great our debt to you!

Lord, cleanse the depths within our souls, and bid resentment cease;
then, reconciled to God and man, our lives will spread your peace.

God Bless, and prayers for safekeeping and wellbeing go with you
from Revs Sandy and Jacqueline