

**Ash Wednesday February 17<sup>th</sup> 2021**  
**Service of Holy Communion**  
**With Imposition of Ashes**

Prelude on the organ played by Lorraine  
Miserere - Gregorio Allegri arr. Richard Lloyd.

Introduction and Welcome

We come from scattered lives to meet with God  
Let us recognise His presence with us.

*Silence is kept.*

As God's people we have gathered  
**let us worship Him together.**

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

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

*Silence is kept.*

**Eternal God, source of all blessing,  
help us to worship you  
with all our heart and mind and strength;  
for you alone are God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,  
for ever and ever. Amen.**

Let us say together the collect for today:

**Holy God,  
our lives are laid open before You:  
rescue us from the chaos of sin  
and through the death of Your Son  
bring us healing and make us whole  
in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

## Confession

The sacrifice of God is a broken spirit;  
a broken and contrite heart God will not despise.  
Let us come to the Lord, who is full of compassion,  
and acknowledge our transgressions in penitence and faith.

**God of mercy,  
we acknowledge that we are all sinners.  
We turn from the wrong that we have thought and said and done,  
and are mindful of all that we have failed to do.  
For the sake of Jesus, who died for us,  
forgive us for all that is past,  
and help us to live each day in the light of Christ our Lord.  
Amen.**

## Absolution

May God our Father forgive us our sins  
and bring us to the eternal joy of His kingdom,  
where dust and ashes have no dominion.  
**Amen.**

## Liturgy of the Word

First Reading - Joel 2.1-2, 12-14

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, 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?

This is the Word of the Lord  
**Thanks be to God**

Psalm 51

Have mercy on me, O God, in your great goodness;  
according to the abundance of your compassion  
blot out my offences.

**Wash me thoroughly from my wickedness  
and cleanse me from my sin.**

For I acknowledge my faults  
and my sin is ever before me.

**Against you only have I sinned  
and done what is evil in your sight,**

So that you are justified in your sentence  
and righteous in your judgement.

**I have been wicked even from my birth,  
a sinner when my mother conceived me.**

Behold, you desire truth deep within me  
and shall make me understand wisdom  
in the depths of my heart.

**Purge me with hyssop and I shall be clean;  
wash me and I shall be whiter than snow.**

Make me hear of joy and gladness,  
that the bones you have broken may rejoice.

**Turn your face from my sins  
and blot out all my misdeeds.**

Make me a clean heart, O God,  
and renew a right spirit within me.

**Cast me not away from your presence  
and take not your holy spirit from me.**

Give me again the joy of your salvation  
and sustain me with your gracious spirit;

**Then shall I teach your ways to the wicked  
and sinners shall return to you.**

Deliver me from my guilt, O God,  
the God of my salvation,  
and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness.

**O Lord, open my lips  
and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

For you desire no sacrifice, else I would give it;  
you take no delight in burnt offerings.

**The sacrifice of God is a broken spirit;  
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.**

**Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.  
As it was in the beginning, is now  
and shall be forever. Amen**

## The Gospel Reading

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew  
**Glory to you O Lord**

Matthew 6.1-6, 16-21

‘Beware of practising your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven.

‘So 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. But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

‘And 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. But 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.

‘And 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. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so 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.

‘Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

This the gospel of the Lord  
**Praise to you O Christ**

## Talk and Imposition of Ashes

Dear Friends in Christ,  
Let us 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 as symbol of our mortality;  
for it is by Your grace alone  
that we receive eternal life in Jesus Christ our Saviour.

**Amen**

**I remember that I am dust, and to dust I shall return. I will turn away from sin and be faithful to Christ.**

## The Creed

Do you believe and trust in God the Father,  
source of all being and life, the one for whom we exist?

**We believe and trust in Him.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Son,  
who took our human nature, died for us and rose again?

**We believe and trust in Him.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit,  
who gives life to the people of God?

**We believe and trust in Him.**

This is the faith of the Church.

**This is our faith.**

**We believe and trust in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**

**Amen.**

## Intercessions

Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
**and renew a right spirit within me.**

Let us implore the Lord our God praying,  
“Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
and renew a right spirit within me.”

We pray for leaders of the Church  
In this country and around the world.  
May they live their lives as examples  
to those who would come to believe in Christ for eternal life.  
May the Church place its hope in you, O God.

**Amen**

### *Silence*

Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
**and renew a right spirit within me.**

We pray for the leaders of the nations.  
May they show mercy and advocate for the rights of the people.  
May they always seek the greater good rather than their own interests.

### *Silence*

Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
**and renew a right spirit within me.**

We thank you for all you created.  
We thank you that your Son Jesus Christ rejoiced in your creation  
May we also appreciate the works of your hands.

*Silence*

Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
**and renew a right spirit within me.**

We pray for the people in our lives.  
May we learn to love those we find difficult  
and we pray for all those in great need of your mercy.  
Make us instruments of your peace.

*Silence*

Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
**and renew a right spirit within me.**

We pray for the sick, the anxious and the sorrowful.  
Make them hear of joy and gladness,  
that broken bodies and broken spirits may rejoice.

*Silence*

Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
**and renew a right spirit within me.**

We trust to your mercy, O God, all who have died.  
May they rest eternally in your peace.  
To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, our God,  
be honour and glory forever and ever.

*Silence*

Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
**and renew a right spirit within me.**

Merciful Father,  
**accept these prayers  
for the sake of Your Son,  
our Saviour Jesus Christ.  
Amen**

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.**

## 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.

*cf. 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.

## 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.**

And now we give You thanks  
because You give us the spirit of discipline,  
that we may triumph over evil and grow in grace,  
as we prepare to celebrate the paschal mystery  
with mind and heart renewed.

## The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord is here  
**His Spirit is with us.**

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.**

Blessed are You, Lord God,  
our light and our salvation;  
to you be glory and praise for ever.  
From the beginning You have created all things  
and all Your works echo the silent music of Your praise.  
In the fullness of time You made us in Your image,  
the crown of all creation.  
You give us breath and speech, that with angels and archangels  
and all the powers of heaven  
we may find a voice to sing Your praise:

**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.**

How wonderful the work of Your hands, O Lord.  
As a mother tenderly gathers her children,  
You embraced a people as Your own.  
When they turned away and rebelled  
Your love remained steadfast.

From them You raised up Jesus our Saviour, born of Mary,  
to be the living bread,  
in whom all our hungers are satisfied.

He offered His life for sinners,  
and with a love stronger than death  
He opened wide His arms on the cross.

On the night before He died,  
He came to supper with His friends  
and, taking bread, He 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.

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 and for many for the forgiveness of sins.  
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

Praise to You, Lord Jesus  
**Dying you destroyed our death,  
rising you restored our life:  
Lord Jesus, come in glory.**

Father, we plead with confidence  
His sacrifice made once for all upon the cross;  
we remember His dying and rising in glory,  
and we rejoice that He intercedes for us at Your right hand.

Pour out Your Holy Spirit as we bring before You  
these gifts of Your creation;  
may they be for us the body and blood of Your dear Son.

As we eat and drink these holy things in Your presence,  
form us in the likeness of Christ,  
and build us into a living temple to Your glory.

Remember, Lord, your Church in every land.  
Reveal her unity, guard her faith,  
and preserve her in peace ...  
Bring us at the last with St. Mary and all the saints  
to the vision of that eternal splendour  
for which You have created us;  
through Jesus Christ, our Lord,  
by whom, with whom, and in whom,  
with all who stand before You in earth and heaven,  
we worship You, Father almighty, in songs of everlasting praise:

**Blessing and honour and glory and power  
be Yours for ever and ever.  
Amen.**

### The Lord's Prayer

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.  
Lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power  
and the glory are Yours,  
now and forever.  
Amen.**

### Breaking of the Bread

Every time we eat this bread  
and drink this cup  
**we proclaim the Lord's death  
until He comes**

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**

## Administration

*Silence is kept*

## Act of Spiritual Communion

We are not all able to be physically present to take Holy Communion together, but I invite you now to join with me in this Act of Spiritual Communion and say together with me:

**My Jesus,  
I believe that You are present with us  
when as a church family  
we worship together though apart.  
I love You above all things,  
and I desire to bring You into my heart and soul.  
Since I cannot celebrate in Holy Communion  
Your presence in my life,  
come spiritually into my heart.  
I embrace You because I know You are already there  
and I unite myself wholly to You.  
Never let me to be parted from You.  
Amen.**

*Silence is kept.*

## Post Communion Prayer

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 and sustain us  
as we go forward on our journey,  
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

### 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**

### 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.**

Recessional on the organ played by Lorraine  
Prelude on HEINLEIN P.C.Lutkin

### Dismissal

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