



# CHRIST CHURCH

THE ANGLICAN/EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN VIENNA

**ASH WEDNESDAY WITH THE IMPOSITION OF ASHES**  
**17 FEBRUARY 2021**

## LENTEN PROSE

**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.

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

O thou chief cornerstone, right hand of the Father:  
way of salvation, gate of life celestial:  
cleanse thou our sinful souls from all defilement.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## GREETING

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. It has become the custom of the Church to prepare 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.

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

## COLLECT

Let us pray for grace to keep Lent faithfully.

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.**

## LESSON

*Joel 2:1-2, 12-17*

A reading from the Prophet Joel:

<sup>1</sup> 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—  
<sup>2</sup> 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.

<sup>12</sup> Yet even now, says the LORD, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; <sup>13</sup> 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.  
<sup>14</sup> 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? <sup>15</sup> Blow the trumpet in Zion; sanctify a fast; call a solemn assembly; <sup>16</sup> 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.  
<sup>17</sup> 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?'"

## PSALM

*Psalms 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.**

**Have mercy on us, O Lord, for we have sinned**

## GOSPEL

*John 8:1-11*

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John:  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup> While Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. <sup>2</sup> 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. <sup>3</sup> The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery; and making her stand before all of them, <sup>4</sup> they said to him, "Teacher, this woman was caught in the very act of committing adultery. <sup>5</sup> Now in the law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?" <sup>6</sup> 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. <sup>7</sup> 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." <sup>8</sup> And once again he bent down and wrote on the ground. <sup>9</sup> 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. <sup>10</sup> Jesus straightened up and said to her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?" <sup>11</sup> 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.**

## SERMON

### THE LITURGY OF PENITENCE

*Please kneel.*

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.**  
Holy, blessed, and glorious Trinity,  
**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 Christ loves us.  
We have not forgiven others, as we have been forgiven.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

We have been deaf to your call to serve, as Christ serves 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 for a time.*

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,  
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 for 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**

As a sign of the spirit of penitence with which we shall keep this season of  
preparation of Easter, I invite you to receive on your head in ash the sign of the  
cross, the symbol of our salvation.

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.**

*The celebrant and people receive the imposition of ashes, the celebrant first.  
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 is kept.*

Almighty God,  
Who forgives all who truly repent,  
Have mercy upon you,  
Pardon and deliver you from all your sins,  
Confirm and strengthen you in all goodness  
And keep you in life eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

## THE PEACE

*The celebrant introduces the Peace with a suitable sentence:*

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.**

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

*All exchange an appropriate sign of peace.*

## HYMN 118

(sung by the cantor)

- 1 **Drop, drop, slow tears,  
and bathe those beauteous feet,  
which brought from heaven  
the news and Prince of Peace.**
- 2 **Cease not, wet eyes,  
his mercies to entreat;  
to cry for vengeance  
sin doth never cease.**
- 3 **In your deep floods  
drown all my faults and fears;  
nor let his eye  
see sin, but through my tears.**

## EUCCHARIST

*Eucharistic Prayer E*

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.]**

We praise and bless you, loving Father,  
through Jesus Christ, our Lord;  
and as we obey his command,  
send your Holy Spirit,  
that broken bread and wine outpoured  
may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died he had supper with his friends  
and, taking bread, he praised you.  
He broke the bread, gave it to them and said:  
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;  
do this in remembrance of me.

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine.  
Again he praised you, gave it to them 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.

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did,  
in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice  
made once for all upon the cross.  
Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation,  
we proclaim his death and resurrection  
until he comes in glory.

Great is the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died:**

**Christ is risen:**

**Christ will come again.**

Lord of all life,  
help us to work together for that day  
when your kingdom comes  
and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth.  
Look with favour on your people,  
gather us in your loving arms  
and bring us with [N and] all the saints  
to feast at your table in heaven.  
Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father,  
for ever and ever.  
**Amen.**

#### **LORD'S PRAYER**

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us:

**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**

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.**

#### **AGNUS DEI**

**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.**

## INVITATION TO 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.**

*The celebrant distributes 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.

**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 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

*Luke 15:4-7*

*Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke:*  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>4</sup>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? <sup>5</sup>When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. <sup>6</sup>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." <sup>7</sup>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.**

## BLESSING

*The celebrant may use a seasonal blessing, or another suitable 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.**

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace of Christ.  
**Thanks be to God. Amen.**

**NOTICE OF COPYRIGHT**

This liturgy is taken from The Archbishop's Council 2000, *Common Worship* (London: Church House Publishing, 2000). The hymns are taken from *Ancient & Modern* (Norwich: Canterbury Press, 2013). Scripture reference, unless otherwise noted, are from the NRSV translation of *The Holy Bible*.

**TITHES AND OFFERINGS**

Currently we are not taking a collection during any of the services in the church building, because of Covid-19 restrictions. We ask those of you who would otherwise make your donations to Christ Church to consider setting up regular standing orders or some other electronic means of contributing. More information is available on our website.

**Your contributions make a difference, and we are thankful for them.**