



**St. Michael and All Angels  
Amersham on the Hill**



**HOLY EUCHARIST  
ASH WEDNESDAY**

*A warm welcome to this service*

The forty days of Lent are a period of self-examination, penitence, self-denial, study, and preparation for Easter, reminding us of the forty days, which Jesus spent in the wilderness.

Ashes are an ancient sign of penitence, a custom from the Middle Ages to begin Lent by being marked in ash with the sign of the cross.

It is usual to count the forty days continuously to the end of Holy Week (not including Sundays), so beginning Lent on the sixth Wednesday before Easter.

## The Gathering

*Please stand, if able.*

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

*All* **Amen.**

### The Greeting

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

*All* **and also with you.**

### Introduction

*Please sit.*

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.

### Prayer of Preparation

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

## **The Collect**

*The priest gathers together, or collects, our prayers.*

Let us pray for grace to keep Lent faithfully.

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.

*All*

**Amen.**

## **The Liturgy of the Word**

*Please sit.*

### **Old Testament Reading**

For the word of the Lord

*All*

**Thanks be to God.**

### **Psalm 51. 1-18**

*Response*

**Have mercy on me, O God.**

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

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

*All*

**Have mercy on me, O God.**

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.

*All*

**Have mercy on me, O God.**

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.  
*All* **Have mercy on me, O God.**

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.  
*All* **Have mercy on me, O God.**

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.  
*All* **Have mercy on me, O God.**

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.  
*All* **Have mercy on me, O God.**

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.  
*All* **Have mercy on me, O God.**

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.  
*All* **Have mercy on me, O God.**

### **Gospel Reading**

*Please stand, if able.*

*Deacon* 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.**

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

*All* Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to *N.*  
**Glorify to you, O Lord.**

*The Gospel is proclaimed.*

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

**Sermon**

*Please sit.*

## **The Liturgy of Penance**

**Self-examination and confession**

*Please remain seated.*

*Deacon* 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.**

Trinity of love,

*All* **have mercy on us.**

*All* **Most merciful God,  
Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
we confess that we have sinned  
in thought, word and deed.**

*Deacon* We have not loved you with our whole heart, and mind,  
and strength.

We have not loved our neighbour as ourselves.

We have not forgiven others, as we have been forgiven.

*All* **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.

*All* **Lord, have mercy.**

We confess to you, Lord...

all our past unfaithfulness, the pride, hypocrisy and impatience of  
our lives.

*All* **Lord, have mercy.**

- All* Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people.  
**Lord, have mercy.**
- All* Our anger at our own frustration and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves.  
**Lord, have mercy.**
- All* Our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts and our dishonesty in daily life and work.  
**Lord, have mercy.**
- All* Our negligence in prayer and worship and our failure to commend the faith that is in us.  
**Lord, have mercy.**
- All* 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.**
- All* 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.**
- All* For our waste and pollution of your creation  
and our lack of concern for those who come after us.  
**Accept our repentance, Lord.**
- All* Restore us, good Lord, and let your anger depart from us.  
**Favourably hear us, for your mercy is great.**
- All* Accomplish in us the work of your salvation,  
**that we may show your glory in the world.**
- All* By the cross and passion of your Son our Lord,  
**bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.**

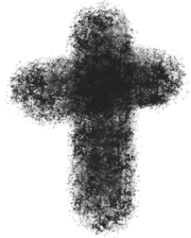
*Silence is kept.*

*All*            **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.**

### **The Imposition of Ashes**

*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:  
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.**

*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.

God our Father,  
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.

*All*            **Amen.**

## The Liturgy of the Sacrament

### The Peace

*Please stand, if able.*

*President* 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.**

*Deacon* Let us offer one another a sign of peace.  
*All may exchange a sign of peace.*

### Preparation of the Table

*The table is prepared and bread and wine are placed upon it.  
The President takes the bread and wine.*

*President* 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.**

### Eucharistic Prayer C

*Please remain standing, if able.*

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

*All* Lift up your hearts.  
**We lift them to the Lord.**

*All* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**It is right to give thanks and praise.**



It is indeed right,  
it is our duty and our joy,  
at all times and in all places  
to give you thanks and praise,  
holy Father, heavenly King,  
almighty and eternal God,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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.

Therefore with angels and archangels,  
and with all the company of heaven,  
we proclaim your great and glorious name,  
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.**

All glory be to you, our heavenly Father,  
who, in your tender mercy,  
gave your only Son our Saviour Jesus Christ  
to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption;  
who made there by his one oblation of himself once offered  
a full, perfect and sufficient sacrifice, oblation and satisfaction for  
the sins of the whole world;  
he instituted, and in his holy gospel commanded us to continue,  
a perpetual memory of his precious death until he comes again.

Hear us, merciful Father, we humbly pray,  
and grant that, by the power of your Holy Spirit,  
we receiving these gifts of your creation, this bread and this wine,  
according to your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ's holy institution,  
in remembrance of his death and passion,  
may be partakers of his most blessed body and blood;

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.

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

Therefore, Lord and heavenly Father,  
in remembrance of the precious death and passion,  
the mighty resurrection and glorious ascension  
of your dear Son Jesus Christ,  
we offer you through him this our sacrifice of praise and  
thanksgiving.

Grant that by his merits and death,  
and through faith in his blood,  
we and all your Church may receive forgiveness of our sins  
and all other benefits of his passion.  
Although we are unworthy, through our manifold sins,  
to offer you any sacrifice,  
yet we pray that you will accept this  
the duty and service that we owe.  
Do not weigh our merits, but pardon our offences,  
and fill us all who share in this holy communion  
with your grace and heavenly blessing;

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.**

## **The Lord's Prayer**

*Please sit or kneel.*

Lord Jesus, remember us in your kingdom  
and teach us to pray, in our own languages

*All*

**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 for ever. Amen.**

## **The Breaking of the Bread**

*All*

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

## **Giving of Communion**

*All are welcome to receive communion or a blessing.  
After receiving the bread and the wine, please respond "Amen"  
or, if you would like a blessing, please place your hands across  
your chest.*

Draw near with faith.  
Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ  
which he gave for you,  
and his blood which he shed for you.  
Eat and drink in remembrance that he died for you,  
and feed on him in your hearts  
by faith with thanksgiving.

## 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.

*All*            **Amen.**

## The Dismissal

### Blessing

*Please stand, if able.*

*President*    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.

*All*            **Amen.**

*Deacon*     This is love, not that we loved God,  
*All*            **but that he loved us and sent his Son.**

*All*            He is the sacrifice for our sins,  
*All*            **that we might live through him.**

*All*            If God loves us so much  
*All*            **we ought to love one another.**

*All*            If we love one another  
*All*            **God lives in us.**

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

Material from the following may be included in this service: *Common Worship: Services and Prayers for the Church of England* (2000), *Patterns for Worship* (1995), *New Patterns for Worship* (2002), *Times and Seasons* (2006), *The Promise of His Glory* (1991) all copyright © The Archbishops' Council; *Celtic Daily Prayer Book 1 & 2* (2015) © The Northumbria Community Trust; *Enriching the Christian Year* (SPCK, 1993) compilation © Michael Perham. CCL No 908682.

