

Ash Wednesday Service

St Barbara's Church



The Gathering

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

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

The president introduces the service.

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.

Let us pray for grace to keep Lent faithfully.

After a time of silence, the Collect is prayed.

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.

The Liturgy of the Word

1st Reading

At the end the reader may say

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

The 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.
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.*
Glory to you, O Lord.

At the end
This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

The Liturgy of Penitence

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.

Trinity of love,
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 ourselves.
We have not forgiven others, as we have been forgiven.
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.
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.
Lord, have mercy.

For all false judgements,
For uncharitable thoughts towards our neighbours
And for our prejudice and contempt towards those who differ from us.
Lord, have mercy.

For our waste and pollution of your creation
And our lack of concern for those who come after us.
Lord, have mercy.

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

**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 Marking of the Cross

Everyone is invited to mark the sign of the cross on their forehead as a sign of our repentance.

Dear friends in Christ,
I invite you to mark the sign of the cross
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 this mark of the cross 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.

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

Silence is kept.

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.
Amen.

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

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.

The peace of the Lord be always with you
and also with you.

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.

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, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.**

We praise and bless you, loving Father,
through Jesus Christ, our Lord;
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 shall 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.**

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 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.

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 for ever.
Amen.**

The 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.**

**We do not presume
to come to this your table, merciful Lord,
trusting in our own righteousness,
but in your manifold and great mercies.
We are not worthy
so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table.
But you are the same Lord
whose nature is always to have mercy.
Grant us therefore, gracious Lord,
so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ**

**and to drink his blood,
that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body
and our souls washed through his most precious blood,
and that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us.
Amen.**

Prayer after Communion

**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 Dismissal

**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.**

**May God the Father,
who does not despise the broken spirit,
give to you a contrite heart. Amen.**

**May Christ,
who bore our sins in his body on the tree,
heal you by his wounds. Amen.**

**May the Holy Spirit,
who leads us into all truth,
speak to you words of pardon and peace. Amen.**

**And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the
Holy Spirit, be with you and remain with you always, now and
always. Amen.**

**Go in the joy and peace of Christ.
Thanks be to God.**