



St Paul &
St Stephen
Gloucester

*The Eucharist
for Ash Wednesday*



WE GATHER

Words of welcome or introduction may be said. We then spend a moment in silence.

A Hymn is sung as the Procession enters the Church.

The Greeting

We meet 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 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 became the custom of the Church to prepare for this by a season of penitence and fasting.

At first this season of Lent was observed by those who were preparing for Baptism at Easter and by those who were to be restored to the Church's fellowship from which they had been separated through sin.

In course of time, the Church came to recognise that, by a careful keeping of these days,

all Christians might 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.

The Collect

Let us pray (*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, lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness,
we may receive from you,
the God of all mercy, perfect forgiveness and peace;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

We Listen and Respond

The Reading

We sit for the first reading. After the reading, the reader says:

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

A Hymn may be sung.

Gospel Reading

The Procession is made with the Gospel book.

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

We Say Sorry

The Litany

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

(Please sit or kneel for the Litany)

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

From all evil and mischief; from pride, vanity and hypocrisy;
from envy, hatred and malice; and from all evil intent.

Good Lord, deliver us

From sloth, worldliness, and love of money; from hardness of
heart and contempt for your word and your laws,

Good Lord, deliver us

From sins of body and mind;

from the deceits of the world, the flesh, and the devil,

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.

Silence is kept for a time after which is said:

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 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 of 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 for Easter, I invite you to receive on your head in ash the sign of the cross, the symbol of 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.**

We remain in silence

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**

WE CELEBRATE

We share 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.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

A greeting of peace is exchanged.

A Hymn may be sung.

*The gifts of bread and wine are prepared. The President prays over
the bread and wine and the response to each prayer is:*

Blessed be God for ever.

The Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you

and also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks unto 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.**

Accept our praises, heavenly Father,
through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ,
and as we follow his example and obey his command,
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit
these gifts of bread and wine may be to us his body and his
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.
Therefore, heavenly Father,
we remember his offering of himself made once for all upon
the cross;
we proclaim his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension;
we look for the coming of your kingdom,
and with this bread and this cup
we make the memorial of Christ your Son our Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus:

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

Accept through him, our great high priest,
this our sacrifice of thanks and praise,
and as we eat and drink these holy gifts
in the presence of your divine majesty,
renew us by your Spirit,
inspire us with your love
and unite us in the body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
Through him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy
Spirit,
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.**

Please sit or kneel

The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour has taught, so we 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.**

Breaking of the Bread

The president breaks the consecrated 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.**

We sing:

**Jesus, Jesus, Jesus is the Lord,
Jesus is the Lord God Almighty
Jesus, Jesus, Jesus is the Lord,
Jesus is the Lord God Almighty
who was and is and is to come
Jesus, Jesus, Jesus is the Lord.**

Giving of Communion

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.

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**

A Hymn may be sung.

We go out into the World

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.
In the name of Christ. Amen.

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