

Ash Wednesday Service

Introduction

Let us pray for grace to keep Lent faithfully.

Silence is kept.

Opening scripture: Isaiah 55:6-7

Seek the Lord while he may be found

Call upon him while he is near;

Let the wicked forsake their way,

and the unrighteous their thoughts;

Let them return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on them,

And to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

Opening prayer

Wilderness God

As we begin this journey through Lent

Help us to bring the whole of ourselves

Into the mystery of your presence.

Your thoughts are not our thoughts,

For you are beyond our imagination

Your ways are not our ways

For we have lost the path of love

We come to you now in our weakness and vulnerability

To find in you our healing and wholeness.

Meet us now in this place and time

And be our guide as we find the path of your love again.

Amen.

Song: Just as I am

Readings

Isaiah 55:10-end

Mark 1:9-13

Talk - Peter Myres

Guided meditation

From dust you were formed.
God fashioned you and breathed life into you.
God breathes life into you now.
Sense your breathing and the presence of God filling you.

pause

Sense a deep longing to experience God's presence.

pause

Tonight we remember Jesus.
We have come willing to journey into the wilderness with
Jesus,
seeking the truth about ourselves,
humbly preparing for renewal of our discipleship,
committing ourselves again as disciples of Jesus.

pause

Examine your heart.
Examine your behaviour.
Examine your commitment.

What does Jesus want to say to you?

What do you want to say to him?

pause

Now ask Him to create in you a clean heart and renew your
spirit to welcome God's presence.

Confession

**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.
Accept our repentance, Lord.**

Silence is kept

The Ashes

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.

Amen.

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

Prayer

May the Lord enrich us with his grace,
and nourish us with his blessing;
the Lord defend us in trouble and keep us from all evil;
the Lord accept our prayers,
and absolve us from our offences,
for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Saviour.

Amen.

Pause

Breathe on me, breath of God.
Breathe in me your new life.

Song: Breathe on me breath of God

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 always right to give you thanks,

God our Creator,

loving and faithful,

holy and strong.

You made us

and the whole universe,

and filled your world with life.

You sent your Son to live among us,

Jesus our Saviour, Mary's child.

He suffered on the cross;

he died to save us from our sins;

he rose in glory from the dead.

He is the Lamb of God who was offered for us,

and has taken away the sin of the world.

By his death he has destroyed death,

and by his rising to life again

he has restored to us everlasting life.

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 Easter feast

with mind and heart renewed.

And so we join the angels

to celebrate and say:

Holy, holy, holy Lord,

God of power and might,

heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Father, on the night before he died,

Jesus shared a meal with his friends.

He took the bread, and thanked you.

He broke it, and gave it to them, saying:

Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this to remember me.

After the meal, Jesus took the cup of wine.
He thanked you, and gave it to them, saying:
Drink this, all of you.
This is my blood,
the new promise of God's unfailing love.
Do this to remember me.

Jesus Christ has died.

Jesus Christ has died.

Jesus Christ is risen.

Jesus Christ is risen.

Jesus Christ will come again.

Jesus Christ will come again.

Father, as we bring this bread and wine,
and remember his death and resurrection,
send your Holy Spirit,
that we who share these gifts
may be fed by Christ's body and his blood.

Breaking of the Bread

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

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.

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 Blessing