

Solemn Eucharist with imposition of ashes for Ash Wednesday



**Truro
Cathedral**
sacred space, common ground

The Gathering

Please stand as the choir enter.

Opening Hymn

This or another hymn is sung

**1. From ashes to the living font
your Church must journey, Lord,
baptised in grace, in grace renewed
by your most holy word.**

**2. Through fasting, prayer, and
charity
your voice speaks deep within,
returning us to ways of truth
and turning us from sin.**

**3. From desert to the mountaintop
in Christ our way we see,
so, tempered by temptation's might
we might transfigured be.**

**4. We sit beside the road and plead,
'Come, save us, David's son!'
Now with your vision heal our eyes,
the world's true Light alone.**

**5. Our graves split open, bring us
back,
your promise to proclaim:
to darkened tombs call out 'Arise!'
and glorify your name.**

**6. From ashes to the living font
your church must journey still:
through cross and tomb to Easter
joy,
in Spirit-fire fulfilled.**

Tune: Belmont NEH 89 W.Gardiner (1770-1853)

Words: Alan J Hommerding

The Greeting

*Please join in the text marked in **bold type***

*Directions on posture are for guidance and members of the congregation are
free to sit or kneel at other times.*

The president says

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.

Words of welcome and introduction may be said.

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 the 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.

Please remain standing (or kneel) while the choir sings the Kyrie Eleison

Kyrie eleison.
Christe eleison.
Kyrie eleison.

Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

The Collect

The president says the Collect, the special prayer of the day.

Let us pray

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.

First Reading

Isaiah 58.1-12a

Please sit

A reading from the book of Isaiah

Shout out, do not hold back! Lift up your voice like a trumpet!

Announce to my people their rebellion, to the house of Jacob their sins.

Yet day after day they seek me and delight to know my ways,
as if they were a nation that practised righteousness and did not forsake
the ordinance of their God; they ask of me righteous judgements, they
delight to draw near to God.

'Why do we fast, but you do not see? Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?' Look, you serve your own interest on your fast-day,
and oppress all your workers. Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight
and to strike with a wicked fist. Such fasting as you do today will not make
your voice heard on high. Is such the fast that I choose, a day to humble
oneself? Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush, and to lie in sackcloth
and ashes? Will you call this a fast, a day acceptable to the Lord?

Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice,
to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free,
and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry,
and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to
cover them and not to hide yourself from your own kin? Then your light
shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly;
your vindicator shall go before you, the glory of the Lord shall be your
rearguard. Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer; you shall cry for
help, and he will say, Here I am. If you remove the yoke from among you,
the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil, if you offer your food to
the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise
in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday. The Lord will guide
you continually, and satisfy your needs in parched places, and make your
bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of
water, whose waters never fail. Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you
shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called
the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Lent Prose

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

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.

Second Reading

2 Corinthians 5: 20 – 6: 2

A reading from the second letter of Paul to the Corinthians

We entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. For the Lord says, 'At an acceptable time I have listened to you, and on a day of salvation I have helped you.' See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation!

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand

Gospel Acclamation

Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory.

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.

Gospel Reading

John 8:1-11

The deacon says

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. 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. The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery; and making her stand before all of them, they said to him, 'Teacher, this woman was caught in the very act of committing adultery. Now in the law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?' 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. 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.' And once again he bent down and wrote on the ground. 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. Jesus straightened up and said to her, 'Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?' 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 president says an opening invocation or prayer, and then all sit.

Please sit or kneel for the Litany.

Ash Wednesday Ceremonies

The Litany

The cantor and choir sing 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 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 the 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 while, after which the president says:

Make our hearts clean, O God;
And renew a right spirit within 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.
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

The president invites all to receive the imposition of ashes as a sign of penitence and as an acknowledgment of our mortality

As a sign 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 our salvation.

The president blesses the ashes

God our Father, you create us from the dust of the earth: bless these ashes, that they may be for us a sign of 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.**

*Those who wish to receive ashes are invited to come forward to the high altar.
Please approach via the north quire aisle and proceed through the iron gate.*

Please return to your seat via the south quire aisle. Ashes will also be imposed at a nave station.

The ashes are imposed on each forehead with the following words:

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

During the Imposition the choir sings Psalm 51 to music by Gregorio Allegri (1582 – 1652), or another penitential piece of music.

Have mercy upon me, O God, after thy great goodness:
according to the multitude of thy mercies do away mine offences.

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

For I acknowledge my faults: and my sin is ever before me.

Against thee only have I sinned, and done this evil in thy sight:
that thou mightest be justified in thy saying,
and clear when thou art judged.

Behold, I was shapen in wickedness:
and in sin hath my mother conceived me.

But lo, thou requirest truth in the inward parts:
and shalt make me to understand wisdom secretly.

Thou shalt purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean:
thou shalt wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

Thou shalt make me hear of joy and gladness:
that the bones which thou hast broken may rejoice.

Turn thy face from my sins: and put out all my misdeeds.

Make me a clean heart, O God:
and renew a right spirit within me.

Cast me not away from thy presence:
and take not thy holy Spirit from me.

O give me the comfort of thy help again:
and stablish me with thy free spirit.

Then shall I teach thy ways unto the wicked:
and sinners shall be converted unto thee.

Deliver me from my blood-guiltiness, O God, thou that art the God of my health: and my tongue shall sing of thy righteousness.

Thou shalt open my lips, O Lord:
and my mouth shall shew thy praise.

For thou desirest no sacrifice, else would I give it thee:
but thou delightest not in burnt offerings.
The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit:
a broken and contrite heart, O God, shalt thou not despise.
O be favourable and gracious unto Sion:
build thou the walls of Jerusalem.
Then shalt thou be pleased with the sacrifice of righteousness, with the
burnt-offerings and oblations:
then shall they offer young bullocks upon thine altar.

When the imposition of ashes is completed the president says:

God our Father, in your love and goodness you have taught us to come
close to you in penitence with prayer, fasting and generosity; accept our
Lenten discipline, and when we fall by our weakness, raise us up by your
unfailing mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Please stand

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

The Peace

Being justified by faith, we have peace with God
through our Lord Jesus Christ.

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

The deacon says

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Hymn

**Lord Jesus, think on me,
And purge away my sin;
From earthbound passions set
me free,
And make me pure within.**

**Lord Jesus, think on me,
With care and woe oppress;
Let me thy loving servant be,
And taste thy promised rest.**

**Lord Jesus, think on me,
Amid the battle's strife;
In all my pain and misery
Be thou my health and life.**

**Lord Jesus, think on me,
Nor let me go astray;
Through darkness and perplexity
Point thou the heavenly way.**

**Lord Jesus, think on me,
When flows the tempest high:
When on doth rush the enemy
O Saviour, be thou nigh.**

**Lord Jesus, think on me,
That, when the flood is past,
I may the eternal brightness see,
And share thy joy at last.**

Tune: Southwell NEH 70 W.Daman (1540-1591)

Words: Synesius of Cyrene (375-430)

Tr: A.W. Chatfield

Offertory Prayer

Lord, help us to resist temptation by our Lenten works of charity and penance. By this Eucharist may we be prepared to celebrate the death and resurrection of Christ our Saviour and be cleansed from sin and renewed in spirit. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Eucharistic Prayer B

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 singing:

The choir sings the Sanctus

Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus
Dominus Deus Sabaoth.
Pleni sunt coeli et terra
gloria tua.
Hosanna in excelsis.

Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full
of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.

Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness;
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit,
and according to your holy will,
these gifts of bread and wine
may be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ;

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.

Deacon: Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died:
Christ is risen:
Christ will come again.

And so, Father, calling to mind his death on the cross,
his perfect sacrifice made once for the sins of the whole world;
rejoicing in his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension,
and looking for his coming in glory,
we celebrate this memorial of our redemption.
As we offer you this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving,
we bring before you this bread and this cup
and we thank you for counting us worthy
to stand in your presence and serve you.

Send the Holy Spirit on your people and gather into one in your kingdom all who share this one bread and one cup, so that we, in the company of the Blessed Virgin Mary and all the saints, may praise and glorify you for ever, 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. **Amen.**

Please remain standing.

The Lord's Prayer

The president introduces the Lord's Prayer in these or other suitable words

Jesus Christ is the only mediator between us and God, so let us join our prayers with his in the words he 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.**

Giving of Communion

The president says the following 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.**

Please sit. All who usually receive Holy Communion in their own church are warmly invited to do so today. If you would prefer to receive a blessing, please carry this service paper as a signal to the minister. If you would prefer not to receive the chalice, please receive in one kind (the bread) only. Please note the wine contains alcohol. Gluten-free wafers are available. Intinction (dipping the bread in the wine) is not permitted.

The choir sings the Agnus Dei

Agnus Dei, qui tollis
peccata mundi:
miserere nobis.

Agnus Dei, qui tollis
peccata mundi:
dona nobis pacem.

Lamb of God, you take away
the sin of the world,
have mercy upon us.

Lamb of God, you take away
the sin of the world,
grant us peace.

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.

**Almighty God, we thank you for feeding us
with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.
Through him we offer you our souls and bodies
to be a living sacrifice. Send us out in the power of your Spirit
to live and work to your praise and glory. Amen.**

The Dismissal

The president says

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

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.**

The deacon says

Go in the peace of Christ.
Thanks be to God.

Please remain standing as the clergy depart.

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**Truro
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sacred space, common ground