

Selwyn College Chapel, Cambridge

# ASH WEDNESDAY



Choral Eucharist  
with Imposition of Ashes

14<sup>th</sup> February 2024 at 6pm

Missa brevis

*G. P. da Palestrina (1525-1594)*

---

*Common Worship: Services and Prayers for the Church of England,  
material from which is included in this service,  
is copyright © The Archbishops' Council, 2000.*

*This service is being livestreamed to YouTube here:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uVp5SVLZFH0>*

---

*Please stand when the bell rings.*

¶ **INTROIT**      Ne reminiscaris, Domine  
                         words: from the BCP Litany  
                         music: Peter Philips (1561-1628)

Ne reminiscaris Domine delicta nostra, vel parentum nostrorum: neque vindictam sumas de peccatis nostris. Parce, Domine, populo tuo quem redemisti praetiosissimo sanguine tuo, ne irascaris nobis in aeternum.	<i>Remember not, Lord, our offences, nor the offences of our forefathers; neither take thou vengeance of our sins: spare us, Lord, spare thy people, whom thou hast redeemed with thy most precious blood, and be not angry with us for ever.</i>
---	---

¶ **GREETING**

President      In the Name of the Father,  
                         and of the Son,  
                         and of the Holy Spirit.

**All**              **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,  
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.

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

## **¶ COLLECT FOR ASH WEDNESDAY**

**President**     Let us pray for grace to keep Lent faithfully:

*Silence is kept.*

**President**     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.**

*Please sit.*

---

# **THE LITURGY OF THE WORD**

**¶ EPISTLE**    2 Corinthians 5.20b-6.10

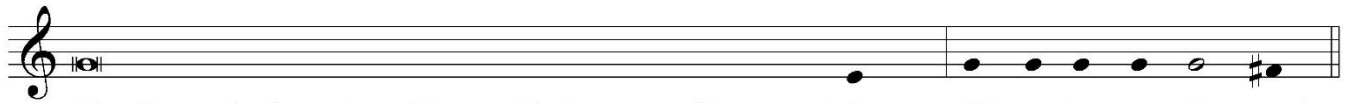
So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. For he says,



¶ GOSPEL John 8: 1-11



The Lord be with you: **and with thy spirit.**



The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John: **Glo-ry 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 Gos-pel of the Lord: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Please sit.*

¶ HOMILY Arabella Milbank Robinson  
*Dean of Chapel and Chaplain*

*Please remain seated or kneel.*

# THE LITURGY OF PENITENCE

*The deacon invites us to take part in a corporate examination of conscience:*

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

All                God the Father,  
**Have mercy upon us.**

God the Son,  
**Have mercy upon us.**

God the Holy Spirit,  
**Have mercy upon us.**

Trinity of love,  
**Have mercy upon 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 ignored 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 thee, 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, O Lord:  
for the wrongs we have done:  
for the times we have overlooked human need and suffering,  
and our indifference to injustice and cruelty,  
**Accept our repentance, O Lord.**

for all false judgments,  
for uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbours,  
and for our prejudice and contempt  
toward those who differ from us,  
**Accept our repentance, O Lord.**

for our waste and pollution of thy creation,  
and our lack of concern for those who come after us,  
**Accept our repentance, O Lord.**

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.**

*A period of 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**      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 our 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.

**All**            **Amen.**

*All are invited to come forward to the altar rail to receive on their foreheads in ash the sign of the cross. The choir comes to the altar first. The minister uses these words:*

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

*During the imposition of Ashes, the choir sings Psalm 51:*

## ¶ MISERERE MEI, DEUS – Gregorio Allegri (1582-1652)

Miserere mei, Deus: secúndum magnam misericórdiam tuam.

*Have mercy upon me, O God: after thy great goodness:*

Et secúndum multitudinem miseratiónum tuárum: dele iniquitátem meam.

*According to the multitude of thy mercies: do away mine offences.*

Ámplius lava me ab iniquitáte mea: et a peccáto meo munda me.

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

Quóniam iniquitátem meam ego cognósco:

et peccátum meum contra me est semper.

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

Tibi soli peccávi, et malum coram te feci:

ut justificéris in sermónibus tuis, et vincas cum iudicáris.

*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.*

Ecce enim in iniquitátibus concéptus sum: et in peccátis concépit me mater mea.

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

Ecce enim veritátem dilexísti: incérta et occúlta sapiéntiæ tuæ manifestásti mihi.

*But lo, thou requirest truth in the inward parts:*

*and shalt make me to understand wisdom secretly.*

Aspérges me hyssópo, et mundábor: lavábis me, et super nivem dealbábor.

*Thou shalt purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean:*

*thou shalt wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.*

Audítui meo dabis gáudium et lætítiam: et exsultábunt ossa humiliáta.

*Thou shalt make me hear of joy and gladness:*

*that the bones which thou hast broken may rejoice.*

Avérte fáciem tuam a peccátis meis: et omnes iniquitátes meas dele.

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

Cor mundum crea in me, Deus: et spíritum rectum ínnova in viscéribus meis.

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

Ne projicias me a fácie tua: et spíritum sanctum tuum ne áuferas a me.

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

Redde mihi lætítiam salutáris tui: et spírítu principáli confírma me.

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

Docébo iníquos vias tuas: et ímpii ad te converténtur.

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

Líbera me de sangúinibus, Deus, Deus salutis meæ:

et exsultábit lingua mea justítiam tuam.

*Deliver me from blood-guiltiness, O God, thou that art the God of my health:*

*and my tongue shall sing of thy righteousness.*

Dómine, lábia mea apéries: et os meum annuntiábit laudem tuam.

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

Quóniam si voluísset sacrificium, dedíssem utique: holocáustis non delectáberis.

*For thou desirest no sacrifice, else would I give it thee:*

*but thou delightest not in burnt-offerings.*

Sacrificium Deo spíritus contribulátus:

cor contrítum et humiliátum, Deus, non despícies.

*The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit:  
a broken and contrite heart, O God, shalt thou not despise.*

Benígne fac, Dómine, in bona voluntáte tua Sion: ut ædificéntur muri Jerúsalem.

*O be favourable and gracious unto Sion: build thou the walls of Jerusalem.*

Tunc acceptábis sacrificium justítiaë, oblatiões et holocáusta:  
tunc impónent super altáre tuum vítulos.

*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.*

## ¶ THE ABSOLUTION

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

All             **Amen.**

---

# THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

## ¶ THE PEACE

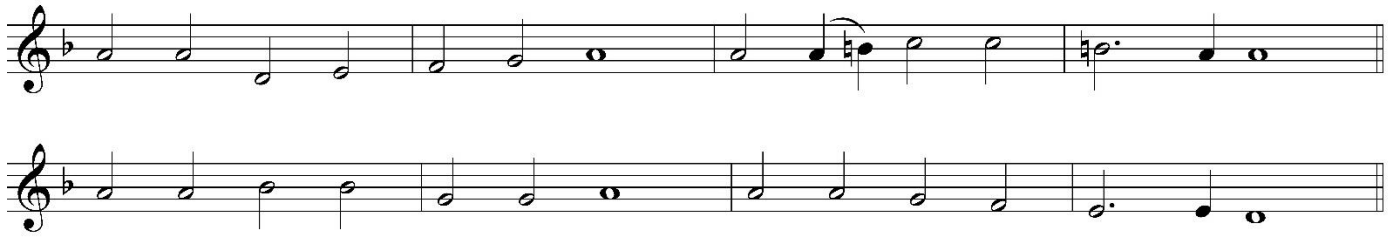
*Please stand. The President introduces the Peace:*

Since we are justified by faith,  
we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.  
The peace of the Lord be always with you.

All             **And also with you.**

Deacon        Let us offer one another a sign of Christ's peace.

¶ OFFERTORY HYMN      NEH 67 – Forty days and forty nights



- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1 Forty days and forty nights<br>Thou wast fasting in the wild;<br>Forty days and forty nights<br>Tempted, and yet undefiled.           | 4 And if Satan vexing sore,<br>Flesh or spirit should assail,<br>Thou his vanquisher before,<br>Grant we may not faint nor fail!      |
| 2 Sunbeams scorching all the day<br>Chilly dewdrops nightly shed<br>Prowling beasts about thy way,<br>Stones thy pillow, earth thy bed. | 5 So shall we have peace divine:<br>Holier gladness ours shall be;<br>Round us too shall angels shine,<br>Such as ministered to thee. |
| 3 Let us thine endurance share,<br>And awhile from joys abstain.<br>With thee watching unto prayer,<br>Strong with thee to suffer pain. | 6 Keep, O keep us, Saviour dear,<br>Ever constant by your side,<br>That we may with thee appear<br>At the eternal Eastertide.         |

music: AUS DER TIEFE (1676)  
fauxbourdon by Sarah MacDonald  
words: G. H. Smyttan (1822-1870) & Francis Pott (1832-1909)

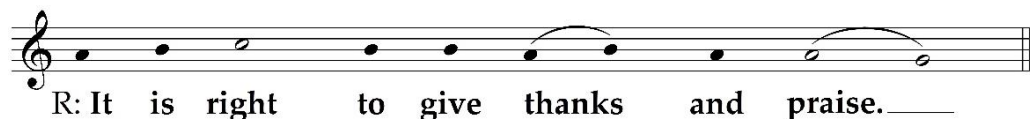
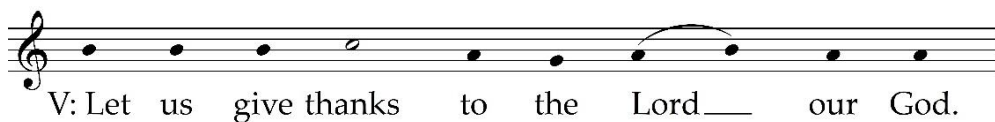
*During the hymn, the table is prepared and bread and wine are placed upon it.*

*The President takes the bread and wine with these words.*

President      Risen Lord and Saviour, present among us  
with the wealth of your love;  
Cleanse us from sin, and give us the faith  
to offer our praise and grow in your grace.

**All              Amen.**

## ¶ THE PREFACE



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 your Son our Lord.

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:

## ¶ SANCTUS AND BENEDICTUS *(sung by the choir)*

Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus,  
Dominus Deus Sabaoth,  
pleni sunt caeli et terra gloria tua.  
Hosanna in excelsis.  
Benedictus qui venit  
in nomine Domini.  
Hosanna in excelsis.

*Holy, holy, holy,  
Lord God of hosts  
heaven and earth are full of thy glory.  
Glory be to thee, O Lord most high.  
Blessed is he that cometh  
in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.*

*Please sit or kneel.*

## ¶ THE PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

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.

Deacon     Jesus Christ is Lord.  
All         **Lord by your cross and resurrection,  
              you have set us free:  
              you are the Saviour of the world.**

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 Holy 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:

**All**            **Blessing and honour  
and glory and power be yours  
for ever and ever. Amen.**

## **¶ THE LORD'S PRAYER**

Lord Jesus, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**All**            **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.**

## **¶ AGNUS DEI** *(sung by the choir)*

Agnus Dei, qui tollis  
peccata mundi,  
miserere nobis /  
dona nobis pacem.

*O Lamb of God, that takest away  
the sins of the world,  
have mercy upon us /  
grant us thy peace.*

## ¶ THE FRACTION

President We break this bread to share in the Body of Christ.

All **Though we are many, we are one body,  
because we all share in one bread.**

## ¶ THE GIVING OF COMMUNION

Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.  
Blessed are those who are called to his supper.

All **Lord I am not worthy to receive you,  
but only say the word and I shall be healed.**

*All Christians who have been baptised, and who receive Holy Communion in their own churches, are welcome to do so here. Communion will be offered in both kinds; you are always at liberty to receive the bread alone. Those who do not wish to receive Communion, but who would like to receive a blessing, are welcome to come to the altar rail as well. Please bring this service sheet with you to indicate your intention.*

¶ MOTET Emendemus in melius (*sung by the choir during Communion*)  
words: Baruch 3: 2; and Psalm 79: 9  
music: William Byrd (1543-1623)

Emendemus in melius  
quae ignoranter peccavimus;  
ne subito praeoccupati die mortis,  
quaeramus spatium poenitentiae,  
et invenire non possimus.  
Attende, Domine, et miserere;  
quia peccavimus tibi.

*Let us amend for the better those things  
in which we have sinned through ignorance;  
lest suddenly overtaken by the day of death,  
we seek space for repentance,  
and be not able to find it.  
Hearken, O Lord, and have mercy:  
for we have sinned against thee.*



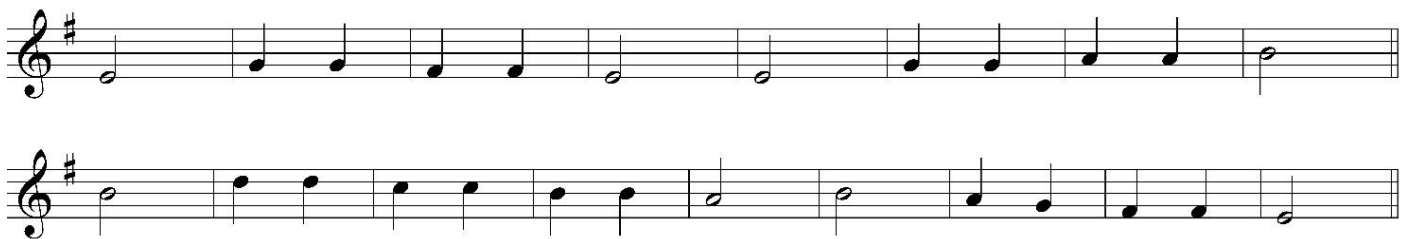
## ¶ PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

President 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

*Please stand.*

## ¶ FINAL HYMN: NEH 70 – Lord Jesus, think on me



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

2 Lord Jesus, think on me  
With many a care opprest;  
Let me Thy loving servant be  
And taste Thy promised rest.

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

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

5 Lord Jesus, think on me  
When flows the tempest high;  
When on doth rush the enemy,  
O Saviour, be Thou nigh!

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

music: SOUTHWELL (1579)  
fauxbourdon by Sarah MacDonald  
words: Greek 4thC, tr. A. W. Chatfield (1808-1896)

## ¶ BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

President Christ give you grace to grow in holiness,  
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 Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**All In the name of Christ. Amen.**

*Please remain standing as the choir and clergy process out. All depart in silence.*