

St. Lawrence the Martyr Horsley Hill



**Mass for Ash Wednesday
with the
Imposition of Ashes**

THE GATHERING

As we begin a HYMN is played.

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

Amen.

The Greeting

The celebrant greets the people

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

All: **and also with you.**

We think about the meaning of Lent and are invited to observe it faithfully

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.

We keep a period of silent prayer

Let us pray for grace to keep Lent faithfully.

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 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

We listen to readings from the Bible

At the end of each reading

This is the word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

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

All: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

At the end of the Gospel

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

The Sermon

The Liturgy of Penitence

We say the words in bold type together

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 not listened 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.

Accept our repentance, Lord.

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

Accept our repentance, Lord.

For our waste and pollution of your creation and our lack of concern for those who come after us.

Accept our repentance, 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.**

Silence is kept.

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

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.**

Dip your finger in the ashes and gently mark a cross on your forehead. The minister says

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

At the end of the imposition we say together

**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
All: **and also with you.**

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

We all exchange a sign of peace.

A HYMN is played as the Altar is prepared.

My brothers and sisters in Christ, pray that this our sacrifice may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.
May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good, and the good of all his church.

As Lent begins, O God
We prepare your table.
Let fasting nourish our spirit,
let prayer fill us with blessing
and let works of love
fortify us as your holy people.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen**

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.

The priest praises God for his mighty acts and all respond

**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.**

The priest recalls the Last Supper, leading into

Christ is the bread of life;
All: **When we eat this bread and drink this cup
we proclaim your death, Lord Jesus,
until you come in glory.**

The Prayer continues and leads into the doxology

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.**

The Lord's Prayer

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

**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

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.

The celebrant receives communion on behalf of the dispersed congregation.

We say together our Act of Spiritual Communion.

Thanks be to you, Lord Jesus Christ, for all the benefits you have given me, for all the pains and insults you have borne for me. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, I ask you to come spiritually into my heart. O most merciful redeemer, friend and brother, may I know you more clearly, love you more dearly, and follow you more nearly, day by day. Amen.

Prayer after Communion

Silence is kept.

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.**

All: **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

This is love, not that we loved God,

All: **but that he loved us and sent his Son.**

He is the sacrifice for our sins,

All: **that we might live through him.**

If God loves us so much

All: **we ought to love one another.**

If we love one another

All: **God lives in us.**

cf 1 John 4.12

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.
All: **Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
All: **In the name of Christ. Amen.**

As we conclude a HYMN is played.

