

# **The Eucharist For Ash Wednesday**



**Land's End Benefice  
St Buryan, St Levan and Sennen**

## **The Greeting**

The Lord be with you                    **and also with you.**

## **Introduction**

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 recognize 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.

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

**The Collect**     'Let us pray for grace to keep Lent faithfully.'

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. **Amen.**

## Psalm 51.1-18

- 1 Have mercy on me, O God, in your great goodness; ♦ according to the abundance of your compassion blot out my offences.
- 2 **Wash me thoroughly from my wickedness ♦ and cleanse me from my sin.**
- 3 For I acknowledge my faults ♦ and my sin is ever before me.
- 4 **Against you only have I sinned ♦ and done what is evil in your sight,**
- 5 So that you are justified in your sentence ♦ and righteous in your judgement.
- 6 **I have been wicked even from my birth, ♦ a sinner when my mother conceived me.**
- 7 Behold, you desire truth deep within me ♦ and shall make me understand wisdom in the depths of my heart.
- 8 **Purge me with hyssop and I shall be clean; ♦ wash me and I shall be whiter than snow.**
- 9 Make me hear of joy and gladness, ♦ that the bones you have broken may rejoice.
- 10 **Turn your face from my sins ♦ and blot out all my misdeeds.**
- 11 Make me a clean heart, O God, ♦ and renew a right spirit within me.
- 12 **Cast me not away from your presence ♦ and take not your holy spirit from me.**
- 13 Give me again the joy of your salvation ♦ and sustain me with your gracious spirit;
- 14 **Then shall I teach your ways to the wicked ♦ and sinners shall return to you.**

15 Deliver me from my guilt, O God, the God of my salvation, ♦  
and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness.

16 **O Lord, open my lips ♦  
and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

17 For you desire no sacrifice, else I would give it; ♦  
you take no delight in burnt offerings.

18 **The sacrifice of God is a broken spirit; ♦  
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.**

### **Gospel Reading**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew 6.1-6,16-21  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus said to the disciples, <sup>1</sup>‘Beware of practising your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven.

<sup>2</sup>So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. <sup>3</sup>But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, <sup>4</sup>so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

<sup>5</sup>And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward.

<sup>6</sup>But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

<sup>16</sup>And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. <sup>17</sup>But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, <sup>18</sup>so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will

reward you. <sup>19</sup>Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; <sup>20</sup>but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. <sup>21</sup>For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

### **The Liturgy of Penitence**

### **Self-examination and Confession**

*A minister now leads a corporate examination of conscience.*

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 been deaf 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.**

*The minister says:*

*“Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.*

*Turn away from sin and be faithful to Christ.”*

**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 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. *cf Romans 5.1,2*

The peace of the Lord be always with you  
**and also with you.**

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

### **Preparation of the Table and Taking of the Bread and Wine**

Merciful Father, turn us from sin to faithfulness and from disobedience to love, and prepare us to celebrate the death and resurrection of Christ our Saviour who is alive and reigns, now and for ever. Amen.

### **The 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.**

Father, we give you thanks and praise through your beloved Son Jesus Christ, your living Word, through whom you have created all things; who was sent by you in your great goodness to be our Saviour.

By the power of the Holy Spirit he took flesh; as your Son, born of the blessed Virgin, he lived on earth and went about among us; he opened wide his arms for us on the cross; he put an end to death by dying for us; and revealed the resurrection by rising to new life; so he fulfilled your will and won for you a holy people.

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.** *We sit or kneel*

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.

**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 St Buriana, St Levan, St Sennen 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.**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

**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 one day we all share in one bread again.**

**St. Alphonsus Liguori in the 18th century:**

**My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the most Blessed Sacrament. I love You above all things and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.**

*The priest receives the bread and wine on behalf of the community*

**Final Prayer and Blessing**

**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 gifts, and also daily endeavour to follow the blessed steps of his most holy life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

This is love, not that we loved God, **but that he loved us and sent his Son.**

He is the sacrifice for our sins, **that we might live through him.**

If God loves us so much **we ought to love one another.**

If we love one another **God lives in us.** *cf 1 John 4.10-12*

**The Dismissal Gospel**

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

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

“Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbours, saying to them, "Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost." Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous people who need no repentance. Luke 15:4-7

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **Blessing**

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.**

*The ministers and people depart.*

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