



A LITURGY FOR ASH WEDNESDAY

The first day of Lent
St Andrew's Church, Walkerville
5th March, 2025

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

The priest enters in silence. Please stand. Silence is kept.

Bless the Lord who forgives all our sin,
whose mercy endures for ever.

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Today, we enter the season of Lent,
a time of repentance, reflection, hope, and renewal.
Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of this sacred
journey, inviting us to walk with honesty and humility,
mindful of our need for God's forgiveness and love.
Through prayer, fasting, and acts of kindness, we open
our hearts to transformation, seeking to grow in faith,
draw closer to God and live as people shaped by the life,
death, and resurrection of Jesus.

The priest says

Let us pray.
God of love and hope and life,
at the beginning of Lent we come to you.
You know who we are.
You know what we are like.
You know what is important to us.
You know where we hurt.
We come to you seeking forgiveness.
We come to you seeking strength for our journey.
We come to you seeking love.
God of love and hope and life, meet us here.
Amen.

Scripture Sentence

Return to the Lord your God, who is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

Joel 2:13

The following is said

Lord, have mercy; **Lord, have mercy**
Christ, have mercy; **Christ, have mercy**
Lord, have mercy; **Lord, have mercy**

Collect

Gracious God,
out of your love and mercy you breathed into dust the breath of life, creating us to serve you and one another: call forth our penitence and acts of love, and strengthen us to face our mortality, so that we may look with confidence for your salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen**

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

OT Reading: Isaiah 58: 1-12 (please sit)

Hear the word of the Lord,
thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 51: 1-17

¹ Have mercy on me, O God, in your enduring goodness :
according to the fulness 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 rebellion :
and my sin is ever before me.

⁴ **Against you only have I sinned
and done what is evil in your eyes :
so you will be just in your sentence
and blameless in your judging.**

⁶ You that desire truth in the inward parts :
O teach me wisdom in the secret places of the heart.

⁷ **Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean :
wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.**

⁸ Make me hear of joy and gladness :
let the bones which you have broken rejoice.

⁹ **Hide your face from my sins :
and blot out all my iniquities.**

¹⁰ Create in me a clean heart, O God :
and renew a right spirit within me.

¹¹ **Do not cast me out from your presence :
do not take your holy spirit from me.**

¹² O give me the gladness of your help again :
and support me with a willing spirit.

**13 Then will I teach transgressors your ways :
and sinners shall turn to you again.**

**14 O Lord God of my salvation, deliver me from
bloodshed :**

and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness.

15 O Lord, open my lips :

and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.

**16 You take no pleasure in sacrifice, or I would give it :
burnt-offerings you do not want.**

17 The sacrifice of God is a broken spirit :

**a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not
despise.**

NT Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:20b - 6:10

Hear the word of the Lord,
thanks be to God.

Hymn (please stand)

1. Dear Lord and Father of mankind,
forgive our foolish ways;
Reclothe us in our rightful mind;
in purer lives thy service find,
in deeper reverence praise.

2. In simple trust like theirs who heard,
beside the Syrian sea,
the gracious calling of the Lord,
let us, like them, without a word
rise up and follow thee.

3. O Sabbath rest by Galilee!
O calm of hills above,
where Jesus knelt to share with thee
the silence of eternity
interpreted by love!

4. Drop thy still dews of quietness,
till all our strivings cease;
take from our souls the strain and stress,
and let our ordered lives confess
the beauty of thy peace.

5. Breathe through the heats of our desire
thy coolness and thy balm;
let sense be dumb, let flesh retire;
speak through the earthquake, wind, and fire,
O still small voice of calm.

J.G. Whittier (1807–1892)

Gospel Reading: Matthew 6: 1-6, 16-21

The gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Matthew, chapter 6 beginning at the first verse.

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

For the gospel of the Lord,
praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

The Sermon (please sit)

After the sermon, silence is kept.

A LITANY OF PENITENCE

God the Father, maker of heaven and earth,
have mercy on us.

God the Son, redeemer of the world,
have mercy on us.

God the Holy Spirit, giver of light and life,
have mercy on us.

God the Trinity of love,
have mercy on us.

For accepting life yet living it without you
forgive us, Lord.

For living without concern for others,
forgive us, Lord.

For tolerating oppression, injustice and wrong,
forgive us, Lord.

For disobeying your will and commandments,
forgive us, Lord.

For refusing to love and forgive others,
forgive us, Lord.

For turning the world to our own purposes and desires,
forgive us, Lord.

That in all things we may hold to your will and purpose,
Lord hear us. Amen.

Most merciful God,
**we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed,
and in what we have failed to do:
we have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves;
we repent, and are sorry for all our sins.
Father, forgive us.
Strengthen us to love and obey you in newness of life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

THE RECEIVING OF ASHES

The time for ashing has come.
**The time to remember that we are dust
and to dust we shall return, dust made by God.
The time to sit with the truth that we are created by
God, in love, from the dust.**

The time for ashing has come.
**The time to make our fast and give our alms,
the time for stillness and quiet thought.
The time for repentance, the time for gratitude.**

The ashes are placed on the Altar and the priest says

God our Creator,
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 your love.
Amen.

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.

The ashes are placed on each person's forehead with the words
Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return
but love changes everything.

The Absolution. Standing, the priest says

With our hearts turned to God in repentance,
with the knowledge of our sin
laid bare before the cross of Jesus Christ,
in the name of the living God,
your sin is forgiven.
Receive God's mercy, take hold of your forgiveness,
and, in the power of the Holy Spirit.
walk in the light of Christ. **Amen.**

THE GREETING OF PEACE

Please stand.

Christ has reconciled us to God in one body by the cross.
We meet in his name and share his peace.

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

Hymn

1. O for a closer walk with God,
a calm and heavenly frame;
a light to shine upon the road
that leads me to the Lamb!

2. What peaceful hours I once enjoyed,
how sweet their memory still!
But they have left an aching void
the world can never fill.

3. Return, O holy Dove, return,
sweet messenger of rest;
I hate the sins that made thee mourn
and drove thee from my breast.

4. The dearest idol I have known,
whate'er that idol be,
help me to tear it from thy throne,
and worship only thee.

5. So shall my walk be close with God,
calm and serene my frame;
so purer light shall mark the road
that leads me to the Lamb.

William Cowper (1731-1800)

Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation.
Through your goodness we have these gifts to share.
Accept and use our offerings for your glory
and for the service of your kingdom.
Blessed be God for ever.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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 our 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.

And so with everyone who believes in you, with all the Saints and angels we rejoice and praise you, 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.

And now we thank you for these gifts of your creation, this bread and wine; may we who receive them, as Jesus said, share his body and his blood.

On the night he was betrayed he took bread;
and when he had given you thanks
he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying,
'Take, eat. This is my body given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me.'

After supper, he took the cup,
and again giving thanks he gave it to his disciples, saying,
'Drink from this, all of you.
This is my blood of the new covenant
shed for you and for many
for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

You have gathered us together to feed on Christ and to remember all he has done for us: Fill us with your spirit that we may follow Jesus in all we do and say, working for justice and bringing your peace to this world that you have made.

Accept our prayers through Jesus Christ our Lord:

**Blessing and honour and glory and power
are yours for ever and ever. Amen.**

Please sit or kneel

As our Saviour Christ has taught us,
we are confident to pray,

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done
on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

**Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory, are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD AND COMMUNION

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

We who are many are one body:

for we all share in the one bread.

**Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us.
Jesus, bearer of our sins, have mercy on us.
Jesus, redeemer of the world, grant us your peace.**

The gifts of God for the people of God.
Come let us take this holy sacrament of the body and
blood of Christ in remembrance that he died for us, and
feed on him in our hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

Communion is administered.

After Communion

**Compassionate and loving God,
through your son Jesus Christ you have fed us
and have reconciled your people to yourself.
Following his example of fasting and prayer,
may we obey you with willing hearts
and serve one another in holy love.**

Blessing

Christ our Saviour draw you to himself,
that you may find in him crucified,
a sure ground for faith,
a firm support for hope,
and the assurance of forgiveness
and the blessing of God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit
be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Hymn

1. Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us
o'er the world's tempestuous sea;
guard us, guide us, keep us, feed us,
for we have no help but thee;
yet possessing every blessing
if our God our Father be.

2. Saviour, breathe forgiveness o'er us,
all our weakness thou dost know;
thou didst tread this earth before us,
thou didst feel its keenest woe;
lone and dreary, faint and weary,
through the desert thou didst go.

3. Spirit of our God, descending,
fill our hearts with heavenly joy;
love with every passion blending,
pleasure that can never cloy;
Thus provided, pardoned, guided,
nothing can our peace destroy.

James Edmeston (1791-1867)

The priest says

May your Lenten journey draw you closer to God.
Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
In the name of Christ, Amen.



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