



Order of Service for Ash Wednesday Eucharist

Ash Wednesday is a call to return to God with all our hearts. It marks the beginning of Lent, the forty-day period of preparation for Easter and begins the journey to Good Friday and Easter. This day has become, for Christians, the day when we hear God's call to repentance and reconciliation. This is a day for new beginnings with God, for putting aside the sins and failures of the past and beginning afresh. It is also a day when we are brought face to face with our own mortality, upon which we reflect in the light of the redeeming love of Christ.

Ash is used as a sign of our repentance and mortality. Ash is an ancient biblical sign and its use in worship is a powerful non-verbal way of participating in the call to repentance and reconciliation. The ash is by tradition the ash of the burned palms from the previous Palm Sunday.

The Gathering of the Community

Hymn: Forty Days and Forty Nights

SG381 – Words: George Smyttan, this version © Jubilate Hymns

Tune: HEINLEIN

- 1 **Forty days and forty nights
you were fasting in the wild;
forty days and forty nights
tempted and yet undefiled.**
- 2 **Burning heat throughout the day,
bitter cold when light had fled;
prowling beasts around your way,
stones your pillow, earth your bed.**
- 3 **Shall not we your trials share,
learn your discipline of will;
and with you by fast and prayer
wrestle with the powers of hell?**
- 4 **So if Satan, pressing hard,
soul and body would destroy:
Christ who conquered, be our guard;
give to us the victor's joy.**
- 5 **Saviour, may we hear your voice -
keep us constant at your side;
and with you we shall rejoice
at the eternal Eastertide.**

All standing, the priest greets the people

**The Lord be with you
The Lord bless you.**

Examine me O God and know my heart,
test me and discover my thoughts,
and lead me in the way everlasting.

E te whānau a te Karaiti, every year we celebrate Christ's death and resurrection. Lent is a time to prepare for this celebration. In order that our Lent may be a time of renewal and growth we begin this season by remembering our need for repentance and for the forgiveness of God proclaimed by Jesus Christ.

Let us, therefore, observe a holy Lent by self-examination and repentance, by prayer, fasting, self-denial and giving to those in need, and by reading and meditating on the word of God.

Merciful God,
you hate nothing that you have made
and forgive the sins of all who are penitent;
create in us new and contrite hearts,
so that when we turn to you and confess our sins
we may receive your full and perfect forgiveness;
through Jesus Christ our Redeemer
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God now and for ever. Amen.

The congregation sits

The Proclamation

Reading: Joel 2: 1-2, 12-17

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm 51: 1-4a, 10-12, 15

Have mercy on me O God in your great kindness:
in the fullness of your mercy blot out my offences.
Wash away all my guilt and cleanse me from my sin.
Create in me a clean heart, O God.

For I acknowledge my faults:
and my sin is always before me.
Against you only have I sinned
and done evil in your sight.
Create in me a clean heart, O God.

Create in me a clean heart O God:
and renew a right spirit within me.
Do not cast me away from your presence:
do not take your holy spirit from me.
Create in me a clean heart, O God.

Give me the joy of your help again:
and strengthen me with a willing spirit.
O Lord open my lips:
and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.
Create in me a clean heart, O God.

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

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.
Thanks be to God.

All stand

Hymn: From Ashes to the Living Font

One in Faith #420 - Words: © Alan J Hommerding

Alt.Tune: **ST PETER**

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

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

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, chapter six,
beginning at the first verse.

Praise and glory to God.

This is the Gospel of Christ.

Praise to Christ the Word.

The Sermon

The Liturgy of Penitence

The priest says

We begin our journey to Easter with the sign of ashes,
an ancient sign, speaking of the frailty and uncertainty of
human life, and marking the penitence of the community
as a whole.

In silence we call to mind our sin
and the infinite mercy of God.

Silence

We have not loved you with all our heart,
and soul, 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.

Lord, have mercy.

We have been deaf to your call to serve.

We have been unfaithful, proud, and hypocritical.

Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

We have been self-centred,
and have taken advantage of others.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

We have been envious of those more fortunate
than ourselves.

Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

We have loved worldly goods and comforts too much.
We have been dishonest in daily life and work.
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

We have neglected prayer and worship,
and have failed to commend the faith that is in us.
Christ, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.

We have been blind to human need and suffering,
and indifferent to injustice and cruelty.
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

We have thought uncharitably about others,
and we have been prejudiced towards those
who differ from us.
Christ, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.

We have wasted and polluted your creation,
and lacked concern for those who come after us.
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

Confession – *all say together:*

**Merciful God, we have sinned
in what we have thought and said,
in the wrong we have done
and in the good we have not done.
We have sinned in ignorance:
we have sinned in weakness:
we have sinned through our own deliberate fault.**

**We are truly sorry.
We repent and turn to you.
Forgive us, for our Saviour Christ's sake,
and renew our lives to the glory of your name. Amen.**

The Imposition of Ashes

The priest says

Gracious and everloving God,
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 priest receives the imposition from another minister,
then it is given to all those desiring it.*

The imposition is done with the following words.

Dust you are, and to dust you shall return.
and /or
Turn from sin and be faithful to the gospel.

*When all who wish to receive the imposition of ashes have done so,
the priest pronounces the Absolution.*

Through the cross of Christ,
God have mercy on you,
pardon you and set you free.
Know that you are forgiven
and be at peace.
God strengthen you in all goodness
and keep you in life eternal.
Amen.

The Prayers of the People

The following is used during prayers.

God of all mercy,
hear our prayer.

The Peace

All standing, the priest says to the people

Since we are justified by faith,
we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,
who has given us access to grace.

The peace of Christ be always with you.
And also with you.

We may exchange a sign of Christ's peace with those around us.

*As we sing the next Hymn, the bread and wine are brought to the altar;
our offerings for the Foodbank and money to support ministry and mission
are collected and presented also.*

Offertory Hymn: Great God, your love has called us here

HfTC48ob -Words: Brian Wren © 1975, rev. 1995 Hope Publish.

Alt. tune: **MELITA**

1 **Great God, your love has called us here**
as we, by love, for love were made.
Your living likeness still we bear,
though marred, dishonoured, disobeyed.
We come, with all our heart and mind
your call to hear, your love to find.

2 We come with self-inflicted pains
of broken trust and chosen wrong,
half-free, half-bound by inner chains,
by social forces swept along,
 by powers and systems close confined,
 yet seeking hope for humankind.

3 Great God, in Christ you call our name
and then receive us as your own,
not through some merit, right or claim,
but by your gracious love alone.
 We strain to glimpse your mercy seat
 and find you kneeling at our feet.

4 Then take the towel, and break the bread,
and humble us, and call us friends.
Suffer and serve till all are fed,
and show how grandly love intends
 to work till all creation sings,
 to fill all worlds, to crown all things.

5 Great God, in Christ you set us free
your life to live, your joy to share.
Give us your Spirit's liberty
to turn from guilt and dull despair
 and offer all that faith can do
 while love is making all things new

The Preparation of the Gifts

To you, Lord, belongs the greatness,
and the power, and the glory,
and the victory and the majesty.
**All that is in the heavens and the earth is yours,
and of your own we give you.**

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord is here.
God's Spirit is with us.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to offer thanks and praise.

It is right indeed, it is our joy and our salvation, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, at all times and in places to give you thanks and praise through Christ your only Son.

You are the source of all life and goodness;
through your eternal Word
you have created all things from the beginning
and formed us in your own image;
male and female you created us.

When we sinned and turned away
you called us back to yourself
and gave your Son to share our human nature.
Who though tempted in every way as we are,
yet did not sin;
through him therefore we may triumph over sin
and grow in grace.
In him you have made us a holy people
by sending upon us your holy and lifegiving Spirit.

Therefore with the faithful who rest in him,
with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven,
we proclaim your great and glorious name,
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.**

All glory and thanksgiving to you, holy Father;
on the night before he died
your Son, Jesus Christ, took bread;
when he had given you thanks,
he broke it, gave it to his disciples, and said:
Take, eat, this is my body which is given for you;
do this to remember me.

After Supper he took the cup;
when he had given you thanks,
he gave it to them and said:
Drink this, all of you,
for 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, to remember me.

And so we proclaim the mystery of our faith:
**Christ has died,
Christ is risen,
Christ will come in glory.**

Therefore loving God,
recalling your great goodness to us in Christ,
his suffering and death,
his resurrection and ascension,
and looking for his coming in glory,
we celebrate our redemption with this bread of life
and this cup of salvation.

Accept our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving
which we offer through Christ our great high priest.

Send your Holy Spirit
that these gifts of bread and wine which we receive
may be to us the body and blood of Christ,
and that we, filled with the Spirit's grace and power,
may be renewed for the service of your kingdom.

United in Christ with all who stand before you
in earth and heaven,
we worship you, O God,
in songs of everlasting praise.

**Blessing, honour and glory be yours,
here and everywhere
now and forever. Amen.**

The Communion

The Lord's Prayer

As Christ teaches us 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 priest breaks the bread in silence

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

**We who are many are one body,
for we all share 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, give us your peace.**

The Invitation to Communion

Draw near and receive the body and blood of our Saviour Jesus Christ in remembrance that he died for us.

Let us feed on him in our hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

The priest and people receive communion.

Communion will be served at standing stations at the Sanctuary steps – all are welcome to receive the bread and wine at communion, (however please note that intinction, ie dipping the wafer into the wine chalice, is NOT permitted); although you are welcome to receive the bread only if you prefer, or to come forward for a blessing only.

If you need communion served to you in your seat, please indicate to the servers.

Prayer After Communion

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

Silence

Praise and glory to you, Jesus Christ our Saviour,
for you do not call the righteous
but us sinners to repentance.

**You draw us away from the easy road
that would lead to our destruction.**

**You call us instead to seek God's kingdom,
to strive for what is right,
and to lay up our treasure in heaven.**

The Blessing

The priest blesses the congregation, saying

Christ give you grace to grow in holiness,
to deny yourself, and to take up your cross and follow him;
and the blessing of God almighty,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
be with you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

Hymn: Again We Keep This Solemn Fast

Singing Our Faith #121 - Words: Gregory the Great

Adapted: Peter Scagnelli

Alt tune: **OLD HUNDREDTH**

- 1 **Again we keep this solemn fast,
a gift of faith from ages past.
These forty days that, year by year,
bid contrite hearts to Christ draw near.**

- 2 The law and prophets from of old,
in figured ways this Lent foretold,
which Christ, all ages' Lord and Guide,
in these last days has sanctified.**
- 3 More sparing, therefore, let us make
the words speak, the food we take,
our sleep, our laughter, ev'ry sense.
learn peace through holy penitence.**
- 4 Let us avoid each harmful way
that lures the careless mind astray,
by watchful prayer our spirits free
from scheming of the enemy.**
- 5 We pray, O blessed Three in One,
our God while endless ages run,
that this, our Lent of forty days,
may bring us growth and give you praise.**

The Dismissal of the Community

Go now to love and serve the Lord. Go in peace.
Amen. We go in the name of Christ.

Acknowledgements: This Order of Service has been compiled and adapted from copyright resources, offered on-line by the Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia, ANZPB (anglicanprayerbook.nz) and from 'Ashes to Fire' – Liturgy for the Seasons of Lent to Easter (Tikanga Pakeha Liturgical Working Group) and is used in accordance with regulations.

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