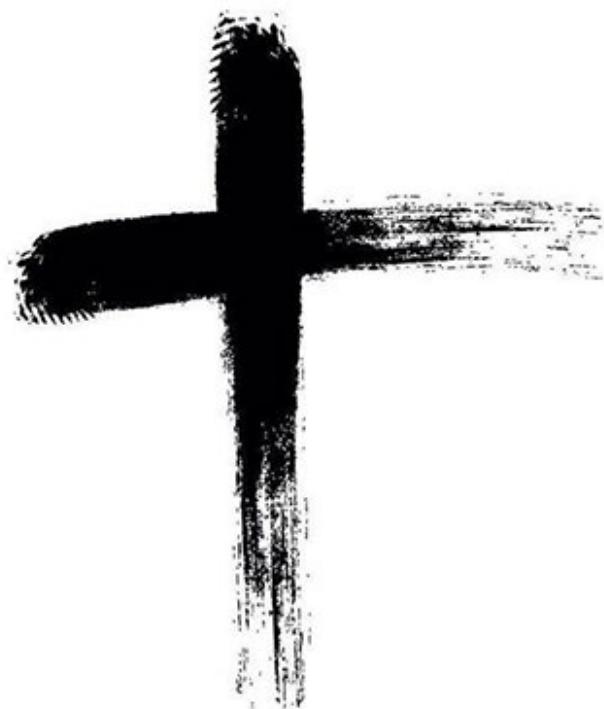


*Holy Trinity Church  
Amberley*



**The Dust of Life**  
*An Ash Wednesday  
evening service*

# **The Gathering**

*Please remain seated as the president offers words of welcome.*

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

**All Amen.**

## **Call to Worship**

We gather in the dimness of evening

**All to be with the God who brightens the  
shadows of our lives.**

We gather in the quiet of this place

**All to be with Jesus, knowing that nothing  
past, present, or future separates us.**

We gather to be marked as disciples

**All to be fed for the journey through Lent,  
to be sealed by the Spirit as God's own.**

## **Evening Prayer**

You wait on this evening, Patient God,

for us to come back:

to stop going away from you on our self-focused travels;

to set aside our empty fears;

to cease shaping you in our image,

so we can discover you closer than we ever dared imagine

You wait for us this night, Companion of our hearts,

for us to follow once more:

leaving the shuttered corners of our lives;

refusing to go from one failed promise to another;

coming out of the panic rooms we have built in our souls,

so you can take us by the hand to lead us to resurrection life.

You wait in scattered ashes of our lives, Spirit of silence,  
for us to find you:

in the broken bread which strengthens us to serve;

in the cup of grace which fills our emptiness;

in our sisters and brothers

who are willing to hold us up when we falter,

so you can embrace us with joy and hope in every moment.

**All Amen.**

## **Invitation to Lenten life**

Not for the first time, yet fresh once more,  
we accompany Jesus to Jerusalem.

Because of his experience in the wilderness,  
we discover how we might have the strength  
to turn our back on evil, so we can choose good.

By his example of fasting and prayer,  
in the midst of serving and caring for others,  
we can learn that rhythm of faithful living  
which allows us to work for justice and hope,  
as we draw strength from the timeless acts  
of silence, feasting on the word and prayer.

As we remember our baptism into faith,  
as we gather at the feast of grace,  
as we are marked as Christ's own,  
we prepare ourselves to come to God,  
on this holy night.

## The Collect

As we seek to return to God in these moments,  
let us pray for grace to keep Lent faithfully.

*Silence is kept*

Holy God, our lives are laid open before you:  
rescue us from the chaos of sin  
and through the death of your Son  
bring us healing and make us whole  
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

*All* **Amen.**

## *The Liturgy of the Word*

### **Readings**

*We hear a reading from Scripture.*

*At the end, the reader says*

This is the word of the Lord.

*All* **Thanks be to God.**

### **Gospel Reading**

*Please stand.*

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

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

*At the end*

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

### **Reflection**

*Please sit after the introductory words.*

# **The Liturgy of Penitence**

## **Call to reconciliation**

On this night, we begin our journey to Easter.

Before we can take the first step, we must admit how we have not been faithful to our God.

**All** **We have trouble telling the truth, God of broken hearts,  
yet we must admit  
on this night  
how we have trouble being your people.**

**We may not trample the poor,  
but we sometimes walk right past them.**

**We don't receive bribes,  
but we are more privileged than many around us.**

**We trust more in ourselves than in you  
and spend far too much time  
patting ourselves on the back,  
rather than holding out a hand to others.**

**Where can we go for forgiveness but to you,  
God of the ashes?**

**When we are greedy, you promise to be gracious.  
When we have trouble confronting injustice, you stand at our side.**

**When we struggle to seek good,  
you point us to Jesus, our Brother, our Saviour,  
who shows us how to turn our back on evil  
to follow him.**

**Amen.**

*Silence is kept.*

## The Imposition of Ashes

*The president says*

Just yesterday it seems, the palms were  
fresh and green, held tight in hands  
as we re-enacted Jesus' entry into Jerusalem.

But then they dried, shrivelled, became  
almost too fragile to touch, until  
we burned them into the ashes for tonight.

Yet, by the grace of our God,  
with the Spirit resting upon them,  
they are mixed with oil and placed  
on our heads or hands,  
the dust of life resting upon us  
as a sign that by sharing the gifts  
of peace, reconciliation, justice and generosity,  
we will live into the people we long to become.

As we are touched with this mark,  
God of all moments,  
remind us that just as you  
shaped humanity from earth's dust,  
so, from the ashes of repentance and denial,  
that grace which is gifted to us  
through Jesus Christ, our Redeemer,  
will shape us into faithful followers.

**All Amen.**

*In the silence, those who wish may come to have the sign of the cross  
placed on their foreheads.*

*At the imposition the minister says to each person*

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

*Afterwards, the president says*

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.*

Since we are justified by faith,  
we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,  
who has given us access to his grace. *Romans 5.1,2*

The peace of the Lord be always with you

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

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

*All may exchange a sign of peace.*

### **Preparation of the Table**

*Please sit or kneel.*

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.**

## Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord is here

**All His Spirit is with us.**

Lift up your hearts.

**All We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**All It is right to give thanks and praise.**

Creator God, we lift our hearts to you  
because you made the universe from nothing  
and formed human beings in your image  
from the dust of the earth.

In Adam you saw your hopes for creation turn to ashes,  
and yet in Abraham and Moses you called a people  
out of wilderness and slavery.

You showed your face to your people in exile,  
and in Christ the new Adam you raised your children to  
new life

out of the ashes of sin and death.

And so we gladly praise and thank you,  
with angels and archangels and the company of heaven,  
singing your unending praise.

**All 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.**

Redeemer God, over forty days you flooded the earth,  
over forty years you led your people through the wilderness  
and over forty days your Spirit led Jesus through the desert.

Bless us through the sustenance of this food and drink  
to profess your Son's death and resurrection.

Send down your Holy Spirit,  
that we may come to resemble and follow  
our crucified and risen Saviour,  
and that this bread and this cup may become for us  
our everlasting banquet,  
the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.

Who, at supper with his disciples, took bread, gave you  
thanks,  
broke the bread, and gave it to them, saying:  
'Take, eat: this is my body which is given for you;  
do this in remembrance of me.'

After supper he took the cup.

Again he gave you thanks, and gave it to his disciples, 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.'

Great is the mystery of faith:

**All** **Christ has died;**  
**Christ is risen;**  
**Christ will come again.**

Sanctifying God, where your children are in the wilderness,  
lead them to your heart.

Where your people are hungry for you,  
give them practices of fasting and Scripture-reading  
and alms-giving and repentance and prayer.

Where your followers know beatings, imprisonments,  
hardships and calamities,  
visit them with the comforting power of your presence.

Raise up the glory of your resurrection  
from the ashes of our pride and sloth and greed,  
that all your church and the whole creation  
may celebrate the wonders of your love,  
until the day when every eye shall see you  
and every tongue shall praise you, and you are all in all,  
ever one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

**All Amen.**

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

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

**All 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.  
Lead us not into temptation  
but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours now and for ever.  
Amen.**

## Breaking of the Bread

*The president breaks the consecrated bread*

Every time we eat this bread and drink this cup

**All: we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.**

## 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.**

*Silence is kept as the president and people receive communion.*

*If you wish to receive a blessing only, please carry this booklet with you to the altar rail to indicate your wish to the presiding minister.*

## Prayer after Communion

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 Dismissal**

## **The 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.

**All Amen.**

## **The Sending**

Smudged this night with the ashes of penitence,  
**All we will go out to share God's forgiveness  
with those we have hurt, with those who are  
forgotten.**

Fed this night by the Host of the Feast of grace,  
**All we will go out to bring healing to the broken,  
to offer grace to those trampled by the powerful.**

Called this night to journey through suffering to new life,  
**All we will go out to stand with those experiencing  
injustice,  
to share the Spirit's peace and reconciliation with  
the world.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

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

Material in this service is included from:

*Common Worship*

© The Archbishops' Council 2006, 2012

*Joining the Angels' Song: Eucharistic Prayers for Sundays and Holy Days, Years A, B & C*

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