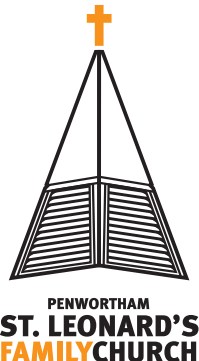


*Welcome to our service of*

# Holy Communion and imposition of ashes

7pm on Wednesday 18th February 2026  
at St. Leonard's Church, Penwortham



## THE WELCOME

### OPENING HYMN

Forty days and forty nights  
Thou wast fasting in the wild;  
Forty days and forty nights  
Tempted, and yet undefiled:

Sunbeams scorching all the day;  
Chilly dew-drops nightly shed;  
Prowling beasts about thy way;  
Stones thy pillow, earth thy bed.

Shall not we thy sorrows share,  
And from earthly joys abstain,  
Fasting with unceasing prayer,  
Glad with thee to suffer pain?

And if Satan, vexing sore,  
Flesh or spirit should assail,  
Thou, his vanquisher before,  
Grant we may not faint nor fail.

So shall we have peace divine;  
Holier gladness ours shall be;  
Round us too shall angels shine,  
Such as ministered to thee.

Keep, O keep us, Saviour dear,  
Ever constant by thy side;  
That with thee we may appear  
At the eternal Eastertide.

G. H. SMYTTAN (c. 1822 - 70) and F. POTT (1832 - 1909)

## THE GREETING

*A minister greets the people with these words:*

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

*All:* **Amen.**

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

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

## THE INTRODUCTION

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 with 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.

## THE LITANY OF RECONCILIATION

All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. The hatred which divides nation from nation, race from race, class from class,

**Father, forgive.**

The covetous desires of people and nations to possess what is not their own, Father, forgive. The greed which exploits the work of human hands and lays waste the earth,

**Father, forgive.**

Our envy of the welfare and happiness of others, Father, forgive. Our indifference to the plight of the imprisoned, the homeless, the refugee,

**Father, forgive.**

The lust which dishonours the bodies of men, women and children,

**Father, forgive.**

The pride which leads us to trust in ourselves and not in God,

**Father, forgive.**

Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

## THE COLLECT

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.

*All:* **Amen**

## THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

### OLD TESTAMENT READING

ISAIAH 58.1-12

**S**HOUT OUT, DO NOT HOLD back! Lift up your voice like a trumpet! Announce to my people their rebellion, to the house of Jacob their sins. Yet day after day they seek me and delight to know my ways, as if they were a nation that practised righteousness and did not forsake the ordinance of their God; they ask of me righteous judgements, they delight to draw near to God.

‘Why do we fast, but you do not see? Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?’ Look, you serve your own interest on your fast-day, and oppress all your workers. Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight and to strike with a wicked fist. Such fasting as you do today will not make your voice heard on high.

Is such the fast that I choose, a day to humble oneself? Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush, and to lie in sackcloth and ashes?

Will you call this a fast, a day acceptable to the Lord? Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds

of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke?

Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you, the glory of the Lord shall be your rearguard. Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am. If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil, if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday.

The Lord will guide you continually, and satisfy your needs in parched places, and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters never fail. Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in.

This is the word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

## THE GRADUAL HYMN

Jesu, lover of my soul,  
Let me to thy bosom fly,  
While the gathering waters roll,  
While the tempest still is high:  
Hide me, O my Saviour, hide,  
Till the storm of life is past;  
Safe into the haven guide,  
O receive my soul at last.

Other refuge have I none;  
Hangs my helpless soul on thee;  
Leave, ah, leave me not alone,  
Still support and comfort me.  
All my trust on thee is stayed,  
All my help from thee I bring;  
Cover my defenceless head  
With the shadow of thy wing.

Plenteous grace with thee is found,  
Grace to cleanse from every sin;  
Let the healing streams abound;  
Make and keep me pure within:  
Thou of life the fountain art;  
Freely let me take of thee;  
Spring thou up within my heart,  
Rise to all eternity.

C. Wesley (1707 - 88)

## THE GOSPEL READING

JOHN 8.1-11

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

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

**W**HILE JESUS WENT to the Mount of Olives. Early in the morning he came again to the temple. All the people came to him and he sat down and began to teach them. The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery;

and making her stand before all of them, they said to him, ‘Teacher, this woman was caught in the very act of committing adultery.

Now in the law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?’ They said this to test him, so that they might have some charge to bring against him. Jesus bent down and wrote with his finger on the ground. When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, ‘Let anyone among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her.’

And once again he bent down and wrote on the ground. When they heard it, they went away, one by one, beginning with the elders; and Jesus was left alone with the woman standing before him.

Jesus straightened up and said to her, ‘Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?’ She said, ‘No one, sir.’ And Jesus said, ‘Neither do I condemn you. Go your way, and from now on do not sin again.’

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

## THE SERMON

### THE LITURGY OF PENITENCE

#### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

*The president says,*

Let us now call to mind our sin and the infinite mercy of God.

God the Father,

*All:* **have mercy on us.**

God the Son,

*All:* **have mercy on us.**

God the Holy Spirit,

*All:* **have mercy on us.**

Trinity of love,

*All:* **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.

*All:* **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.

*All:* **Lord, have mercy.**

We confess to you, Lord, all our past unfaithfulness: the pride, hypocrisy, and impatience of our lives,

*All:* **Lord, have mercy.**

Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people,

*All:* **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,

*All:* **Lord, have mercy.**

Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to commend the faith that is in us,

**All: 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,

**All: Accept our repentance, Lord.**

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

**All: Accept our repentance, Lord.**

For our waste and pollution of your Creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us,

**All: Accept our repentance, Lord.**

Restore us, good Lord, and let your anger depart from us;

**All: Favourably hear us, for your mercy is great.**

Accomplish in us the work of your salvation,

**All: That we may show your glory in the world.**

By the Cross and passion of your Son our Lord,

**All: Bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.**

*Silence is kept.*

**All: 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 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

**All: Amen.**

*Please come up to receive the imposition of ashes, as they say to you: Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return. Turn away from sin, and be faithful to Christ. Once everyone who wishes to has received the imposition of ashes, the president says:*

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.

**All: Amen.**

## 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.

**All: And also with you.**

Let us offer one another a sign  
of peace.

*All may exchange a sign of peace*

*We do not pass a collection plate during  
the service, but if you would like to make a  
donation to support the work, ministry and  
maintenance of the Parish, there is provision  
at the back of church for donations in cash,  
envelopes, by bank card or mobile phone  
using the reader at the back of the church.  
Thank you.*

### THE OFFERTORY HYMN

Christian, dost thou see them  
On the holy ground,  
How the troops of Midian  
Prowl and prowl around?  
Christian, up and smite them,  
Counting gain but loss;  
Smite them by the merit  
Of the holy Cross.

Christian, dost thou feel them,  
How they work within,  
Striving, tempting, luring,  
Goading into sin?  
Christian, never tremble;  
Never be down-cast;  
Smite them by the virtue  
Of the Lenten fast.

Christian, dost thou hear them,  
How they speak thee fair?  
'Always fast and vigil?  
Always watch and prayer?'  
Christian, answer boldly,  
'While I breathe I pray;'  
Peace shall follow battle,  
Night shall end in day.

'Well I know thy trouble,  
O my servant true;  
Thou art very weary,  
I was weary too;  
But that toil shall make thee  
Some day all mine own,  
And the end of sorrow  
Shall be near my throne.'

J. M. NEALE (1818 - 66)

### THE PRAYER OF PREPARATION

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.

**All: Amen.**

### THE 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.**

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 to 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 singing:

*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.**

We praise and bless you, loving Father, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; and as we obey his command, send your Holy Spirit, that broken bread and wine outpoured may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died he had supper with his friends and, taking bread, he praised you. He broke the bread, gave it to them and said: Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me.

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine. Again he praised you, gave it to them and said: 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. So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did. In him we plead with confidence his sacrifice made once for all upon the cross. Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation, we proclaim his death and resurrection until he comes in glory.

Jesus Christ is Lord.

*All* **Lord, by your cross and resurrection, you have set us free. You are the Saviour of the world.**

Lord of all life, help us to work together for that day when your kingdom comes and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth.

Look with favour on your people, gather us in your loving arms and bring us with Leonard and all the saints to feast at your table in heaven.

By whom and with whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory be unto thee, almighty Father, for ever and ever.

*All:* **Amen.**

## LORD'S PRAYER

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

*All:* **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

*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.**

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 AGNUS DEI

*All:* **Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, grant us peace.**

## GIVING OF COMMUNION

*The president and people receive communion. We have an Open Table but if you would prefer a blessing simply cross your arms over your chest at the rail.*

*The Choir will sing during Communion.*

## THE COMMUNION HYMN

Soul of my Saviour  
Sanctify my breast;  
Body of Christ,  
Be thou my saving guest;  
Blood of my Saviour,  
Bathe me in thy tide,  
Wash me with water  
Flowing from thy side.

Strength and protection  
May thy passion be;  
O blessed Jesus,  
Hear and answer me;  
Deep in thy wounds, Lord,  
Hide and shelter me;  
So shall I never,  
Never part from thee.

Guard and defend me  
From the foe malign;  
In death's dread moments  
Make me only thine;  
Call me, and bid me  
Come to thee on high,  
Where I may praise thee  
With thy saints for ay.

Ascribed to Pope John XXIII (1249-1334)

## PRAYERS 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:* **O Lord our God, grant us grace to desire you with our whole heart; that so desiring, we may seek and find you; and so finding, may love you; and so loving, may hate those sins from which you have delivered us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## FINAL HYMN:

He who would valiant be  
'Gainst all disaster,  
Let him in constancy  
Follow the Master.  
There's no discouragement  
Shall make him once relent,  
His first avowed intent  
To be a pilgrim.

Who so beset him round  
With dismal stories,  
Do but themselves confound -  
His strength the more is.  
No foes shall stay his might,  
Though he with giants fight:  
He will make good his right  
To be a pilgrim.

Since, Lord, Thou dost defend  
Us with Thy Spirit,  
We know we at the end  
Shall life inherit.  
Then fancies flee away!  
I'll fear not what men say,  
I'll labour night and day  
To be a pilgrim.

## THE DISMISSAL

### THE BLESSING

May God the Father, who does not despise the broken spirit, give to you a contrite heart.

*All:* **Amen.**

May Christ, who bore our sins in his body on the tree, heal you by his wounds.

*All:* **Amen.**

May the Holy Spirit, who leads you into all truth, speak to you words of pardon and peace.

*All:* **Amen.**

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 his joy and his peace.

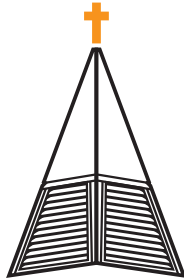
*All:* **Thanks be to God.**

## **NEXT WEEKS' SERVICES**

**SUNDAY 22 FEBRUARY 2026 — LENT 1**

8:30am Holy Communion — 10:00am Sung Holy Communion

*After the service, tea, coffee and refreshments will be served in the Main Hall, please do stay for a brew and a chat.*



PENWORTHAM  
**ST. LEONARD'S**  
**FAMILYCHURCH**

Thank you for coming  
to our service this evening,  
we look forward to seeing you  
again on Sunday.