



ST MARGARET'S ILKLEY



The Liturgy of Ash Wednesday

Wednesday 18 February 2026, 7.30 pm

WELCOME

You are very welcome to St Margaret's this evening. If it is your first time with us, please introduce yourself to the clergy and welcomers. **Please pick up a copy of the Lent Booklet for details of services and events over this holy season.**

Please note that our service is broadcast on our YouTube channel, but only those in the first few rows at the front will occasionally be visible. The administration of holy communion is not broadcast. Please speak to one of the welcomers if you have any questions.

Lent may originally have followed Epiphany, just as Jesus' sojourn in the wilderness followed immediately on his baptism, but it soon became firmly attached to Easter, as the principal occasion for baptism and for the reconciliation of those who had been excluded from the Church's fellowship for apostasy or serious faults. This history explains the characteristic notes of Lent—self-examination, penitence, self-denial, study, and preparation for Easter, to which almsgiving has traditionally been added.

As the candidates for baptism were instructed in the Christian faith, and as penitents prepared themselves, through fasting and penance, to be readmitted to communion, the whole Christian community was invited to join them in the process of study and repentance, the extension of which over forty days would remind them of the forty days that Jesus spent in the wilderness, being tested by Satan.

Ash Wednesday. Ashes are an ancient sign of penitence; from the middle ages it became the custom to begin Lent by being marked in ash with the sign of the cross. The calculation of forty days has varied considerably in Christian history. It is now usual in the West to count them continuously to the end of Holy Week (not including Sundays), so beginning Lent on the sixth Wednesday before Easter, Ash Wednesday.

THE GATHERING

Stand as the bell is rung

HYMN 59 (ii) *Now is the healing time decreed*

Ecce tempus idoneum

Now is the healing time decreed
For sins of heart and word and deed,
When we in humble fear record
The wrong that we have done the Lord:

Who, always merciful and good,
Has borne so long our wayward mood,
Nor cut us off unsparingly
In our so great iniquity.

Therefore with fasting and with prayer,
Our secret sorrow we declare,
With all good striving seek his face,
And lowly-hearted plead for grace.

Cleanse us, O Lord, from every stain,
Help us the gifts of grace to gain,
Till with the angels, linked in love,
Joyful we tread thy courts above.

We pray thee, holy Trinity,
One God, unchanging Unity,
That we from this our abstinence
May reap the fruits of penitence. Amen.

Latin, translated by T A Lacey

*Later form of a melody from
Vulpius' Gesangbuch Jena 1609;
harmony chiefly by J S Bach*

GREETING

Priest **†** 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 priest welcomes the congregation and introduces the liturgy

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 by 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.

COLLECT

Priest Let us pray for grace to keep Lent faithfully.

Silence is kept

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.**

Sit

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING

Joel 2. 1, 2, 12 - 17

A reading from the prophecy of Joel.

Blow the trumpet in Zion; sound the alarm on my holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble, for the day of the Lord is coming, it is near—a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness! Like blackness spread upon the mountains a great and powerful army comes; their like has never been from of old, nor will be again after them in ages to come.

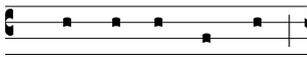
Yet even now, says the Lord, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; rend your hearts and not your clothing. Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing. Who knows whether he will not turn and relent, and leave a blessing behind him, a grain-offering and a drink-offering for the Lord, your God?

Blow the trumpet in Zion; sanctify a fast; call a solemn assembly; gather the people. Sanctify the congregation; assemble the aged; gather the children, even infants at the breast. Let the bridegroom leave his room, and the bride her canopy.

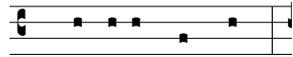
Between the vestibule and the altar let the priests, the ministers of the Lord, weep. Let them say, 'Spare your people, O Lord, and do not make your heritage a mockery, a byword among the nations. Why should it be said among the peoples, "Where is their God?"'

Reader For the word of the Lord:
All thanks be to God.

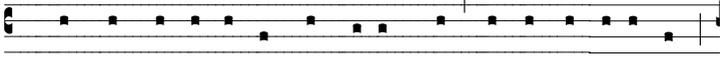
Stand



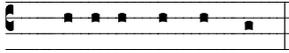
Deacon The Lord be with you.



All And also with you.



Deacon † Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to St John.

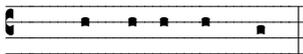


All **Glory to you, O Lord.**

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.'



Deacon This is the Gospel of the Lord.



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

Turn back as an organ fanfare is played

THE LITURGY OF PENITENCE

SELF-EXAMINATION AND CONFESSION

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

Kneel

God the Father,



All **have mercy upon us.**

God the Son,

All **have mercy upon us.**

God the Holy Spirit,

All **have mercy upon us.**

Holy, blessed and glorious Trinity,

All **have mercy upon us.**

From all evil and mischief; from pride, vanity, and hypocrisy;
from envy, hatred, and malice; and from all evil intent,



All **good Lord, deliver us.**

From sloth, worldliness and love of money; from hardness of
heart and contempt for your word and your laws,

All **good Lord, deliver us.**

From sins of body and mind; from the deceits of the world,
the flesh and the devil,

All **good Lord, deliver us.**

In all times of sorrow; in all times of joy; in the hour of death,
and at the day of judgement,

All **good Lord, deliver us.**

By the mystery of your holy incarnation; by your birth, childhood and obedience; by your baptism, fasting and temptation,

All good Lord, deliver us.

By your ministry in word and work; by your mighty acts of power; and by your preaching of the kingdom,

All good Lord, deliver us.

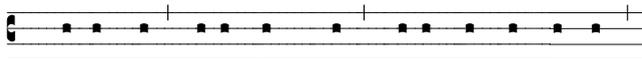
By your agony and trial; by your cross and passion; and by your precious death and burial,

All good Lord, deliver us.

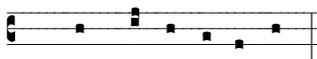
By your mighty resurrection; by your glorious ascension; and by your sending of the Holy Spirit,

All good Lord, deliver us.

Give us true repentance; forgive us our sins of negligence and ignorance and our deliberate sins; and grant us the grace of your Holy Spirit to amend our lives according to your holy word.



All Holy God, holy and strong, holy and immortal,



have mercy upon us.

Silence is kept for self-examination

Priest Make our hearts clean, O God;
All and renew a right spirit within us.

Sit

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

Priest 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.

All Amen.

The people come forward to receive the imposition of ashes

The ashes are administered using these words:

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

The choir sings during the imposition of ashes

PSALM

Psalm 51. 1 - 18

Have mercy on me, O God, in your great goodness;
 according to the abundance of your compassion blot out my offences.
Wash me thoroughly from my wickedness
 and cleanse me from my sin.
For I acknowledge my faults
 and my sin is ever before me.
Against you only have I sinned
 and done what is evil in your sight,
So that you are justified in your sentence
 and righteous in your judgement.
I have been wicked even from my birth,
 a sinner when my mother conceived me.
Behold, you desire truth deep within me
 and shall make me understand wisdom in the depths of my heart.
Purge me with hyssop and I shall be clean;
 wash me and I shall be whiter than snow.

Make me hear of joy and gladness,
that the bones you have broken may rejoice.
Turn your face from my sins
and blot out all my misdeeds.
Make me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from your presence
and take not your holy spirit from me.
Give me again the joy of your salvation
and sustain me with your gracious spirit;
Then shall I teach your ways to the wicked
and sinners shall return to you.
Deliver me from my guilt, O God, the God of my salvation,
and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness.
O Lord, open my lips
and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.
For you desire no sacrifice, else I would give it;
you take no delight in burnt offerings.
The sacrifice of God is a broken spirit;
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

ABSOLUTION

Priest 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.

Stand

THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

PEACE

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

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

All And also with you.

Deacon Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

All may exchange a sign of peace with their neighbours

During the hymn the altar is prepared and a collection is taken

- *Cash may be given via the bags circulated during the hymn*
- *To donate digitally, please use the card reader by the entrance to church, or scan the QR code at the end of this order of service with your phone*
- *Please consider making a regular donation to support the work of our church. **Thank you for your gift.***

HYMN 383 (ii) *Jesu, Lover of my soul*

Jesu, Lover of my soul,
Let me to thy bosom fly,
While the nearer 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.

Wilt thou not regard my call?
Wilt thou not accept my prayer?
Lo, I sink, I faint, I fall—
Lo, on thee I cast my care:
Reach me out thy gracious hand,
While I of thy strength receive,
Hoping against hope I stand,
Dying and, behold, I live!

Thou, O Christ, art all I want,
More than all in thee I find:
Raise the fallen, cheer the faint,
Heal the sick, and lead the blind.
Just and holy is thy name,
I am all unrighteousness;
False and full of sin I am,
Thou art full of truth and grace.

Plenteous grace with thee is found,
Grace to cover all my 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.

Charles Wesley

Joseph Parry

TAKING OF THE BREAD AND WINE

Priest Pray, brothers and sisters, that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

All **May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands,
for the praise and glory of his name,
for our good,
and the good of all his holy Church.**

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Priest 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.**

EUCCHARISTIC PREFACE



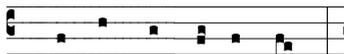
Priest The Lord be with you.



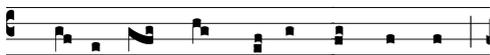
All **And also with you.**



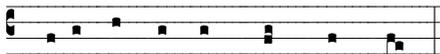
Priest Lift up your hearts.



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



Priest Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



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

Priest It is indeed right, it is our duty and our joy, at all times and in all places to give you thanks and praise, holy Father, heavenly King, almighty and eternal God, through Jesus Christ our Lord. And now we give you thanks because each year you give us this joyful season when we prepare to celebrate the paschal mystery with mind and heart renewed.

You give us a spirit of loving reverence for you and of willing service to our neighbour. As we recall the saving acts that give new life in Christ, you bring the image of your Son to perfection within our hearts. Therefore with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we proclaim your great and glorious name, for ever praising you and singing:

SANCTUS AND BENEDICTUS

*Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina:
Missa Aeterna Christ munera*

Choir *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.*

Kneel

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER C

Priest All glory be to you, our heavenly Father, who, in your tender mercy, gave your only Son our Saviour Jesus Christ to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption; who made there by his one oblation of himself once offered a full, perfect and sufficient sacrifice, oblation and satisfaction for the sins of the whole world; he instituted, and in his holy gospel commanded us to continue, a perpetual memory of his precious death until he comes again.

Hear us, merciful Father, we humbly pray, and grant that, by the power of your Holy Spirit, we receiving these gifts of your creation, this bread and this wine, according to your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ's holy institution, in remembrance of his death and passion, may be partakers of his most blessed body and blood; 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. †

Deacon

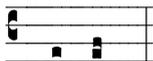
Jesus Christ is Lord:

All

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

Therefore, Lord and heavenly Father, in remembrance of the precious death and passion, the mighty resurrection and glorious ascension of your dear Son Jesus Christ, we offer you through him this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving.

Grant that by his merits and death, and through faith in his blood, we and all your Church may receive forgiveness of our sins and all other benefits of his passion. Although we are unworthy, through our manifold sins, to offer you any sacrifice, yet we pray that you will accept this the duty and service that we owe. Do not weigh our merits, but pardon our offences, and fill us all who share in this holy communion with your grace and heavenly blessing; 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.



All

Amen.

Silence is kept

LORD'S PRAYER

Priest Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us:
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.

AGNUS DEI

*Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina:
Missa Aeterna Christi munera*

Choir *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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Priest Behold 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 priest and people receive communion

- *If you are not a member of the Church of England, but normally receive communion in your own church, you are welcome to do so here*
- *If you would prefer to receive a blessing, please bring this booklet with you and hold it in your hands*
- *If you are currently unconfirmed in your faith and would like to enter more deeply into your relationship with God, please speak to the priest about the sacrament of confirmation after the service*

The choir sings during the administration of communion

MOTET *Nolo mortem peccatoris*

Nolo mortem peccatoris; haec sunt verba Salvatoris.

[I do not wish the death of a sinner; these are the words of the Saviour.]

Father, I am thine only Son, sent down from heav'n makind to save.

Father, all things fulfilled and done according to thy will, I have.

Father, my will now all is this: *Nolo mortem peccatoris.*

Father, behold my painful smart, taken for man on ev'ry side;

E'en from my birth to death most tart, no kind of pain I have denied,

But suffered all, and all for this: *Nolo mortem peccatoris.*

John Redford

Thomas Morley

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Priest Let us pray.

Stand

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.**

THE DISMISSAL

BLESSING

Priest The Lord be with you.

All **And also with you.**

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.

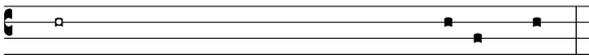
All **Amen.**

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

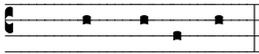
All **Amen.**

And the blessing of God almighty, † the Father, the Son, and
the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.

All **Amen.**



Deacon Go in peace, take up your cross and follow Christ.



All **Thanks be to God.**

HYMN 76 *Take up thy cross, the Saviour said*

Take up thy cross, the Saviour said,
If thou wouldst my disciple be;
Deny thyself, the world forsake,
And humbly follow after me.

Take up thy cross; let not its weight
Fill thy weak spirit with alarm;
His strength shall bear thy spirit up,
And brace thy heart, and nerve thine arm.

Take up thy cross, nor heed the shame,
Nor let thy foolish pride rebel;
The Lord for thee the Cross endured,
To save thy soul from death and hell.

Take up thy cross then in his strength,
And calmly every danger brave;
'Twill guide thee to a better home,
And lead to victory o'er the grave.

Take up thy cross, and follow Christ,
Nor think til death to lay it down;
For only he who bears the cross
May hope to wear the glorious crown.

To thee, great Lord, the One in Three,
All praise for evermore ascend;
O grant us in our home to see
The heavenly life that knows no end.

Charles Everest

*Melody from As Hymnodus Sacer Leipzig 1625,
arranged by Felix Mendelssohn*

ORGAN *Erbarm' dich mein, O Herre Gott*
BWV 721

Johann Sebastian Bach

St Margaret's Parish Church

Queen's Road, Ilkley, LS29 9QL

Web: www.stmargaretsilkley.org Tel: 01943 607015

Email: stmargaretschurchpa@gmail.com

find us on Facebook, Instagram and YouTube

Donate

*To support our
mission and
ministry, please
scan the QR code:*

