**St Peter’s Church**



**A service for**

 Ash Wednesday

**WELCOME**

**HYMN**

**THE GATHERING**

 In the name of the Father,

 and of the Son,

 and of the Holy Spirit.

*All*  **Amen.**

 The Lord be with you

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

The Call to a Lenten Discipline

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 andrepentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God’s holy word.

Let us pray for grace to keep Lent faithfully

*Silence is kept.*

**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 forever.

*All*  **Amen.**

***THE LITURGY OF THE WORD***

**First Reading**

2 Corinthians 5.20 – 6.10

*At the end the reader may say*

 This is the word of the Lord.

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

**Gospel Reading**

Matthew 6.1-6, 16-21

 *At the end the reader may say*

 This is the word of the Lord.

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

**THE SERMON. (Alison)**

## THE LITURGY OF PENITENCE

The sacrifice of God is a broken spirit;

a broken and contrite heart God will not despise.

Let us come to the Lord, who is full of compassion,

and acknowledge our transgressions in penitence and faith.

*A time of silence is kept.*

*All*  **Father eternal, giver of light and grace,**

**we have sinned against you and against our neighbour,**

 **in what we have thought,**

 **in what we have said and done,**

 **through ignorance, through weakness,**

 **through our own deliberate fault.**

 **We have wounded your love,**

 **and marred your image in us.**

 **We are sorry and ashamed**

 **and repent of all our sins.**

 **For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, who**

 **died for us, forgive us all that is past;**

 **and lead us out from darkness**

 **to walk as children of light. Amen.**

**Kyrie Eleison**

 Lord, have mercy.

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

 Christ, have mercy.

*All* **Christ, have mercy.**

 Lord, have mercy.

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

*The priest says*

 Almighty God,
who forgives all who truly repent,
have mercy upon *you,*pardon and deliver *you* from all *your* sins,
confirm and strengthen *you* in all goodness,
and keep *you* in life eternal;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*All* **Amen.**

**THE IMPOSITION OF ASHES*?***

 The Priest says

As a sign of the spirit of penitence with which we shall keep this season of preparation for Easter, we would usually be invited to receive on your head in ash the sign of the cross, the symbol of our salvation. At the moment we are unable to do this. If we have your contact details you will have received a small card through the post with an ash cross marked on it. If you don’t have one perhaps you would like to mark a cross on a piece of paper.

I invite you to hold your cross in prayer.

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.**

*As we look at the sign of the cross . . .*

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

*This prayer is said by the President*

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**

**THE PEACE**

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.

 The peace of the Lord be always with you

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

 Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

**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 forever. Amen**

**HYMN**

**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.**

 Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

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

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