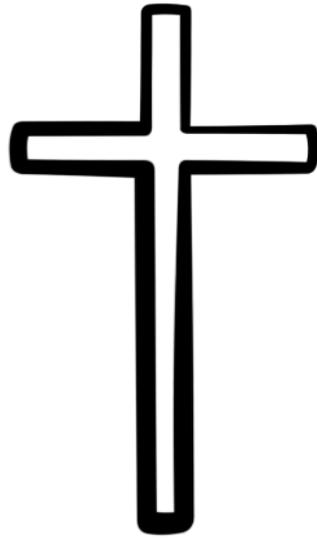


The Parish Church  
of  
St Richard, Aldwick



The Eucharist  
Order of Service  
for  
The Season of Lent

# Introduction to the Season

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.

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.  
(Latin, before 12th century)

As the candidates for baptism were instructed in 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.

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 the 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. Liturgical dress is the simplest possible. Churches are kept bare of flowers and decoration. Gloria in excelsis is not used. The Fourth Sunday of Lent (Laetare or Refreshment Sunday) was allowed as a day of relief from the rigour of Lent, and the Feast of the Annunciation almost always falls in Lent; these breaks from austerity are the background to the modern observance of Mothering Sunday on the Fourth Sunday of Lent.

As Holy Week approaches, the atmosphere of the season darkens; the readings begin to anticipate the story of Christ's suffering and death, and the reading of the Passion Narrative gave to the Fifth Sunday its name of Passion Sunday. There are many devotional exercises which may be used in Lent and Holy Week outside the set liturgy. The Stations of the Cross, made popular in the West by the Franciscans after they were granted custody of the Christian sites in the Holy Land, are the best known.

*(Common Worship: Times and Seasons)*

## **THE GATHERING**

### **The Opening Hymn**

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

**Amen.**

### **The Greeting**

The Lord be with you

**And also with you**

*(or)*

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

**and also with you.**

### **Invitation to Confession**

My brothers and sisters,  
as we prepare to celebrate the presence of Christ  
in word and sacrament  
let us call to mind and confess our sins

Jesus Christ, risen Master and triumphant Lord,  
we come to you in sorrow for our sins,  
and confess to you our weakness and unbelief.

We have lived by our own strength  
and not by the power of your resurrection.

**Kyrie Elieson.**

We have lived by the light of our own eyes,  
as faithless and not believing.

**Christe Elieson.**

We have lived for this world alone,  
and doubted our home in heaven.

**Kyrie Elieson.**

May the Father of all mercies cleanse you from your sins,  
and restore you in his image  
to the praise and glory of his name,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
**Amen.**

## **The Collect**

*We say together the Collect (which 'collects' together the theme of the day) which can be found in Pews News.*

## **THE LITURGY OF THE WORD**

### **Scripture Readings**

*At the end of each reading the reader says*

This is the word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

### **Gradual Hymn**

### **Gospel Reading**

**Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.**

The Lord is a great God,  
O that today you would listen to his voice.  
Harden not your hearts.

**Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.**

The Lord be with you  
**And also with you.**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to *N.*  
**Glory to you , O Lord.**

*At the end*

This is the Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

# **The Sermon**

## **The Creed**

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary  
and was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory  
to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son  
is worshipped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come.  
Amen.**

## **Prayers of Intercession**

In the power of the spirit and in union with Christ  
let us pray to the Father

Lord, in your mercy            *or*  
**Hear our prayer**

Lord, hear us.  
**Lord, graciously hear us**

*And at the end*

Merciful Father,  
**Accept these prayers for the sake of your Son,  
our Saviour Jesus Christ,  
Amen.**

## **THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT**

### **The Peace**

God is love and those who live in love, live in God and God,  
lives in them.

The peace of the Lord be always with you  
**and also with you.**

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

### **Preparation of the Table**

#### **The Offertory Hymn**

*During which the table is prepared*

As the grain once scattered in the fields  
and the grapes once dispersed on the hillside  
are now reunited on this table in bread and wine,  
so Lord, may your whole Church soon be gathered  
together from the corners of the earth into your kingdom.  
**Amen.**

## **The Eucharistic Prayer**

The Lord be with you  
**and also with you.**

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

Let us give thanks to the lord our God.  
**It is right to give thanks and praise.**

You are worthy of our thanks and praise,  
Lord God of truth,  
for by the breath of your mouth  
you have spoken your word,  
and all things have come into being.

You fashioned us in your image  
and placed us in the garden of your delight.  
Though we chose the path of rebellion  
you would not abandon your own.

Again and again you drew us into your covenant of grace,  
You gave your people the law and taught us by your prophets  
to look for your reign of justice, mercy and peace.

As we watch for the signs of your kingdom on earth,  
we echo the song of the angels in heaven,  
evermore praising you and singing:

**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.**

Lord God, you are the most holy one,  
Enthroned in splendour and light,  
Yet in the coming of your Son Jesus Christ  
You reveal the power of your love  
Made perfect in our human weakness.

Embracing our humanity,  
Jesus showed us the way to salvation;  
loving us to the end,  
he gave himself to death for us;  
dying for his own,  
he set us free from the bonds of sin  
that we might rise and reign with him in glory.

On the night he gave up himself for us all  
he 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.  
**Amen. Lord we believe.**

Therefore we proclaim the death that he suffered on the cross,  
we celebrate his resurrection, his bursting from the tomb,  
we rejoice that he reigns at your right hand on high  
and we long for his coming in glory.  
**Amen. Come , Lord Jesus.**

As we recall the one, perfect sacrifice of our redemption,  
Father, by your Holy Spirit let these gifts of your creation  
be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ;  
form us into the likeness of Christ  
and make us a perfect offering in your sight.  
**Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.**

Look with favour on your people  
and in your mercy hear the cry of our hearts.  
Bless the earth, heal the sick,  
let the oppresses go free  
and fill your Church with power from on high.  
**Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.**

Gather your people from the ends of the earth  
to feast with St Thomas à Becket, St Richard and all your saints  
at the table in your kingdom,  
where the new creation is brought to perfection  
in 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.

**Amen.**

## **The Lord's Prayer**

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

**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.**

*The priest breaks the consecrated bread.*

We break this bread  
to share in the body of Christ.  
**Though we are many, we are one body,  
Because we all share in the one bread.**

*(or)*

Every time we eat this bread and drink this cup  
**We proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.**

## **AGNUS DEI**

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

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

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

## **Giving of Communion**

**Most merciful Lord,  
your love compels us to come in.**

**Our hands were unclean, our hearts were unprepared;  
we were not fit even to eat the crumbs from under your  
table.**

**But you, Lord, are the God of our salvation,  
and share your bread with sinners.**

**So cleanse and feed us with the precious body and blood  
of your Son,**

**that we he may live in us and we in him;  
and that we, with the whole company of Christ,  
may sit and eat in your kingdom.**

**Amen.**

Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world,  
Blessed are those who are called to his supper.

**Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,  
But only say the word, and I shall be healed.**

*All are invited to receive Holy Communion or God's blessing. If the  
latter, please bow your head to indicate your intention to the priest.*

*Music is played and/or hymns sung during Communion.*

## **Prayer after Communion**

*We all say the Post Communion Prayer which can be found in Pews News*

*followed by*

**Faithful God,  
In baptism you have adopted us as your children,  
made us members of the body of Christ  
and chosen us as inheritors of your kingdom:  
we thank you that in this Eucharist  
you renew your promises within us,  
empower us by your Spirit to witness and to serve,  
and send us out as disciples of your Son,  
Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.**

## **THE DISMISSAL**

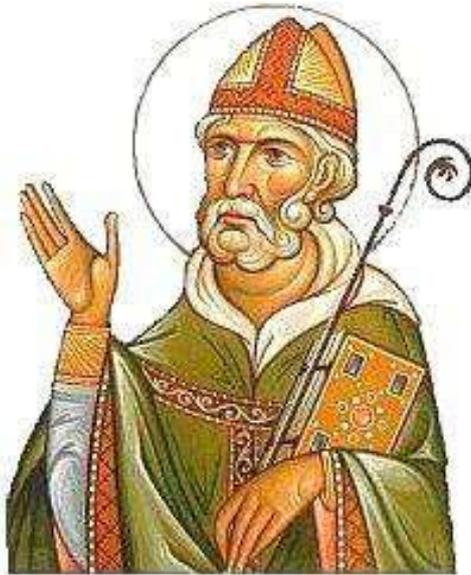
### **Notices**

### **Final 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  
**Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
**In the name of Christ.**  
**Amen.**



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