



# Ash Wednesday

## Reflective Online Service

***Gathering music - Antiphon Immutemur by Capella Gregoriana***

### ***Greeting***

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.**

Brothers and sisters in Christ, since the 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.  
Let us pray for grace to keep Lent faithfully.

***Silence is kept***



## ***The Collect***

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**

## ***Hymn – Lord Jesus, think on me - sung by St Martin's Voices***

- 1 Lord Jesus, think on me,  
and purge away my sin;  
from earthborn passions set me free,  
and make me pure within.
- 2 Lord Jesus, think on me,  
with care and woe opprest;  
let me thy loving servant be,  
and taste thy promised rest.
- 3 Lord Jesus, think on me,  
amid the battle's strife;  
in all my pain and misery  
be thou my health and life.
- 4 Lord Jesus, think on me,  
nor let me go astray;  
through darkness and perplexity  
point thou the heavenly way.
- 5 Lord Jesus, think on me,  
when flows the tempest high:  
when on doth rush the enemy  
O Saviour, be thou nigh.
- 6 Lord Jesus, think on me,  
that when the flood is past,  
I may the eternal brightness see,  
and share thy joy at last.

## ***Responsorial Psalm 51***

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love.  
According to your abundant mercy, blot out my transgressions.

All **Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity. Cleanse me from my sin.  
I know my transgressions. My sin is ever before me.**

Against you, you alone, have I sinned, and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are justified in your sentence and blameless when you pass judgment.

All **You desire truth in the inward being; therefore teach me wisdom  
in my secret heart.**

Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.

All **Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit  
within me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in  
me a willing spirit.**

Then I will teach transgressors your ways,  
and sinners will return to you.

All **The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit; a broken and  
contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.**

## ***Reflective music – ‘Sweet Hour of Prayer’ by Josh Snodgrass***

### ***Reading – John 8:1-11***

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.

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

Hear the Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to *John*.

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

While 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.**

### ***Reflection***

### ***Self-examination and Confession***

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.**

All **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.... ***pause for silent penance***  
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 frustration and our envy of those  
more fortunate than ourselves.

All **Lord have mercy.**

Our intemperate love of worldly goods  
and comforts and our dishonesty in daily life.

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... ***pause for silent penance***  
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 judgements, 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 neighbour 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.**

### ***Symbolic Imposition of Ashes***

*Please hold your ash marked stone from your Lent bag and run your finger on the cross. Alternatively, you can just make the sign of the cross on your forehead with your finger. You are also welcome just to keep a moment of quiet reflection at this point.*

I invite you to receive the ash cross as a sign of the spirit of penitence with which we shall keep the season of Lent.

God the Father, you create us from the dust of the earth:  
grant that these ashes drawn on our stones or the invisible sign of the cross on our foreheads, may be for us a sign of our penitence and a symbol of our mortality: for it is by your grave alone that we receive eternal life in Jesus Christ our Saviour.

All **Amen.**

***Silence is kept***

### ***Prayers of Intercession***

The response to *In your loving kindness, O God*  
is *Have mercy and hear our prayer.*

Merciful Lord, cleanse our hearts our hearts  
that we may offer praise, worthy of your name.

Give to the church true penitence and mourning for the sins that would  
drive a wedge between who we are and all you would have us become.  
In your loving kindness, O God

All **Have mercy and hear our prayer**

Gracious Lord, you call us to a justice  
that leaves no one excluded or oppressed.

Sound the trumpet of alarm to waken leaders  
and governments to the cries of the afflicted.

May your light break forth with joy and gladness for all people.

In your loving kindness, O God

All **Have mercy and hear our prayer**

God of compassion, travel with us through this season of fasting.

Refocus our vision on your eternal promises.

As we let go of our clinging to false treasures  
so may we find riches beyond measure.

In your loving kindness, O God

All **Have mercy and hear our prayer**

Lord, at your word we find release from all that would hold us captive.

Bring rejoicing to those in any kind of sorrow...

Praying especially for those affected by the pandemic- for all who are ill,  
grieving, isolated, economically disadvantaged, and those whose  
resilience is pushed to its limit.

Deliver us, O God of our salvation.

In your loving kindness, O God

All **Have mercy and hear our prayer**

Eternal Lord, from dust we came and to dust we shall return.

In sure and certain hope of your risen son,

hear us as we commend to you those who have died...

Bring us at the last to the glory of your eternal Kingdom.

In your loving kindness, O God

All **Have mercy and hear our 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.**

### ***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.**

### ***The Blessing***

Christ give you grace to grow in holiness,  
to deny yourself, 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 Dismissal***

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

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

### ***Final Hymn – God is forgiveness by The Taize Community***

**God is forgiveness  
dare to forgive  
And God will be with us  
God is forgiveness  
Love and do not fear.**

