

St George's Parish Church
Beckenham

Order of Service

Ash Wednesday

THE GATHERING

President: In the name of the Father,
and of the Son, and the Holy Spirit †

All: Amen.

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

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.

KYRIE CONFESSIONS

Kyrie eleison.	Lord, have mercy.
Christe eleison.	Christ, have mercy.
Kyrie eleison.	Lord, have mercy.

The Collect

The President prays the Collect and all respond, Amen.

Let us pray for grace to keep Lent faithfully.

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. **Amen.**

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

The Gospel Reading

The following acclamation heralds the 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.

cf Psalm 95.3, 8

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 *John*

Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel reading: John 8. 1-11

At the end:

This is the Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you, O Christ.

The Liturgy of Penitence

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

God the Father,

have mercy upon us.

God the Son,

have mercy upon us.

God the Holy Spirit,

have mercy upon us.

Holy, blessed and glorious Trinity,

have mercy upon us.

From all evil and mischief; from pride, vanity, and hypocrisy;

from envy, hatred, and malice; and from all evil intent,

good Lord, deliver us.

From sloth, worldliness and love of money;
from hardness of heart and contempt for your word and your laws,
good Lord, deliver us.

From sins of body and mind;
from the deceits of the world, the flesh and the devil,
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,
good Lord, deliver us.

By the mystery of your holy incarnation; by your birth, childhood and obedience;
by your baptism, fasting and temptation,
good Lord, deliver us.

By your ministry in word and work; by your mighty acts of power;
and by your preaching of the kingdom,
good Lord, deliver us.

By your agony and trial; by your cross and passion;
and by your precious death and burial,
good Lord, deliver us.

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

**Holy God,
holy and strong,
holy and immortal,
have mercy upon us.**

Silence is kept.

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

**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.**

The Imposition of Ashes

The ashes, made from the burning of last year's Palm Crosses, are blessed:

God our Father,
you create us from the dust of the earth:
grant that these ashes may be for us
a sign of penitence
and a symbol of our mortality;
for it is by your grace alone
that we receive eternal life
in Jesus Christ our Saviour. **Amen.**

The President receives the imposition of ashes saying:

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

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

Amen.

THE DISMISSAL

The Lord be with you,
and also with you.

Christ give you grace to grow in holiness,
to deny yourselves, take up your cross, and follow him;
and the blessing of God almighty,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit, †
be upon you and remain with you
this day and always.

Amen.

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

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