



St Mary's Parish Church, Ross-on-Wye

Sung Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes

for Ash Wednesday



Please return this booklet for future use.

The Gathering

Welcome & Notices

*Before the service begins the president offers words of welcome and gives any notices. More about what's going on in and around St Mary's will be found on our website, rossparishes.uk and Facebook page **St Mary's Church Ross-on-Wye**.*

The Lent Prose

The choir sings a verse of the 10th Century plainsong hymn at the west end of the nave. It begins and ends with the response:

Hear us, O Lord, have mercy upon us: for we have sinned against thee.

After that we all stand to sing the

Introit Hymn

Details of the hymn will be found in the service details sheet. Please note that we omit starred verses in hymns unless otherwise announced. During the hymn the clergy and choir enter.

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.

Prayer of Preparation

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.

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

The Collect

This is the special prayer for the day

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.

All Amen.

The Liturgy of the Word

First Reading

Please sit for the first reading which is taken from the Old or New Testament. The reading ends with the response:

This is the word of the Lord

All Thanks be to God

Gradual Psalm

Please remain seated as the choir sings Psalm 51 (verses 1-17) as an introduction to the Gospel. The words are from the Book of Common Prayer (1662) the music is by John Stainer (1840 – 1891). During this, the Gospel procession moves to the top of the nave symbolising the coming of God into our world.

Have mercy upon me, O God, after thy great goodness:
according to the multitude of thy mercies do away mine 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 thee only have I sinned, and done this evil in thy sight:
that thou mightest be justified in thy saying, and clear when thou art judged.
Behold, I was shapen in wickedness: and in sin hath my mother conceived me.
But lo, thou requirest truth in the inward parts:
and shalt make me to understand wisdom secretly.
Thou shalt purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean:
thou shalt wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.
Thou shalt make me hear of joy and gladness:
that the bones which thou hast broken may rejoice.
Turn thy face from my sins: and put out all my misdeeds.
Make me a clean heart, O God: and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from thy presence: and take not thy holy Spirit from me.
O give me the comfort of thy help again: and stablish me with thy free Spirit.
Then shall I teach thy ways unto the wicked:

and sinners shall be converted unto thee.

Deliver me from blood-guiltiness, O God, thou that art the God of my health:
and my tongue shall sing of thy righteousness.

Thou shalt open my lips, O Lord: and my mouth shall shew thy praise.

For thou desirest no sacrifice, else would I give it thee:

but thou delightest not in burnt-offerings.

The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit:

a broken and contrite heart, O God, shalt thou not despise.

The Gospel

*We stand to hear the Gospel – a reading from the life of Christ - which
more than anything inspires our living.*

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

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

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to N.

All Glory to you, O Lord.

At the end of the reading

This is the Gospel of the Lord

All Praise to you, O Christ

*After the response the Gospel procession returns, as the organ plays,
and we sit for:*

The Sermon

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.

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 ...

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 own 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 and work.

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 ...
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.

We have not loved you with our whole heart.
All We have not loved our neighbours 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.

The Imposition of Ashes

Dear friends in Christ, I invite you to place ash on your forehead in the shape of a cross as a sign of the spirit of penitence with which we shall keep this season of Lent.

*You are invited to come forward, if you wish,
for the imposition of ashes.*

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

When complete the president uses the prayer:

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 Liturgy of the Sacrament

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.

Romans 5.1,2

The peace of the Lord be always with you:

All and also with you.

We exchange a sign of peace. If you are joining us online, you might like to use the chat to do this.

The Offertory Hymn

We stand to join in with the Offertory Hymn, details of which will be found on the sheet. During this hymn a collection is taken. We welcome your offering. If you prefer to give digitally please scan the QR code, visit rossparishes.uk/giving or use the contactless card reader by the north door. If you are a regular member of our community, we encourage you to consider the Parish Giving Scheme. Full details at rossparishes.uk/giving



The Eucharistic Prayer

This long prayer, containing many elements, is the very heart of our Eucharist. In it we all pray that the Real Presence of Christ may be present in form of bread and wine, and that by partaking in this remembrance of Christ we may be spiritually united with God.

We stand for the Eucharist Prayer

The Lord is here.

All His Spirit is with us.

Lift up your hearts.

All We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All It is right to give thanks and praise.

It is indeed right and good
to give you thanks and praise,
almighty God and everlasting Father,
through Jesus Christ your Son.

For in these forty days
you lead us into the desert of repentance
that through a pilgrimage of prayer and discipline
we may grow in grace and learn to be your people once again.

Through fasting, prayer and acts of service
you bring us back to your generous heart.
Through study of your holy word
you open our eyes to your presence in the world
and free our hands to welcome others
into the radiant splendour of your love.

As we prepare to celebrate the Easter feast
with joyful hearts and minds
we bless you for your mercy
and join with saints and angels
for ever praising you and singing:

**All 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 of 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.

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.
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.

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

Gather your people from the ends of the earth
to feast with St Mary, St Michael 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.

All Amen

The Lord's Prayer

We sit to pray the prayer taught by Jesus.

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.

Breaking of the Bread

The president breaks the consecrated bread.

Every time we eat this bread
and drink this cup,

All we proclaim the Lord's death
until he comes.

Spiritual Communion

This prayer offers those who are taking part in our service online the opportunity to make a spiritual communion so that in communion we are united, as one Christian family with our Lord.

All Come into my heart, Lord Jesus.

May all that is you flow into me.

May your body and blood be my food and drink.

May your passion and death be my strength and life.

Jesus, with you by my side enough has been given.

May the shelter I seek be the shadow of your cross.

Let me not run from the love which you offer
but hold me safe from the forces of evil.

On each of my dyings shed your light and your love.

Keep calling to me until that day comes

when with your saints, I may praise you for ever.

Amen.

Agnus Dei

We remain seated to sing the Agnus Dei

All 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.

Giving of Communion

The president gives words of invitation to communion

Draw near with faith.

Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ which he gave for you,
and his blood which he shed for you.

Eat and drink in remembrance that he died for you,
and feed on him in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

Everyone is invited to take communion at St Mary's. If you'd like to know more about being confirmed please talk to one of the welcomers or a member of the ministry team after the service.

During the communion, music appropriate to the theme of the service is sung by the choir or played by the organist. Please see the service details sheet for details.

Prayer after Communion

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.

**God of our pilgrimage,
you have fed us with the bread of heaven.
Refresh and sustain us
as we go forward on our journey,
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

Post Communion Hymn

We stand to sing the hymn when it is announced.

The Dismissal Gospel and Blessing

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.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All In the name of Christ. Amen.

Thank you for being with us today. May the faith, the hope and the love of Christ inspire and guide your Lenten journey.

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