



The Parish of Ewhurst  
with Okewood & Forest Green

# Ash Wednesday

*The congregation's responses are in bold*

## Greeting

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

**Amen**

**who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.**

## First reading

*Isaiah 58: 1-12*

## Second reading

*2 Cor 5: 20b-6: 10*

## Hymn

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

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

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.

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

Let us pray for grace to keep Lent faithfully.

*Silence is kept.*

## Hymn

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.**

## Gospel Reading

*John 8: 1-11*

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

*The Gospel is read*

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

## The Collect for Ash Wednesday

**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,**

## Some thoughts

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.**

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.*

People of God, I invite you to receive these ashes  
as a sign of the spirit of penitence with which  
we shall keep this season of Lent.  
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.  
**Amen.**

## **The Imposition of Ashes**

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

The Lord enrich you with his grace,  
and nourish you with his blessing;  
the Lord defend you in trouble  
and keep you from all evil;  
the Lord accept your prayers,  
and absolve you from your offences,  
for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Saviour.  
**Amen.**

## **Hymn**

**Merciful Father,  
turn us from sin to faithfulness  
And from disobedience to love and prepare  
us to celebrate  
The death and resurrection of Christ  
our Saviour  
Who is alive and reigns, now and for ever.  
Amen.**

## ***The Eucharistic Prayer***

The Lord is here.  
**His Spirit is with us.**  
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.**

*Here follows a Proper Preface*

Therefore with angels and archangels,  
and with all the company of heaven,  
we proclaim your great and glorious name,  
for ever praising you and saying:

**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, you are holy indeed,  
the source of all holiness;  
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit,  
and according to your holy will, these gifts of  
bread and wine may be to us the body and blood  
of our Lord Jesus Christ;  
who, in the same night that he was betrayed, 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.

Great is the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died:**

**Christ is risen:**

**Christ will come again.**

And so, Father, calling to mind his death  
on the cross,  
his perfect sacrifice made once for the sins of the  
whole world;  
rejoicing in his mighty resurrection and glorious  
ascension,  
and looking for his coming in glory,  
we celebrate this memorial of our redemption.  
As we offer you this our sacrifice of praise and  
thanksgiving,  
we bring before you this bread and this cup  
and we thank you for counting us worthy to stand  
in your presence and serve you.  
Send the Holy Spirit on your people  
and gather into one in your kingdom  
all who share this one bread and one cup,  
so that we, in the company of all the saints,  
may praise and glorify you for ever,  
through 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***

Lord Jesus, remember us in your kingdom  
and teach us to pray.

**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***

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

**Though we are many, we are one body,  
because we all share in one bread.**

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

## **Agnus Dei**

**Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us.**

**Jesus, bearer of our sins, have mercy on us.**

**Jesus, redeemer of the world, grant us peace.**

## **Prayer of humble access**

**We do not presume to come to this your  
table, merciful Lord, trusting in our own  
righteousness,**

**but in your manifold and great mercies.**

**We are not worthy so much as to gather up  
the crumbs under your table.**

**But you are the same Lord whose nature is  
always to have mercy.**

**Grant us therefore, gracious Lord,**

**so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus**

**Christ and to drink his blood,**

**that our sinful bodies may be made clean  
by his body and our souls washed through**

**his most precious blood, and that we may  
evermore dwell in him, and he in us.**

**Amen.**

## **Giving of 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.

## **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.

**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.**

## **Hymn**

This is love, not that we loved God,  
**but that he loved us and sent his Son.**  
He is the sacrifice for our sins,  
**that we might live through him.**  
If God loves us so much,  
**we ought to love one another.**  
If we love one another,  
**God lives in us.**

## **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 and all  
whom you love this day and always.  
**Amen.**

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