

Ash Wednesday

An Evening Order of Service for
Holy Communion



The Parish of St Bartholomew
and St Christopher
Haslemere

The Gathering

Please stand

We begin our preparation for Lent together before God to reflect on our lives, to ask, receive and celebrate God's forgiveness and to pray.

Voluntary

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

All Amen.

The Welcome

The Lord be with you,

All 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.

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

The Collect

The president introduces a period of silent prayer with the words:

Let us pray for grace to keep Lent faithfully.

Silence is kept.

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

All Amen.

The Word of God

At the end of the lesson the reader says:

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Hymn: Forty Days and Forty Nights

Forty days and forty nights
thou wast fasting in the wild;
forty days and forty nights
tempted, and yet undefiled.

Sunbeams scorching all the day;
chilly dew-drops nightly shed;
prowling beasts about thy way;
stones thy pillow, earth thy bed.

Let us thine endurance share,
and awhile from joys abstain,
with thee watching unto prayer,
strong with thee to suffer pain?

And if Satan, vexing sore,
flesh or spirit should assail,
thou, his vanquisher before
grant we may not faint nor fail.

So shall we have peace divine;
holier gladness ours shall be;
round us too shall angels shine,
such as ministered to thee.

Keep, O keep us, Saviour dear,
ever constant by thy side;
that with thee we may appear
at the eternal Eastertide.

The Gospel Reading

Alleluia, alleluia.

Christ was revealed in flesh, proclaimed among the nations
and believed in throughout the world.

All Alleluia.

1 Timothy 3:16

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

All Glory to you, O Lord.

At the end

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All Praise to you, O Christ.

The Sermon

In Penitence

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
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.

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.

Almighty God

**We have not loved you
with our whole heart.**

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

The president invites the congregation to receive in ash the sign of the cross. At the imposition, the minister says

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

Sharing God's Peace

Please Stand

Since we are justified by faith,
we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,
who has given us access to his grace.
We meet in the name of Christ and share his peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you

All and also with you.

Hymn: Jesu Lover of My Soul

Jesu, lover of my soul,
let me to thy bosom fly,
while the gath'ring waters roll,
while the tempest still is high:
Hide me, O my Saviour, hide,
till the storm of life is past;
safe into the haven guide,
O receive my soul at last.

Other refuge have I none,
hangs my helpless soul on thee;
leave, ah, leave me not alone,
still support and comfort me.
All my trust on thee is stayed,
all my help from thee I bring;
cover my defenceless head
with the shadow of thy wing.

Plenteous grace with thee is found,
grace to cover all my sin;
let the healing streams abound,
make and keep me pure within.
Thou of life the fountain art,
freely let me take of thee,
spring thou up within my heart,
rise to all eternity.

The Holy Communion

We remember Christ's offering of himself for us, blessing the bread and wine to be for us his body and blood.

Stand

The Lord be with you

All and also with you.

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 saying:

**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.

All Amen. Lord, we believe.

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.

All Amen. Lord, we believe.

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.

All Amen. Lord, we believe.

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.

All 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.

All 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.

All 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 oppressed go free
and fill your Church with power from on high.

All Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

Gather your people from the ends of the earth
to feast with 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

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

**All 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 Breaking of the Bread

The president breaks the consecrated bread:

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

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

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.

The Giving of Communion

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

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

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.

The Prayer after Communion

The Post Communion prayer is said by the President.

All 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.

The Dismissal

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.

All Amen.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All In the name of Christ.

Voluntary

Amen