



## All Saints Church, Hertford

# Choral Communion for Ash Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> February 2021

*Welcome and Greeting* Rev Jo Loveridge

The sacrifice of God is a broken spirit;  
A broken and contrite heart you will not despise.  
Grace, mercy, and peace from God our Father  
and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

*Kyrie: Missa Brevis – Dove*  
**Choir of the Toronto Oratory**

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

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ: since early days Christians have observed with great devotion the time of our Lord's passion and resurrection. It became the custom of the Church to prepare for this by a season of penitence and fasting.

In the season of Lent the Church recognizes that, by a careful keeping of these days, all Christians might 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.

*Trisagion*

**Holy God  
Holy and Strong  
Holy and Immortal  
Have mercy upon us**

*The Collect for Ash Wednesday*

Almighty and everlasting God, you hate nothing that you have made and forgive the sins of all those that 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 our Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

**Amen**

*We sit for the* **Reading 2 Corinthians 5.20b-6.10** Nick Hassell

So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. For he says,

'At an acceptable time I have listened to you,  
and on a day of salvation I have helped you.'

See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation! We are putting no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, riots, labours, sleepless nights, hunger; by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; in honour and dishonour, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see—we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

***At the end the reader will say***

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

***Gospel Reading Matthew 6.1-6, 16-21*** Kay Povey-Richards

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

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

'Beware of practising your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven.

'So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

'And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

'And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

'Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*We sit for the **Reflection** Rev Canon Jo Loveridge*

## *The Liturgy of Penitence*

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

### *The Ash Wednesday Litany* Andrew Povey-Richards

Let us hear our Lord's blessing on those who follow him, and let us confess our many failures to keep his way of truth and life.

Our Lord Jesus Christ said,

'Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.'

We have been proud and overbearing.

We have asserted our own importance and been jealous of others.

We have despised the weak and slandered those we envy and dislike.

Lord have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy.**

Our Lord Jesus Christ said,

'Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth'.

We have been angry in our hearts and in our words.

We have returned evil for evil.

We have done violence ourselves  
and condoned the violence of others.

Lord have mercy.

**Christ have mercy.**

Our Lord Jesus Christ said, 'Blessed are those who weep, for they shall be consoled.'

We have not borne our own sorrow and suffering with the patience which comes from faith.

We have failed to show compassion and care for others who suffer.

Lord have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy.**

Our Lord Jesus Christ said, 'Blessed are those who hunger and thirst after justice, for they shall be satisfied.'

We have cared little for the injustice, inequality and poverty around us.

We have hungered and thirsted for our own comfort and safety,  
and turned away from the injustice done to others.

Lord, have mercy.

**Christ have mercy.**

Our Lord Jesus Christ said, 'Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.'

We have looked on our neighbour's faults and weaknesses with a hard and intolerant eye.

We have failed to show understanding and sympathy,  
but judged harshly and too soon.

Lord have mercy.

**Christ have mercy.**

Our Lord Jesus Christ said, 'Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.'

We have been suspicious, distrustful,  
and insincere in the thoughts of our hearts.

We have spoiled the joy and beauty of our senses  
and our love through lust and self-indulgence.

Lord have mercy.

**Christ have mercy.**

Our Lord Jesus Christ said, 'Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the children of God.'

We have broken the loving peace of friends and families with quarrelling and selfishness.

We have disturbed the peace of our land with violence and civil strife. We have filled the world with wars and the fear of war.

Lord, have mercy.

**Christ have mercy.**

Our Lord Jesus Christ said, 'Blessed are those who suffer persecution for the sake of justice, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven'. We have neglected in our prayers and in our charity those who are persecuted for their faith, their beliefs, or their race. We have encouraged or left unrebuked those who, in word or deed, deny the equality of the children of God.

Lord, have mercy.

**Christ have mercy**

### *Imposition of Ashes*

*The minister invites people to lay a hand on the ashes they have at home as the following prayer is prayed*

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.

As a sign of the spirit of penitence with which we shall keep this season of preparation for Easter, I invite you to receive on your head in ash the sign of the cross, the symbol of our salvation.

*Each of us now make a sign of the cross on our forehead with ash and say aloud,*

**Lord I am but dust and I shall return to dust.**

**Enable me to turn away from Sin and return to Christ**

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in life eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### **Sharing Communion**

*We stand for **The Peace***

Since we are justified by faith

We have peace with God

Through our Lord Jesus Christ.

The peace of the Lord be always with you

**and also with you.**

***We wave to one another***

### *Offertory Hymn*

95 Forty days and forty nights

Bradford Cathedral

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

- 2 Let us thine endurance share,  
and awhile from joys abstain,  
with thee watching unto prayer,  
strong with thee to suffer pain?
- 3 And if Satan, vexing sore,  
flesh or spirit should assail,  
thou, his vanquisher before  
grant we may not faint nor fail.
- 4 Keep, O keep us, Saviour dear,  
ever constant by thy side;  
that with thee we may appear  
at the eternal Eastertide.

### *The Eucharistic Prayer (Prayer G)*

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.**

Blessed are you, Lord God, our light and our salvation; to you be glory and praise for ever. From the beginning you have created all things and all our works echo the silent music of your praise. In the fullness of time you made us in your image, the crown of all creation. You give us breath and speech, that with angels and archangels and all the powers of heaven we may find a voice to sing your praise:

### *Sanctus & Benedictus: Missa Brevis – Dove*

**RSCM Choir Grace Church Madison**

Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus,  
Dominus Deus Sabaoth.  
Pleni sunt coeli et terra gloria tua.  
Osanna in excelsis.

*Holy, holy, holy  
Lord, God of power and might,  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.*

Benedictus qui venit  
in nomine Domini.  
Osanna in excelsis

*Blessed is he who comes  
in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.*

How wonderful the work of your hands, O Lord. As a mother tenderly gathers her children, you embraced a people as your own. When they turned away and rebelled your love remained steadfast.

From them you raised up Jesus our Saviour, born of Mary, to be the living bread, in whom all our hungers are satisfied. He offered his life for sinners, and with a love stronger than death he opened wide his arms on the cross.

On the night before he died, he came to supper with his friends and, taking bread, he gave you thanks. He broke it and gave it to them, saying:

Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me.

At the end of supper, taking the cup of wine, he gave you thanks, and said:

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.**

Father, we plead with confidence his sacrifice made once for all upon the cross; we remember his dying and rising in glory, and we rejoice that he intercedes for us at your right hand.

Pour out your Holy Spirit as we bring before you these gifts of your creation; may they be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

As we eat and drink these holy things in your presence, form us in the likeness of Christ, and build us into a living temple to your glory.

Bring us at the last with all the saints to the vision of that eternal splendour for which you have created us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, by whom, with whom, and in whom, with all who stand before you in earth and heaven, we worship you, Father almighty, in songs of everlasting praise:

**Blessing and honour and glory and power be yours for ever and ever. Amen.**

*There may be a short period of silence*

### *The Lord's Prayer*

As our Saviour taught us, so we 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.**

### *Agnus Dei Missa Brevis – Dove*

**Choir of Chester Cathedral**

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi,  
miserere nobis.

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi,  
miserere nobis.

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi,  
dona nobis pacem

*Lamb of God, who take away the sins of the world,  
have mercy on us.*

*Lamb of God, who take away the sins of the world,  
have mercy on us.*

*Lamb of God, who take away the sins of the world,  
grant us peace.*

## *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.

## **Anthem** In ieunio et fletu – *Tallis* *Choir of All Saints (recorded remotely)*

In jejuniis et fletu orabant sacerdotes:

Parce, Domine, parce populo tuo, et ne des hereditatem tuam in perditionem.

Inter vestibulum et altare plorabant sacerdotes, dicentes: Parce populo tuo.

*In fasting and weeping the priests prayed:*

*Spare, O Lord, spare thy people, and give not thine inheritance to perdition.*

*Between the porch and the altar the priests wept, saying: Spare thy people.*

## *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**

**Almighty God, we thank you for feeding us with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ. Through him we offer you our souls and bodies to be a living sacrifice. Send us out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory. Amen.**

## *Final Hymn 582* Take up thy cross Choir of St Michael & All Angels, Bassett

- 1 Take up thy cross, the Saviour said,  
if thou wouldst my disciple be;  
deny thyself, the world forsake,  
and humbly follow after me.
- 2 Take up thy cross-let not its weight  
fill thy weak spirit with alarm:  
his strength shall bear thy spirit up,  
and brace thy heart, and nerve thine arm.
- 3 Take up thy cross, nor heed the shame,  
nor let thy foolish pride rebel:  
thy Lord for thee the Cross endured,  
to save thy soul from death and hell.
- 4 Take up thy cross then in his strength,  
and calmly every danger brave;  
'twill guide thee to a better home,  
and lead to victory o'er the grave.
- 5 Take up thy cross, and follow Christ,  
nor think till death to lay it down;  
for only they who bear the cross  
may hope to wear the glorious crown.

- 6 To thee, great Lord, the One in Three,  
all praise for evermore ascend:  
O grant us in our home to see  
the heavenly life that knows no end.

### *Blessing*

Christ give you grace  
To grow in holiness  
Deny yourselves

And take up your cross

and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you  
and remain with you always.

**Amen**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

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

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