

ST HILDA'S ASHFORD



MORNING SERVICE

THE LITURGY OF ASH WEDNESDAY

11AM 05 MARCH 2025

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A Commination

BRETHREN, in the primitive Church there was a godly discipline, that, at the beginning of Lent, such persons as stood convicted of notorious sin were put to open penance, and punished in this world, that their souls might be saved in the day of the Lord; and that others, admonished by their example, might be the more afraid to offend.

Instead whereof, until the said discipline may be restored again, (which is much to be wished,) it is thought good that at this time (in the presence of you all) should be read the general sentences of God's cursing against impenitent sinners, gathered out of the seven and twentieth chapter of Deuteronomy, and other places of Scripture; and that ye should answer to every sentence, Amen: To the intent that, being admonished of the great indignation of God against sinners, ye may the rather be moved to earnest and true repentance; and may walk more warily in these dangerous days; fleeing from such vices, for which ye affirm with your own mouths the curse of God to be due.

Cursed is the man that maketh any carved or molten image, to worship it.

All Amen.

Cursed is he that curseth his father or mother.

All Amen.

Cursed is he that removeth his neighbour's land-mark.

All Amen.

Cursed is he that maketh the blind to go out of his way.

All Amen.

Cursed is he that perverteth the judgement of the stranger, the fatherless, and widow.

All Amen.

Cursed is he that smiteth his neighbour secretly.

All Amen.

Cursed is he that lieth with his neighbour's wife.

All Amen.

Cursed is he that taketh reward to slay the innocent.

All Amen.

Cursed is he that putteth his trust in man, and taketh man for his defence, and in his heart goeth from the Lord.

All Amen.

Cursed are the unmerciful, fornicators, and adulterers, covetous persons, idolaters, slanderers, drunkards, and extortioners.

All Amen.

Miserere mei, Deus. Psalm 51

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 away 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-offering.
The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit :
a broken and contrite heart, O God, shalt thou not despise.
O be favourable and gracious unto Sion :
build thou the walls of Jerusalem.
Then shalt thou be pleased with the sacrifice of righteousness,
with the burnt-offerings and oblations :
then shall they offer young bullocks upon thine altar.
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son :
and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be :
world without end. Amen.

All Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.

**Our Father which art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy Name,
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done, in earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
And forgive us our trespasses,
As we forgive them that trespass against us;
And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil.
Amen.**

O Lord, save thy servants;

All That put their trust in thee.

Send unto them help from above.

All And evermore mightily defend them.

Help us, O God our Saviour.

**All And for the glory of thy Name deliver us;
be merciful unto us sinners, for thy Name's sake.**

O Lord, hear our prayer.

All And let our cry come unto thee.

Let us pray.

O Lord, we beseech thee, mercifully hear our prayers,
and spare all those who confess their sins unto thee;
that they, whose consciences by sin are accused,
by thy merciful pardon may be absolved;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

O most mighty God, and merciful Father,
who hast compassion upon all men, and hatest nothing
that thou hast made;
who wouldest not the death of a sinner,

but that he should rather turn from his sin, and be saved:
Mercifully forgive us our trespasses;
receive and comfort us, who are grieved and wearied with
the burden of our sins.
Thy property is always to have mercy;
to thee only it appertaineth to forgive sins.
Spare us therefore, good Lord, spare thy people,
whom thou hast redeemed;
enter not into judgement with thy servants,
who are vile earth, and miserable sinners;
but so turn thine anger from us, who meekly acknowledge
our vileness, and truly repent us of our faults,
and so make haste to help us in this world,
that we may ever live with thee in the world to come;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**All Turn thou us, O good Lord, and so shall we be turned.
Be favourable, O Lord, be favourable to thy people,
who turn to thee in weeping, fasting, and praying.
For thou art a merciful God,
full of compassion, long-suffering, and of great pity.
Thou sparest when we deserve punishment,
and in thy wrath thinkest upon mercy.
Spare thy people, good Lord, spare them,
and let not thine heritage be brought to confusion.
Hear us, O Lord, for thy mercy is great,
and after the multitude of thy mercies look upon us;
through the merits and mediation of thy blessed Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

The Collect - *The Collect is said after a moment of silence*

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. **Amen**

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

New Testament Reading – 2 Corinthians 5 v 20b - 6 v 10

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 may say

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading – John 8 vv 1 - 11

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

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

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

All Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. Early in the morning he came again to the temple. All the people came to him and he sat down and began to teach them. The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery; and making her stand before all of them, they said to him, 'Teacher, this woman was caught in the very act of committing adultery. Now in the law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?' They said this

to test him, so that they might have some charge to bring against him. Jesus bent down and wrote with his finger on the ground. When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, 'Let anyone among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her.' And once again he bent down and wrote on the ground. When they heard it, they went away, one by one, beginning with the elders; and Jesus was left alone with the woman standing before him. Jesus straightened up and said to her, 'Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?' She said, 'No one, sir.' And Jesus said, 'Neither do I condemn you. Go your way, and from now on do not sin again.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All Praise to you, O Christ.

Homily

The Imposition of Ashes

Dear friends in Christ,
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.

All Amen.

At the imposition the minister says to each person:

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

At the end:

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 – *We 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.

The peace of the Lord be always with you
All and also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

All may exchange a sign of peace.

The table is prepared, and bread and wine are placed upon it.

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.

All Amen.

Eucharistic Prayer

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.

Father, we give you thanks and praise
through your beloved Son Jesus Christ, your living Word,
through whom you have created all things;
who was sent by you in your great goodness to be our
Saviour.

By the power of the Holy Spirit he took flesh;
as your Son, born of the blessed Virgin,
he lived on earth and went about among us;
he opened wide his arms for us on the cross;
he put an end to death by dying for us;
and revealed the resurrection by rising to new life;
so he fulfilled your will and won for you a holy people.

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, 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:

**All 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 Hilda and 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.

**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.**

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..**

Agnus Dei

**All 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.**

Giving of Communion

The president says the 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.

**All 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.**

The president and people receive communion.

Prayers 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.

**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

Responsory

This is love, not that we loved God,
All but that he loved us and sent his Son.

He is the sacrifice for our sins,
All that we might live through him.

If God loves us so much
All we ought to love one another.

If we love one another
All God lives in us.

The Dismissal Gospel - Luke 15 vv 4-7

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

All **Glory to you, O Lord.**

‘Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbours, saying to them, “Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.” Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous people who need no repentance.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All **Praise to you, O Christ.**

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 the peace of Christ.

All **Thanks be to God.**

The minister and people depart.

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