

**Hope-Emmanuel-St John the Baptist Churches  
Ash Wednesday Service Online 2021**

**A Service of Holy and Spiritual Communion with  
Imposition of Ashes (Congregational Copy)**

*1 The Introduction*

The sacrifice of God is a broken spirit: a broken and contrite heart you will not despise.

*Ps 51:17*

From God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ,  
who calls us to conversion of heart:  
grace and peace be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

Brothers and sisters in Christ...

I invite you, therefore, to the observance of a holy Lent through penitence and prayer, sacrifice and self-denial, fasting and charity, and by reading and meditating on God's holy word that we may come to celebrate with joy the paschal mysteries through which we are saved.

*2 The Collect and Readings*

*The Ash Wednesday Collect is said*

**John 8:1-11**

Listen to the gospel according to John.

**Glory to You O Lord.**

Jesus went to the Mount of Olives.

<sup>2</sup> At dawn he appeared again in the temple courts, where all the people gathered round him, and he sat down to teach them. <sup>3</sup> The teachers of the law and the Pharisees brought in a woman caught in adultery. They made her stand before the group <sup>4</sup> and said to Jesus, 'Teacher, this woman was caught in the act of adultery. <sup>5</sup> In the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women.

Now what do you say?' <sup>6</sup> They were using this question as a trap, in order to have a basis for accusing him.

But Jesus bent down and started to write on the ground with his finger. <sup>7</sup> When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, 'Let any one of you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her.' <sup>8</sup> Again he stooped down and wrote on the ground.

<sup>9</sup> At this, those who heard began to go away one at a time, the older ones first, until only Jesus was left, with the woman still standing there. <sup>10</sup> Jesus straightened up and asked her, 'Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?'

<sup>11</sup> 'No one, sir,' she said.

'Then neither do I condemn you,' Jesus declared. 'Go now and leave your life of sin.'

This is the gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to You O Christ.**

### *3 The Self-Examination and Confession*

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

God the Father,

**have mercy on us.**

God the Son,

**have mercy on us.**

God the Holy Spirit,

**have mercy on us.**

Holy, blessed, and glorious Trinity,

**have mercy on us.**

From all evil and harmful actions;  
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.**

From famine and disaster;  
from violence and murder,  
and from dying unprepared,  
**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 the coming 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.*

Make our hearts clean, O God;  
**and renew a right spirit within us.**

**Heavenly Father,  
we have sinned in thought, word and deed,  
and have failed to do what we ought to have done.  
We are sorry and truly repent.  
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ who died for us,  
forgive us all that is past and lead us in his way  
to walk as children of light. Amen.**

#### *4 The Imposition of Ashes*

As a sign of the spirit of penitence  
with which we shall keep this season of preparation for Easter,  
Gareth and I now mark on our heads in ash the sign of the cross,  
the symbol of our salvation.

*The Imposition of Ashes by signing of the cross*

*The congregation at home are invited to sign their own foreheads with the sign  
of the cross, and we then pray together:*

**God our Father,  
The strength of all who put their trust in you,  
We remember that we are but dust,  
and to dust we shall return.  
We choose now to turn away from sin and be faithful to Christ.**

**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. Amen.**

*The Diocesan Lent Prayer 2021*

**Sovereign Lord,  
all our beginnings and endings are encompassed by you.  
Help us follow in the footsteps of Christ  
and seek your Kingdom with all our hearts.  
In Jesus, may we find firm footing for our feet  
and clear direction to our travels.  
With his life and love breathed into our witness,  
may we stand with him,  
who, for the joy that was set before him,  
endured the cross. Amen.**

*5 Holy and Spiritual Communion*

We celebrate together the gifts and grace of God.  
**We take this bread,  
we take this wine  
to follow Christ's example and obey his command.**

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 our thanks and praise.**

It is always right...  
Together we remember that Jesus is always with us and say:

**Christ has died.  
Christ is risen.  
Christ will come in glory.**

Father, as we remember...  
All honour and glory belong to you, Father, through Jesus, your Son,  
with the Holy Spirit: one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

*Silence*

As our Saviour taught us, we boldly pray:  
**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.**

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.  
**Though we are many, we are one body  
for we all share in one bread.**

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

*Adam and Gareth receive the bread and wine*

*A prayer of spiritual communion for all to pray during the Pandemic, when  
joining in this service from our homes*

**All: O Blessed Lord,  
in union with the faithful throughout the world,  
at every altar of your Church  
where the Eucharist is being celebrated,  
I desire to offer you praise and thanksgiving.  
I present to you my soul and body**

with the earnest wish that may always be united to you.  
Since I cannot now receive you in the Sacrament,  
I invite you to come spiritually into my heart.  
I unite myself to you, and embrace you with heart and mind and soul.  
Let nothing ever separate you from me,  
so that I may live and die in your love. Amen.

*The ancient prayer, the 'Anima Christi'*

**All: Soul of Christ, sanctify me.  
Body of Christ, save me.  
Blood of Christ, refresh me.  
Water from the side of Christ, wash me.  
Passion of Christ, strengthen me.  
O good Lord Jesus, hear me.  
Within your wounds, hide me.  
Do not permit me to be separated from you,  
and from the malicious enemy defend me.  
In the hour of my death call me,  
and bid me to come to you that with all the saints,  
I may praise you for ever and ever. Amen**

*After Communion:*

Give thanks to the Lord for he is gracious:  
**his love is everlasting.**

**Eternal God,  
comfort of the afflicted and healer of the broken,  
you have fed us at the table of life and hope:  
teach us the ways of gentleness and peace,  
that all the world may acknowledge  
the kingdom of your Son,  
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**

*A Lenten Blessing*

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