



**ST LAURENCE CHURCH
ASH WEDNESDAY**

HOLY COMMUNION WITH THE
IMPOSITION OF ASHES

14 FEBRUARY 2024
10 AM SERVICE AT BOWLES
LODGE
7.30PM SERVICE AT ST LAU-
RENCE



THE ZOOM DETAILS ARE:

Meeting ID: 457 244 0784
Passcode: 5i1UCa

THE GATHERING.

Introit Hymn:

Forty days and forty nights
thou wast fasting in the wild;
forty days and forty nights
tempted and yet unbeguiled:

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

Let us thy endurance share
and from earthly greed abstain
with thee watching unto prayer,

with thee strong to suffer pain.

Then if evil on us press,
flesh or spirit to assail,
victor in the wilderness,
help us not to swerve or fail!
So shall peace divine be ours;
holier gladness ours shall be,
come to us angelic powers,
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 GREETING.

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

Amen.

The Lord be with you
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 res-
urrection. It became the custom of
the Church to prepare for this by a
season of penitence and fasting.
At first this season of Lent was ob-
served by those who were prepar-
ing for Baptism at Easter and by
those who were to be restored to
the Church's fellowship from which
they had been separated through
sin. In course of time the Church

came to recognize 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.

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

Collect of the Day.

Let us pray:

(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.
Amen.

We sit for:

The Liturgy of the Word.

Reading: Joel 2:12-18

Even now, says the LORD, return to me with your whole heart, with fasting, and weeping, and mourning; Rend your hearts, not your garments, and return to the LORD, your God. For gracious and merciful is he, slow to anger, rich in kindness and relenting in punishment.

Perhaps he will again relent and leave behind him a blessing, Offerings and libations for the LORD, your God.

Blow the trumpet in Zion!
proclaim a fast, call an assembly;
Gather the people, notify the congregation;
Assemble the elders, gather the children and the infants at the breast;
Let the bridegroom quit his room and the bride her chamber.
Between the porch and the altar let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep, And say, "Spare, O LORD, your people, and make not your heritage a reproach, with the nations ruling over them! Why should they say among the peoples, 'Where is their God?'"

Then the LORD was stirred to concern for his land and took pity on his people.

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

R. Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.

Have mercy on me, O God, in your goodness; in the greatness of your compassion wipe out my offence.

Thoroughly wash me from my guilt and of my sin cleanse me.

R. Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.

For I acknowledge my offence, and my sin is before me always: "Against you only have I sinned, and done what is evil in your sight."

R. Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.

A clean heart create for me, O God, and a steadfast spirit renew within me. Cast me not out from your presence, and your Holy Spirit take not from me.

R. Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.

Give me back the joy of your salvation, and a willing spirit sustain in me. O Lord, open my lips and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.

R. Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.

The Gospel Reading.

The Lord be with you
And also with you.

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

John 8:1-8

But Jesus went to the Mount of Olives.

At dawn he appeared again in the temple courts, where all the people gathered around him, and he sat down to teach them. The teachers of the law and the Pharisees brought in a woman caught in adultery. They made her stand before the group and said to Jesus, "Teacher, this woman was caught in the act of adultery. In the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?" 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. 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." Again he stooped down and wrote on the ground.

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. 1 Jesus straightened up and asked her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?"

"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.

Please sit

REFLECTION

IMPOSITION OF ASHES:

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.

God our Father, you create us from the dust of the earth: grant that these ashes may be for us a sign of 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 people receive the imposition of ashes at the high altar the minister saying to each person:

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

Each person responds by saying
Amen.

During the imposition silence may be kept, music may be played.

Prayer at the end of the Imposition of Ashes:

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. **Amen.**

LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT.

We stand to share:

The Peace.

The Priest introduces the peace:

Being 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.

Let us offer one another a sign of
peace,

*All may exchange a sign of
peace.*

OFFERTORY HYMN:

Jesu, lover of my soul,
let me to thy bosom fly,
while the nearer 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
and 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 you is stayed,
all my help from you I bring:
cover my defenceless head
with the shadow of thy wing.

Thou, O Christ, art all I want,
more than all in thee I find.
Raise the fallen, cheer the faint,
heal the sick and lead the blind.
Just and holy is thy name,
I am all unrighteousness;
false and full of sin I am,
thou are full of truth and grace.

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 bread and wine are placed on
the altar.*

Blessed are you, Lord, God of all
creation.
Through your goodness we have
this bread to offer which earth has
given and human hands have
made. It will become for us the
bread of life.

Blessed be God for ever.

Blessed are you Lord, God of all
creation.
Through your goodness we have
this wine to offer, fruit of the vine
and work of human hands. It will
become our spiritual drink.

Blessed be God for ever.

Pray, brothers and sisters, that our
sacrifice may be acceptable to
God, the almighty Father.

**May the Lord accept the sacri-
fice at your hands for the praise
and glory of his name, for our
good, and the good of all his
Church.**

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS.

Lord, help us to resist temptation by our Lenten works of charity and penance.

By this sacrifice may we be prepared to celebrate the death and resurrection of Christ our Saviour and be cleansed from sin and renewed in spirit.

We make our prayer through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER.

The Lord be with you
and also with you

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.

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:

**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.**

Sit/kneel

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 Our Lady, St. Laurence 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.

As our Saviour has taught us, so we 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.

BREAKING OF THE BREAD.

The Priest breaks the consecrated bread, saying:

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.

We sing:

**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.**

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.

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

POST COMMUNION HYMN:

PLEASE REMAIN SEATED.

Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
in light inaccessible hid from our
eyes,
most blessed, most glorious, the
Ancient of Days,
almighty, victorious, thy great
name we praise.

Unresting, unceasing, and silent
as light,
nor wanting, nor wasting, thou
rulest in might -
thy justice like mountains high-
soaring above
thy clouds which are fountains of
goodness and love.

To all life thou givest, to both
great and small;
in all life thou livest, the true life of
all;
we blossom and flourish as
leaves on the tree,
and wither and perish - but nought
changeth thee.

Great Father of glory, pure Father
of light,
thine angels adore thee, all veiling
their sight;
all laud we would render: O help
us to see
'tis only the splendour of light
hideth thee.

Post-Communion Prayer.

Almighty God, you have given
your only Son to be for us both a
sacrifice for sin and also an exam-
ple 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.**

The Dismissal.

The Lord be with you
And also with you.

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 those who you love this day and always. **Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ, Amen.

Recessional Hymn

All my hope on God is founded;
he doth still my trust renew.
Me through change and chance
he guideth,
only good and only true.
God unknown, he alone
calls my heart to be his own.

Pride of man and earthly glory,
sword and crown betray God's
trust;
what with lavish care man
buildeth,
tower and temple, fall to dust.
But God's power, hour by hour,
is my temple and my tower.

God's great goodness ay en-
dureth,
deep his wisdom, passing
thought:
splendour, light and life attend
him,
beauty springeth out of nought.
Evermore, from his store
new-born worlds rise and adore.

Still from man to God eternal
sacrifice of praise be done,

high above all praises praising
for the gift of Christ his Son.
Christ doth call one and all;
ye who follow shall not fall.

The Lord be with you
And also with you.

Let us bless the Lord
Thanks be to God

May the divine assistance remain
with us always.
**And with all our brothers and
sisters in Christ.**

May the souls of the faithful de-
parted through the mercy of God,
rest in peace.
And rise in glory. Amen.