



The Parish of Mundeford Ash Wednesday Communion

Marking a journey of prayer

*I will give them a garland instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,*

Let us worship God in the name of the Father and of the Son
and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you
and also with you

O for a heart to praise my God,
a heart from sin set free;
a heart that's sprinkled with
the blood
so freely shed for me:

A heart in every thought renewed,
and full of love divine;
perfect and right and pure and
good —
a copy, Lord, of thine.

My 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.

Let us pray for grace to keep Lent faithfully
**Holy God, our lives are laid open before you:
rescue us from the chaos of sin
and through the death of your Son
bring us healing and make us whole**

in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

We listen to the reading: Psalm 51v1-12

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

A hymn

Bless the Lord my soul
and bless the holy name
Bless the Lord my soul
who leads me into life

2nd Reading: Isaiah 61v1-3,8-11

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Gospel: Luke 4v1,2,14-19-

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you O Christ.

The Sermon

Prayer of Penitence

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

**Most merciful God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
we confess that we have sinned in thought, word and deed.**

Silence is kept

**We have not loved you with our whole heart, and mind, and
strength. We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.**

Silence is kept.

**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.**

We are invited to meditate on the ashes and oil

Dear friends in Christ, I invite you to receive 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. **Amen.**

You are invited to meditate on the imposition of ashes and oil

Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.

Turn away from sin and be faithful to Christ

Prayer after imposition

Turn away from sin and be faithful to Christ.

The Lord enrich *you* with his grace and nourish *you* with his blessing; the Lord defend *you* in trouble and keep *you* from all evil; the Lord accept *your* prayers, and absolve *you* from *your* offences, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Saviour.

the Lord give bless you with a garland instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning. **Amen**

The Peace

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

And also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Offertory Hymn.

Jesus, 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;
Oh, receive my soul at last.



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.

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. 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 singing/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

Please sit

Accept our praises, heavenly Father, through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ, and as we follow his example and obey his command, grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit these gifts of bread and wine may be to us his body and his blood; 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.

To you be glory and praise for ever

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.

Christ is the bread of life.

When we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim your death, Lord Jesus, until you come in glory.

Accept through him, our great high priest, this our sacrifice of thanks and praise, and as we eat and drink these holy gifts in the presence of your divine majesty, renew us by your Spirit, inspire us with your love and unite us in the body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, as we worship you, Father almighty, in songs of everlasting praise:

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

The Lord's Prayer

Lord Jesus remember us in your Kingdom and teach us to 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

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

Agnus Dei

**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.**

We are invited to receive 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.**

Prayer 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.

**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.**

Blessing

The Lord give bless you with a garland instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning, and may you grow as
oaks of his righteousness; and the Blessing of God Almighty, the
Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be among
you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Final Hymn

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
naught be all else to me, save that thou art.
Thou my best thought, by day or by night,
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, be thou my true word;
I ever with thee, and thou with me, Lord.
Thou my great Father and I thy true heir;
thou in me dwelling and I in thy care.

Riches I heed not, nor all the world's praise;
thou mine inheritance, through all my days.
Thou and thou only, the first in my heart,
High King of heaven, my treasure thou art.

***Blessing the Dust by
Jan Richardson***

So let us be marked
not for sorrow.
And let us be marked
not for shame.
Let us be marked
not for false humility
or for thinking
we are less
than we are

but for claiming
what God can do
within the dust,
within the dirt,
within the stuff
of which the world
is made
and the stars that blaze
in our bones
and the galaxies that spiral
inside the smudge
we bear.

Let us go in peace
to love and serve the Lord.
In the name of Christ. Amen