



Great St Mary's  
THE UNIVERSITY CHURCH CAMBRIDGE

# ASH WEDNESDAY

Wednesday 22 February 2023



Holy Communion: 12.30 pm

Choral Eucharist: 7pm

# Order of Service

**Welcome to Great St Mary's. Wherever you have come from, and whoever you are, consider yourself at home here with us. If this is your first time here, please introduce yourself to a minister after the service.**

Ash Wednesday is the English name for the first day of Lent, stemming from the tradition of making the sign of the cross, in ash, as a sign of penitence.

Sorrow for our sins – penitence – is the key theme of this service, and takes a central place in the liturgy as a response to scripture and preaching. The use of ash, a feature of this day in the Western church since at least the tenth century, is a powerful symbol of sorrow for our sins, a reminder of our frailty and, ultimately, our mortality. The words used at the imposition of ashes ('Remember that you are dust') take us back to the creation stories in Genesis, reminding us of our dependence on God, and our failure as human beings to be faithful to his love.

Here in this church you are among friends and we hope that you feel at home. Whether you come as a regular member, or as a visitor of any faith or none, we welcome you today and pray that you may know something of the love of God during this act of worship.

[www.greatstmarys.org](http://www.greatstmarys.org)

@greatstmarys



# The Gathering

## THE LENT PROSE

Everyone **KNEELS** or remains **SEATED** as the ministers enter.

Please join in the refrain of the Lent Prose, a hymn dating back to 10<sup>th</sup> century Spain:



Hear us, O Lord, have mer-cy up-on us: For we have sinned a -gainst Thee.

*To thee, Redeemer, on thy throne of glory,  
lift we our weeping eyes in holy pleadings;  
listen, O Jesu, to our supplications. [Refrain]*

*O thou chief Corner-stone, Right hand of the Father:  
Way of Salvation, Gate of Life Celestial:  
cleanse thou our sinful souls from all defilement: [Refrain]*

*God, we implore thee, in thy glory seated,  
bow down and hearken to thy weeping children;  
pity and pardon all our grievous trespasses. [Refrain]*

*Sins oft committed now we lay before thee:  
with true contrition, now no more we veil them;  
grant us, Redeemer, loving absolution. [Refrain]*

*Innocent, captive, taken unresisting:  
falsely accused, and for us sinners sentenced,  
save us, we pray thee, Jesus our Redeemer. [Refrain]*

*The president greets the people*

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

*All* **Amen.**

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

*All* **And also with you.**

INTRODUCTION

*The president explains the meaning of Lent and invites the people to observe it faithfully*

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.

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.

KYRIE ELEISON

*The choir sings*

Kyrie eleison	<i>Lord have mercy</i>
Christe eleison	<i>Christ have mercy</i>
Kyrie eleison	<i>Lord have mercy</i>

*Mass for Four Voices*  
William Byrd (c. 1540-1623)

## THE COLLECT

*The president introduces a period of silent prayer with these words*

Let us pray for the grace to keep Lent faithfully

*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.

*All* **Amen.**

*The president then offers a prayer for the people of Ukraine, and for all affected by war.*

*Everyone SITS.*

## *The Liturgy of the Word*

### THE READING

*Isaiah 58. 1-12*

This is the word of the Lord.

*All* **Thanks be to God.**

*Everyone remains STANDING.*

### THE GOSPEL

*Matthew 6.1-6, 16-21*





Most merciful God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
we confess that we have sinned in thought, word and deed.  
We have not loved you with our whole heart, and mind, and  
strength.

We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.

We have not forgiven others, as we have been forgiven.

*All* **Lord have mercy.**

We have been deaf to your call to serve, as Christ served us.

We have not been true to the mind of Christ.

We have grieved your Holy Spirit.

*All* **Lord have mercy.**

We confess to you, Lord, all our past unfaithfulness:  
the pride, hypocrisy, and impatience of our lives,

*All* **Lord have mercy.**

Our self-indulgent appetites and ways,  
and our exploitation of other people,

*All* **Lord have mercy.**

Our anger at our own frustration,  
and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves,

*All* **Lord have mercy.**

Our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts,  
and our dishonesty in daily life and work,

*All* **Lord have mercy.**

Our negligence in prayer and worship,  
and our failure to commend the faith that is in us,

*All* **Lord have mercy.**

Accept our repentance, Lord for the wrongs we have done,  
for our blindness to human need and suffering,  
and our indifference to injustice and cruelty,

*All* **Accept our repentance, Lord.**

For all false judgments,  
for uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbours,  
and for our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us,

*All* **Accept our repentance, Lord.**

For our waste and pollution of your creation,  
and our lack of concern for those who come after us,



*All* **Accept our repentance, Lord.**

Restore us, good Lord, and let your anger depart from us;

*All* **Favourably hear us, for your mercy is great.**

Accomplish in us the work of your salvation,

*All* **That we may show your glory in the world.**

By the cross and passion of your Son our Lord,

*All* **Bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.**

*Silence*

*All* **We have not loved you with our whole heart.**

**We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.**

**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.**

## THE IMPOSITION OF ASHES

*The president says*

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.

*The president blesses the ashes, made from the palm crosses from previous year's Palm Sunday.*

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.**

*The president and ministers are marked with ash, and you are invited to come forward to be marked with ash as directed by the stewards.*

*The following is said to each person who receives the imposition of ashes*

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

Turn away from sin and be faithful to Christ.

*During the imposition, the choir sings*

MISERERE MEI, DEUS  
William Byrd (c. 1540-1623)

*Miserere mei, Deus,  
secundum magnam misericordiam tuam;  
et secundum multitudinem  
miserationum tuarum,  
dele iniquitatem meam.*

Have mercy upon me, O God,  
after thy great goodness:  
according to the multitude  
of thy mercies  
do away mine offences.

*After the imposition the president and ministers wash their hands,  
and SILENCE is kept.*

*The president says*

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*

*Everyone STANDS*

THE PEACE

*The president 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:

*All*    **And also with you.**

*The deacon says*

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

*As the table is prepared, the choir sings*

## THE OFFERTORY HYMN

- 1 **Forty days and forty nights  
thou wast fasting in the wild;  
forty days and forty nights  
tempted, and yet undefiled:**
- 2 **Sunbeams scorching all the day;  
chilly dew-drops nightly shed;  
prowling beasts about thy way;  
stones thy pillow, earth thy bed.**
- 3 **Shall not we thy sorrows share,  
and from earthly joys abstain,  
fasting with unceasing prayer,  
glad with thee to suffer pain?**
- 4 **And if Satan, vexing sore,  
flesh or spirit should assail,  
thou, his vanquisher before,  
grant we may not faint nor fail.**
- 5 **So shall we have peace divine;  
holier gladness ours shall be;  
round us too shall angels shine,  
such as ministered to thee.**
- 6 **Keep, O keep us, Saviour dear,  
ever constant by thy side;  
that with thee we may appear  
at the eternal Eastertide.**

G.H. Smyttan (1822-70) and F. Pott (1832-1909)  
tune AUS DER TIEFE (A&M 56), attr. Martin Herbst (1654-1681)

## PRAYER OF PREPARATION

*When the gifts have been prepared, the president says*

Risen Lord and Saviour, present among us with the wealth of your love, cleanse us from sin and give us the faith to offer our praise and grow in your grace.

*All* **Amen.**



We praise and bless you, loving Father, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; and as we obey his command, send your Holy Spirit, that broken bread and wine outpoured may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died he had supper with his friends and, taking bread, he praised you. He broke the bread, gave it to them and said: Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me.

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine. Again he praised you, gave it to them 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.

Father, we remember all that Jesus did, in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice made once for all upon the cross. Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation, we proclaim his death and resurrection until he comes in glory.

*The Deacon proclaims:*

Jesus Christ is Lord:

Org. *mf*



Lord, by your cross and re - sur - rec - tion you have set us

*mp*



free. You are the Sa - viour of the world.

Lord of all life, help us to work together for that day when your kingdom comes and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth. Look with favour on your people, gather us in your loving arms and bring us with Mary the Mother of Jesus, Michael, and all the saints to feast at your table in heaven. Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father,

All Amen

*Everyone KNEELS or SITS and silence is kept.*

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

*The Deacon introduces 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.**

## THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

*The president breaks the bread and says*

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

## THE INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.  
Blessed are those who are called to his supper.  
*All*    **Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,  
but only say the word and I shall be healed.**

*As Communion is distributed, the choir sings*

## AGNUS DEI

Agnus Dei  
qui tollis peccata mundi  
Miserere nobis.

*O Lamb of God,  
that takest away the sin of the world,  
have mercy on us.*

Agnus Dei  
qui tollis peccata mundi  
Miserere nobis.

*O Lamb of God,  
that takest away the sin of the world,  
have mercy on us.*

Agnus Dei  
qui tollis peccata mundi  
Dona nobis pacem.

*O Lamb of God,  
that takest away the sin of the world,  
grant us thy peace.*

*Mass for Four Voices  
William Byrd (c. 1540-1623)*

## THE GIVING OF COMMUNION

*Communicant members of all churches are invited to receive Communion if they wish to do so. Please wait to be directed by a steward.*

*If you do not wish to receive Communion, you are invited to come forward for a blessing. Please cross your arms and bow your head to indicate that you wish to receive a blessing.*

## PRAYERS AFTER COMMUNION

*When Communion is ended the president and deacons return to the Altar.*

*Everyone* **KNEELS** or **SITS**.

*The president prays*

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 say this prayer of St Anselm*

*All*    **O Lord our God,  
grant us grace to desire you with our whole heart;  
that so desiring, we may seek and find you;  
and so finding, may love you;  
and so loving, may hate those sins  
from which you have delivered us;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.**

## *The Dismissal*

### THE BLESSING

*Everyone STANDS and the president says the 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 you 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.**



- 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 thy arm.
- 3 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.
- 4 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.

Charles William Everest (1814-1877)  
tune BRESLAU, (A&M 237), German traditional melody, William Henry Monk (1823-1889)  
& Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy (1809-1847)

## THE DISMISSAL

*The deacon leads this responsory dismissal, based on 1 John 4.12.*

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.**  
Go in his joy and his peace.  
*All* **Thanks be to God.**

## ORGAN VOLUNTARY

*Ciacona in E minor* BuxWV 160 – Dietrich Buxtehude (1637-1707)

*We depart in SILENCE.*

*Our retiring collection this evening is in support of the  
DEC Turkey-Syria Earthquake Appeal  
Please give generously, and thank you.*

# Journey through Lent at Great St Mary's

During Lent please do join us for Morning Prayer, every weekday at 9am, either in church or on facebook.

On Mondays we meet for Silent Prayer / Christian Meditation at 12.30 pm in the Hervey de Stanton Chapel in Michaelhouse

On Wednesdays, Holy Communion is 12.30pm in Great St Mary's, followed by

Lent Reflections with lunch '*The Arts and Faith*' in Michaelhouse are on Wednesdays at 1pm.

Our suggested Lent book is 'The way of Ignatius. A prayer journey through Lent' by Gemma Simmonds.

For information on home groups, see our website or speak to the clergy.

Holy Week, 2- 9 April: From Palm Sunday to Easter, daily services to journey with Jesus to the cross. The Bishop of Ely, Stephen Conway, is our preacher on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday.

Learn more at [greatstmarys.org/lent](https://greatstmarys.org/lent)

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