

Imposition of Ashes & Holy Communion for Ash Wednesday

2 March 2022, 10:30AM | Boronia Park Uniting Church



Return to the LORD your God,
for he is gracious and compassionate,
slow to anger and abounding in love.

Joel 2:13

The Gathering

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.

Hymn

Where charity and love prevail,
there God is ever found;
Brought here together by Christ's love,
by love are we thus bound.

With grateful joy and holy fear
His charity we learn;
Let us with heart and mind and soul
now love him in return.

Forgive we now each other's faults
as we our faults confess;
And let us love each other well
in Christian holiness.

Let strife among us be unknown,
let all contention cease;
Be His the glory that we seek,
be ours His holy peace.

Let us recall that in our midst
dwells God's begotten Son;
As members of His body joined,
we are in Him made one.

No race or creed can love exclude,
if honoured be God's name;
Our family embraces all
whose Father is the same.

Ubi Caritas, tr. Omer Westendorf (1961)

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.

**All Holy God, holy and strong,
holy and immortal,
have mercy upon us.**

The Collect

Let us pray for grace to keep Lent faithfully.

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.

All Amen.

The Ministry of the Word

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18.

All Glory to you, O Lord,

Concerning Almsgiving

6 "Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven.

²“So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ³But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

Concerning Prayer

⁵“And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ⁶But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

Concerning Fasting

¹⁶“And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ¹⁷But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, ¹⁸so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

Reader: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

The Sermon

Confession

God the Father,

All have mercy upon us.

God the Son,

All have mercy upon us.

God the Holy Spirit,

All have mercy upon us.

Holy, blessed and glorious Trinity,

All have mercy upon us.

From all evil and mischief; from pride, vanity, and hypocrisy; from envy, hatred, and malice; and from all evil intent,

All good Lord, deliver us.

From sloth, worldliness and love of money; from hardness of heart and contempt for your word and your laws,

All good Lord, deliver us.

From sins of body and mind; from the deceits of the world, the flesh and the devil,

All 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,

All good Lord, deliver us.

By the mystery of your holy incarnation; by your birth, childhood and obedience; by your baptism, fasting and temptation,

All good Lord, deliver us.

By your ministry in word and work; by your mighty acts of power; and by your preaching of the kingdom,

All good Lord, deliver us.

By your agony and trial; by your cross and passion; and by your precious death and burial,

All good Lord, deliver us.

By your mighty resurrection; by your glorious ascension; and by your sending of the Holy Spirit,

All 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.

All Holy God,

holy and strong, holy and immortal,

have mercy upon us.

Silence is kept.

Make our hearts clean, O God;

All and renew a right spirit within us.

All Father eternal, giver of light and grace,
we have sinned against you and against our neighbour,
in what we have thought, in what we have said and done,
through ignorance, through weakness,
through our own deliberate fault.
We have wounded your love, and broken your image in us.
We are sorry and ashamed, and repent of all our sins.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, who died for us,
forgive us all that is past;
and lead us out from darkness
to walk as children of light. Amen.

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.

The minister and people receive the imposition of ashes, the minister first receiving the imposition from one of attendees. 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.

The ashes are made from the blessed palms used in the Palm Sunday celebration of the previous year. The ashes symbolize penance and contrition, and they a reminder that God is gracious and merciful to those who call on Him with repentant hearts. The ceremony is also a sign of mortality to remind us of our death.

Intercessions written by Jenny Keast

Heavenly Father,

Our country and world have so many needs for prayer at this time.
We know Lord we are blessed with a wonderful land in which we live

with changing seasons allowing for a plentiful food supply and recreation activities. We also know that extremes of weather bring risks to humanity who need to settle near water supplies.

The flooding rains in NSW and Queensland are again causing supreme trauma for many. We thank you that we can mobilise SES workers to assist so many in need. Please keep them safe and careful in their work. Please make sure people waiting to be rescued are known to others so that they can be taken to safe places.

We pray that support services will be available to assist those who have been left with nothing or very little to start again.

We pray people can overcome the trauma of the event to rebuild. Thank you for the generosity of so many in providing accommodation, food and clothing for others. Give us generous hearts to help others.

Lord, hear us.

All Lord, graciously hear us.

The second major event causing huge distress and turmoil in our world is the invasion of Ukraine by Russia. It seems only miracles can break through the stubborn heart of Vladimir Putin to see the way of PEACE not WAR.

Thank you that so much of our world does not condone Russia's brutal invasion. Our hearts break for the Ukrainian people. We are in awe of their bravery and determination to defend their freedom and land. Thank you for the neighbours who have so willingly accepted refugees. May they be reunited with loved ones before long.

It seems so much of the world is praying for Ukraine. Give wisdom to all world leaders so that a peaceful resolution is found without more loss of life. You call us to stand up for the marginalised and defenceless and surely this is Ukraine.

Protect its President Zelensky and his family and Ukrainian citizens who are seeking shelter.

Changing hearts is a better solution than the power of might so we pray that Russian citizens will put pressure on Vladimir Putin to change course. Thank you that the Australian Government is supporting the world in this cause.

Lord, hear us.

All Lord, graciously hear us.

Next we pray for our own country and the continuing issues arising from COVID. Give endurance to frontline workers and others who must continue looking after those who are sick. Keep us sensible in our approach to life to protect those who are vulnerable. Our world must move forward so people can have livelihoods and we admire so many who have changed course to provide for their families. Give us resilience to look ahead and generous hearts to support others.

Lord, hear us.

All Lord, graciously hear us.

Eternal God,
through the sacrifice of your Son
you have filled our suffering with your presence;
help us in our trials and strengthen us in our weakness;
through the same Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

As our Saviour has taught us, so we say:

**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 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

All and also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

The Eucharist

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.

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:

**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.

Father, on the night before he died, Jesus shared a meal with his friends. He took the bread, and thanked you. He broke it, and gave it to them, saying:

Take and eat;
this is my body, given for you.
Do this to remember me.

After the meal, Jesus took the cup of wine.
He thanked you, and gave it to them, saying:
Drink this, all of you.
This is my blood,
the new promise of God's unfailing love.
Do this to remember me.

Great is the mystery of faith:

**All Christ has died: Christ is risen:
Christ will come again.**

Father, as we bring this bread and wine, and remember his death and resurrection, send your Holy Spirit, that we who share these gifts may be fed by Christ's body and his blood.

All Amen.

Pour your Spirit on us that we may love one another, work for the healing of the earth, and share the good news of Jesus, as we wait for his coming in glory.

All Amen.

For honour and praise belong to you, Father, with Jesus your Son, and the Holy Spirit:
one God, for ever and ever.

All Amen.

The presider breaks the bread.

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

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.**

The Communion is received.

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.

**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

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.

Hymn

Love will be our Lenten calling;
love to shake and shatter sin,

waking every closed, cold spirit,
stirring new life deep within,
till the quickened heart remembers
what our Easter birth can mean.

Peace will be our Lenten living
as we turn for home again,
longing for the words of pardon,
stripping off old grief and pain,
till we stand, restored and joyful,
with the Church on Easter day.

Truth will be our Lenten learning:
hear the Crucified One call!
Shadowed by the Saviour's passion,
images and idols fall,
and, in Easter's holy splendour,
God alone is all in all.

Elizabeth J. Smith

The Blessing

Christ gives 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 always.

All Amen.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All In the name of Christ.

Amen.

Light refreshment will be served after the service at the corridor.

You may take some portion of ashes home and use it when you reflect on the meaning of Lent and Christ Jesus who loves and calls us always.

This worship resource is retrieved from thisischurch.com on 8 February 2022.