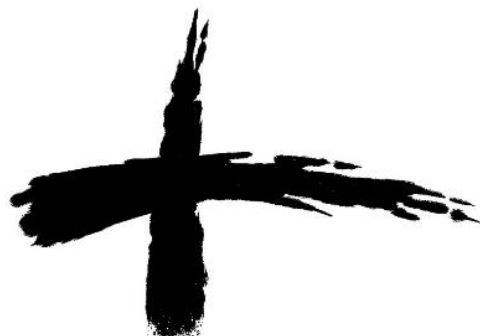


St John's Harpenden



**ASH
WEDNESDAY**

Holy Eucharist with the Imposition of Ashes

The Season of Lent

The Lord is full of compassion and mercy, slow to anger and of great kindness. (Psalm 103.8)

Welcome to St John's, Harpenden

For over a hundred years Christian worship and ministry have been offered in this place, St John's Harpenden. You are all most welcome.

If you are visiting the church today or have recently begun worshipping with us then please introduce yourself to one of the ministry team or welcomers

There is a retiring collection after this service. We are asking for donations using the contactless card scheme. A card reader is available as you leave the church. Thank you



There is an Induction Loop in the church, for those using a hearing aid



Large print orders of service are available on request Please ask a welcomer



If you require a **gluten free** communion wafer, please let a welcomer know before the beginning of the service



StJohnsAL5

www.stjohnsharpenden.org.uk



This booklet is printed on 100% recycled paper

Ash Wednesday and the Season of Lent

Ash Wednesday begins the period of forty days during which Christians prepare for Christ's Resurrection on Easter Day. It recalls the time spent by Christ in the wilderness, and is known as the season of Lent.

Lent, as a whole, is a time of penitence and has been called 'the spring-time of our faith'. It is a period when we try to grow in closeness to God through the practice of prayer, alms-giving and fasting, thereby uniting us with the life and suffering of Jesus Christ. The fifth Sunday of Lent onwards is known as Passiontide, as we move closer to Christ's suffering and death commemorated in the liturgies of Holy Week.

How to follow the various parts of the Service:

We follow the service from this booklet. The hymns are sung from the Hymn Book.

A prayer to say before the service:

THE COLLECT FOR PURITY

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden:
Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your holy name; through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

WELCOME

Please stand when the Procession enters.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

The hymn numbers can be found on the pew sheet

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.

INTRODUCTION

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.

THE COLLECT

Let us pray for grace to keep Lent faithfully.

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.**

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Sit for the OLD TESTAMENT READING Isaiah 58.1-12

Shout out, do not hold back! Lift up your voice like a trumpet! Announce to my people their rebellion, to the house of Jacob their sins. 2Yet day after day they seek me and delight to know my ways, as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness and did not forsake the ordinance of their God; they ask of me righteous judgments, they delight to draw near to God.

3“Why do we fast, but you do not see? Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?” Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day, and oppress all your workers. 4Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight and to strike with a wicked fist. Such fasting as you do today will not make your voice heard on high. 5Is such the fast that I choose, a day to humble oneself? Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush, and to lie in sackcloth and ashes? Will you call this a fast, a day acceptable to the Lord? 6Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? 7Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

8Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you, the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard. 9Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am. If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil, 10if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday. 11The Lord will guide you continually, and satisfy your needs in parched places, and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters never fail. 12Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in.

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

GRADUAL HYMN or PSALM *may be sung*

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Please stand and turn to face the Gospel

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

8while Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. ²Early in the morning he came again to the temple. All the people came to him and he sat down and began to teach them. ³The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery; and making her stand before all of them, ⁴they said to him, “Teacher, this woman was caught in the very act of committing adultery. ⁵Now in the law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?” ⁶They said this to test him, so that they might have some charge to bring against him. Jesus bent down and wrote with his finger on the ground. ⁷When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, “Let anyone among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her.” ⁸And once again he bent down and wrote on the ground. ⁹When they heard it, they went away, one by one, beginning with the elders; and Jesus was left alone with the woman standing before him. ¹⁰Jesus straightened up and said to her, “Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?” ¹¹She said, “No one, sir.” And Jesus said, “Neither do I condemn you. Go your way, and from now on do not sin again.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

Sit for the SERMON

A short silence follows the Sermon.

PENITENTIAL RITE

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.**
Trinity of love: **have mercy on us.**

**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.

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.

Lord, have mercy.

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

Lord, have mercy.

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

Lord, have mercy.

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

Lord, have mercy.

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

Lord, have mercy.

Our negligence in prayer and worship
And our failure to commend the faith that is in us.
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.
Accept our repentance, Lord.

For all false judgements, for uncharitable thoughts towards
our neighbours and for our prejudice and contempt
towards those who differ from us.
Accept our repentance, Lord.

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

Restore us, good Lord, and let your anger depart from us.
Favourably hear us, for your mercy is great.

Accomplish in us the work of your salvation,
that we may show your glory in the world.

By the cross and passion of your Son our Lord,
**bring us with all your saints to the joy of his
resurrection.**

Silence is kept.

**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

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. **Amen.**

The president and people receive the imposition of ashes. 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.

During the imposition silence is kept, or a hymn or anthem sung
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.

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.

All may exchange a sign of peace.

OFFERTORY HYMN

The table is prepared and bread and wine are placed upon it.

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 EUCHARIST PRAYER

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 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*:

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!**

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.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus:
**Dying you destroyed our death,
rising you restored our life:
Lord Jesus, come in glory.**

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 Mary,
St John 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 taught us, so we are bold to say:

**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, because we all share in one bread.

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.**

The president invites the people to Communion saying:

Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sins 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.

Everyone is invited to come to the altar.

Communicant members of any of the Christian Churches may receive Holy Communion, others may receive a blessing.

If you are coming for a blessing, please carry a book in your hand.

Gluten free wafers are available

COMMUNION HYMN *Remain kneeling or seated.*

A short period of silence is kept after Communion.

After Communion the Choir may sing an ANTHEM.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray

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.**

Stand for the FINAL HYMN.

RESPONSORY

This is love, not that we loved God,
but that he loved us and sent his Son.
He is the sacrifice for our sins,
that we might live through him.
If God loves us so much
we ought to love one another.
If we love one another
God lives in us.

BLESSING AND 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 always.
Amen.

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

The ministers and people depart.

Information about this order of service Produced: Ash Wednesday 2022

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