

**Priest:** Almighty God, thou hast given thy 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.

**The following hymn is to assist your final thoughts before returning to the business of the world**

O strength and stay upholding all creation,  
who ever dost thyself unmoved abide,  
yet day by day the light in due gradation  
from hour to hour through all its changes guide;

Grant to life's day a calm unclouded ending,  
an eve untouched by shadows of decay,  
the brightness of a holy death-bed blending  
with dawning glories of the eternal day.

Hear us, O Father, gracious and forgiving,  
through Jesus Christ thy co-eternal Word,  
who with the Holy Ghost, by all things living  
now and to endless ages art adored. Amen.

#### BLESSING

**Priest:** Christ give thee grace to grow in holiness, to deny thyself, take up thy cross, and follow him. And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be amongst thee and all those thou love, this night, and for ever.

**All:** Amen.

Please depart in silence, wearing face-masks/shields and remembering to maintain social distancing. Thank you!

**The Parish Church of St. Andrew  
Newgate Street, Newcastle upon Tyne**



**Holy Communion  
with the  
Imposition of Ashes  
during pandemic**

**Ash Wednesday 2021**

### **Before we begin...**

Welcome to your Parish Church of St. Andrew!

We are the oldest church in the city and have offered praise and sanctuary undeterred by plagues and wars for over 900 years.

This service traditionally begins the season of **LENT**.

**As we are still navigating a pandemic, please remember that the Covid 19 public health requirements remain very much in force. Therefore, please stay seated throughout this short service, remembering to wear your face-mask/shield and maintaining social distancing as you leave.**

The sanctuary bell will ring three times to signal the start of our service.

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

### COMMUNION

Priest: This is the Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world. Blessed are those who are called to his supper.

**All: Lord, I am not worthy to receive thee, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.**

Silence

### ANTHEM

Exaltabo te Domine  
*Orlando Lassus (1532-1594)*

Priest: As our Saviour Christ hath commanded and taught us, we are bold to say:

**All: Our Father, which art in heaven,  
Hallowed be thy Name. Thy kingdom  
come. Thy will be done, in earth  
as it is in heaven. Give us this day  
our daily bread. And forgive us our  
trespasses, as we forgive them that  
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.**

Priest: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of thy tender mercy didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to suffer death upon the Cross for our redemption; who made there (by his one oblation of himself once offered) a full, perfect, and sufficient sacrifice, oblation, and satisfaction, for the sins of the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death, until his coming again; Hear us, O merciful Father, we most humbly beseech thee; and grant that we receiving these thy creatures of bread and wine, according to thy Son our Saviour Jesus Christ's holy institution, in remembrance of his death and passion, may be partakers of his most blessed Body and Blood: who, in the same night that he was betrayed, took Bread; and, when he had given thanks, he brake 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. Likewise after supper he took the Cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of this; for this is my Blood of the New Testament, which is shed for you and for many for the remission of sins: Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me.

All: Amen.

#### THE AGNUS DEI

All: **O Lamb of God,  
that takest away the sins of the world,  
have mercy upon us.**

**O Lamb of God,  
that takest away the sins of the world,  
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#### INTRODUCTION

Ashes are an ancient sign of penitence. Since the Middle Ages it has been the custom to begin Lent by being marked in ash with the sign of the cross.

This is an outward expression of our mourning and repentance for the sins which took Christ to the cross. We are also reminded of our mortality. The words 'Remember you are dust and to dust you shall return' strip us of all our pretensions: we are no more than dust and ashes without God.

But into that dust God has breathed his Spirit and will restore us in his image. This is the goal and purpose of the Christian journey through life. Lent rehearses that journey through the wilderness in Christ's company, learning to follow his example and obey his will. It is a time for pilgrimage, a time for growth.

The ashes used are gathered from the burning of the palms from last year's Palm Sunday.

## The Lent Prose

Please follow this bespoke Lent prose prayerfully which is kindly delivered using music recorded by scholars from Newcastle University Music Faculty.



**All:** **Hear us, O Lord, have mercy upon us  
for we have sinned against thee**

Quartet: To thee, Redeemer, on thy throne of glory: lift we our weeping eyes in holy pleadings: listen, O Jesu, to our supplications.

**All:** **Hear us, O Lord, have mercy upon us  
for we have sinned against thee**

O thou chief cornerstone, right hand of the Father: way of salvation, gate of life celestial: cleanse thou our sinful souls from all defilement.

**All:** **Hear us, O Lord, have mercy upon us  
for we have sinned against thee**

God, we implore thee, in thy glory seated: bow down and harken to thy weeping children: pity and pardon all our grievous trespasses.

**All:** **Hear us, O Lord, have mercy upon us  
for we have sinned against thee**

Priest: Let us give thanks unto the Lord our God

**All:** **It is meet and right so to do.**

Priest: It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, Holy Father, Almighty, Everlasting God.

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:

**All:** **Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts,  
heaven and earth are full of thy glory:  
Glory be to thee, O Lord most High.**

**Blessèd is he that cometh in the name  
of the Lord. Hosanna in the Highest.**

*The altar is prepared during this meditative hymn*

Lord Jesus, think on me,  
and purge away my sin;  
from earthborn passions set me free,  
and make me pure within.

Lord Jesus, think on me,  
with care and woe opprest,  
let me thy loving servant be,  
and taste thy promised rest.

Lord Jesus, think on me,  
amid the battle's strife;  
in all my pain and misery  
be thou my health and life.

Lord Jesus, think on me,  
nor let me go astray;  
through darkness and perplexity  
point thou the heavenly way.

Lord Jesus, think on me,  
when flows the tempest high:  
when on doth rush the enemy  
O Saviour, be thou nigh.

Lord Jesus, think on me,  
that, when the flood is past,  
I may eternal brightness see,  
and share thy joy at last.

#### THE CONSECRATION

Priest: The Lord be with you

**All: And with thy spirit.**

Priest: Lift up your hearts

**All: We lift them up unto the Lord.**

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

**All: Hear us, O Lord, have mercy upon us  
for we have sinned against thee**

Innocent captive, taken unresisting: falsely accused,  
and for us sinners sentenced, save us, we pray thee,  
Jesu, our Redeemer.

**All: Hear us, O Lord, have mercy upon us  
for we have sinned against thee**

Priest: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy  
Ghost.

**All: Amen.**

Priest: The Lord be with thee.

**All: and with thy spirit.**

#### COLLECT FOR ASH WEDNESDAY

Almighty and everlasting God, who hatest nothing that thou  
hast made, and dost forgive the sins of all them that are  
penitent; Create and make in us new and contrite hearts,  
that we; worthily lamenting our sins, and acknowledging our  
wretchedness, may obtain of thee, the God of all mercy,  
perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our  
Lord.

**All: Amen.**

## THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Pray this hymn as we gradually approach the Holy Gospel as Real Presence in the Word

Be thou my guardian and my guide,  
and hear me when I call;  
let not my slippery footsteps slide,  
and hold me lest I fall.

The world, the flesh, and Satan dwell  
around the path I tread;  
O, save me from the snares of hell,  
thou quickener of the dead.

And if I tempted am to sin,  
and outward things are strong,  
do thou, O Lord, keep watch within,  
and save my soul from wrong.

Still let me ever watch and pray,  
and feel that I am frail;  
that if the tempter cross my way,  
yet he may not prevail

*The Holy Gospel is announced*

John 8. 1-11

**All: Glory be to thee, O Lord**

Jesus went unto the mount of Olives. And early in the morning he came again into the temple, and all the people came unto him; and he sat down, and taught them. And the scribes and Pharisees brought unto him a woman taken in adultery; and when they had set her in the midst, They say unto him, Master, this woman was taken in adultery, in the very act. Now Moses in the law commanded us, that such should be stoned: but what sayest thou? This they said, tempting him, that they might have to accuse him. But Jesus stooped down, and with his finger wrote on the ground, as though he heard them not. So when they continued asking him, he lifted up himself,

Take up thy cross, and follow Christ,  
nor think till death to lay it down;  
for only he who bears the cross  
may hope to wear the glorious crown.

To thee, great Lord, the One on Three,  
all praise for evermore ascend;  
O grant us in our home to see  
the heavenly life that knows no end.

*Silence*

*After inviting the congregation to self-administer ash from their seated position the priest says:*

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

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All who wish to do so now make the sign of the cross 'as one body' on their own forehead, remaining seated, and using the ashes provided in their pew

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ANTHEM

'Almighty and everlasting God who hatest nothing'  
*Thomas Tomkins (1572-1656)*

*Tissues are strategically placed in each pew to wipe hands if necessary*

*The Priest concludes the Liturgy of Penitence*

God our Father; the strength of all who put their trust in thee,  
mercifully accept our prayers; and because in our weakness  
we can do nothing good without thee, grant us the help of thy  
grace, that in keeping thy commandments we may please  
thee, both in will and deed; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**All: Amen.**

## THE IMPOSITION OF ASHES

*Priest takes the ashes saying*

Dear friends in Christ, I invite thee to receive these ashes, as a sign of the spirit of penitence, with which we shall keep this season of Lent.

*Having previously blessed the ashes the priest continues*

God our Father, thou hast created 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 thy grace alone that we receive eternal life in Jesus Christ, our Saviour.

**All: Amen.**

The following hymn is offered as a prayer to aid your preparation for receiving ashes. Please remember it is not an invitation to sing!

Take up thy cross, the Saviour said,  
if thou wouldst my disciple be;  
deny thyself, the world forsake,  
and humbly follow after me.

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 thine arm.

Take up thy cross, nor heed the shame,  
nor let thy foolish pride rebel;  
the Lord for thee the Cross endured,  
to save thy soul from death and hell.

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.

and said unto them, He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her. And again he stooped down, and wrote on the ground. And they which heard it, being convicted by their own conscience, went out one by one, beginning at the eldest, even unto the last: and Jesus was left alone, and the woman standing in the midst. When Jesus had lifted up himself, and saw none but the woman, he said unto her, Woman, where are those thine accusers? Hath no man condemned thee? She said, No man, Lord. And Jesus said unto her, Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more.

Priest: This is the Gospel of Christ

**All: Praise be to thee, O Lord.**

HOMILY

*A brief time of reflection is kept after the homily*

THE LITURGY OF PENITENCE

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

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

**Good Lord, deliver us.**

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

**Good Lord, deliver us.**

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

**Good Lord, deliver us.**

By the mystery of thy holy incarnation;  
by thy birth, childhood and obedience;  
by thy baptism, fasting, and temptations,

**Good Lord, deliver us.**

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

**Good Lord, deliver us.**

By thy mighty resurrection; by thy cross and passion;  
And by thy precious death and burial

**Good Lord, deliver us.**

By our mighty resurrection; by thy glorious ascension;  
And by thy sending of the Holy Spirit,

**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 thy Holy Spirit  
to amend our lives according to thy holy word

Silence

Priest: Make our hearts clean, O God;

**All: and renew a right spirit within us.**

Silence

The following hymn is played for your preparation and meditation

Just as I am, without one plea  
but that thy blood was shed for me,  
and that thou bidd'st me come to thee,  
*O Lamb of God, I come.*

Just as I am, though tossed about  
with many a conflict, many a doubt,  
fighting within, and fears without,  
*O Lamb of God, I come.*

Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind;  
sight, riches, healing of the mind,  
yea, all I need, in thee to find,  
*O Lamb of God, I come.*

Just as I am, thou wilt receive,  
wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve:  
because thy promise I believe,  
*O Lamb of God, I come.*

Just as I am (thy love unknown  
has broken every barrier down),  
now to be thine, yes thine alone,  
*O Lamb of God, I come.*

Just as I am, of that free love  
that breadth, length, depth and height to prove,  
here for a season then above,  
*O Lamb of God, I come.*