

**St Mary's Church**  
**Acocks Green**  
**SAID SERVICE OF**  
**HOLY COMMUNION**  
**Ash Wednesday 2021**

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**THE GATHERING**

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

*All:* **Amen**

The Lord be with you.

*All:* **And also with you**

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**

*All:* **Amen**

**THE LITURGY OF THE WORD**

**The Readings**

This is the word of the Lord

*All:* **Thanks be to God**

**The Gospel**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to ...

*All:* **Glory to you, O Lord**

This is the Gospel of the Lord

*All:* **Praise to you, O Christ**

**SERMON**

**LITURGY OF PENITENCE**

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

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.**

After each bidding we use the response:

*All:* **Good Lord, deliver us**

Ending with:

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

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 marred 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.**

If you have ash prepared, please hold up its container now.

## 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.**

At the imposition of ashes, the following is said:

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

*(As you say this, dip your finger in the moistened ash, and make the sign of the Cross on your forehead.)*

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.

**All: Amen.**

## THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

### THE PEACE

*The priest introduces the peace using suitable words.*

The peace of the Lord be always with you  
**All: and also with you**

### OFFERTORY PRAYER

Yours Lord, is the greatness, the power,  
the glory, the splendour, and the majesty;  
for everything in heaven and on earth is yours.  
**All: All things come from you,  
and of your own do we give you.**

### THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

The Lord is here  
**All: His Spirit is with us.**

Lift up your hearts.  
**All: We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**All: It is right to give thanks and praise.**

Almighty God, good Father to us all,  
your face is turned towards your world.  
In love you gave us Jesus your Son  
to rescue us from sin and death.  
Your Word goes out to call us home  
to the city where angels sing your praise.  
We join with them in heaven's song:

*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 of all, we give you thanks for every gift that comes from  
heaven. To the darkness Jesus came as your light.

With signs of faith and words of hope  
he touched untouchables with love  
and washed the guilty clean.  
The crowds came out to see your Son,  
yet at the end they turned on him.  
On the night he was betrayed  
he came to table with his friends  
to celebrate the freedom of your people.

Jesus blessed you, Father, for the food;  
he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and said:  
This is my body, given for you all.  
Do this in remembrance of me.

Jesus then gave thanks for the wine;  
he took the cup, gave it and said:  
This is my blood, shed for you all  
for the forgiveness of sins.  
Do this in remembrance of me.

Therefore, Father, with this bread and this cup  
we celebrate the cross  
on which he died to set us free.  
Defying death he rose again  
and is alive with you to plead for us and all the world.

Send your Spirit on us now  
that by these gifts we may feed on Christ  
with opened eyes and hearts on fire.  
May we and all who share this food  
offer ourselves to live for you  
and be welcomed at your feast in heaven  
where all creation worships you,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit:

*All:* **Blessing and honour and glory and power  
be yours for ever and ever. Amen.**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us

*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**

