



# St Paul's Cathedral

*Together transforming our City and Diocese*

## **Sung Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes**

Ash Wednesday

17 February 2021 • 6 pm

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### **WELCOME**

Welcome to St Paul's Cathedral, the home for worshippers from more than two dozen nations, the seat of the Anglican Primate of Australia and the home church for Anglicans in Melbourne and Victoria. We are delighted that you joining us online this evening: come and worship with us again.

Whether you are Anglican, from another Christian Church or another faith tradition, you are warmly welcome to take part in the service. If you want to find out more about the Christian faith, please make yourself known to our clergy.

We worship on the traditional lands of the Wurundjeri People of the Kulin nation and we acknowledge and pay our respect to their elders past and present and to Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islanders with us today.

Please join us in singing the hymns and saying those parts of the service printed in **bold** type.

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### **GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME**

*Please stand for the entry of the clergy*

#### **THE INTROIT**

*sung by the Cantor*

You have mercy on all things, O Lord, and hate nothing that you have made,  
you sorrow at our iniquities (for which we should amend),  
spare us, Lord, for we are yours, O lover of souls.  
Be merciful to me, O God be merciful; for I come to you for shelter.  
Glory to God, Father, Son and Holy Ghost:  
as in the beginning, so now, and for ever. Amen.  
You have mercy on all things, O Lord ...

## THE GREETING

Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins,  
**whose mercy endures for ever.**

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**

As far as the east is from the west, so far has God set our sins from us.

## THE PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Let us pray.

**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.**

## THE TWO GREAT COMMANDMENTS

‘Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.’ Jesus said: ‘This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: you shall love your neighbour as yourself.’

*All kneel or sit. Please join in singing*

## KYRIE ELEISON

*The Booke of Common Praier Noted – John Merbecke (c.1510-1585)*

Ky-ri - e e - lei - son. Ky-ri-e e - lei-son. Ky-ri-e e - lei-son.  
Chri-ste e - lei - son. Chri-ste e - lei - son. Chri-ste e - lei - son.  
Ky-ri - e e - lei - son. Ky-ri - e e - lei - son. Ky-ri - e e - lei - son.

## THE TRISAGION

Holy God,  
**holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.**

## THE COLLECT FOR ASH WEDNESDAY

Let us pray.

*Silence is kept*

Almighty and everlasting God, you hate nothing that you have made, and you forgive the sins of all who are penitent: create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we, worthily lamenting our sins, and acknowledging our wretchedness, may obtain of you, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

*The people remain seated for the readings and psalm.*

### THE FIRST READING

Joel 2.1, 2, 12-17

A reading from the prophecy of Joel.

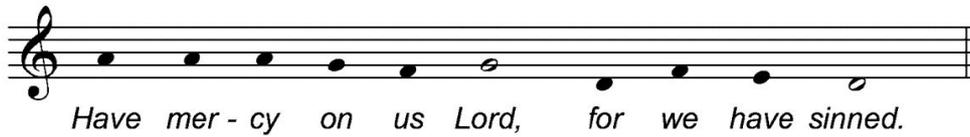
<sup>1</sup>Blow the trumpet in Zion; sound the alarm on my holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble, for the day of the LORD is coming, it is near –  
<sup>2</sup> a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness! Like blackness spread upon the mountains a great and powerful army comes; their like has never been from of old, nor will be again after them in ages to come.

<sup>12</sup> Yet even now, says the LORD, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; <sup>13</sup> rend your hearts and not your clothing. Return to the LORD, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing. <sup>14</sup> Who knows whether he will not turn and relent, and leave a blessing behind him, a grain-offering and a drink-offering for the LORD, your God? <sup>15</sup> Blow the trumpet in Zion; sanctify a fast; call a solemn assembly; <sup>16</sup> gather the people. Sanctify the congregation; assemble the aged; gather the children, even infants at the breast. Let the bridegroom leave his room, and the bride her canopy. <sup>17</sup> Between the vestibule and the altar let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep. Let them say, 'Spare your people, O LORD, and do not make your heritage a mockery, a byword among the nations. Why should it be said among the peoples, "Where is their God?"'

Hear the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 51 *Please sing the response after the cantor, then as indicated*



- 1 Have mercy on me, O God, in your enduring goodness:  
according to the fullness of your compassion blot out my offences.
- 2 Wash me thoroughly from my wickedness: and cleanse me from my sin.
- 3 For I acknowledge my rebellion: and my sin is ever before me.
- 4 Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil in your eyes:  
so you will be just in your sentence and blameless in your judging.

*Response*

- 5 Surely in wickedness I was brought to birth: and in sin my mother conceived me.
- 6 You that desire truth in the inward parts:  
O teach me wisdom in the secret places of the heart.
- 7 Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean:  
wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.
- 8 Make me hear of joy and gladness: let the bones which you have broken rejoice.

*Response*

- 9 Hide your face from my sins: and blot out all my iniquities.
- 10 Create in me a clean heart, O God: and renew a right spirit within me.
- 11 Do not cast me out from your presence: do not take your holy spirit from me.

*Response*

- 12 O give me the gladness of your help again: and support me with a willing spirit.
- 13 Then will I teach transgressors your ways: and sinners shall turn to you again.
- 14 O Lord God of my salvation, deliver me from bloodshed:  
and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness.

*Response*

- 15 O Lord, open my lips: and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.
- 16 You take no pleasure in sacrifice, or I would give it:  
burnt-offerings you do not want.
- 17 The sacrifice of God is a broken spirit:  
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

*Response*

A reading from the second letter of St Paul to the Corinthians.

<sup>20</sup>So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. <sup>21</sup>For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. <sup>6</sup>As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. <sup>2</sup>For he says, 'At an acceptable time I have listened to you, and on a day of salvation I have helped you.' See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation! <sup>3</sup>We are putting no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, <sup>4</sup>but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, <sup>5</sup>beatings, imprisonments, riots, labours, sleepless nights, hunger; <sup>6</sup>by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, <sup>7</sup>truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; <sup>8</sup>in honour and dishonour, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; <sup>9</sup>as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see – we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; <sup>10</sup>as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

Hear the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*The people stand to sing and remain standing for the Gospel.*

#### THE GOSPEL

*Please sing the Acclamation after the Cantor and repeat it as indicated*



To the Lord belongs a constant goodness:  
for you reward each one of us according to our works.  
**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory.**

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St Matthew: 6.1-6, 16-21  
**Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Jesus said 'Beware of practising your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven.

'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. But when you give alms, do not

let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. '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. But 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. 'When you are praying, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do; for they think that they will be heard because of their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him. '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. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so 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. 'Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

For the Gospel of the Lord, **praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

*The people are seated at the invitation of the preacher.*

THE SERMON

The Archbishop

*Silence may be kept.*

THE LITURGY OF PENITENCE

*Please join in the responses in bold type*

Sisters and brothers in Christ, from the earliest days of the Church, Christians have observed with great devotion the time of our Lord's passion and resurrection. It became the custom of the church to prepare for this by a season of penitence and fasting.

At first this season was observed by those who were preparing for baptism at Easter and by those who, having been excommunicated, were to be restored to the communion of the church. By keeping these days with care and attention Christians might take to heart the call to repentance and the assurance of forgiveness proclaimed in the gospel, and grow in faith and devotion to our Lord.

So, by self-examination and repentance, by prayer and fasting, by self-denial and acts of generosity and by reading and meditating on the word of God, let us keep a holy Lent.

*Please kneel or remain seated.*

Eternal God, maker of heaven and earth,  
**have mercy on us.**

Incarnate Word, redeemer of the world,  
**have mercy on us.**

Abiding Spirit, giver of light and life,  
**have mercy on us.**

For turning away from your presence,  
for disobeying your word and commandments,  
**forgive us, Lord.**

For trusting in our own strength instead of yours,  
for betraying your trust and the trust of others,  
**forgive us, Lord.**

For resisting your grace and refusing your blessings,  
for holding back from proclaiming our faith in you,  
**forgive us, Lord.**

For damaging this earth and exploiting its creatures,  
for neglecting and wasting the gifts you have given us,  
**forgive us, Lord.**

For failing to forgive as we have been forgiven,  
for judging others and bearing grudges,  
**forgive us, Lord.**

For skimping on our commitments and relationships,  
for failing in hospitality,  
**forgive us, Lord.**

For tolerating oppression, injustice and wrong,  
for keeping silent when we should have spoken up,  
**forgive us, Lord.**

For turning away when others have offered us love,  
for closing our hearts when others have needed compassion,  
**forgive us, Lord.**

For all we have done unkindly, unjustly and dishonestly,  
for our careless speech and hurtful words,  
**forgive us, Lord.**

Most merciful God,

**we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed,  
and in what we have failed to do:**

**we have not loved you with our whole heart;**

**we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves;**

**we repent, and are sorry for all our sins.**

**Father, forgive us. Strengthen us to love and obey you in newness of life;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## THE RECEIVING OF ASHES

Blessed are you, God of all creation.

You are eternal, we are mortal, formed from the dust of the earth.

As we receive these ashes, make them a sign for us of repentance and returning to you. Breathe into us again the breath of life.

**Blessed be God for ever.**

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

*from Genesis 3.19*

Turn away from sin, and be faithful to Christ. **Amen.**

*The Archbishop and Cathedral Clergy receive the sign of ashes on behalf of all.*

## THE ABSOLUTION

With our hearts turned to God in repentance,

with the knowledge of our sins laid before the cross of Jesus Christ,  
in the name of the living God, your sins are forgiven.

Receive God's mercy, take hold of your forgiveness, and,

in the power of the Holy Spirit, walk in the light of Christ. **Amen.**

*Please stand for*

## THE GREETING OF PEACE

Christ has reconciled us to God in one body by the cross,

**We meet in his name and share his peace.**

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**And also with you.**

## OFFERTORY HYMN

*During the hymn, a collection will be received to support the ministry and outreach of this Cathedral. Thank you for your gift.*

1 Lord Je - sus, think on me, and purge a - way my sin; from  
earth-born pas - sions set me free, and make me pure with - in.

2  
Lord Jesus, think on me,  
with care and woe opprest;  
let me thy loving servant be,  
and taste thy promised rest.

3  
Lord Jesus, think on me,  
amid the battle's strife;  
in all my pain and misery  
be thou my health and life.

4  
Lord Jesus, think on me,  
nor let me go astray;  
through darkness and perplexity  
point thou the heavenly way.

5  
Lord Jesus, think on me,  
when flows the tempest high:  
when on doth rush the enemy  
O Saviour, be thou nigh.

6  
Lord Jesus, think on me,  
that, when the flood is past,  
I may the eternal brightness see,  
and share thy joy at last.

Synesius of Cyrene (c.375-430), tr. Allen William Chatfield (1608-96)  
*New English Hymnal* 70

#### PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation. Through your goodness we have these gifts to share. Accept and use our offerings for your glory and for the service of your kingdom. **Blessed be God for ever.**

#### THE HOLY COMMUNION

##### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**

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

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

All glory and honour be yours always and everywhere, mighty Creator,  
everliving God.

We give you thanks and praise for your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ, who by the power of your Spirit was born of Mary and lived as one of us.

He was tempted in every way as we are, yet he did not sin. By his death on the cross and rising to new life, he offered the one true sacrifice for sin and obtained an eternal deliverance for his people. By his grace we are able to triumph over every evil, and to walk in the way of his love.

Therefore with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we proclaim your great and glorious name, for ever praising you and singing:

*Please join in singing*

Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho-ly Lord, God of power and might,  
 Hea-ven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho-san-na in the high - est.  
 Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high-est.

Merciful God, we thank you for these gifts of your creation, this bread and wine and we pray that by your Word and Holy Spirit, we who eat and drink them may be partakers of Christ's body and blood.

On the night he was betrayed Jesus took bread; and when he had given you thanks he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, 'Take, eat. This is my body given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.'

After supper he took the cup, and again giving you thanks he gave it to his disciples, saying, 'Drink from this, all of you. This is my blood of the new covenant shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.

Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.'

Therefore we do as our Saviour has commanded: proclaiming his offering of himself made once for all upon the cross, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension, and looking for his coming again, we celebrate, with this bread and this cup, his one perfect and sufficient sacrifice for the sins of the whole world.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith.

**Lord, by your cross and resurrection you have set us free.**

**You are the Saviour of the world.**

Renew us by your Holy Spirit, unite us in the body of your Son, and bring us with all your people into the joy of your eternal kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord, with whom, and in whom, in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, we worship you, Father, in songs of never-ending praise:

**Blessing and honour and glory and power are yours for ever and ever. Amen.**

#### THE LORD'S PRAYER

As our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are confident to pray:

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

## THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.  
We who are many are one body,  
**for we all share the one bread.**

*Please join in singing the*

## THE INVITATION

Jesus is the Lamb of God  
who takes away the sins of the world.  
Happy 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.**

## COMMUNION MOTET

*Agnus Dei*

*Missa Brevis, COVID-19: Joseph Twist (b.1982)*

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of  
the world, have mercy upon us.  
Grant us peace.

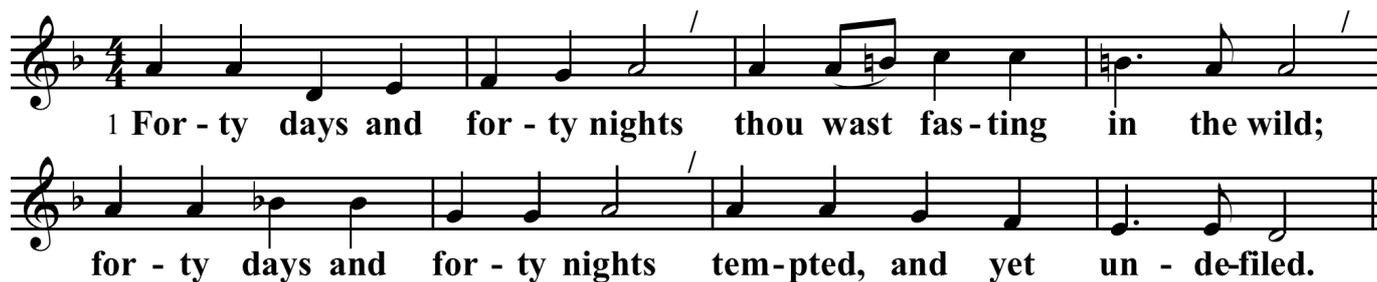
## THE SENDING OUT OF GOD'S PEOPLE

Let us pray.

Compassionate and loving God, through your Son Jesus Christ you have fed us and have reconciled your people to yourself. Following his example of fasting and prayer, may we obey you with willing hearts and serve one another in holy love, through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

**Father, we offer ourselves to you as a living sacrifice through Jesus Christ our Lord. Send us out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory.**

### THE DISMISSAL HYMN



1 For - ty days and for - ty nights thou wast fas - ting in the wild;  
for - ty days and for - ty nights tem - pted, and yet un - de - filed.

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 sorrow 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 or fall.

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.

George Hunt Smyttan (1822-70) and Francis Pott (1832-1909).  
*Hymns Ancient and Modern New Standard* 56i

## THE BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

Grant, merciful Lord, to your faithful people pardon and peace, that they may be cleansed from all their sins and serve you with a quiet mind; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be with you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Go in the peace of Christ.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Please remain standing for the Procession, and sit for*

## THE ORGAN POSTLUDE

*Forlana* – Gerald Finzi (1901-1956):

Mr Lachlan Redd, Sub-Organist

**WORSHIP LEADERS** President & Preacher: The Most Reverend Dr Philip Freier, Archbishop of Melbourne; Assisting Clergy: The Very Reverend Dr Andreas Loewe, Dean; Cantor: Mr Philip Nicholls, Director of Music; Mr Lachlan Redd, Sub-Organist.

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