



The Parish Churches of S Philip  
and S Augustine and S Matthew  
with S Mary the Virgin Newcastle

# Liturgy of the Word and Spiritual Communion for Ash Wednesday

## Notes

This service is intended for use on Sundays and some feast days. It is a version of the Liturgy of the Word, which turns on the Our Father into an act of spiritual communion, undertaken in the words of the *Anima Christi*.

The bulk of the service inheres in the readings and the intercessions. These will be sent out each week.

+ In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Let us pray:

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; in and through Jesus Christ, Your Son our Lord, Who is alive and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.

A Reading from the latter Letter of Saint Paul to the Church in Corinth.

We are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We beseech you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. Working together with him, then, we entreat you not to accept the grace of God in vain. For he says, "At the acceptable time I have listened to you, and helped you on the day of salvation." Behold, now is the acceptable time; behold, now is the day of salvation.

Have mercy on me, O God, in your great goodness; ♦  
according to the abundance of your compassion blot out  
my offences.

Wash me thoroughly from my wickedness ♦ and cleanse  
me from my sin.

For I acknowledge my faults ♦ and my sin is ever before  
me.

Against you only have I sinned ♦ and done what is evil in  
your sight,

Make me a clean heart, O God, ♦ and renew a right spirit  
within me.

Cast me not away from your presence ♦ and take not your  
holy spirit from me.

Give me again the joy of your salvation ♦ and sustain me  
with your gracious spirit;

O Lord, open my lips ♦ and my mouth shall proclaim  
your praise.

A Reading from the Gospel according to Saint Matthew.

Jesus said to His disciples, "Beware of practicing your piety before men in order to be seen by them; for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven. "Thus, when you give alms, sound no trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be praised by men. Truly, I say to 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 in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. "And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites;

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for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by men. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when 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. "And when you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by men. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, that your fasting may not be seen by men but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

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The Sacrifice of God is a broken spirit: a broken and contrite heart He will not despise. Our sin is always before us; let us, therefore, confess our sins in penitence and Faith.

Lord Jesus Christ, You said: "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven." Yet we are preoccupied with money and worldly goods and even try to increase them at the expense of justice. Kyrie eleison.

Lord Jesus Christ, You said: "Blessed are the gentle for they shall inherit the earth." Yet we are ruthless with one another, and our world is full of discord and violence. Christe eleison.

Lord Jesus Christ, You said: "Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted." Yet we are impatient under our own burdens and unconcerned about the burdens of others. Kyrie eleison.

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Lord Jesus Christ, You said: "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for justice, for they shall be filled." Yet we do not thirst for You, the fountain of all holiness, and are slow to spread Your influence in our private lives or in society. Christe eleison.

Lord Jesus Christ, You said: "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy." Yet we are slow to forgive and quick to condemn. Kyrie eleison.

Lord Jesus Christ, You said: Blessed are the clean of heart, for they shall see God." Yet we are prisoners of our senses and evil desires and dare not raise our eyes to You. Christe eleison.

Lord Jesus Christ, You said: "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the children of God." Yet we fail to make peace in our families, in our country and in the world. Kyrie eleison.

Lord Jesus Christ, You said: "Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of justice, for the kingdom of God is theirs." Yet we prefer to practice injustice rather than suffer for the sake of right; we discriminate against our neighbours and oppress and persecute them. Christe eleison.

*At this point, the Imposition of ashes would occur; take a moment to reflect on this:*

Remember, O man, that thou art dust and unto dust shalt thou return.



*The Intercessions follow; these will include petitions from the weekly cycle; and may include the Covid 19 prayer in the notes; at the end:*

These and the prayers of my Christian community I lay before God in union with our Lady, Saint Matthew, Saint Philip, Saint Augustine and all the saints:

Our Father, Who art in Heaven, hallowed by 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.

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, have mercy upon us.

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

*In place of receiving Holy Communion, you should use this prayer:*

Soul of Christ, sanctify me;

Body of Christ, save me;

Blood of Christ, refresh me;

Water from the side of Christ, wash me.

Passion of Christ, strengthen me.

O good Jesu, hear me.

Within Thy wounds, hide me.

Do not permit me to be separated from Thee;

From the malicious enemy defend me,

In the hour of my death call me

And bid me come to Thee,

That with Thy saints I may praise Thee;

For ever and ever. Amen.

*It is appropriate that a time of reflexion follows. If, like the Vicar, you have a mind that easily lured by the frivolous and ephemeral, you might use the following to help stay on task:*

Hear us, O Lord, have mercy upon us: for we have sinned against Thee.

To Thee, Redeemer, on Thy Throne of glory:  
Lift we our weeping eyes in holy pleadings:  
Listen O Jesu, to our supplications:

O Thou chief Cornerstone, Right Hand of the Father:  
Way of salvation, Gate of Life Celestial:  
Cleanse Thou our sinful souls from all defilement.

God, we implore Thee, in Thy glory seated:  
Bow down and hearken to Thy weeping children:  
Pit and pardon all our grievous trespasses.

Sins oft committed now we lay before Thee:  
With true contrition, now no more we veil them:  
Grant us, Redeemer, loving absolution.

Innocent, captive, taken unresisting:  
Falsely accused and for us sinners sentenced:  
Save us, we pray Thee, Jesu our Redeemer.

Hear us, O Lord, have mercy upon us: for we have sinned against Thee.

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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; the same Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

+ The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all evermore.

Amen.