

# St Mary the Virgin, Mortlake

Ash Wednesday

17 February 2021 at 8pm

## Welcome

*The service begins with silent prayer;*

## Opening Hymn

Lord, teach us how to pray aright,  
With reverence and with fear;  
Though dust and ashes in Thy sight,  
We may, we must draw near.

God of all grace, we come to Thee  
With broken, contrite hearts;  
Give what Thine eye delights to see,  
Truth in the inward parts.

Faith is the only sacrifice  
That can for sin atone;  
To cast our hopes, to fix our eyes,  
On Christ, on Christ alone.

Give these, and then Thy will be done,  
Thus, strengthened with all might,  
We, through Thy Spirit and Thy Son,  
Shall pray, and pray aright.

## The Greeting

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

**Amen.**

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father  
and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you  
**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.

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## The Collect

Let us pray for grace to keep Lent faithfully.

*Silence is kept.*

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.**

## 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. Yet day after day they seek me and delight to know my ways, as if they were a nation that practised righteousness and did not forsake the ordinance of their God; they ask of me righteous judgments, they delight to draw near to God. "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. Look, 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. Is 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? Is 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? Is 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? Then 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. Then 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, if 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. The 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. Your 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.**

Saviour, breathe forgiveness o'er us:  
all our weakness thou dost know;  
thou didst tread this earth before us,  
thou didst feel its keenest woe;  
lone and dreary, faint and weary,  
through the desert thou didst go.

Spirit of our God, descending,  
fill our hearts with heavenly joy,  
love with every passion blending,  
pleasure that can never cloy:  
thus provided, pardoned, guided,  
nothing can our peace destroy.

Let us go in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
**In the name of Christ. Amen**

### The Psalm 51:1 –17

### The Epistle 2 Corinthians 5 :20b – 6 :10

We entreat 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. As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. For the Lord 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! We are putting no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, riots, labours, sleepless nights, hunger; by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; in honour and dishonour, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see - we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### Gospel Reading John 8:1-11

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

Early in the morning Jesus came again to the temple. All the people came to him and he sat down and began to teach them. The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery; and making her stand before all of them, they said to him, 'Teacher, this woman was caught in the very act of committing adultery. Now in the law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?' They 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. When 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.' And once again he bent down and wrote on the ground. When they heard it, they went away, one by one, beginning with the elders; and Jesus was left alone with the woman standing before him. Jesus straightened up and said to her, 'Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?' She 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.**

### Sermon

#### The Liturgy of Penitence

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.**

Holy, blessed, and glorious Trinity,  
**have mercy on us.**

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 your word and your 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.**

In all times of sorrow; in all times of joy;  
in the hour of death, and at the day of judgement,  
**good Lord, deliver us.**

By the mystery of your holy incarnation;  
by your birth, childhood, and obedience;  
by your baptism, fasting, and temptation,  
**good Lord, deliver us.**

By your ministry in word and work; by your mighty acts of power;  
and by your preaching of the kingdom,  
**good Lord, deliver us.**

By your agony and trial; by your cross and passion;  
and by your precious death and burial,  
**good Lord, deliver us.**

### Giving of Communion

*The President invites the people to receive Communion:*

Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin 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.**

Anthem Lent Prose, arr. John Scott.

### Prayers after Communion

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.**

**Almighty God,  
we thank you for feeding us  
with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.  
Through him we offer you our souls and bodies  
to be a living sacrifice.  
Send us out in the power of your Spirit  
to live and work to your praise and glory.  
Amen.**

### The Blessing

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.**

### Closing Hymn

Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us  
o'er the world's tempestuous sea;  
guard us, guide us, keep us, feed us,  
for we have no help but thee;  
yet possessing every blessing,  
if our God our Father be.

Lord of all life, help us to work together for that day  
when your kingdom comes  
and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth.  
Look with favour on your people,  
gather us in your loving arms  
and bring us with Mary, the Mother of our Lord,  
and all the saints to feast at your table in heaven.  
Through Christ, and with Christ and in Christ,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all honour and glory are yours,  
O loving Father, for ever and ever.

**Amen**

*We keep a period of silence.*

The Lord's Prayer *(we sit or kneel)*

**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.  
Lead us not into temptation  
but 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.  
**Though we are many, we are one body,  
because we all share in one bread.**

Agnus Dei *(sung)*

**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.**

By your mighty resurrection; by your glorious ascension;  
and by your 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 your Holy Spirit  
to amend our lives according to your holy word.

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

*Silence is kept.*

Make our hearts clean, O God;  
**and renew a right spirit within us.**

**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,  
and in the good we have not 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.****

The Imposition of Ashes

Let us pray.

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.**

*Ashes are sprinkled and those taking part at home are invited to sprinkle  
ashes or mark themselves with a sign of the cross in ash.*

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

### Absolution

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.

**Amen.**

### The Peace

*We stand and the President introduces 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.

*We exchange the peace with those around us.*

### Preparation of the altar

*Once the altar has been prepared, this prayer is said*

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.**

### Eucharistic Prayer E

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

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.**

We praise and bless you, loving Father,  
through Jesus Christ, our Lord;  
and as we obey his command, send your Holy Spirit,  
that broken bread and wine outpoured  
may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died he had supper with his friends  
and taking bread, he praised you.

He broke the bread, gave it to them and said:  
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;  
do this in remembrance of me.

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine.

Again he praised you, gave it to them and said:

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.

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did,  
in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice  
made once for all upon the cross.

Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation,  
we proclaim his death and resurrection until he comes in glory.

**Christ has died:**

**Christ is risen:**

**Christ will come again.**