

Christ Episcopal Church

Ash Wednesday Liturgy for Children
March 5, 2003, 5:00 p.m.

*Welcome to this special service! Words printed in **bold** should be read aloud by everyone. Everyone who has been baptized is welcome to receive Holy Communion. People who have not yet been baptized may come to the rail for a blessing.*

We Greet Each Other and Pray

The Lord be with you.

We answer: **And also with you.**

Let us pray:

O God, whose son Jesus is the Good Shepherd watching over us in tender love: help us to know his voice when he calls each of us by name, and to follow where he leads us in his loving ways; who, with you and the Holy Spirit, lives in us and through us, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

We Read Today's Bible Lessons

(text could be taken from a Children's Bible.)

Isaiah 58:1-12

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

We Receive the Ashes

After the homily, all stand, and the celebrant invites the people to observance of a holy Lent, saying

Dear Children of God, it is time for us to prepare our hearts for the great mystery of Easter. During these forty days of Lent, let us remember how our Lord suffered, died, and came to life again, all because of God's great love for us.

I invite you to think about how you can love God more deeply. Think about those things for which you are sorry, pray daily, and offer acts of kindness that will help others and be a sign of your love for God.

Let us kneel for a time of silent prayer.

Silence is then kept for a time, all kneeling.

If ashes are to be imposed, the Celebrant says the following prayer:

May the ashes placed on our heads remind us that our life on earth is temporary, but because God loves us, we will live with God forever.

Ashes are imposed with the following words:

Whether we live, or whether we die, we belong to God.
(or) Remember you are dust, and to dust you shall return.

We Pray the Words of Psalm 51

Create in 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 the joy of your saving help again,
And sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.

We Pray for Forgiveness

Most holy and merciful God:
We confess to you and to one another,
and to all who love you in heaven and on earth,
that we have sinned by our own fault
in the things we have thought,
in the words we have spoken,
and in the actions we have taken;
by the wrong things we have done
and by those good things we should have done.

God calls us to love. Think about the times we have ignored this call. Let us ask for God's forgiveness.

For the times we have failed to pray and worship God,
We respond: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For the times we have not treated other people fairly,
We respond: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For the times we have not helped those in need,
We respond: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For the times we have lied or cheated,
We respond: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For the times we have failed to forgive others,
We respond: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, you desire that everyone turn away from those things that keep us from knowing your love. We ask that you forgive us. Open our hearts and our minds to your Holy Spirit, that we may know your love forever.

We respond: **Amen.**

We Forgive Each Other

Lord, forgive us as we forgive others. As a sign of our reconciliation, we offer each other the sign of peace. Let us now greet each other with the words, "The peace of the Lord be always with you."

We greet the people around us with smiles, handshakes, or hugs, and say to them:

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

We Thank God Before Communion

The Lord be with you.

We answer: **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts!

We answer: **We lift them up to God.**

Let us give thanks to the living God.

We answer: **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

It is always right to thank you, God. Thank you for making the world, sunlight and nighttime, rivers, rocks, and seas, birds and animals, plants and people. Thank you for the whole world.

We repeat: **Thank you for the whole world.**

Thank you, God, for giving us Jesus, your son and Mary's son, the Good Shepherd, and our brother. Thank you for Jesus Christ, our Lord.

We repeat: **Thank you for Jesus Christ, our Lord.**

Thank you, God, for the good news Jesus brought, good news for poor people made strong, and sick people made well; good news of blessings for children, and a feast for everyone. Thank you for this good news.

We repeat: **Thank you for this good news.**

Thank you, God, for loving your people, teaching us, protecting us, feeding us, and forgiving us. Thank you for the Holy Spirit in your church.

We repeat: **Thank you for the Holy Spirit in your church.**

And now we pray with your people everywhere:

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.

Now we remember Jesus, who died on the cross for us. The night before he died, he shared a meal with the friends he loved. Jesus took the bread, and he thanked you for it, and he broke it, and he gave it to his friends. "Take it," he said, "and eat it. This is my body, and I give it for you. Do this to remember me."

After they had eaten, Jesus took the cup of wine, and he thanked you for it, and gave it to his friends. "All of you, drink it," he said. "This is my blood; it is God's

new promise that sins will be forgiven. Do this to remember me." So we do this to remember him, and we say:

Christ has died,

Christ is risen,

Christ will come again.

Thank you, God,

We repeat: **Thank you, God,**

that Jesus died for us. Thank you, God,

We repeat: **Thank you, God,**

that he is alive with you forever. Thank you, God,

We repeat: **Thank you, God,**

that he gives us the Holy Spirit. Send us the Holy Spirit now, with Jesus' life in this bread and wine. Send us the Holy Spirit to help us forgive each other, to help us love each other. Send us the Holy Spirit to go with us everywhere, to spread the good news. Holy God, loving God,

We repeat: **Holy God, loving God,**

we pray to you with the Holy Spirit's help.

Holy God, loving God,

We repeat: **Holy God, loving God,**

we pray to you through our Lord Jesus Christ. Thanks and praise to you,

We repeat: **Thanks and praise to you,**

blessing and honor to you,

We repeat: **blessing and honor to you,**

glory and power to you,

We repeat: **glory and power to you,**

Holy God, loving God,

We repeat: **Holy God, loving God,**

for ever and ever.

We repeat: **for ever and ever.**

Amen.

As Jesus taught us, we now 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 for ever. Amen.

We Receive Holy Communion

We Thank God After Communion

God, Father and Creator,

**we are grateful that you come to us
in the bread and wine.**

**We thank you for all the gifts
you have given us,
especially the gift of your Son.**

During this holy season of Lent,

**help us to change and grow and become
the kind of people you created us to be.**

Fill our hearts with love for you

**and love for other people,
created in your image.**

**Show us how to use the gifts
you have given us
to help others in your name.**

**As we journey together
toward the light of Easter,
we know you are with us
in all that we do.**

**May we live always
as people of your kingdom
praising your name now and forever.**

Amen.

We Are Sent Home as God's People

Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

We answer: **Thanks be to God.**

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