



ASH WEDNESDAY

14TH FEBRUARY 2024



THE ANGLICAN DIOCESE OF WANGARATTA
Parochial District of Wangaratta West and The Warbys
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Gathering in God's Name

The Acclamation

In the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

The Greeting

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

Scripture Sentence

The sacrifice of God is a broken spirit: a broken and contrite heart you
will not despise. *Psalm 51: 17*

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

You may prefer to kneel, stand or sit for the Prayers of Approach

Living God,
we thank you for this day you have given us,
a day that reminds us of your mercy,
your forgiveness,
your offer of a new beginning for all who truly seek it.
Search us, O God,

and lead us in the way of life eternal.

We thank you for this time you have given us,
this season of Lent that reminds us of the need for prayer and
reflection, discipline and self-examination.
Search us, O God,

and lead us in the way of life eternal.

We thank you for all this season leads towards,
the days of Holy Week and Easter that speak of your awesome love
shown in Christ, and your great victory won through him.
Search us, O God,

and lead us in the way of life eternal.

Living God,
help us to use this day wisely and this season fully,
so that our faith may be deepened,
our horizons stretched,
and our love for you increased.

Search us, O God,

and lead us in the way of life eternal.

Cleanse us of all that is wrong,
put a new heart and a right spirit within us,
and prepare us to rejoice again at the wonder of your love
revealed in Christ crucified and risen.

Search us, O God,

and lead us in the way of life eternal.

Amen.

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.**

Please be seated

The Ministry of the Word

A Reading from the Prophet Joel [2: 1-2, 12 –17]

*The prophet warns of a coming day of judgement,
but urges the people to repent and seek the mercy of the Lord*

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—
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.

Yet even now, says the LORD,
return to me with all your heart,
with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;
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.

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?

Blow the trumpet in Zion; sanctify a fast;
call a solemn assembly; 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.

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.

Hear the word of the Lord
THANKS BE TO GOD

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 51. 1-17

Have mercy on me, O God, in your enduring goodness:
according to the fulness of your compassion blot out my offences.

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

For I acknowledge my rebellion:
and my sin is ever before me.

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.

Surely in wickedness I was brought to birth:
and in sin my mother conceived me.

You that desire truth in the inward parts:
teach me wisdom in the secret places of the heart.

*Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean:
wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.*

*Make me hear of joy and gladness:
let the bones which you have broken rejoice.*

Hide your face from my sins:
and blot out all my iniquities.

Create in me a clean heart, O God:
and renew a right spirit within me.

Do not cast me out from your presence:
do not take your holy spirit from me.

O give me the gladness of your help again:
and support me with a willing spirit.

Then will I teach transgressors your ways:
and sinners shall turn to you again.

O Lord God of my salvation, deliver me from bloodshed:
and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness.

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

*You take no pleasure in sacrifice, or I would give it:
burnt-offerings you do not want.*

*The sacrifice of God is a broken spirit:
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.*

A Reading from the Second Letter of Paul to the Corinthians [5. 20b—6.10]

*Paul, speaking on behalf of Christ,
urges his readers to accept the healing grace of God.*

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 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!
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.

Hear the word of the Lord

THANKS BE TO GOD

Please stand

Gospel Acclamation

Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory.

The Lord is a great God,
O that today you would listen to his voice.
Harden not your hearts.

Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory.

The Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ According to Matthew [6. 1-6, 16-21]

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ

*Jesus reminds us that acts of prayer, almsgiving, and fasting, are to be done,
not for the approval of other people, but in gratitude to God.*

"Beware of practicing 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;

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and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

"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

Sermon

The Liturgy of Penitence

Gracious and merciful God,
we come together to worship you,
to praise and thank you,
to seek your forgiveness and to ask for renewal.

**Create in us a clean heart, O Lord,
and put a right spirit within us.**

We come in the name of Christ,
remembering his lonely days in the wilderness,
his time wrestling with temptation,
and the ministry that followed,
restoring and transforming so many lives.

**Create in us a clean heart, O Lord,
and put a right spirit within us.**

Help us to learn from his example -
to search our hearts as he did,
to consider our calling,
to reflect on our faith,

to resist temptation,
and to commit ourselves more wholly to you.

**Create in us a clean heart, O Lord,
and put a right spirit within us.**

Help us to recognise all Jesus has done for us
through his life, death and resurrection;
and so may we come gladly to you,
confessing our sins,
acknowledging our faults,
accepting our weaknesses,
and receiving your forgiveness.

**Create in us a clean heart, O Lord,
and put a right spirit within us.**

Gracious and merciful God,
we come together in this season of Lent.
Speak to us today and in the days ahead,
so that we may know and love you better.

**Create in us a clean heart, O Lord,
and put a right spirit within us. Amen.**

Silence is kept

Almighty God,
examine us,
and make up for where we are lacking;
test us,
and show where our commitment is weak;
speak to us,
and deepen our faith;
guide us,
and inspire us to follow;
challenge us,
and teach us to listen;
call us,
and help us to respond.

**Take this season
and through it lead us closer to you,
so that we may become more nearly
the people you would have us be. Amen.**

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. **Amen.**

*The priest and people receive the imposition of ashes.
At the imposition the minister says to each person*

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

or

Turn away from sin and be faithful to the Gospel.

At the conclusion of the Imposition, the priest says this prayer

God our Father,
the strength of all who put their trust in you,
mercifully accept our prayers;
and because, in our weakness,
we can do nothing good without you,
grant us the help of your grace,
that in keeping your commandments
we may please you, both in will and deed;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Please stand

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

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.

The gifts of the people may be gathered and presented.

The table is prepared and bread and wine are placed upon it.

A hymn may be sung.

Offertory Hymn, TIS 580. tune, Mannheim

- 1. 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.**
- 2. 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.**
- 3. 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.**

James Edmeston 1791–1867
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At the preparation of the table this prayer may be said

Risen Lord and Saviour,
present among us with the wealth of your love.
Cleanse us from sin and give us the faith
to offer our praise and grow in your grace. **Amen.**

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord is here.

His spirit is with us.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our 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 saying:

**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.

Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness;
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit,
and according to your holy will, these gifts of bread and wine

may be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ; ✠
who, in the same night that he was betrayed, took bread and gave
you thanks; he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me. ✠

In the same way, after supper he took the cup and gave you thanks;
he gave it to them, saying:

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. ✠

Praise to you, Lord Jesus:

Dying you destroyed our death.

Rising, you restored our life.

Lord Jesus, come in glory.

And so, Father, calling to mind his death on the cross,
his perfect sacrifice made once for the sins of the whole world;
rejoicing in his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension,
and looking for his coming in glory,
we celebrate this memorial of our redemption.

As we offer you this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving,
we bring before you this bread and this cup
and we thank you for counting us worthy
to stand in your presence and serve you.

Send the Holy Spirit on your people
and gather into one in your kingdom
all who share this one bread and one cup,
so that we, in the company of Mary, Paul, Joseph, Silas
and all the saints, may praise and glorify you for ever,
through Jesus Christ our Lord;

by whom, and with whom, and in whom,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father,
for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Lord Jesus, remember us in your Kingdom and teach us 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 for ever. Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread and the Communion

The priest breaks the consecrated bread.

Every time we eat this bread and drink this cup.

We proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

**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 your peace.**

The Invitation to 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.**

Prayer 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
the benefits of his sacrifice,
and also daily endeavour to follow
the blessed steps of his most holy life;
through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**God of our pilgrimage,
you have fed us with the bread of heaven.
Refresh and sustain us
as we go forward on our journey,
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Hymn, TiS 684, tune: Picardy

- 1. Love will be our Lenten calling,
love to shake and shatter sin,
waking every closed, cold spirit,
stirring new life deep within,
till the quickened heart remembers
what our Easter birth can mean.**
- 2. Peace will be our Lenten living
as we turn for home again,
longing for the words of pardon,
stripping off old grief and pain,
till we stand, restored and joyful,
with the Church on Easter day.**
- 3. Truth will be our Lenten learning:
hear the Crucified One call!
Shadowed by the Saviour's passion,
images and idols fall,
and, in Easter's holy splendour,
God alone is all in all.**

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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.**

Dismissal

Go in the joy and peace of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

Ashes are an ancient sign of penitence; from the middle ages it became the custom to begin Lent by being marked in ash with the sign of the cross.



The calculation of the forty days has varied considerably in Christian history. It is now usual in the West to count them continuously to the end of Holy Week, so beginning Lent on the sixth Wednesday before Easter, Ash Wednesday.

Liturgical dress is the simplest possible.

Churches are kept bare of flowers and decoration.

The *Gloria in Excelsis* is not used.

The fourth Sunday of Lent (*Laetare* or Refreshment Sunday) was allowed as a day of relief from the rigour of Lent, and the Feast of the Annunciation almost always falls in Lent; these breaks from austerity are the background to the modern observance of Mothering Sunday.

Text from *A Prayer Book for Australia* (Sydney: Broughton Books, 1995) © 1995, The Anglican Church of Australia Trusts Corporation. **Hymns** are from *Together in Song* (The Australian Hymn Book II, 2000)

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