

A Liturgy of the Eucharist for the Season of Lent



Christ in the Desert by Ivan Kramskoi



All Saints Church, Birkenhead

A LENTEN REFLECTION

Lent may originally have followed Epiphany, just as Jesus' sojourn in the wilderness followed immediately on his baptism, but it soon became firmly attached to Easter, as the principal occasion for baptism and for the reconciliation of those who had been excluded from the Church's fellowship for apostasy or serious faults.

This history explains the characteristic notes of Lent – self-examination, penitence, self-denial, study, and preparation for Easter, to which almsgiving has traditionally been added.

As the candidates for baptism were instructed in Christian faith, and as penitents prepared themselves, through fasting and penance, to be readmitted to communion, the whole Christian community was invited to join them in the process of study and repentance, the extension of which over forty days would remind them of the forty days that Jesus spent in the wilderness, being tested by Satan.

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.

I hope that this Lent may inspire and challenge you to follow in the footsteps of Jesus.

THE GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY

We gather in the name of God: ✠ Father, Son and Holy Spirit
Amen

The Lord be with you
The Lord bless you

God's love is shown for us in this: while we were yet sinners Christ died for us.

We say / sing:

Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

In silence we call to mind our sins.

Silence

Let us confess our sins.
Merciful God, we have sinned
in what we have thought and said,
in the wrong we have done
and in the good we have not done.
We have sinned in ignorance:
we have sinned in weakness:
we have sinned through our own deliberate fault.
We are truly sorry. We repent and turn to you.
Forgive us, for our Saviour Christ's sake,
and renew our lives to the glory of your name. Amen.

Through the cross of Christ,
✠ God have mercy on you,
pardon you and set you free.
Know that you are forgiven and be at peace.
God strengthen you in all goodness
and keep you in life eternal.
Amen.

The peace of Christ rule in our hearts
The Word of Christ dwell in us richly

Let us pray.

Silence

We turn to our service sheet to pray the Collect

THE READINGS

We sit for the readings

After each reading the response is

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church
Thanks be to God

A Hymn may be sung

All Standing

The Holy Gospel according to...

✠ Praise and Glory to God

After the Gospel, the reader says

This is the Gospel of Christ.

Praise to Christ the Word

THE SERMON

Following The Sermon we keep silence

THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

All standing

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten not made, of one being with the Father;
through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became fully human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge
the living and the dead
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who in unity with the Father and the Son
is worshipped and glorified,
and has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

The presiding priest says:

Let us pray for the Church and for the world, giving thanks for God's goodness.

THE PEACE

All standing

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 Christ be always with you.
And also with you.

THE PREPARATION OF THE GIFTS

*We sing a Hymn as the bread & wine and the gifts of the people are
brought to the altar*

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord is here
God's 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 offer thanks and praise

It is right indeed, it is our joy and our salvation, holy Lord,
almighty Father, everlasting God, at all times and
in all places to give you thanks and praise
through Christ your only Son.

You are the source of all life and goodness;
through your eternal Word
you have created all things from the beginning
and formed us in your own image;
male and female you created us.

Who though tempted in every way as we are,
yet did not sin;
through him therefore we may triumph over sin
and grow in grace.

In him you have made us a holy people
by sending upon us your holy and lifegiving Spirit.

Therefore with the faithful who rest in him,
with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven,
we proclaim your great and glorious name,
for ever praising you and saying: saying/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.

Please sit or kneel

All glory and thanksgiving to you, holy Father;
on the night before he died
your Son, Jesus Christ, took bread;
when he had given you thanks, he broke it,
gave it to his disciples, and said:
Take, eat, this is my body which is given for you;
do this to remember me.

After supper he took the cup;
when he had given you thanks,
he gave it to them and said:
Drink this, all of you, for 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, to remember me:

Glory to you, Lord Christ;
your death we show forth;
your resurrection we proclaim;
your coming we await,
Amen! Come Lord Jesus.

Therefore loving God,
recalling your great goodness to us in Christ,
his suffering and death,
his resurrection and ascension, and looking for his
coming in glory, we celebrate our redemption with this
bread of life and this cup of salvation.
Accept our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, which we
offer through Christ our great high priest.

Send your Holy Spirit
that these gifts of bread and wine which we receive may be to us the
body and blood of Christ,
and that we, filled with the Spirit's grace and power, may be renewed
for the service of your kingdom.

United in Christ with all who stand before you in earth and heaven,
we worship you, O God,
in songs of everlasting praise:

✠ **B**lessing, honour and glory be yours,
here and everywhere,
now and for ever. Amen.

Let us pray for the forgiveness of our sins as Jesus taught us:

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

Kua akona nei tatou e to tatou Ariki,
ka inoi tatou

E to matou Matua i te rangi
Kia tapu tou Ingoa.
Kia tae mai tou rangatiratanga.
Kia meatia tau e pai ai
ki runga ki te whenua,
kia rite ano ki to te rangi.
Homai ki a matou aiane
he taro ma matou mo tenei ra.
Murua o matou hara,
Me matou hoki e muru nei
i o te hunga e hara ana ki a matou.
Aua hoki matou e kawea kia whakawaia;
Engari whakaorangia matou i te kino:
Nou hoki te rangatiratanga, te kaha,
me te kororia,
Ake ake ake. Amine.

Silence is kept

The presiding priest breaks 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.

We say/sing together:

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

Behold the Lamb of God,
behold him who takes away the sins of the world.
Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb

The presiding priest and the people receive communion

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Silence is kept

Father of all, we give you thanks and praise, that when we were still far off you met us in your Son and brought us home. Dying and living, he declared your love, gave us grace and opened the gate of glory. May we who share Christ's body live his risen life; we who drink his cup bring life to others; we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world.

Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us, so we and all your children shall be free, and the whole earth live to praise your name.

A Final Hymn may be sung

A ✝ Blessing is given...

We are sent out with these words

Go now to love and serve the Lord. Go in peace.
Amen. We go in the name of Christ.

*You are warmly invited to share Morning Tea in the Hall following the
9.30am service*