



**ASH
WEDNESDAY**

St Matthew Croydon

Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes

Welcome to St Matthew Croydon.

If you are new to our church, please make yourself known at the end of the service to one of the wardens or a member of the clergy.

We do have a hearing loop – please switch your hearing aids to the ‘T’ position if you need this help.

Toilets are available, and the warden will happily direct you should you need it.

Fire exits are clearly marked and, in the event of any incident, you will be calmly directed to the correct exit.

Please turn your mobile phone off – and if you can’t do that, please ensure that the sound is off.

Our services are often livestreamed – if you have any queries about this, please speak to the warden at the back of the church.

¶ The Gathering

Entry Hymn (595):

**Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
naught be all else to me, save that thou art.
Thou my best thought, by day or by night,
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.**

**Be thou my wisdom, be thou my true word;
I ever with thee, and thou with me, Lord.
Born of thy love, thy child may I be,
thou in me dwelling and I one with thee.**

**Be thou my buckler, my sword for the fight.
Be thou my dignity, thou my delight,
thou my soul's shelter, thou my high tow'r.
Raise thou me heav'nward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.**

**Riches I heed not, nor vain empty praise;
thou mine inheritance, now and always.**

**Thou and thou only, first in my heart,
Ruler of heaven, my treasure thou art.**

**"True Light of heaven, when vict'ry is won
may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heav'n's Sun!
Heart of my heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.**

*Irish 8th century, trans. Mary Byrne(1880-1931) and
Eleanor Hull (1860-1935) © Copyright control*

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.

Introduction

The president explains the meaning of Lent and invites the people to observe it faithfully

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.

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

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.**

¶ The Liturgy of the Word

Readings

*Either one or two readings from Scripture
precede the Gospel reading.*

At the end of each the reader may say

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Song: Purify my Heart (373)

Purify my heart,
let me be as gold and precious silver.
Purify my heart,
let me be as gold, pure gold.

Refiner's fire,
my heart's one desire
is to be holy,
set apart for You, Lord.
I choose to be holy,
set apart for You, my Master,
ready to do Your will.

Purify my heart,
cleanse me from within
and make me holy.
Purify my heart,
cleanse me from my sin, deep within.

*Brian Doerksen (b.1965) © 1990 Mercy/Vineyard
Publishing/CopyCare*

Gospel Reading

The Lord be With You

And also with You

The 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.

When the Gospel is announced

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to N.

Glory to you, O Lord.

At the end

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 upon us.

God the Son,

have mercy upon us.

God the Holy Spirit,

have mercy upon us.

Holy, blessed and glorious Trinity,

have mercy upon 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.

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,
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

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 president and people receive the imposition of ashes, the president first receiving the imposition from another minister. At the imposition the minister says to each person

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

During the imposition silence may be kept, or a hymn, anthem or psalm may be sung.

Prayer at the End

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.**

¶ 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.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.
All may exchange a sign of peace.

Offertory Hymn (127):

**Lord Jesus, think on me,
and purge away my sin;
from earth-born passions set me free,
and make me pure within.**

**Lord Jesus, think on me,
with care and woe oppressed,
let me Thy loving servant be,
and taste Thy promised rest.**

Lord Jesus, think on me,
nor let me go astray;
through darkness and perplexity
point Thou the heav'nly way.

Lord Jesus, think on me,
that, when the flood is past,
I may eternal brightness see,
and share Thy joy at last.

*Bishop Synesius of Cyrene, (375-414); trans. Allen
William Chatfield, (1808-1896)*

Preparation of the Table

Prayer of Preparation

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.**

Eucharistic Prayer

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/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.**

All glory be to you, our heavenly Father, who, in your tender mercy, gave your only Son our Saviour Jesus Christ to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption; who made there by his one oblation of himself once offered a full, perfect and sufficient sacrifice, oblation and satisfaction for the sins of the whole world; he instituted, and in his holy gospel commanded us to continue, a perpetual memory of his precious death until he comes again.

Hear us, merciful Father, we humbly pray, and grant that, by the power of your Holy Spirit, we receiving these gifts of your creation, this bread and this wine, according to your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ's holy institution, in remembrance of his death and passion, may be partakers of his most blessed body and blood;

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.

Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died:

Christ is risen:

Christ will come again.

Therefore, Lord and heavenly Father,
in remembrance of the precious death
and passion, the mighty resurrection and
glorious ascension of your dear Son Jesus Christ,
we offer you through him this our sacrifice
of praise and thanksgiving. Grant that by
his merits and death, and through faith in
his blood, we and all your Church may
receive forgiveness of our sins and all
other benefits of his passion.

Although we are unworthy, through our manifold sins, to offer you any sacrifice, yet we pray that you will accept this the duty and service that we owe. Do not weigh our merits, but pardon our offences, and fill us all who share in this holy communion with your grace and heavenly blessing; 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.

The Lord's Prayer

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.

**Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever.
Amen.**

Every time we eat this bread
and drink this cup
**we proclaim the Lord's death
until he comes.**

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 of Humble Access

**We do not presume
to come to this your table, merciful Lord,
trusting in our own righteousness, but in
your manifold and great mercies.**

We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table. But you are the same Lord whose nature is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ and to drink his blood, that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body and our souls washed through his most precious blood, and that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

The president and people receive communion.

Hymn (CAHON 343):

**Jesus, lover of my soul,
let me to thy bosom fly,
while the nearer waters roll,
while the tempest still is high;
hide me, O my Saviour, hide,
till the storm of life is past;
safe into the haven guide,
O receive my soul at last!**

**Other refuge have I none;
hangs my helpless soul on thee;
leave, ah! leave me not alone,
still support and comfort me.
All my trust on thee is stayed,
all my help from thee I bring;
cover my defenceless head
with the shadow of thy wing.**

**Plenteous grace with thee is found,
grace to cover all my sin;
let the healing streams abound;
make and keep me pure within.
Thou of life the fountain art;
freely let me take of thee;
spring thou up within my heart,
rise to all eternity.**

Charles Wesley ((1707-1788))

Anthem

Post Communion Prayer

Silence is kept.

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.**

**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.**

¶ The Dismissal

Final Hymn (702):

**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.**

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.

James Edmeston (1791-1867)

Responsory

This is love, not that we loved God,
but that he loved us and sent his Son.

He is the sacrifice for our sins,
that we might live through him.

If God loves us so much
we ought to love one another.

If we love one another

God lives in us.

The Dismissal Gospel

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders

and rejoices. And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbours, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.' Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous people who need no repentance. (Luke 15.4-7)

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

The Blessing

May God the Father,
who does not despise the broken spirit,
give to you a contrite heart.

Amen.

May Christ,
who bore our sins in his body on the tree,
heal you by his wounds.

Amen.

May the Holy Spirit,
who leads us into all truth,
speak to you words of pardon and peace.

Amen.

And the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you
always.

Amen.

The Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ. Amen.

The ministers and people depart.

Copyright acknowledgement:

Some material included in this service is copyright: © 1989 National Council of the Churches of Christ, USA

Some material included in this service is copyright: © The Archbishops' Council 2000

Some material included in this service is copyright: © The Archbishops' Council 2002

Collect (Ash Wednesday, Additional) © The Archbishops' Council 2004. Post Communion (Ash Wednesday) © The Crown/Cambridge University Press: The Book of Common Prayer (1662)

Copyright © 2012, WGRG, Iona Community, Glasgow, G2 3DH, Scotland. wgrg@iona.org.uk; www.wgrg.co.uk. Reproduced by permission.

Words reproduced under CCL No 5686

Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE,
Licence #A-739265 All rights reserved