

Parish of St Guthlac, Market Deeping

17th February 2021

Ash Wednesday Order of Service

Hymn

- 1 **Forty days and forty nights
though wast fasting in the wild;
forty days and forty nights
tempted and yet undefiled.**
- 2 **Sunbeams scorching all the day,
chilly dew-drops nightly shed;
prowling beasts about thy way;
stones thy pillow, earth thy bed.**
- 3 **Shall not we thy sorrows share,
and from earthly joys abstain,
fasting with unceasing prayer,
glad with thee to suffer pain?**
- 4 **So shall we have peace divine;
holier gladness ours shall be;
round us too shall angels shine,
such as ministered to thee.**
- 5 **Keep, O keep us, Saviour dear,
ever constant by thy side;
that with thee we may appear
at the eternal Eastertide.**

George Hunt Smyttan (1822-1870) & Francis Pott (1832-1909)

Music: Aus Der Tiefe; Melody by "M.H." in Nürnbergisches Gesangbuch, 1676

Greeting

We meet in the presence of God; the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. **All Amen.**
The Lord be with you. **All And also with you.**

A Prayer for Today

Let us pray for grace to keep Lent faithfully.

Holy God,
our lives are laid open before you:
rescue us from the chaos of sin
and through the death of your Son
bring us healing and make us whole
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

The Bible Reading: John 8.1-11

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Homily

Self-examination and Confession

Let us now call to mind our sin and the infinite mercy of God.

God the Father,
God the Son,
God the Holy Spirit,

All have mercy upon us.

All have mercy upon us.

All have mercy upon us.

**All Most merciful God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
we confess that we have sinned in thought, word and deed.**

We have not loved you with our whole heart, and mind, and strength.

We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.

We have not forgiven others, as we have been forgiven.

All Lord, have mercy.

We have been deaf to your call to serve, as Christ served us.

We have not been true to the mind of Christ.

We have grieved your Holy Spirit.

All Lord, have mercy.

We confess to you, Lord, all our past unfaithfulness: the pride, hypocrisy and impatience of our lives.

All Lord, have mercy.

Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people.

All Lord, have mercy.

Our anger at our own frustration and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves.

All Lord, have mercy.

Our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts and our dishonesty in daily life and work.

All Lord, have mercy.

Our negligence in prayer and worship and our failure to commend the faith that is in us.

All Lord, have mercy.

Accept our repentance, Lord, for the wrongs we have done, for our blindness to human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty.

All Accept our repentance, Lord.

For all false judgements, for uncharitable thoughts towards our neighbours and for our prejudice and contempt towards those who differ from us.

All Accept our repentance, Lord.

For our waste and pollution of your creation and our lack of concern for those who come after us.

All Accept our repentance, Lord.

Restore us, good Lord, and let your anger depart from us.

All Favourably hear us, for your mercy is great.

Accomplish in us the work of your salvation,

All that we may show your glory in the world.

By the cross and passion of your Son our Lord,

All bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection. Amen.

And we pray together

All Lord, we have not loved you with our whole heart.

We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.

In your mercy, forgive what we have been,

help us to amend what we are,

and direct what we shall be;

that we may do justly, love mercy,

and walk humbly with you, our God.

Amen.

Act of Witness and Absolution

God our Father,

grant that this water may be for us

a sign of our penitence

and a symbol of our cleansing;

for it is by your grace alone

that we receive eternal life

in Jesus Christ our Saviour.

All Amen.

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

Turn away from sin and be faithful to Christ.

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.

All Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

**All 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.

Closing Prayers and Prayer of Blessing

This is love, not that we loved God,

All but that he loved us and sent his Son.

He is the sacrifice for our sins,

All that we might live through him.

If God loves us so much

All we ought to love one another.

If we love one another

All God lives in us.

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

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

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

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

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

Hymn

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| <p>1 Amazing grace (how sweet the sound)
that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now I am found,
was blind, but now I see.</p> | <p>4 The Lord has promised good to me,
his word my hope secures;
he will my shield and portion be
as long as life endures.</p> |
| <p>2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
and grace my fears relieved;
how precious did that grace appear
the hour I first believed!</p> | <p>5 Yes, when this flesh and heart shall fail,
and mortal life shall cease:
I shall possess, within the veil,
a life of joy and peace.</p> |
| <p>3 Through many dangers, toils and snares
I have already come:
'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far,
and grace will lead me home.</p> | <p><i>John Newton (1725-1807)</i>
<i>Music: Amazing Grace; probably of Scottish origin, arr.</i>
<i>John Barnard (b. 1948)</i></p> |

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