



Southwell
Minster

*The Cathedral and Parish Church
of the Blessed Virgin Mary*



SUNG EUCHARIST (online)

ASH WEDNESDAY

Wednesday 17 February 2021

7.00pm

Welcome to this online service from Southwell Minster

Welcome to our online service for Ash Wednesday, as we begin our observance of Lent. The Church's season of self-examination, penitence, self-denial, and study, in which we both recall Jesus' forty-days in the wilderness and prepare to celebrate Easter, will have a particular resonance this year, as we approach the anniversary of the first lockdown of the pandemic.

Ashes are an ancient sign of penitence; from the Middle Ages it became the custom to begin Lent by being marked by ash with the sign of the cross, reminded of our creaturely nature. As we continue to worship from our homes, we are not able in this service to share in this acknowledgement of mortality – at once humbling and yet hopeful – in the usual way. However, you are invited, if you wish, to make ash at home using Palm Sunday palms that you may have at home, and to sign yourself with them at the appropriate point in the service. Instructions are below.

Please do join in at home as you are comfortably able: you may wish to stand, sit and kneel as you normally would in church (we have included instructions for posture in this booklet for this reason), and/or to speak along with the congregational elements of the service.

The President of the Eucharist is The Very Revd Nicola Sullivan, *Dean of Southwell*.

The Preacher is The Revd Prof. Alison Milbank, *Canon Theologian*.

The Lay Clerks of the Cathedral Choir are directed by Paul Provost, *Rector Chori*.

The organ is played by Jonathan Allsopp, *Assistant Director of Music*.

The setting for the Eucharist is *Mass for Five Voices* by William Byrd (c.1539-1623).

Donations in support of the mission and ministry of the Cathedral are very welcome: for more details, go to <https://www.southwellminster.org/donate/>. Thank you for your support.

Acknowledgements

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Making Ash from Palm Crosses

1. In a safe environment (probably outdoors), burn the palms in a large an open metal pan. (Have a fire blanket or container of water to hand just in case.)
2. Once burned, reduce the debris in the pan with a fork.
3. Sift the ash through a fine sieve with a spoon to get a fine light-grey ash. Discard larger debris left in the sieve.
4. Into the fine, light-grey ash, add just a few drops of olive oil at a time, mixing it into the ash with the fork. Aim to use only enough oil to darken the ash and make it coalesce a little, leaving it as dry as possible. Do not use water, as the mixing of ash and water will form a caustic substance that can irritate or even burn the skin.
5. Place the ash in a small container, such as a cup, ready to be used in the service.

Spiritual Communion

The term 'Spiritual Communion' has been used historically to describe the means of grace by which a person, prevented for some serious reason from sharing in a celebration of the Eucharist, nonetheless shares in the communion of Jesus Christ. The Book of Common Prayer instructs us that if we offer ourselves in penitence and faith, giving thanks for the redemption won by Christ crucified, we may truly 'eat and drink the Body and Blood of our Saviour Christ', although we cannot receive the sacrament physically ourselves. Making a Spiritual Communion is particularly fitting during the restrictions precipitated by the coronavirus. The Church of which we are members is not defined by the walls of a building but by the Body of Christ of which we are members. In making our communion spiritually, we are joining with Christians everywhere to be nourished by the one who tells us, 'I am the Bread of Life'. As you join in with our service this morning, at the 'Giving of Communion' there will be an opportunity to make your own Spiritual Communion, giving thanks for the saving death and resurrection of Jesus.

ORDER OF SERVICE

THE GATHERING

Please stand

INTROIT



Hear us, O Lord, have mer-cy up-on us: for we have sinned a - gainst thee.

All Hear us, O Lord, have mercy upon us: for we have sinned against thee.

Choir To thee, Redeemer, on thy throne of glory:
Lift we our weeping eyes in holy pleadings:
Listen, O Jesu, to our supplications.

All Hear us, O Lord, have mercy upon us: for we have sinned against thee.

O thou chief Corner-stone, Right Hand of the Father:
Way of Salvation, Gate of Life Celestial:
Cleanse thou our sinful souls from all defilement.

Hear us, O Lord, have mercy upon us: for we have sinned against thee.

God, we implore thee, in thy glory seated:
Bow down and hearken to thy weeping children:
Pity and pardon all our grievous trespasses.

Hear us, O Lord, have mercy upon us: for we have sinned against thee.

Sins oft committed now we lay before thee:
With true contrition, now no more we veil them:
Grant us, Redeemer, loving absolution.

Hear us, O Lord, have mercy upon us: for we have sinned against thee.

Innocent, captive, taken unresisting:
Falsely accused, and for us sinners sentenced:
Save us, we pray thee, Jesu our Redeemer.

Hear us, O Lord, have mercy upon us: for we have sinned against thee.

*Words: Latin, 10th century
from the Mozarabic rite*

*Tune: ATTENDE NEH 507
Mode v*

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

GREETING

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

INTRODUCTION

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.

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 sit

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING *read by Thelma Clark*

Joel 2: 1-2, 12-17

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.
Why should it be said among the peoples,
"Where is their God?"'

This is the Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALMODY

Psalm 51

Choir Have mercy upon me, O God, after thy great goodness:
according to the multitude of thy mercies do away mine offences.
Wash me thoroughly from my wickedness:
and cleanse me from my sin.
For I acknowledge my faults:
and my sin is ever before me.
Against thee only have I sinned, and done this evil in thy sight:
that thou mightest be justified in thy saying, and clear when thou
art judged.
Behold, I was shapen in wickedness:
and in sin hath my mother conceived me.
But lo, thou requirest truth in the inward parts:
and shalt make me to understand wisdom secretly.
Thou shalt purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean:
thou shalt wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.
Thou shalt make me hear of joy and gladness:
that the bones which thou hast broken may rejoice.
Turn thy face from my sins:
and put out all my misdeeds.
Make me a clean heart, O God:
and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from thy presence:
and take not thy holy Spirit from me.
O give me the comfort of thy help again:
and stablish me with thy free Spirit.

Then shall I teach thy ways unto the wicked:
and sinners shall be converted unto thee.
Deliver me from blood-guiltiness, O God, thou that art the God of
my health:
and my tongue shall sing of thy righteousness.
Thou shalt open my lips, O Lord:
and my mouth shall shew thy praise.
For thou desirest no sacrifice, else would I give it thee:
but thou delightest not in burnt-offerings.
The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit:
a broken and contrite heart, O God, shalt thou not despise.
O be favourable and gracious unto Sion:
build thou the walls of Jerusalem.
Then shalt thou be pleased with the sacrifice of righteousness, with the
burnt-offerings and oblations:
then shall they offer young bullocks upon thine altar.

Music: Mode iv

Please stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Choir 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.

Music: John Harper (b. 1947) and Paul Provost (b. 1985)

GOSPEL READING

John 8: 1-11

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.
Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. Early in the morning he came again to the temple. All the people came to him and he sat down and began to teach them. The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery; and making her stand before all of them, they said to him, 'Teacher, this woman was caught in the very act of committing adultery. Now in the law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?' They said this to test him, so that they might have some charge to bring against him. Jesus bent down and wrote with his finger on the ground. When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, 'Let anyone among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her.' And once again he bent down and wrote on the ground. When they heard it, they went away, one by one, beginning with the elders; and Jesus was left alone with the woman standing before him. Jesus straightened up and said to her, 'Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?' She said, 'No one, sir.' And Jesus said, 'Neither do I condemn you. Go your way, and from now on do not sin again.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

Please sit

SERMON *given by The Revd Prof. Alison Milbank, Canon Theologian*

THE LITURGY OF PENITENCE

Please remain seated or kneel

LITANY *sung by the Canon Precentor and choir*

Let us pray.

God the Father,
have mercy on us.

God the Son,
have mercy on us.

God the Holy Spirit,
have mercy on us.

Holy, blessed, and glorious Trinity,
have mercy on 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.

CONFESSION

President 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.**

KYRIE ELEISON

<i>Choir</i>	Kyrie eleison.	<i>Lord, have mercy.</i>
	Christe eleison.	<i>Christ, have mercy.</i>
	Kyrie eleison.	<i>Lord, have mercy.</i>

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

The President invites the congregation to receive the sign of ashes if they have prepared ashes at home.

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.

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

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

During the organ voluntary, if you have prepared ash, you may wish to make the sign of the cross with it on your forehead.

Ich ruf zu dir, Herr Jesu Christ,
Ich bitt, erhör mein Klagen;
Verleih mir Gnad zu dieser Frist,
Laß mich doch nicht verzagen.
Den rechten Glauben, Herr, ich mein,
Den wollest du mir geben,
Dir zu leben,
Meim Nächsten nütz zu sein,
Dein Wort zu halten eben.

*Lord, hear the voice of my complaint,
To thee I now commend me;
Let not my heart and hope grow faint,
But deign thy grace to send me.
True faith from thee, my God, I seek,
The faith that loves thee solely.
Keeps me lowly,
And prompt to aid the weak,
And mark each word that thou dost speak.*

*Words: Johann Agricola (1720-74)
trans. John Christian Jacobi (1670-1750)*

*Music: BWV 639
Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)*

PRAYER

President 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

Please stand

THE PEACE

President 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.

OFFERTORY HYMN



**Jesu, 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.

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-88)

*Tune: ABERYSTWYTH NEH 383 (t. ii)
Joseph Parry (1841-1903)*

PRAYER AT THE PREPARATION OF THE TABLE

President Let us pray.

Merciful Father, turn us from sin to faithfulness
and from disobedience to love,
and prepare us to celebrate
the death and resurrection of Christ our Saviour
who is alive and reigns, now and for ever.
Amen.

EUCCHARISTIC 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 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:

<i>Choir</i>	Sanctus, sanctus, sanctus Dominus Deus Sabaoth, pleni sunt caeli et terra gloria tua. Hosanna in excelsis.	<i>Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.</i>
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	Benedictus qui venit in nomine Domini. Hosanna in excelsis.	<i>Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.</i>
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President We praise and bless you, loving Father,
through Jesus Christ, our Lord;
and as we obey his command, send your Holy Spirit,
that broken bread and wine outpoured
may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died he had supper with his friends
and, taking bread, he praised you.

He broke the bread, gave it to them and said:

Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine.

Again he praised you, gave it to them and said:

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.

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did,

in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice

made once for all upon the cross.

Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation,

we proclaim his death and resurrection

until he comes in glory.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus:

Dying you destroyed our death,

rising you restored our life:

Lord Jesus, come in glory.

Lord of all life,

help us to work together for that day when your kingdom comes

and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth.

Look with favour on your people,

gather us in your loving arms

and bring us with the Blessed Virgin Mary and all the saints

to feast at your table in heaven.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father,

for ever and ever.

Amen.

Please sit or kneel

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.**

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

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

AGNUS DEI

<i>Choir</i>	Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi: miserere nobis.	<i>Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy upon us.</i>
	Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi: miserere nobis.	<i>Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy upon us.</i>
	Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi: dona nobis pacem.	<i>Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.</i>

GIVING OF COMMUNION

President 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.**

The President receives Communion.

COMMUNION MOTET

<i>Choir</i>	In jejunio et fletu, orabant sacerdotes: Parce, Domine, parce populo tuo, et ne des hereditatem tuam in perditionem: inter vestibulum et altare plorabant sacerdotes, dicentes: Parce populo tuo.	<i>Fasting and weeping, the priests prayed: Spare, O Lord, spare your people, and do not abandon your inheritance. Between the porch and the altar, the priests wept, saying: Spare your people.</i>
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Words: after Joel 2: 12, 17

Music: Thomas Tallis (c.1505-85)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

President Let us pray.

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.

THE DISMISSAL

Please stand

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 peace of Christ.
Thanks be to God.

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

Erbarm dich mein, o Herre Gott, BWV 721

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

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