

**St John the Evangelist
Great Stanmore**

**ASH
WEDNESDAY**

A black silhouette of a dove in flight, positioned behind the text 'ASH WEDNESDAY'. The dove is facing left, with its wings spread wide. The text 'ASH' is on the top line and 'WEDNESDAY' is on the bottom line, both in a bold, sans-serif font. The dove's body and wings partially overlap the letters of both words.

**Ash Wednesday
Online Service 2021**

ORDER OF SERVICE

The people are welcomed and the first hymn is announced.

Hymn

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

The Greeting

The president greets the people.

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

Introduction

Priest 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.

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

The Collect

Priest Let us pray for grace to keep Lent faithfully.

Silence is kept:

Priest 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.

All **Amen.**

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Old Testament Reading

At the end:

All This is the word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

New Testament Reading

At the end the reader will say:

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

The Gospel Reading

Priest 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.

cf Psalm 95:3, 8

All Praise to you, O Christ,
King of eternal glory.

Priest Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according *N*
All **Glory to you, O Lord.**

At the end:

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

Sermon

Self-examination and Confession

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

Priest God the Father,
All **have mercy on us.**

Priest God the Son,
All **have mercy on us.**

Priest God the Holy Spirit,
All **have mercy on us.**

Priest Trinity of love,
All **have mercy on us.**

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

Priest 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.**

Priest 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.**

Priest We confess to you, Lord...

All our past unfaithfulness: the pride, hypocrisy
and impatience of our lives.

All Lord, have mercy.

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

All Lord, have mercy.

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

All Lord, have mercy.

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

All Lord, have mercy.

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

All Lord, have mercy.

Priest 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.

Priest 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.

Priest For our waste and pollution of your creation
and our lack of concern for those who come after us.
All **Accept our repentance, Lord.**

Priest Restore us, good Lord, and let your anger depart
from us.
All **Favourably hear us, for your mercy is great.**

Priest Accomplish in us the work of your salvation,
All **that we may show your glory in the world.**

Priest By the cross and passion of your Son our Lord,
All **bring us with all your saints
to the joy of his resurrection.**

Silence is kept.

All **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.**

The Imposition of Ashes

Priest 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.

All Amen.

The president and people receive the imposition of ashes.

*As this service is online, you are welcome to simply make the sign of the cross
on your forehead as a visible sign of your faith in Christ.*

Silence is kept.

Priest 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.

All Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

The Peace

Priest Since we are justified by faith,
we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus
Christ, who has given us access to his grace.

All The peace of the Lord be always with you
and also with you.

Priest Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

All may exchange a sign of peace.

The Preparation of the Table Taking of the Bread and Wine

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

All **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 Eucharist Prayer

Priest The Lord be with you
All **and also with you.**

Priest Lift up your hearts.
All **We lift them to the Lord.**

Priest Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
All **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

Priest 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
ever praising you and saying:

All

**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.

Priest

Accept our praises, heavenly Father,
through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ;
and as we follow his example and obey his command,
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit
these gifts of bread and wine
may be to us his body and his 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.

Priest
All

Great is the mystery of faith
Christ has died:
Christ is risen:
Christ will come again.

Priest

Therefore, heavenly Father,
we remember his offering of himself
made once for all upon the cross,
and proclaim his mighty resurrection
and glorious ascension.

As we look for his coming in glory,
we celebrate with this bread and this cup
his one perfect sacrifice.

Accept through him, our great high priest,
this our sacrifice of thanks and praise;
and as we eat and drink these holy gifts
in the presence of your divine majesty,
renew us by your Spirit,
inspire us with your love,
and unite us in the body of your Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through him, and with him, and in him,
by the power of the Holy Spirit,
with all who stand before you in earth and heaven,
we worship you, Father almighty,
in songs of everlasting praise:

All

**Blessing and honour and glory and power be yours
for ever and ever.**
Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Priest Lord Jesus, remember us in your kingdom
and teach us to pray,

All Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

The president breaks the consecrated bread, saying

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

All **Lamb of God, you take away the sins
of the world:
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins
of the world:
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins
of the world:
grant us peace.**

Priest Jesus is the Lamb of God
who takes away the sins of the world.
Blessed are those who are called to his supper.

All **Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,
but only say the word, and I shall be healed.**

The president and people receive the communion.

Prayer after Communion

Silence is kept.

The post communion prayer is said:

Priest 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.

All Amen.

We say together

**All 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 Blessing

Priest 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.

All **Amen.**

Hymn

The Dismissal

Priest Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
All **In the name of Christ. Amen.**