



HOLY TRINITY
BRUSSELS

Ash Wednesday

— 14 February 2024 —

A Service of Holy Communion for the beginning of Lent

Now is the healing time decreed
for sins of heart and word and deed,
when we in humble fear record
the wrong that we have done the Lord.

(Ecce tempus idoneum, before 12th century, tr. Thomas A Lacey)

The Gathering

The Greeting

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

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

All **and also with you.**

The minister 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.

Opening Hymn - Forty days and forty nights (121)

The Collect

Let us pray for grace to keep Lent faithfully:

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, lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, we may receive from you, the God of all mercy, perfect forgiveness and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

The Liturgy of the Word

Psalm Psalm 51:1-18

Make me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

- ¹ Have mercy on me, O God, in your great goodness;
according to the abundance of your compassion blot out my offences.
- ² Wash me thoroughly from my wickedness and cleanse me from my sin.
- ³ For I acknowledge my faults and my sin is ever before me.
- ⁴ Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight,
- ⁵ So that you are justified in your sentence and righteous in your judgement.

Make me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

- ⁶ I have been wicked even from my birth,
a sinner when my mother conceived me.
- ⁷ Behold, you desire truth deep within me
and shall make me understand wisdom in the depths of my heart.
- ⁸ Purge me with hyssop and I shall be clean;
wash me and I shall be whiter than snow.
- ⁹ Make me hear of joy and gladness,
that the bones you have broken may rejoice.
- ¹⁰ Turn your face from my sins and blot out all my misdeeds.

Make me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

- ¹² Cast me not away from your presence and take not your holy spirit from me.
- ¹³ Give me again the joy of your salvation
and sustain me with your gracious spirit;
- ¹⁴ Then shall I teach your ways to the wicked
and sinners shall return to you.
- ¹⁵ Deliver me from my guilt, O God, the God of my salvation,
and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness.

Make me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

- ¹⁶ O Lord, open my lips and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.
- ¹⁷ For you desire no sacrifice, else I would give it;
you take no delight in burnt offerings.

¹⁸ The sacrifice of God is a broken spirit;
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

Make me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

Gradual Hymn - Jesus, lover of my soul (128i)

Gospel Reading

John 8.1-11

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

All **Glory to you, O Lord.**

But Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. At dawn he appeared again in the temple courts, where all the people gathered round him, and he sat down to teach them. The teachers of the law and the Pharisees brought in a woman caught in adultery. They made her stand before the group and said to Jesus, 'Teacher, this woman was caught in the act of adultery. In the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?' They were using this question as a trap, in order to have a basis for accusing him. But Jesus bent down and started to write on the ground with his finger. When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, 'Let any one of you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her.' Again he stooped down and wrote on the ground. At this, those who heard began to go away one at a time, the older ones first, until only Jesus was left, with the woman still standing there. Jesus straightened up and asked her, 'Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?' 'No one, sir,' she said. 'Then neither do I condemn you,' Jesus declared. 'Go now and leave your life of sin.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Reflection

The Liturgy of Penitence

Self-examination and Confession

The sacrifice of God is a broken spirit;
a broken and contrite heart you will not despise.

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

God the Father,

All **have mercy on us.**

God the Son,

All **have mercy on us.**

God the Holy Spirit,

All **have mercy on us.**

From all evil and mischief; from pride, vanity, and hypocrisy;
from envy, hatred and malice; and from all evil intent,

All **Good Lord, deliver us.**

From sloth, worldliness and love of money;
from hardness of heart and contempt for your word and your laws

All **Good Lord, deliver us.**

From sins of body and mind;
From the deceits of the world, the flesh and the devil,

All **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,

All **Good Lord, deliver us.**

By the mystery of your holy incarnation;
by your birth, childhood, and obedience;
by your baptism, fasting and temptation,

All **Good Lord, deliver us.**

By your ministry in word and work,
by your mighty acts of power;
and by your preaching of the kingdom,

All **Good Lord, deliver us.**

By your agony and trial; by your cross and passion;
and by your precious death and burial,

All **Good Lord, deliver us.**

By your mighty resurrection; by your glorious ascension;
and by your sending of the Holy Spirit,

All **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,

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

Silence is kept for a time

Make our hearts clean O God.

All **and renew a right spirit within us.**

All **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

All who wish are invited to receive the imposition of ashes. The minister says:

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

Turn away from sin and be faithful to Christ.

Absolution

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. **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

All **and also with you.**

Offertory Hymn - J'ai l'assurance de mon salut

J'ai l'assurance de mon salut
Par la puissance du Seigneur Jésus;
Son sang m'a lavé, m'a racheté
Et l'Esprit Saint m'a régénéré.

*C'est mon histoire, c'est là mon chant;
Louer mon Sauveur le jour durant; . .*

Perfect submission, perfect delight;
visions of rapture burst on my sight;
angels descending bring from above
echoes of mercy, whispers of love.

*This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my Saviour all the day long; . .*

Parfait repos et parfait bonheur,
En toi, mon Sauveur, j'ai la paix du coeur;
Je veille en attendant ton retour;
Je suis comblé, sûr de ton amour.

*C'est mon histoire, c'est là mon chant;
Louer mon Sauveur le jour durant; . .*

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Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you.

All **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

All **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All **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 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.

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.*

Jesus Christ is Lord:

All **Lord, by your cross and resurrection you have set us free.
You are the Saviour of the world.**

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.

The Breaking of the Bread

Every time we eat this bread and drink this cup

All **we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.**

Distribution of Communion

Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin 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.**

Anthem: Thou knowest, Lord, the secrets of our hearts (Purcell)

Communion hymn: I hunger and I thirst (449)

Prayer after Communion

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.**

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 Dismissal

The 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.

All **Amen.**

O Jesus, I have promised (748)

The Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All **In the name of Christ. Amen.**

Lent at Holy Trinity

The details of upcoming services can be found on our website: www.holytrinity.be

Lent Course - Over the course of five interactive sessions, we will explore together what Sabbath means. We will meet at Church House at 19:30 on Wednesdays 21, 28 February and 6, 13, and 20 March. No materials needed, though if you have a bible, please bring it. Sign up here: admin@holytrinity.be.

Sights on Silver - Beginning just before Lent, the Pathfinders will be challenging us to make a difference to consider a variety of lifestyle changes to help God's planet. This is part of our initiative to reach EcoChurch Silver!

Lent Soup lunches - following the midweek Holy Communion service (12:30 on Wednesdays), a simple lunch of soup and bread will be served in Church House. Donations gratefully received to support the work of the Community Kitchen.

Church of England Lent Meditations - sign up for daily emails reflecting on the season of Lent:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/faith-calling/what-we-believe/lent-holy-week-and-easter/watch-and-pray-lent-reflections>