



St James's
PICCADILLY

**Lunchtime
Eucharist for
Ash Wednesday**



**Wednesday 5th March 2025
at 1pm**



GATHERING

The priest says

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

And also with you.

HYMN

[Tune: Mannheim; Words: James Edmeston (1791-1867)]

**Lead us, heav'nly 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 ev'ry 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 heav'nly joy,
love with ev'ry passion blending,
pleasure that can never cloy;
thus provided, pardoned, guided,
nothing can our peace destroy.**

INTRODUCTION

The priest says

Friends in Christ, since early days Christians have observed with great devotion the time of Christ'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.

THE COLLECT FOR ASH WEDNESDAY

The priest says

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 our Redeemer.

Amen.

FIRST READING

2 Corinthians 5.20b-6.10

A reading from the Second Letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. For he says, 'At an acceptable time I have listened to you, and on a day of salvation I have helped you.' See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation! We are putting no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, riots, labours, sleepless nights, hunger; by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; in honour and dishonour, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see—we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

Listen for what the Spirit is saying.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand.

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.

THE SERMON

The Revd Dr Ayla Lepine

THE LITANY

**Holy, holy, holy God, holy and mighty,
holy and immortal, have mercy on us.**

The priest says

God the Creator,
have mercy on us.

God the Redeemer,
have mercy on us.

God the Holy Spirit,
have mercy on us.

Trinity of love,
have mercy on us.

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

The priest says

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.

Lord, have mercy.

We have not listened 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.

Lord, have mercy.

We confess to you, Eternal God...

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

Lord, have mercy.

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

Lord, have mercy.

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

Lord, have mercy.

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

Lord, have mercy.

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

Lord, have mercy.

Accept our repentance, God of grace...

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

Accept our repentance, gracious God.

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

Accept our repentance, gracious God.

For our waste and pollution of creation
and our lack of concern for those who come after us.
Accept our repentance, gracious God.

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

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

By the cross and passion of Jesus Christ,
bring us with all your saints to the joy of resurrection.

Silence is kept.

**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.**

**Holy, holy, holy God, holy and mighty,
holy and immortal, have mercy on us.**

THE IMPOSITION OF ASHES

*Please come forward to receive the sign of the cross in ash on
your forehead, hearing the words 'Remember that you are dust
and to dust you shall return. Turn away from sin and be faithful
to Christ.'*

*During the Imposition of Ashes, Talia will sing **Schlummert ein** from Ich Habe Genug by J.S. Bach BWV 82*

Schlummert ein, ihr matten Augen,
Fallet sanft und selig zu!
Welt, ich bleibe nicht mehr hier,
Hab ich doch kein Teil an dir,
Das der Seele könnte taugen.
Hier muss ich das Elend bauen,
Aber dort, dort werd ich schauen
Süßen Frieden, stille Ruh.

*Fall into [death's] slumber, you languid eyes,
Droop gently and blissfully shut.
World, I will remain here no longer;
I have indeed no share in you
That could be fit for my soul.
Here [on earth] I must build up misery,
But there [in heaven], there I will look upon
Sweet peace, quiet rest.*

THE ABSOLUTION

May you be enriched with God's grace,
and nourished with God's blessing;
may God defend you in trouble and keep you from evil;
may God accept your prayers,
and absolve you from your offences,
for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Redeemer.

Amen.

THE PEACE

The priest says

Being justified by faith we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

The priest says

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

All exchange a sign of peace.

THE 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 ...

... we bless you for your mercy and join with saints and angels for ever praising you and saying:

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord,

God of power and might.

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

God you are holy indeed ...
... Great is the mystery of faith.

Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

At the end of the Eucharistic Prayer, all say:

Amen.

Silence is kept.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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 Bread is broken and the priest says

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

**Though we are many, we are one body,
because we all share in one bread.**

THE COMMUNION

Please come forward to receive Communion or indicate if you would like a blessing.

*During communion, Talia will sing **Blute nur** from the St Matthew Passion by J.S. Bach BWV 244, German text by Picander.*

Blute nur, du liebes Herz!
Ach! ein Kind, das du erzogen,
Das an deiner Brust gesogen,
Droht den Pfleger zu ermorden,
Denn es ist zur Schlange worden.

*Bleed out, you loving heart!
Alas! A child that you raised,
that nursed at your breast,
threatens to murder its caretaker,
since it has become a serpent.*

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

**God of our pilgrimage,
you have fed us with the bread of heaven.
Refresh and sustain us
as we go forward on our Lenten journey,
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

HYMN

[Tune: Kingsfold; Words: Horatius Bonar, 1808-1889]

**I heard the voice of Jesus say:
'Come unto me and rest;
lay down, O weary one, lay down
your head upon my breast.'
I came to Jesus as I was,
weary and worn and sad,
I found in him a resting-place,
and he has made me glad.**

**I heard the voice of Jesus say:
'Behold, I freely give
the living water; thirsty one,
stoop down and drink and live.'
I came to Jesus, and I drank
of that life-giving stream;
my thirst was quenched, my soul revived,
and now I live in him.**

**I heard the voice of Jesus say;
'I am this dark world's Light;
look unto me, your morn shall rise,
and all your day be bright.'
I looked to Jesus, and I found
in him my star, my sun;
and in that light of life I'll walk,
till trav'ling days are done.**

THE BLESSING

God grant you simplicity of faith and generosity of service,
that you may walk the way of Christ this Lent.

And the blessing of God almighty:

Creator, Christ and Holy Spirit

be among you and remain with you on this day and for ever.

Amen.

THE DISMISSAL

Go in the peace of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

Sung Eucharist for Ash Wednesday

TODAY - Wednesday 5th March at 6.30pm

Join us at 6.30pm this evening for our Sung Eucharist for Ash Wednesday, including the opportunity to receive the sign of the cross in ash.

Celebrant: The Revd Lucy Winkett

Preacher: The Revd Daniel Norris



Ashing is also offered in the courtyard this afternoon from 2.30pm-4.30pm

Lent Contemplative Space

A space for prayer, readings and silence on Fridays throughout Lent, 6-7pm from 7th March - 11th April on Zoom.



All are welcome to join for one or all sessions.

For resources and Zoom link, please see:

www.sjp.org.uk/whats-on/lent-contemplative-space

A Community of Hope: Conversations and Contemplation Together

This Lent, the Young St James's Group will co-lead conversations for the whole congregation on the theme of hope. Needed more than ever, hope can be found and experienced in reflections on faith and words of inspiration.

These sessions will take place on Sunday 23rd March, 1-2pm in the church, Sunday 30th March, 1-2pm in the church hall, and Sunday 6th April, 6-7pm on Zoom.

To request the Zoom link, please email David in the Parish Office: administrator@sjp.org.uk

If you have any questions, please email Ayla: associaterector@sjp.org.uk



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