



St James's  
PICCADILLY

# Eucharist for Ash Wednesday



Litany, Ashing, and Eucharist

Wednesday 5th March 2025  
at 6.30pm



*Welcome to St James's Church. Whether you are with us in person or joining us online, you are very welcome.*

*Everyone is welcome to receive communion or a blessing so please do come forward at the appropriate time.*

## **INTROIT**

***In The Departure Of The Lord**, words: anon; music by John Bull*

In the departure of the Lord,  
Of mortal body's vital breath,  
There lies a mystery worth record,  
Which He did show us here on earth:  
Who doth prepare to die each hour,  
Must follow Christ our Saviour.

## **ORDER OF SERVICE**

### **OPENING HYMN**

[Tune: Ar Hyd Y Nos; Words: Jean Holloway (b. 1939)]

**Lord, we come to ask your healing,  
teach us of love;  
all unspoken shame revealing,  
teach us of love.  
Take our selfish thoughts and actions,  
petty feuds, divisive factions,  
hear us now to you appealing,  
teach us of love.**

**Soothe away our pain and sorrow,  
hold us in love;  
grace we cannot buy or borrow,**

hold us in love.

Though we see but dark and danger,  
though we spurn both friend and stranger,  
though we often dread tomorrow,  
hold us in love.

When the bread is raised and broken,  
fill us with love;  
words of consecration spoken,  
fill us with love.

As our grateful prayers continue,  
make the faith that we have in you  
more than just an empty token,  
fill us with love.

Help us live for one another,  
bind us in love;  
stranger, neighbour, father, mother -  
bind us in love.

All are equal at your table,  
through your Spirit make us able  
to embrace as sister, brother,  
bind us in love.

## **OPENING RESPONSES**

*The priest says*

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

**And also with you.**

*The priest welcomes everyone and introduces the service ...*

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.

**KYRIE:** (*MacNamara*)

*The cantor sings*

When our life is at its strongest.

*All sing*

**When our days are at their longest.**

Kyrie eleison.

**Lord have mercy.**

At the first coming of the dawn.

**On the life that's newly born.**

Kyrie eleison.

**Lord have mercy.**

At the turning of the tide.

**On life's ocean deep and wide.**

Kyrie eleison.

**Lord have mercy.**

When our powers are nearly done.

**At the setting of the sun.**

Kyrie eleison.

**Lord have mercy.**

When we come to breathe our last.

**When the gates of death are passed.**

Kyrie eleison.

**Lord have mercy.**

## **LITURGY OF THE WORD**

### **The Collect**

*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.**

*Please sit.*

## FIRST READING

### Isaiah 58.1-2

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah.

Shout out, do not hold back!  
Lift up your voice like a trumpet!  
Announce to my people their rebellion,  
to the house of Jacob their sins.  
Yet day after day they seek me  
and delight to know my ways,  
as if they were a nation that practised righteousness  
and did not forsake the ordinance of their God;  
they ask of me righteous judgements,  
they delight to draw near to God.  
'Why do we fast, but you do not see?  
Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?'  
Look, you serve your own interest on your fast-day,  
and oppress all your workers.  
Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight  
and to strike with a wicked fist.  
Such fasting as you do today  
will not make your voice heard on high.  
Is such the fast that I choose,  
a day to humble oneself?  
Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush,  
and to lie in sackcloth and ashes?  
Will you call this a fast,  
a day acceptable to the Lord?  
  
Is not this the fast that I choose:  
to loose the bonds of injustice,  
to undo the thongs of the yoke,  
to let the oppressed go free,

and to break every yoke?

Is it not to share your bread with the hungry,  
and bring the homeless poor into your house;  
when you see the naked, to cover them,  
and not to hide yourself from your own kin?  
Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,  
and your healing shall spring up quickly;  
your vindicator shall go before you,  
the glory of the Lord shall be your rearguard.  
Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer;  
you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am.

If you remove the yoke from among you,  
the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,  
if you offer your food to the hungry  
and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,  
then your light shall rise in the darkness  
and your gloom be like the noonday.  
The Lord will guide you continually,  
and satisfy your needs in parched places,  
and make your bones strong;  
and you shall be like a watered garden,  
like a spring of water,  
whose waters never fail.  
Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt;  
you shall raise up the foundations of many generations;  
you shall be called the repairer of the breach,  
the restorer of streets to live in.

Listen for what the Spirit is saying.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand.*

## **PSALM 51.1-12**

*Response: **Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
and put a right spirit within me.***

Have mercy on me O God in your great kindness:  
in the fullness of your mercy blot out my offences.  
Wash away all my guilt:  
and cleanse me from my sin.

For I acknowledge my faults:  
and my sin is always before me.  
Against you only have I sinned  
and done evil in your sight:  
so that you are justified in your sentence,  
and blameless in your judging.

Take hyssop, sprinkle me with water and I shall be clean:  
wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.  
Let me hear the sounds of joy and gladness:  
that the bones you have broken may rejoice.

Do not cast me away from your presence:  
do not take your holy spirit from me.  
Give me the joy of your help again:  
and strengthen me with a willing spirit.

*Please remain standing.*

## **THE GOSPEL**

### **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**

The Revd Daniel Norris

*A period of silence is kept for personal reflection.*

*During the offertory hymn, a collection will be taken.  
If you have cash, please fill in the Gift Aid envelopes in the pews with the pens available.*

*If you don't have cash, please use the tap donate device in the collection plate, which is set to £5, or the QR code on page 23.*

## **OFFERTORY HYMN**

[Tune: Repton; Words: John Greenleaf Whittier (1807-92)]

**Dear Lord and Father of us all,  
forgive our foolish ways;  
re-clothe us in our rightful mind:  
in purer lives thy service find,  
in deeper reverence, praise,  
in deeper reverence, praise.**

**In simple trust like theirs who heard,  
beside the Syrian sea,  
the gracious calling of the Lord,  
let us, like them, without a word  
rise up and follow thee,  
rise up and follow thee.**

**O Sabbath rest by Galilee!  
O calm of hills above,  
where Jesus knelt to share with thee  
the silence of eternity,  
interpreted by love,  
interpreted by love.**

**Drop thy still dews of quietness,  
till all our strivings cease;  
take from our souls the strain and stress,  
and let our ordered lives confess  
the beauty of thy peace,  
the beauty of thy peace.**

**Breathe through the heats of our desire  
thy coolness and thy balm;  
let sense be dumb, let flesh retire;  
speak through the earthquake, wind and fire,  
O still small voice of calm,  
O still small voice of calm.**

## **THE LITANY**

*The cantor sings*

Holy, holy, holy God.

*All sing*

**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.**

*The cantor sings*

Holy, holy, holy God.

*All sing*

**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.'*

*The response is 'Amen'.*

*Immediately afterwards, please move to either your left or right and take up a position within the sanctuary so that we fully surround the altar in readiness for the sharing of the Peace and the celebration of the Eucharist. If you have chosen not to be ashed, please join the circle at this point.*

*During the ashing, the **Lent Prose** and **Nolo Mortem Peccatoris** will be sung by the Lay Singers and Singing Scholars.*

***The Lent Prose**, Mozarabic chant from the 10th century*

*Refrain:*

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

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

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.

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

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

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

***Nolo Mortem Peccatoris***, words by John Redford (?-1547),  
music by Thomas Morley (c.1557-1602), first published: 1616.

Nolo mortem peccatoris; Haec sunt verba Salvatoris.  
(*"I do not wish the death of a sinner."*  
*These are the words of the Saviour.*)

Father I am thine only Son,  
sent down from heav'n mankind to save.  
Father, all things fulfilled and done according to thy will,  
I have.  
Father, my will now all is this: Nolo mortem peccatoris.  
Father, behold my painful smart, taken for man on ev'ry side;  
Ev'n from my birth to death most tart,  
no kind of pain I have denied,  
but suffered all, and all for this:  
Nolo mortem peccatoris.

*Please join in singing the congregational Taizé chant:*

**Bless the Lord my soul and bless God's holy name.**

**Bless the Lord my soul who leads me into life.**

*After the ashing is completed and all are gathered around the altar ...*

## **THE ABSOLUTION**

*The priest says*

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 deacon says*

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.

*Please share the Peace in a socially distanced way if you are in the building, and in the YouTube chat function if you are online.*



*As the altar is prepared, please join in singing...*

**Jesus remember me when you come into your kingdom,  
Jesus remember me when you come into your kingdom.**  
*(repeated)*

## **THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER**

*The priest leads the Church's Thanksgiving for Creation and Redemption in Christ ...*

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.**

*The priest continues the Church's prayer of thanksgiving ...*

## **SANCTUS**

*The cantor sings*

Holy, holy, holy Lord.

**Holy, holy, holy Lord.\***

**God of heaven and earth adored.**

**Ceasing never, God for ever,**

**Holy Lord.**

*(repeat as a round, second part starting at \*)*

*The prayer of consecration continues recalling Christ's command to his disciples at the Last Supper, ending with:  
"... as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me"*

*The cantor sings*

Praise to you Lord Jesus:

**Dying you destroyed our death,  
rising you restored our life.**

**Come, O Christ.**

**Come, O Christ, in glory.**

*The prayer continues. At the end of the prayer, sing after the cantor . . .*

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

**Amen.**

*Silence is kept.*

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

*You are invited to pray in your own language.*

*The priest says*

Let us pray in the words that Jesus gave us.

**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.**

## **AGNUS DEI**

*The cantor sings*

**Agnus Dei  
qui tollis peccata, peccata mundi  
Miserere nobis, miserere nobis,  
miserere nobis.**

**Agnus Dei  
qui tollis peccata, peccata mundi  
Dona nobis pacem,  
dona nobis pacem, dona nobis pacem.**

*Lamb of God  
that takes away the sin of the world,  
have mercy on us.*

*Lamb of God  
that takes away the sin of the world,  
grant us peace.*

## **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

*The priest says*

Draw near with faith.

Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ which he gave for you, and his blood which he shed for you.

Eat and drink in remembrance that Christ died for you,  
and feed on him in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

## **THE COMMUNION**

*During Communion the Lay Singers and Singing Scholars  
will sing **See What Love**, words: 1 John: 3: 1,3; music: Lena J.  
McLin (b.1928).*

See what love the Father has given us,  
That we may be called the children of love.  
And every one who hopes in him through the Lord is blessed.

### ***A Prayer for Spiritual Communion***

*inspired by Richard of Chichester (1198-1253)*

*Thanks be to you, Christ Jesus,  
for all the benefits you have given me  
for all the pains and insults you have borne for me.  
Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally,  
I ask you to be present with me spiritually in my heart.  
O most merciful redeemer,  
friend and brother,  
may I know you more clearly,  
love you more dearly,  
and follow you more nearly,  
day by day.  
Amen.*

### **Prayers for use during Communion**

Christ Jesus, you promised in your gospel  
'I am with you always'. Be with me as part of  
this community today in this Eucharist;  
Hear my prayers for others and for myself.

May I bind myself to you, in communion with  
all that lives this day, knowing that nothing can separate me  
from your love.

Amen.

O God, help me to trust you,  
and to know that you are with me now.

Help me to know that all are yours,  
and you are ours,

in this Eucharist and for ever.

Amen.

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

*The priest says*

Eternal God, giver of all good things,

we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the  
precious body and blood of our Saviour Jesus Christ.

We thank you for your love and care in assuring us of your gift  
of eternal life, and uniting us with the blessed company of all  
faithful people.

**Therefore, ever living God,  
keep us steadfast in your holy fellowship.**

**And now we offer ourselves,**

**all that we have and are,**

**to serve you faithfully in the world,**

**through Jesus Christ our Redeemer,**

**to whom with you and the Holy Spirit**

**be all honour and glory, now and forever.**

**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

*The priest says*

May God give you grace to follow the light of Christ,  
wherever you are led and however long the road.  
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 deacon says*

Go in the peace of Christ.  
**Thanks be to God.**



*In addition to the physical collection,  
if you do not have cash with you, please  
scan this QR code with your smartphone  
to make a one-off or regular donation.*

*Alternatively, please visit  
[sjp.org.uk/donate](http://sjp.org.uk/donate), or us one of the tap  
donation points in the church.*



## 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](mailto:administrator@sjp.org.uk)

If you have any questions, please email Ayla: [associaterector@sjp.org.uk](mailto:associaterector@sjp.org.uk)



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