

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

After the ashing we sing: **TP47 He has showed you, O Man (sung twice)**

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 prayer, and absolve you from your offences, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Saviour. **Amen.**

Most merciful Lord, your love compels us to come in. Our hands were unclean, and our hearts were unprepared; we were not fit even to eat the crumbs from under your table. But you, Lord, are the God of our salvation, and share your bread with sinners. So cleanse and feed us with the precious body and blood of your Son, that he may live in us and we in him; and that we, with the whole company of Christ, may sit and eat in your Kingdom. Amen.

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.
and also with you.

Offertory Hymn: **HON412 Lord Jesus, think on me** ☩

At the Offertory:

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, whose is alive and reigns, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Eucharistic Prayer: **Prayer C CWB p9** [Music: Geordie Mass HON back cover]

At Communion: **HON268 Have faith in God, my heart**

Choir: *God so loved the World John Stainer*

POST COMMUNION

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,

God grant you grace to live in holiness, 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.**

Final Hymn: **HON484 O for a heart to praise my God**

ASH WEDNESDAY (2nd Rite)

Entry Hymn: **HON190 Forty days and forty nights**

THE PREPARATION

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

Dear friends, the gospel of Christ calls us to turn our back on sin; and to reject everything that separates us from God. As we begin this season of Lent, let us keep in mind our mortal frailty, acknowledge our sinfulness and turn to the Lord, in whom is perfect goodness and from whom comes true forgiveness.

During the singing of the singing of the psalm, the congregation is invited to place incense on the burning charcoal.

Psalm: **Ps 141: O Lord I call to you** ☩

O Lord, I call to you, come to me quickly;
Hear my voice when I cry to you.

Let my prayer rise before you like incense,
The lifting up of my hand as the evening sacrifice.

Set a watch before my mouth, O Lord.
And guard the door of my lips.

Let not my heart turn to any evil thing;
Let me not be occupied with the wicked
nor eat with them at their tables.

But my eyes are turned to you, O Lord:
In you I take refuge; do not leave me defenceless.

Let my prayer rise before you like incense,
The lifting up of my hand as the proper sacrifice.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit.

As it was in the beginning is now
and shall be for ever, Amen.

God most high, let our prayer of repentance
rise before you with the smoke of incense,
and let your mercy descend upon us:
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Hymn: **Lord God and maker of us all** [t Tallis' Canon HON208] ∅

Lord God and Maker of us all,
Accept and bless this Lent we keep;
And give the strength to persevere
Throughout the holy forty days

You search and weigh the hearts of all,
You know how weak and frail we are;
O turn to us that we may turn
To seek your healing power again.

The sins are ours that we confess,
The pardon and the peace are yours;
Compassion is your name, and love;
O touch us with your gentle hand.

Give us the strength to keep the fast
with joy and peace and self-control;
To fast from sin as well as food,
True Lent for body and for mind.

Hear us, O Holy Trinity,
To you the one true God we seek;
And through this fast prepare for us
a treasure safe with you on high.

1st Reading: (from the letter of St Clement to the Corinthians) My friends, do let us have a little humility; let us forget our self-assertion, our bragging and stupid quarrelling, and do what the Bible tells us instead. The Holy Scripture says, The wise man is not to brag of his wisdom, the strong man of his strength, nor the rich man his wealth; if you must boast, boast of the Lord, seeking him out and acting with justice and uprightness. More particularly, let us remember what the Lord Jesus Christ said, in one of his lessons on mildness and forbearance:

2nd reader:

Be merciful, he told us, that you may obtain mercy; forgive so that you may be forgiven. What you do will be done to you: what you give will be given to you, as you judge so you will be judged; as you show kindness, so kindness will be given to you. Your portion will be weighed out for you in your own scales. May this law and these commands strengthen our resolve to live in obedience to his sacred words, and in humility of mind. For the Holy Word says, Whom shall I look upon but those who are gentle and peaceable, and those who tremble at my sayings?

Hymn: (Remain seated) **TP171 God of mercy and compassion**

Gospel Acclamation:

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!

: Hear the Good News of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew

Glory to you, O Lord

(St Matthew 6: 1-6, 16-18) Be careful not to parade your religion before others; if you do, no reward awaits you in heaven. So, when you give alms, do not announce it with a flourish of trumpets, as the hypocrites do in synagogues and in the streets, to win the praise of others. Truly I tell you: they have their reward already. But when you give alms do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing; your good deed must be secret, and your Father who sees what is done in secret will reward you.

Again, when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; they love to say their prayers standing up in synagogues and at street corners for everyone to see them. Truly I tell you; they have their reward already. But when you pray, go into a room by yourself, shut the door, and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees what is done in secret will reward you.

So too when you fast, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites: they make their faces unsightly so that everybody may see that they are fasting. Truly I tell you: they have their reward already. But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, so that no one sees that you are fasting, but only your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees what is done in secret will give you your reward.

This is the Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you, O Christ

THE LITANY OF PENITENCE (Form B) TP215 God the Father...

At the end we say together:

Make in us a clean spirit, 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.

THE IMPOSITION OF ASHES

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ, let us ask God to bless us, our wearing of these ashes and our observance of these days of Lent.

God, tender and merciful, you desire not the death of a sinner, but rather the sinner's repentance and life. Bless these ashes, which we who are dust will place on our heads. Let this outward mark be imprinted on our hearts, so that we may be faithful to the observance of Lent, gain pardon for our sins and be renewed in the likeness of the risen Christ. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord. **Amen.**

The president and the people receive the imposition of ashes.