St Andrew's Church

Orford with Longford

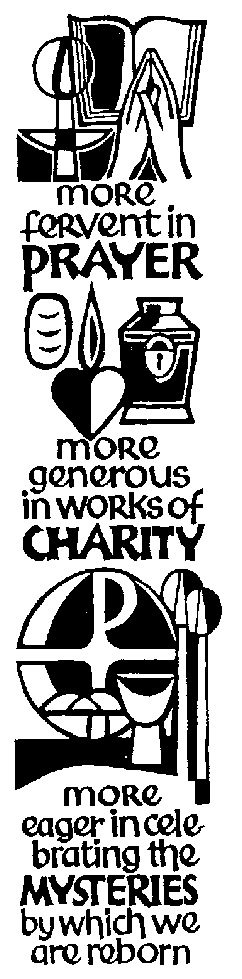
**Ash Wednesday**

**6th March 2019**

**THE GATHERING**

The choir, servers and ministers enter in silence. Please stand:

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

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

All: and also with you.

Priest: Brothers and sisters in Christ: since early days, Christians have observed with great devotion the time of our Lord’s passion and resurrection. It became the custom of the Church to prepare for this by a season of penitence and fasting.

At first this season of Lent was observed by those who were preparing for Baptism at Easter and by those who were to be restored to the Church’s fellowship from which they had been separated through sin. In course of time the Church came to recognize that, by a careful keeping of these days, all Christians might 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: Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy.

*(sing)* Christ have mercy, Christ have mercy, Christ have mercy.

Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy.

Priest: 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 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. **Amen**

#### **THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD**

**A reading from the book of the prophet Joel** *(Joel 2. 1–2, 12–17)*

Blow the trumpet in Zion; sound the alarm on my holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble, for the day of the Lord is coming, it is near – a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness! Like blackness spread upon the mountains a great and powerful army comes; their like has never been from of old, nor will be again after them in ages to come. Yet even now, says the Lord, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; rend your hearts and not your clothing. Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing. Who knows whether he will not turn and relent, and leave a blessing behind him, a grain-offering and a drink-offering for the Lord, your God? Blow the trumpet in Zion; sanctify a fast; call a solemn assembly; gather the people. Sanctify the congregation; assemble the aged; gather the children, even infants at the breast. Let the bridegroom leave his room, and the bride her canopy. Between the vestibule and the altar let the priests, the ministers of the Lord, weep. Let them say, ‘Spare your people, O Lord, and do not make your heritage a mockery, a byword among the nations. Why should it be said among the peoples, “Where is their God?”’

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

*Remain seated to sing the Lenten Prose:*

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

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

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

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

Choir: O thou chief Cornerstone, Right Hand of the Father: Way of Salvation, Gate of Life Celestial: cleanse thou our sinful souls from all defilement.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**A reading from the second letter of Paul to the Corinthians** *(2 Cor 5. 20b – 6. 10)*

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 the Lord 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.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

**Gradual Hymn:** *(please stand)* 421 ‘Father of heaven, whose love profound’

##### THE GOSPEL

Priest: The Lord is a great God, O that today you would listen to his voice.

Harden not your hearts.

**All:** **Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory:**

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

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John*(Jn 8. 1–11)*

All: 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 the people, they said to Jesus, ‘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 Jesus, 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:

All: Praise to you, O Christ

**THE SERMON**

**THE LITURGY OF PENITENCE**

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

*Please kneel*

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: Holy, blessed, and glorious Trinity, **have mercy on us.**

Priest: 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.

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

All: Good Lord, deliver us.

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

All: Good Lord, deliver us.

Priest: 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.

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

All: Good Lord, deliver us.

Priest: 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.

Priest: By your agony and trial; by your cross and passion; and by your precious death and burial, **Good Lord, deliver us.**

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

All: Good Lord, deliver us.

Priest: 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.**

*A time for silent reflection is kept.*

Priest: 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 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**

Priest: As a sign of the spirit of penitence with which we shall keep this season of Lent, I invite you to receive on your head in ash the sign of the cross, the symbol of our salvation.

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. **Amen**

*The congregation are invited to come to kneel at the altar rail to receive the imposition of ashes. At the imposition, the priest says to each person:*

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

*When all who wish have received the imposition of ashes:*

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in life eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

*Please stand for 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.

The peace of the Lord be always with you

All: and also with you.

Priest: Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

*All are invited to exchange a sign of peace.*

**Offertory Hymn:** 356 ‘Judge eternal, throned in splendour’

Eucharistic Prayer C *(please kneel)*

Priest: The Lord is here.

All: His Spirit is with us.

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 thanks and praise.

Priest: It is indeed right, it is our duty and our joy, at all times and in all places to give you thanks and praise, holy Father, heavenly King, almighty and eternal God, through Jesus Christ our Lord. And now we give you thanks because you give us the spirit of discipline, that we may triumph over evil and grow in grace, as we prepare to celebrate the paschal mystery with mind and heart renewed. Therefore with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we proclaim your great and glorious name, for ever praising you and singing.

All *(sing):* 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.

Priest: 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 *(sing):* Lord, by your cross and resurrection you have set us free.

You are the Saviour of the world.

Priest: 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.

All: Amen.

*(Silence may be kept.)*

Priest: Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us

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.

Priest: We break this bread to share in the Body of Christ.

**All: Though we are many, we are one body,**

**because we all share in one bread.**

All *(sing):* Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, grant us peace.

Priest: 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.

All: We do not presume to come to this your table, merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in you manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table. But you are the same Lord whose nature is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ and to drink his blood, that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body and our souls washed through his most precious blood, and that we may evermore dwell in him and he in us. Amen

Everyone is invited to come forward to receive the sacrament or a blessing.

Please follow the row in front to the altar rail.

**Hymn:** 97 ‘Lord Jesus, think on me’

**After Communion** and a short period of silence:

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. **Amen**

All: Almighty God, we thank you for feeding us with the body and blood of your Son, Jesus Christ. Through him we offer you our souls and bodies to be a living sacrifice. Send us out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory. Amen.

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. Amen

**Recessional hymn:**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | Christian, dost thou see them  on the holy ground,  how the troops of Midian –  prowl and prowl around?  Christian, up and smite them,  counting gain but loss;  smite them by the merit –  of the Holy Cross. | 2 | Christian, dost thou feel them,  how they work within,  striving, tempting, luring,  goading into sin?  Christian, never tremble;  never be down-cast;  smite them by the virtue –  of the Lenten fast. |
| 3 | Christian, dost thou hear them,  how they speak thee fair?  “Always fast and vigil?  “Always watch and prayer?”  Christian, answer boldly,  “While I breathe I pray:”  peace shall follow battle,  night shall end in day. | 4 | “Well I know thy trouble,  O my servant true;  thou art very weary,  I was weary too;  but that toil shall make thee –  some day all mine own,  and the end of sorrow –  shall be near my throne.” |

Priest: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All: In the name of Christ. Amen

**Ash Wednesday 6th March 2019**

A reading from the book of the prophet Joel

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*Please kneel*

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Reader: God the Son,

All: have mercy on us.

Reader: God the Holy Spirit,

All: have mercy on us.

Reader: Holy, blessed, and glorious Trinity,

All: have mercy on us.

Reader: From all evil and mischief; from pride, vanity, and hypocrisy;

from envy, hatred, and malice; and from all evil intent,

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Reader: From sloth, worldliness and love of money;

from hardness of heart and contempt for your word and your laws,

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Reader: From the sins of body and mind;

from the deceits of the world, the flesh and the devil,

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Reader: In all times of sorrow, in all times of joy;

in the hour of death, and at the day of judgement,

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