

The Downs Benefice of Chilbolton,
Crawley, Littleton, Sparsholt with
Lainston and Wherwell

Order of Service for

Ash Wednesday

**"All are from the dust,
and to dust all return."**

Ecclesiastes 3:20, ESV



THE GATHERING

Welcome and Notices

Opening Hymn: Be Thou My Vision

**Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart,
naught be all else to me, save that thou art;
thou my best thought in the day and the night,
both waking and sleeping, thy presence my light.**

**Be thou my wisdom, be thou my true word,
I ever with thee, and thou with me, Lord;
thou my great Father, and I thy true heir;
thou in me dwelling, and I in thy care.**

**Be thou my breastplate, my sword for the fight;
be thou my armour, and be thou my might;
thou my soul's shelter, and thou my high tower:
raise thou me heav'nward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.**

(Mary Byrne 1880-1931)

Preparation

In the name of the Father,
And of the Son,
And of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen

The minister says:

The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Explanation and invitation to observe Lent:

On this first day of Lent let us resolve to be penitent for all our past sins, to amend our way of life, and to use this season of fasting and abstinence as an expression of self-denial, to our own good and for the good of others.

The minister introduces a period of silent prayer with the words:

Let us pray for grace to keep the Lent faithfully:

Collect Prayer for Ash Wednesday

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.**

Gradual Hymn: Father Hear the Prayer We Offer

**Father, hear the prayer we offer:
not for ease that prayer shall be,
but for strength that we may ever
live our lives courageously.**

**Be our strength in hours of weakness,
In our wanderings be our guide;
Through endeavour, failure, danger,
Father, be thou at our side.**

L.M. Willis (1824-1908)

Gospel Reading:

Hear the Gospel of our Lord, Jesus Christ, according to
Matthew.

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

At the end of the Gospel:

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

Reflection:

Prayers of Penitence:

Let us now call to mind and confess our wrongdoings:

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.

Trinity of love,

All: Have mercy on us.

Father eternal giver of light and grace, we have sinned against you and against our neighbour.

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.

All: Lord, have mercy.

We have been deaf 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.

All: Lord, have mercy.

We confess to you, Lord...

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

All: Lord, have mercy.

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

All: Lord, have mercy.

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

All: Lord, have mercy.

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

All: Lord, have mercy.

Accept our repentance, Lord...

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

All: Accept our repentance, Lord.

For our waste and pollution of your creation and our lack of concern for those who come after us.

All: Accept our repentance, Lord.

Restore us, good Lord, and let your anger depart from us.

All: Favourably hear us, for your mercy is great.

Accomplish in us the work of your salvation.

All: That we may show your glory in the world.

By the cross and passion of your Son our Lord,

All: Bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.

Silence is kept for a time, after which is said:

All: 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.

Imposition of Ashes:

Dear friends in Christ, I invite you to receive the symbol of these ashes as a sign of the spirit of penitence with which we shall keep this season of Lent.

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.

All: Amen.

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



When the imposition of ashes is completed the priest says the absolution:

The Absolution

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,

All: Amen.

The Peace

God makes peace within us – let us claim it

God makes peace between us – let us share it.

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

All: And also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

The Peace is shared between those present.

Offertory Hymn: Jesu, Lover of My soul

Jesus, lover of my soul,
Let me to thy bosom fly,
While the nearer waters roll,
While the tempest still is high.
Hide me, O my Saviour, hide,
Till the storm of life is past;
Safe into the haven guide;
O receive my soul at last.

Contd ...

Plenteous grace with thee is found,
Grace to cover all my sin;
Let the healing streams abound,
Make and keep me pure within.
Thou of life the fountain art,
Freely let me take of thee;
Spring thou up within my heart;
Rise to all eternity.

Charles Wesley

Preparation of the Table

Father, in Christ there has sprung up a light for the righteous; accept the gifts we bring before you and grant that Christ may shine in us to the praise and glory of your name.

All: Amen

The 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 Him 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.**

We praise and bless you, loving Father,
Through Jesus Christ, our Lord
and as we obey his command,
send your Holy Spirit,
that broken bread and wine outpoured
may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died he had supper with his friends and, taking bread, he praised you.

He broke the bread, gave it to them and said:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine.
Again he praised you, gave it to them and said:
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.

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did,
in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice
made once for all upon the cross.
Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation,
we proclaim his death and resurrection
until he comes in glory.
Great is the mystery of faith:

**All: Christ has died:
Christ is risen:
Christ will come again.**

Lord of all life,
help us to work together for that day
when your kingdom comes
and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth.

Look with favour on your people,
gather us in your loving arms
and bring us with all the saints
to feast at your table in heaven.
Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father,
for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Believing the promises of God, as our Saviour taught us, so we
pray:

**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.**

Breaking of the Bread

We break the bread of life, and that life is the light of the world.

**All: God here among us,
light in the midst of us,
bring us to light and life.**

Giving of Communion

The minister says this invitation to communion:

Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the whole world. Blessed are those who are called to His supper.

All: Lord, I am not worthy to receive you, but only say the words and I shall be healed.

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.

All: Lord, we thank you that you have fed us in this sacrament, united us with Christ, and given us a foretaste of the heavenly banquet prepared for all peoples. Amen

Final Hymn: Take Up Thy Cross

Take up thy cross, the Saviour said,
if thou wouldst my disciple be;
deny thyself, the world forsake,
and humbly follow after me.

Take up thy cross and follow Christ,
nor think til death to lay it down;
for only those who bear the cross
may hope to wear the glorious crown.

To thee, great Lord, the One in Three,
all praise forevermore ascend:
O grant us in our home to see
the heavenly life that knows no end.

Charles W Everest (1833)

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. Amen.

All: Amen.

Dismissal

Go in the light and peace of Christ.

All: Thanks be to God.