THE PARISH OF
ST WILFRID
HARROGATE

Ash Wednesday

Solemn Mass
with the sprinkling of Ashes

Wednesday 18th February 2026 - 7pm

Celebrant & Preacher: Fr Gary Waddington, Team Rector

The Gathering

Silence is kept before mass begins.

A bell rings. We stand to sing:

Lord Jesus, think on me,
And purge away my sin;
From earthborn passions set me free,
And make me pure within.

Lord Jesus, think on me,
With care and woe opprest;
Let me thy loving servant be,
And taste thy promised rest.

Lord Jesus, think on me,
Amid the battle's strife;
In all my pain and misery
Be thou my health and life.

Lord Jesus, think on me,
Nor let me go astray;
Through darkness and perplexity
Point thou the heavenly way.

Lord Jesus, think on me,
When flows the tempest high:
When on doth rush the enemy
O Saviour, be thou nigh.

Lord Jesus, think on me,
That, when the flood is past,
I may the eternal brightness see,
And share thy joy at last. *NEH 70*

The Greeting

✠ In the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

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

Brothers and sisters in Christ,
since early days Christians have observed with great devotion
the time of our Lord'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

Let us pray.

Grant, O Lord, that we may begin with holy fasting
this campaign of Christian service,
so that, as we take up battle against spiritual evils,
we may be armed with weapons of self-restraint.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

The Liturgy of the Word

Sit

The First Reading

Joel 2: 12-18

A reading from the prophet Joel

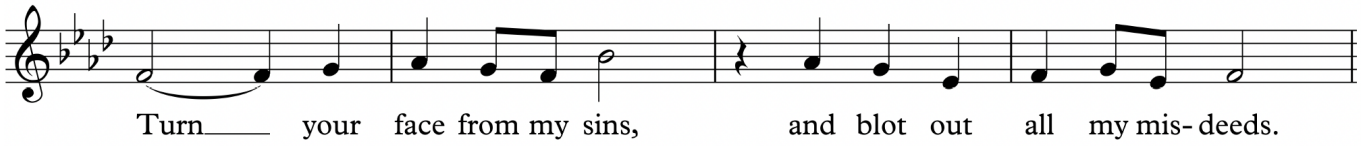
Thus says the Lord:
'Return to me with all your heart,
with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;
and rend your hearts and not your garments.'
Return to the Lord your God,
for he is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love;
and he relents over disaster.
Who knows whether 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 Sion;
consecrate a fast;
call a solemn assembly;
gather the people.

Consecrate the congregation;
assemble the elders;
gather the children,
even nursing infants.
Let the bridegroom leave his room,
and the bride her chamber.
Between the vestibule and the altar
let the priests, the ministers of the Lord, weep
and say, 'Spare your people, O Lord,
and make not your heritage a reproach,
a byword among the nations.
Why should they say among the peoples,
"Where is their God?" '
Then the Lord became jealous for his land
and had pity on his people.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

The Psalm

Music: Anthony Gray



Have mercy on me, O God, in your great goodness;
According to the abundance of your compassion blot out my offences.
Wash me thoroughly from my wickedness
And cleanse me from my sin. R./

For I acknowledge my faults
And my sin is ever before me.
Against you only have I sinned
And done what is evil in your sight, R./

Make me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not a way from your presence and take not your holy spirit from me.
Give me again the joy of your salvation
And sustain me with your gracious spirit; R./

The Second Reading

II Corinthians 5:20b – 6:2

A reading from the second letter to the Corinthians

Brothers and Sisters:
We are ambassadors for Christ;
God making his appeal through us.
We implore 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.

Working together with him, then,
we appeal to you not to receive the grace of God in vain.
For he says,
'In a favourable time I listened to you,
and in a day of salvation I have helped you.'
Behold, now is the favourable time;
behold, now is the day of salvation.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God

The Gospel Acclamation

Praise to you O Christ, King of eternal glory
Praise to you O Christ, King of eternal glory
Harden not your hearts today, but listen to the voice of the Lord.
Praise to you O Christ, King of eternal glory

The Holy Gospel

Matthew 6: 1-6, 16-18

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

✠ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew
Glory to you, O Lord.

At that time: Jesus said to his disciples:
'Beware of practising your righteousness before other people
in order to be seen by them,
for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven.
'Thus, when you give to the needy,
sound no trumpet before you,
as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets,
that they may be praised by others.
Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward.
But when you give to the needy,
do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing,
so that your giving may be in secret.
And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.
'And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites.
For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners,
that they may be seen by others.
Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward.
But when you pray,
go into your room and shut the door
and pray to your Father who is in secret.
And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.
'And when you fast, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites,
for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by others.

Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward.
But when you fast,
anoint your head and wash your face,
that your fasting may not be seen by others
but by your Father who is in secret.
And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.'

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

The Homily

Sit

The Liturgy of Ashes

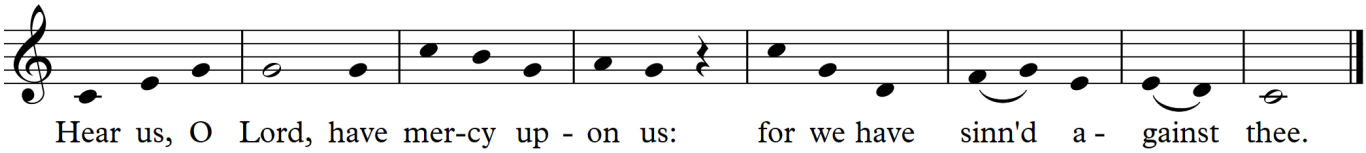
Stand

Dear brothers and sisters, let us humbly ask God our Father
that he be pleased to bless with the abundance of his grace
these ashes, which we will put on our heads in penitence.

O God, who desire not the death of sinners,
but their conversion,
mercifully hear our prayers
and in your kindness be pleased to bless ✠ these ashes,
which we intend to receive upon our heads,
that we, who acknowledge we are but ashes
and shall return to dust,
may, through a steadfast observance of Lent,
gain pardon for sins and newness of life
after the likeness of your Risen Son.
Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.
Amen.

Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.

Ashes are now sprinkled on the top of the head of those who come to receive them.
During the Ashing, the Lent Prose *is sung with this refrain:*



When all have received the ashes, this prayer is said:

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

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

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.

Let us offer each other a sign of peace.

The Preparation of the Table

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; let not its weight
Fill thy weak spirit with alarm;
His strength shall bear thy spirit up,
And brace thy heart, and nerve thine arm.

Take up thy cross, nor heed the shame,
Nor let thy foolish pride rebel;
The Lord for thee the Cross endured,
To save thy soul from death and hell.

Take up thy cross then in his strength,
And calmly every danger brave;
'Twill guide thee to a better home,
And lead to victory o'er the grave.

Take up thy cross, and follow Christ,
Nor think till death to lay it down;
For only he who bears the cross
May hope to wear the glorious crown.

To thee, great Lord, the One in Three,
All praise for evermore ascend;
O grant us in our home to see
The heavenly life that knows no end. *NEH 76*

Pray, dear friends that our sacrifice,
may be acceptable to God the almighty Father.
May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands
for the praise and glory of his name,
for our good, and the good of all his Holy Church.

As we solemnly offer
the annual sacrifice for the beginning of Lent,
we entreat you, O Lord,
that, through works of penance and charity,
we may turn away from harmful pleasures
and, cleansed from our sins, may become worthy
to celebrate devoutly the Passion of your Son.
Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.
Amen.

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 truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

For you will that our self-denial should give you thanks,
humble our sinful pride,
contribute to the feeding of the poor,
and so help us imitate you in your kindness.

And so we glorify you with countless Angels,
as with one voice of praise we acclaim:

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.

Short Service – Adrian Batten

Lord you are holy indeed, the fountain of all holiness.
Let your Spirit come upon these gifts to make them holy,
so that they may become for us
the ✠ body and blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Before he was given up to death, a death he freely accepted,
he took bread and gave you thanks.
He broke the bread, gave it to his disciples and said:
Take this, all of you, and eat it:
this is my body which will be given up for you.

When supper was ended, he took the cup.
Again he gave you thanks and praise,
gave the cup to his disciples and said:
Take this, all of you, and drink from it:
this is the cup of my blood,
the blood of the new and everlasting covenant.
It will be shed for you and for all
so that sins may be forgiven.
Do this in memory of me.

Jesus Christ is Lord:
Lord, by your cross and resurrection you have set us free.
You are the Saviour of the world.

In memory of his death and resurrection,
we offer you, Father, this life-giving bread, this saving cup.
We thank you for counting us worthy
to stand in your presence and serve you.
May all of us who share
in the body and blood of Christ
be brought together in unity by the Holy Spirit.

Lord remember your Church throughout the world;
make us grow in love together with
Toby, acting bishop of this Diocese,
Stephen our appointed Bishop and all the clergy.

Remember our brothers and sisters
who have gone to their rest
in the hope of rising again;
bring them and all the departed
into the light of your presence.

Have mercy on us all; make us worthy to share eternal life
with Mary, the virgin Mother of God,
with the apostles and martyrs
Saint Wilfrid our patron, and all the saints
who have done your will throughout the ages.
May we praise you in union with them, and give you glory
through your Son, Jesus Christ.

Through him, with him, in him,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory is yours, almighty Father,
for ever and ever.
Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

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.

Agnus Dei

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.

Short Service – Adrian Batten

✠ Behold the Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world.
Blessed are those who are invited to share in the banquet of the Lamb.
Lord, I am not worthy to receive you:
but only say the word and I shall be healed.

Communion Antiphon

He who ponders the law of the Lord day and night
will yield fruit in due season.

The distribution

If you do not normally receive communion, you should remain in your place.

During the distribution, the choir sing:

Remember not, Lord, our offences, nor the offences of our forefathers;
neither take thou vengeance of our sins:
spare us, good Lord, spare thy people,
whom thou hast redeemed with thy most precious blood,
and be not angry with us for ever.
Spare us, good Lord.

Henry Purcell

Prayer after Communion

Let us Pray

May the Sacrament we have received sustain us, O Lord,
that our Lenten fast may be pleasing to you
and be for us a healing remedy.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

The Blessing

The Lord be with you
And also with you

Pour out a spirit of compunction, O God,
on those who bow before your majesty,
and by your mercy may they merit the rewards you promise
to those who do penance;
and the blessing of God almighty,
✠ the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you, and remain with you always.
Amen.

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

All depart in silence.

The Parish Church of St Wilfrid is part of the Harrogate St Wilfrid Team Ministry -
a parish church of the Church of England in the Diocese of Leeds.

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