

Sunday Prayer at Home

Ash Wednesday



Introduction and Act of Repentance

Presider:

Ash Wednesday begins our Lenten season. We have forty days to prepare for the great Easter season. Today we come together like the people of the Old Testament to remind ourselves that we don't always faithfully follow God. We now ask God for mercy and forgiveness for the times we have failed to act according to God loving plan

Opening Prayer

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

All: Amen

Liturgy of the Word

Reader: A reading from the prophet Joel (Jl 2:12-18)

Let your hearts be broken, and not your garments torn

‘Now, now – it is the Lord who speaks – come back to me with all your heart, fasting, weeping, mourning.’ Let your hearts be broken, not your garments torn, turn to the Lord your God again, for he is all tenderness and compassion, slow to anger, rich in graciousness, and ready to relent. Who knows if he will not turn again, will not relent, will not leave a blessing as he passes, oblation and libation for the Lord your God? Sound the trumpet in Zion! Order a fast, proclaim a solemn assembly, call the people together, summon the community, assemble the elders, gather the children, even the infants at the breast. Let the bridegroom leave his bedroom and the bride her alcove. Between vestibule and altar let the priests, the ministers of the Lord, lament. Let them say, ‘Spare your people, Lord! Do not make your heritage a thing of shame, a byword for the nations. Why should it be said among the nations, “Where is their God?”’ Then the Lord, jealous on behalf of his land, took pity on his people. The Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

Responsorial Psalm

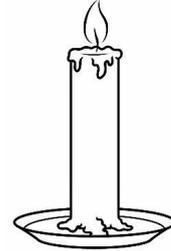
All:

Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness.
In your compassion blot out my offence.
O wash me more and more from my guilt
and cleanse me from my sin.

My offences truly I know them;
my sin is always before me.
Against you, you alone, have I sinned:
what is evil in your sight I have done

A pure heart create for me, O God,
put a steadfast spirit within me.
Do not cast me away from your presence,
nor deprive me of your holy spirit.

Give me again the joy of your help;
with a spirit of fervour sustain me.
O Lord, open my lips
and my mouth shall declare your praise.



Reader: A reading from the Second letter of St Paul

to the Corinthians (2 Cor 5:20–6:2)

Be reconciled to God, now is the acceptable time.

We are ambassadors for Christ; it is as though God were appealing through us, and the appeal that we make in Christ's name is: be reconciled to God. For our sake God made the sinless one into sin, so that in him we might become the goodness of God. As his fellow workers, we beg you once again not to neglect the grace of God that you have received. For he says: At the favourable time, I have listened to you; on the day of salvation I came to your help. Well, now is the favourable time; this is the day of salvation. The word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!
If today you hear his voice,
harden not your hearts.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!

Gospel:

A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew (Mt 6:1-6. 16-18)

Your Father, who sees all that is done in secret, will reward you

Jesus said to his disciples:

‘Be careful not to parade your good deeds before men to attract their notice; by doing this you will lose all reward from your Father in heaven. So when you give alms, do not have it trumpeted before you; this is what the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets to win men’s admiration. I tell you solemnly, they have had their reward. But when you give alms, your left hand must not know what your right is doing; your almsgiving must be secret, and your Father who sees all that is done in secret will reward you.

‘And when you pray, do not imitate the hypocrites: they love to say their prayers standing up in the synagogues and at the street corners for people to see them. I tell you solemnly, they have had their reward. But when you pray, go to your private room and, when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in that secret place, and your Father who sees all that is done in secret will reward you.

‘When you fast do not put on a gloomy look as the hypocrites do: they pull long faces to let men know they are fasting. I tell you solemnly, they have had their reward. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that no one will know you are fasting except your Father who sees all that is done in secret; and your Father who sees all that is done in secret will reward you.’ The gospel of the Lord

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ



Prayer of the Faithful

Presider: This is the time for repentance. Let us now turn to our merciful God

Reader:

We pray that the Church will turn back to God with a sincere and contrite heart. Lord hear us

We pray that the nations will make reparation for their offences. Lord hear us

We pray that those who are poor and destitute will find us generous and compassionate. Lord hear us.

We pray that God's grace will be enough for those who desire reward and acclaim for their deeds. Lord hear us

We pray that in this time of Lent we will turn away from sin and ask God for forgiveness. Lord hear us

We pray that those who are sick will join their suffering to the cross of Christ. Lord hear us.

We pray that those who have gone before us will reach their eternal reward. Lord hear us

Parish Prayer

God, Creator and Life-giver we thank you for the gift of one another in our Parish of St Paul Apostle. Bless us and our families with the power of your Spirit. Inspired and motivated by St Paul's courage and commitment to the person of Christ, may we continue to be open to change and challenge! Make us passionate and courageous in our mission of sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ

Presider:

God of mercy and compassion, you call us back to you in this season of repentance. Listen to our pleas and put a steadfast spirit within us. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen

Anima Christi Prayer (Spiritual Communion)

Soul of Christ, sanctify me; Body of Christ, save me;
Blood of Christ, inebriate me;
Water from the side of Christ, wash me;



Passion of Christ, strengthen me;
O good Jesus hear me; Within your wounds hide me;
From all harm protect me;
At the hour of my death, call me;
And close to you bid me; So that with your saints,
I may praise you forever and ever. Amen

Prayer after Communion

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.

CONCLUSION

Presider:

Pour out a spirit of penance O God, on those who humbly present themselves to you. May Your mercy lead us to a deeper understanding of Your love.

St Paul Apostle Catholic Community
Endeavour Hills VIC
Biblical translation: NRSV