**The Alde River Benefice**



****

**The Liturgy of Ash Wednesday**

We meet in the name of the Father, and of the Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit All Amen.

**The Greeting**

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

**Introduction**

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.

*All***Holy God, holy and strong,**

**holy and immortal, have mercy upon us.**

**The Collect**

Let us pray for grace to keep Lent faithfully.

*Silence is kept*

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. All Amen.

**First Reading**

*At the end the reader may say*

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

**Hymn** (*please turn your microphones to mute to sing this hymn)*

1 Take my life and let it be  
consecrated, Lord, to thee.  
Take my moments and my days;  
let them flow in ceaseless praise.

2 Take my hands and let them move  
at the impulse of thy love.  
Take my feet and let them be  
swift and beautiful for thee.

3 Take my voice and let me sing  
always, only, for my King.  
Take my lips and let them be  
filled with messages from thee.

4 Take my silver and my gold;  
not a mite would I withhold.  
Take my intellect and use  
every power as thou shalt choose.

5 Take my will and make it thine;  
it shall be no longer mine.  
Take my heart it is thine own;  
it shall be thy royal throne.

6 Take my love; my Lord, I pour  
at thy feet its treasure store.  
Take myself, and I will be  
ever, only, all for thee.

**Gospel Reading**

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

All Glory to you, O Lord.

*at the end*

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All Praise to you, O Christ.

**Sermon**

**The Liturgy of Penitence**

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

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.

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.**

From sloth, worldliness, and love of money; from hardness of heart

and contempt for your word and your laws,

All **good Lord, deliver us.**

From sins of body and mind;

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

All **good Lord, deliver us.**

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.**

By the mystery of your holy incarnation;

by your birth, childhood, and obedience;

by your baptism, fasting, and temptation,

All **good Lord, deliver us.**

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.**

By your agony and trial; by your cross and passion;

and by your precious death and burial,

All **good Lord, deliver us.**

By your mighty resurrection;

by your glorious ascension;

and by your sending of the Holy Spirit,

All **good Lord, deliver us.**

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.**

Silence is kept.

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 said and done,  
 and in the good we have not 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**

Dear friends in Christ,  
I invite you to receive 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.

The president receives the imposition of ashes saying:  
Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.  
Turn away from sin and be faithful to Christ.

When all who wish to have made the sign of the cross on their forehead as a sign of spiritually receiving the imposition of the ash the president prays.

God our Father,

the strength of all who put their trust in you,  
mercifully accept our prayers;  
and because, in our weakness,  
we can do nothing good without you,  
grant us the help of your grace,  
that in keeping your commandments  
we may please you, both in will and deed;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

**Responsory**

This is love, not that we loved God,       
*All* but that he loved us and sent his Son.

He is the sacrifice for our sins,  
*All* that we might live through him.

If God loves us so much  
*All* we ought to love one another.

If we love one another  
*All* God lives in us.

**Blessing**

May God the Father, who does not despise the broken spirit,

give to you a contrite heart. *All* **Amen.**

May Christ, who bore our sins in his body on the tree,

heal you by his wounds. *All* **Amen.**

May the Holy Spirit, who leads us into all truth,

speak to you words of pardon and peace. *All* **Amen.**

And the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,

be among you and remain with you always.

All Amen.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All In the name of Christ. Amen.

***We leave to begin our Lenten journey through the wilderness to the cross.***

*Common Worship: Times and Seasons,* material from which is included in this service, is copyright © The Archbishops’ Council 2006.

*Common Worship: Services and Prayers for the Church of England,* material from which is included in this service, is copyright © The Archbishops’ Council 2000.