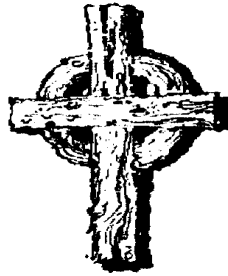


# United Benefice of Berrow with Pendock Eldersfield, Hollybush and Birtsmorton



## A SERVICE FOR ASH WEDNESDAY

**Welcome: do have a candle, ashes, glass of juice/wine and cracker/piece of bread handy**

### INTRODUCTION

Grace and peace to you from God.  
**God fill you with truth and joy.**

Let us pray (in silence) for grace to keep Lent faithfully.

*Silence*

**Almighty and merciful God,  
you hate nothing that you have made  
and forgive the sins of all who are penitent;  
create in us new and contrite hearts,  
so that when we turn to you and confess our sins  
we may receive your full and perfect forgiveness;  
through Jesus Christ our Redeemer  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God now and for ever.  
Amen.**

### THE READINGS

Joel 2:1-2,12-17

2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

*At the end of each the reader may say*

This is the word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

### HYMN

## **GOSPEL READING**

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to N.  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*At the end*

This is the Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **LITURGY OF PENITENCE**

**Refrain: Create in me a clean heart, O God.**

Have mercy on me O God in your great kindness:  
in the fullness of your mercy blot out my offences.  
Wash away all my guilt:  
and cleanse me from my sin.  
**Create in me a clean heart, O God.**

For I acknowledge my faults:  
and my sin is always before me.  
Against you only have I sinned  
and done evil in your sight.  
**Create in me a clean heart, O God.**

Create in me a clean heart O God:  
and renew a right spirit within me.  
Do not cast me away from your presence:  
do not take your holy spirit from me.  
**Create in me a clean heart, O God.**

Give me the joy of your help again:  
and strengthen me with a willing spirit.  
O Lord open my lips:  
and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.  
**Create in me a clean heart, O God.**

## **REFLECTION**

Dear friends in Christ, every year we celebrate Christ's death and resurrection. Lent is a time to prepare for this celebration. In order that our Lent may be a time of renewal and growth we begin this season by remembering our need for repentance and for the forgiveness of God proclaimed by Jesus Christ.

I invite you, therefore, in the name of Christ, to observe a holy Lent by self-examination and repentance, by prayer, fasting, self denial, and giving to those in need, and by reading and meditating on the word of God.

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

*(Silence)*

## **TEN COMMANDMENTS**

### **CONFESSION.**

**Merciful God,  
we have sinned  
in what we have thought and said,  
in the wrong we have done  
and in the good we have not done.  
We have sinned in ignorance:  
we have sinned in weakness:  
we have sinned through our own deliberate fault.  
We are truly sorry.  
We repent and turn to you.  
Forgive us, for our Saviour Christ's sake,  
and renew our lives to the glory of your name.  
Amen.**

## **THE IMPOSITION OF ASHES**

Let us pray.

Loving God,  
you create us from the dust of the earth;  
may these ashes be for us a sign  
of our penitence and our mortality,  
and a reminder that only by the cross  
do we receive eternal life  
in Jesus Christ our Saviour. **Amen.**

Remember you are dust, and to dust you shall return.  
Turn away from sin and be faithful to Christ.  
Repent and believe the Good News: God longs for you to be whole.

## **ABSOLUTION**

Through the cross of Christ,  
God have mercy on you,  
pardon you and set you free.  
Know that you are forgiven

and be at peace.  
God strengthen you in all goodness  
and keep you in life eternal.  
**Amen.**

## **THE PEACE**

Being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.  
The peace of the Lord be always with you.  
**and also with you.**

## **PREPARATION OF THE TABLE**

**Yours Lord, is the greatness, the power  
The glory the splendour and the majesty;  
For everything in heaven and on earth is yours.  
All things come from you  
and of your own do we give you.**

## **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.**

Let us pray

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:

**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.**

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.

**When we eat this bread and drink this cup,  
we proclaim your death Lord Jesus until you come in glory.**

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.

**Amen.**

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us

**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 this bread  
to share in the body of Christ

**Though we are many we are one body  
Because we all share in one bread**

**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.**

## **GIVING OF COMMUNION**

Jesus is the Lamb of God  
who takes away the sin of the world.  
Blessed are those who are called to his supper.

**Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,  
but only say the word, and I shall be healed.**

**Most merciful Lord,  
your love compels us to come in.  
Our hands were unclean,  
our hearts were unprepared;  
we were not fit  
even to eat the crumbs from under your table.  
But you, Lord, are the God of our salvation,  
and share your bread with sinners.  
So cleanse and feed us  
with the precious body and blood of your Son,  
that he may live in us and we in him;  
and that we, with the whole company of Christ,  
may sit and eat in your kingdom.  
Amen.**

***(consume)***

## **PRAYERS AFTER COMMUNION**

Let us pray

Merciful Lord,  
grant your people grace to withstand the temptations of the world,  
the flesh and the devil,  
and with pure hearts and minds to follow you, the only God;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen**

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

## **HYMN**

## **THE 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.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
**In the name of Christ. Amen.**