

NEW COLLEGE CHAPEL



A Service of Evensong for
Ash Wednesday
17th February 2021

ORDER OF SERVICE

The choir sings the Lent Prose:

*Hear us, O Lord, have mercy upon us:
for we have sinned against thee.*

To thee, redeemer on thy throne of glory:
lift we our weeping eyes in holy pleadings:
listen, O Jesu, to our supplications.
Sins oft committed, now we lay before thee
with true contrition, now no more we veil them:
grant us, redeemer, loving absolution.

Anonymous, 10th century Mozarabic hymn

Opening Sentence: Psalm 51. 17

read by the Dean of Divinity

The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit:
a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise.

General Confession

Priest Dearly beloved brethren, the Scripture moveth us in sundry places to acknowledge and confess our manifold sins and wickedness; and that we should not dissemble nor cloke them before the face of Almighty God our heavenly Father; but confess them with an humble, lowly, penitent, and obedient heart; to the end that we may obtain forgiveness of the same, by his infinite goodness and mercy. And although we ought at all times humbly to acknowledge our sins before God; yet ought we most chiefly so to do, when we assemble and meet together to render thanks for the great benefits that we have received at his hands, to set forth his most worthy praise, to hear his most holy Word, and to ask those things which are requisite and necessary, as well for the body as the soul.

Wherefore I pray and beseech you, as many as are here present, to accompany me with a pure heart and humble voice unto the throne of the heavenly grace, saying after me:

All Almighty and most merciful Father;
**We have erred, and strayed from thy ways like lost sheep.
We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts.
We have offended against thy holy laws.
We have left undone those things which we ought to have done;
And we have done those things which we ought not to have done;
And there is no health in us.
But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us, miserable offenders.
Spare thou them, O God, which confess their faults.
Restore thou them that are penitent; According to thy promises declared unto mankind in Christ Jesu our Lord.
And grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake; That we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life,
To the glory of thy holy Name. Amen.**

Priest Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who desireth not the death of a sinner, but rather that he may turn from his wickedness, and live; and hath given power, and commandment, to his Ministers, to declare and pronounce to his people, being penitent, the Absolution and Remission of their sins:
He pardoneth and absolveth all them that truly repent, and unfeignedly believe his holy Gospel.
Wherefore let us beseech him to grant us true repentance and his Holy Spirit, that those things may please him, which we do at this present; and that the rest of our life hereafter may be pure, and holy; so that at the last we may come to his eternal joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

All Our Father,
**Which art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy Name.
Thy kingdom come.
Thy will be done, in earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.**

**And forgive us our trespasses,
As we forgive them that trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory, forever and ever.
Amen.**

Cantor O Lord, open thou our lips:
Choir And our mouth shall shew forth thy praise.

O God, make speed to save us.
O Lord, make haste to help us.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost:
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen.

Praise ye the Lord.
The Lord's name be praised.

The choir sings Psalm 51:

HAVE mercy upon me, O God, after thy great goodness :
according to the multitude of thy mercies do away mine offences.
Wash me thoroughly from my wickedness : and cleanse me from my sin.
For I acknowledge my faults : and my sin is ever before me.
Against thee only have I sinned, and done this evil in thy sight : that thou
mightest be justified in thy saying, and clear when thou art judged.
Behold, I was shapen in wickedness : and in sin hath my mother conceived me.
But lo, thou requirest truth in the inward parts: and shalt make me to
understand wisdom secretly.
Thou shalt purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean : thou shalt wash me, and
I shall be whiter than snow.
Thou shalt make me hear of joy and gladness : that the bones which thou hast
broken may rejoice.
Turn thy face from my sins : and put out all my misdeeds.
Make me a clean heart, O God : and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from thy presence : and take not thy holy Spirit from me.
O give me the comfort of thy help again : and stablish me with thy free Spirit.
Then shall I teach thy ways unto the wicked : and sinners shall be converted
unto thee.
Deliver me from blood-guiltiness, O God, thou that art the God of my health :

and my tongue shall sing of thy righteousness.
Thou shalt open my lips, O Lord : and my mouth shall shew thy praise.
For thou desirest no sacrifice, else would I give it thee : but thou delightest not
in burnt-offerings.
The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit : a broken and contrite heart, O God,
shalt thou not despise.
O be favourable and gracious unto Sion : build thou the walls of Jerusalem.
Then shalt thou be pleased with the sacrifice of righteousness, with the burnt
offerings and oblations : then shall they offer young bullocks upon thine altar.

First Reading

Joel 2. 1-2, 12-17

read by Dr Anna Blomley, Esmée Fairbairn JRF in Classics

The choir sings Magnificat:

My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.
For he hath regarded the lowliness of his handmaiden.
For behold, from henceforth, all generations shall call me blessed.
For he that is mighty hath magnified me, and holy is his name.
And his mercy is on them that fear him; throughout all generations.
He hath shewed strength with his arm; he hath scattered the proud in the
imagination of their hearts.
He hath put down the mighty from their seat; and hath exalted the humble and
meek.
He hath filled the hungry with good things; and the rich he hath sent empty away.
He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel; as he promised to our
forefathers, Abraham and his seed, for ever.
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost:
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Second Reading

Matthew 6. 1-6, 16-21

read by Dr Anna Blomley, Esmée Fairbairn JRF in Classics

The choir sings Nunc dimittis:

Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word.
For mine eyes have seen thy salvation, which thou hast prepared before the face of
all people; to be a light to lighten the Gentiles, and to be the glory of thy people
Israel.
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost:
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

The Creed

Priest I believe in God,
All **the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth;
and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord,
Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried.
He descended into hell;
the third day he rose again from the dead;
He ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Ghost;
the holy catholic church;
the communion of saints;
the forgiveness of sins;
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

The choir sings the Litany to music attributed to Thomas Tallis (c.1505-1585):

O God the Father of heaven: have mercy upon us miserable sinners.
O God the Son, Redeemer of the world: have mercy upon us miserable sinners.

O God the Holy Ghost, proceeding from the Father and the Son:
have mercy upon us miserable sinners.

O holy, blessed, and glorious Trinity, three Persons and one God:
have mercy upon us miserable sinners.

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.

From all evil and mischief; from sin, from the crafts and assaults of the devil; from thy wrath, and from everlasting damnation,
Good Lord, deliver us.

From fornication, and all other deadly sin; and from all the deceits of the world, the flesh, and the devil,
Good Lord, deliver us.

From lightning and tempest; from plague, pestilence, and famine;
from battle and murder, and from sudden death,
Good Lord, deliver us.

By the mystery of thy holy Incarnation; by thy holy Nativity and
Circumcision; by thy Baptism, Fasting, and Temptation,
Good Lord, deliver us.

By thine Agony and bloody Sweat; by thy Cross and Passion; by
thy precious Death and Burial; by thy glorious Resurrection and
Ascension; and by the coming of the Holy Ghost,
Good Lord, deliver us.

In all time of our tribulation; in all time of our wealth; in the hour
of death, and in the day of judgement,
Good Lord, deliver us.

We sinners do beseech thee to hear us, O Lord God: and that it
may please thee to rule and govern thy holy Church universal in
the right way, *We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.*

That it may please thee to keep and strengthen in the true
worshipping of thee, in righteousness and holiness of life, thy
Servant ELIZABETH, our most gracious Queen and Governor,
We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to give to all nations unity, peace, and
concord, *We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.*

That it may please thee to give us an heart to love and dread thee,
and diligently to live after thy commandments,
We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to strengthen such as do stand; and to
comfort and help the weak-hearted; and to raise up them that fall;
and finally to beat down Satan under our feet,
We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to forgive our enemies, persecutors, and
slanderers, and to turn their hearts,
We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.

That it may please thee to give us true repentance; to forgive us all
our sins, negligences, and ignorances; and to endue us with the

grace of thy Holy Spirit, to amend our lives according to thy holy Word, *We beseech thee to hear us, good Lord.*

Son of God: we beseech thee to hear us.

O Lamb of God: that takest away the sins of the world;
Grant us thy peace.

O Lamb of God: that takest away the sins of the world;
Have mercy upon us.

O Christ, hear us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.

The Collects for Ash Wednesday; for Peace; for Aid against all Perils

Almighty and everlasting God, who hatest nothing that thou hast made, and dost forgive the sins of all them that are penitent; Create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we worthily lamenting our sins, and acknowledging our wretchedness, may obtain of thee, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

O God, from whom all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works do proceed: Give unto thy servants that peace which the world cannot give; that both our hearts may be set to obey thy commandments, and also that by thee we being defended from the fear of our enemies may pass our time in rest and quietness; through the merits of Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.

Lighten our darkness, we beseech thee, O Lord; and by thy great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night; for the love of thy only Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Emendemus in melius quae ignoranter peccavimus; ne subito praeoccupati die mortis, quaeramus spatium poenitentiae, et invenire non possimus.

Attende, Domine, et miserere; quia peccavimus tibi.

Memento homo quia pulvis es, et in pulverem reverteris.

Let us make amends for the sins we have committed in ignorance, lest we should suddenly, at the day of our death, seek a place of repentance and may not be able to find one.

Hear us, O Lord, and have mercy, for we have sinned against you.

Remember, mortal, that you are dust, and to dust will you return.

Responsory on Ash Wednesday

*Homily & Intercessions
concluding with the Grace:*

the Dean of Divinity

The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all, evermore,

Amen.

The choir sings the hymn:



Lord Jesus, think on me,
and purge away my sin;
from earth-born passions set me free,
and make me pure within.

Lord Jesus, think on me,
with care and woe oppressed,
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 heav'nly 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.

William Daman (d. 1591) SOUTHWELL

*Synesius of Cyrene, Bishop of Ptolemais
Trans: A.W.Chatfield*

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.