

# Ash Wednesday Service

2<sup>nd</sup> March 2022

Holy Trinity Academy

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

[Ecclesiastes 3: 20]





**Introduction:**

**[Mr Doust]**

Today is Ash Wednesday. It is the first day of LENT. Lent is a time for the friends of Jesus to prepare for Easter. Easter is the time to celebrate how much God loves us and that God is the giver of life. It is the most important feast that Christians celebrate. During the 40 days of Lent, we prepare for Easter by taking time to be quiet in our hearts, by praying, by doing good deeds, by being forgiving and asking for forgiveness. We will have the opportunity to receive ashes on our foreheads today to remind us that we need to try to be more like Jesus.

Let us begin with the sign of our faith....In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit...

**Opening Prayer:**

**[Rev Lisa]**

Grant, O Lord, may we 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 unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.



**Reading: [Pupil]**

A reading from the Book of Joel

The Lord says, “Now, come back to me with all your heart. Go without food, and cry and be sad.”

Tearing your clothes is not enough to show you are sad. Let your heart be broken. Come back to the Lord your God. He is kind and shows mercy. He doesn’t become angry quickly. He has great love. He would rather forgive than punish.

Who knows? Maybe the Lord will change his mind and leave behind a blessing for you. Then you may give grain and drink offerings to the Lord your God. Blow the trumpet in Jerusalem. Call for a special time of going without food. Call for a special meeting. Bring the people together. Make the meeting holy for the Lord.

Bring together the elders. Bring together the children. The priests, the Lord’s servants, should cry. They should cry between the altar and entrance to the Temple. They should say, “Lord, have mercy on your people.”

The Word of the Lord ...

**All: Thanks be to God**



Reflection:

[Rev David]

Importance of Repentance & Forgiveness





## Gospel Reading: [Pupil(s)]

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 hand is doing; your almsgiving must be secret, and your Father who sees all that is done in secret will reward you.

And when you do 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. 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**



Reflection:

[Rev Lisa ]

Importance of Prayer & Fasting





## **Blessing The Ashes:**

**[Staff]**

All those days you felt like dust, like dirt,  
as if all you had to do was turn your face toward the wind  
and be scattered to the four corners  
or swept away by the smallest breath  
as insubstantial - did you not know  
what the Holy One can do with dust?

This is the day we freely say we are scorched.  
This is the hour we are marked by what has made it  
through the burning.  
This is the moment we ask for the blessing  
that lives within the ancient ashes,  
that makes its home inside the soil of this sacred earth.

So let us be marked not for sorrow.  
And let us be marked not for shame.  
Let us be marked not for false humility or for thinking we are less than we are  
but for claiming what God can do within the dust, within the dirt,  
within the stuff of which the world is made  
and the stars that blaze in our bones  
and the galaxies that spiral inside the smudge we bear.



Blessing:

*‘Repent and believe in the  
Gospel’*



On this  
Ash Wednesday  
we begin  
a journey...



Let today be the  
day you give up  
who you've been  
for you who can  
become.

*Blessed* **Ash Wednesday**

Lent is a time of change. You should be a different and better person by the end of Lent.



ASH  
WEDNESDAY

WEDNESDAY

ASH





Remember man  
that you are  
dust and into  
dust you shall  
return.

Lent is a reminder that God created mankind from the dust (Genesis 2).



ASH  
WEDNESDAY

WEDNESDAY

ASH



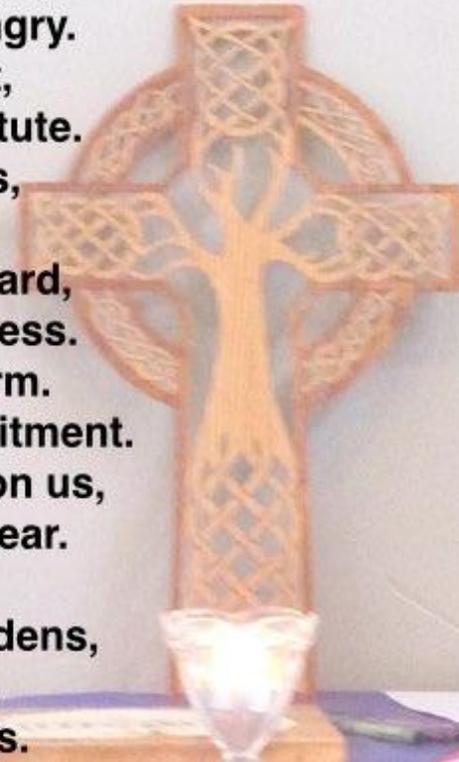




The ashes are created by burning the palm leaves used at Palm Sunday from the previous year.



**We have chosen to fast,  
Not only with ashes but with actions,  
Not with sackcloth but in sharing,  
Not in thoughts but in deeds.  
Let the ashes speak of our commitment.  
We will give up our abundance,  
To share our food with the hungry.  
We will give up our comfort,  
To provide homes for the destitute.  
We will give up our fashions,  
To see the naked clothed.  
We will share where others hoard,  
We will free where others oppress.  
We will heal where others harm.  
Let the ashes speak of our commitment.  
Then God's light will break out on us,  
God's healing will quickly appear.  
God will guide us always,  
We will be like well watered gardens,  
Repairers of broken walls,  
Builders of sustainable cities.  
Let the ashes speak of our commitment  
To God's ways and God's purposes.  
A new world coming,  
Where we will feast together,  
at God's banquet table.**





**Bidding Prayers: [Pupils]**

**Pupil:** We pray for the Church and her members, let them not neglect the grace they have received, but turn again to the Lord in prayer and repentance.  
Lord, hear us ...

**All:** **Lord, graciously hear us.**

**Pupil:** We pray for the leaders of the world, let them understand that man does not live by bread alone, and seek, by their laws, a deeper meaning to life by reconciling all men to each other.  
Lord, hear us...

**All:** **Lord, graciously hear us.**

**Pupil:** We pray for those who are caught in the snare of sin, let them be faithful to the Gospel which will bring about in them a change of heart, and a turning again to the light of grace.  
Lord, hear us.

**All:** **Lord, graciously hear us.**



**Prayer:** [Rev David]

O Jesus, you place on my forehead the sign of your saving cross: You speak, you raise your hand, you touch my mind and call my name, "Turn to the Lord your God again."

**Final Blessing:** [Rev Lisa]

REMEMBER THAT YOU ARE DUST,  
AND TO DUST  
YOU SHALL RETURN."

GENESIS 3:19