

The Community of St Stephen Walbrook



Sung Eucharist with Imposition of ashes

**Recorded on
Ash Wednesday
Wednesday 17th February 2021**

Celebrant and preacher: Revd Stephen Baxter, Priest-in-Charge

Soloist: Hilary Cronin

Organist and Director of Music: Dr Andrew Earis

Mass setting: Missa simplex, Malcolm Archer (b.1952)

Week commencing 22nd February 2021 at St Stephen Walbrook

Tuesday

Audio file of Start:Stop reflection released on website

Wednesday

9am - Morning Prayer from the Book of Common Prayer by conference call.

All welcome to dial in:

Free dial-in on 0330 9981 320 - access code: 464351#

Thursday

7.30pm – 8.30pm – Signs of Life – an exploration of John’s Gospel on Thursdays in

Lent – community bible study by zoom closing with Compline

All welcome to join: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7739658327>.

Saturday

Video of Sung Eucharist recorded on Thursday released on website

Morning and Night are available every day through the London Internet Church section of the church’s website: <https://ststephenwalbrook.net/internet-church/>

Contact:

Website: <https://ststephenwalbrook.net>

Email: priest@ststephenwalbrook.net

Phone: 07739658327

Introit:

Lent prose – Mode V accompaniment by John Scott

The Welcome

The sacrifice of God is a broken spirit: a broken and contrite heart you will not despise. *(Psalm 51.17)*

**Almighty God,
unto whom all hearts be open,
all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hid:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love thee,
and worthily magnify thy holy name;
through Christ our Lord.
Amen**

Brothers and sisters in Christ: since early days Christians have observed with great devotion the time of our Lord's passion and resurrection. It became the custom of the Church to prepare for this by a season of penitence and fasting.

At first this season of Lent was observed by those who were preparing for Baptism at Easter and by those who were to be restored to the Church's fellowship from which they had been separated through sin. In course of time the Church came to recognize that, by a careful keeping of these days, all Christians might 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.

The Ministry of the Word

The Lord be with you
And with thy spirit

Let us pray

The Collect

Almighty God and everlasting God, who hatest nothing that thou has made, and dost forgive the sins of all them that are penitent: Create 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.

Epistle: 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6.10

So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹ For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. For he says,

“At an acceptable time I have listened to you,
and on a day of salvation I have helped you.”

See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation! We are putting no obstacle in anyone’s way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, riots, labours, sleepless nights, hunger; by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; in honour and dishonour, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see—we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

The Gospel

The holy Gospel is written in the 8th chapter of the Gospel according to St John, beginning at the 2nd verse.

Glory be to thee, O Lord

Early in the morning he came again to the temple. All the people came to him and he sat down and began to teach them. The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery; and making her stand before all of them, they said to him, “Teacher, this woman was caught in the very act of

committing adultery. Now in the law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?" They said this to test him, so that they might have some charge to bring against him. Jesus bent down and wrote with his finger on the ground. When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, "Let anyone among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her." And once again he bent down and wrote on the ground. When they heard it, they went away, one by one, beginning with the elders; and Jesus was left alone with the woman standing before him. Jesus straightened up and said to her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?" She said, "No one, sir." And Jesus said, "Neither do I condemn you. Go your way, and from now on do not sin again."

This is the gospel of the Lord
Praise be to thee, O Christ

Address

Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

Offertory hymn: O for a heart to praise my God

O for a heart to praise my God,
A heart from sin set free;
A heart that always feels thy blood
So freely spilt for me:

A heart resigned, submissive, meek,
My dear Redeemer's throne;
Where only Christ is heard to speak,
Where Jesus reigns alone:

A humble, lowly, contrite heart,
Believing, true, and clean,
Which neither life nor death can part
From him that dwells within:

A heart in every thought renewed,
And full of love divine;
Perfect and right and pure and good,
A copy, Lord, of thine.

My heart, thou know'st, can never rest
Till thou create my peace;
Till of mine Eden repossesst,
From self, and sin, I cease.

Thy nature, gracious Lord, impart,
Come quickly from above;
Write thy new name upon my heart,
Thy new best name of love.

Charles Wesley (1707-88)

Tune: Stockton by Thomas Wright (1763-1829)

Intercessions

Lord in your mercy
Hear our prayer

Invitation to Confession

Ye that do truly and earnestly repent you of your sins, and are in love and charity with your neighbours, and intend to lead a new life, following the commandments of God, and walking from henceforth in his holy ways: draw near with faith, and take this holy sacrament to your comfort; and make your humble confession to almighty God.

The Confession

**Almighty God,
Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
maker of all things, judge of all men:
we acknowledge and bewail
our manifold sins and wickedness,
which we, from time to time,
most grievously have committed,
by thought, word and deed,
against thy divine majesty,
provoking most justly thy wrath
and indignation against us.
We do earnestly repent,
and are heartily sorry for these our misdoings;
the remembrance of them is grievous unto us;
the burden of them is intolerable.
Have mercy upon us,**

**have mercy upon us, most merciful Father;
for thy Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake,
forgive us all that is past;
and grant that we may ever hereafter
serve and please thee in newness of life,
to the honour and glory of thy name;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

The Absolution

Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
who of his great mercy
hath promised forgiveness of sins to all them that
with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto him:
have mercy upon you;
pardon and deliver you from all your sins;
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness;
and bring you to everlasting life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

The Imposition of Ashes

The Celebrant says

As a sign of the spirit of penitence with which we shall keep this season of preparation for Easter.

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. Amen.

*All are invited to receive the sprinkling of ashes around the altar, during which the soloist sings the **Kyrie***

Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return. Turn away from sin and be faithful to Christ.

The soloist sings the motet, O God of mercy by Simon Lole (b.1957)

The Prayer of Humble Access

**We do not presume
to come to this thy table, O merciful Lord,
trusting in our own righteousness,
but in thy manifold and great mercies.
We are not worthy so much as to gather up
the crumbs under thy table.
But thou art the same Lord,
whose property is always to have mercy:
grant us therefore, gracious Lord,
so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ,
and to drink his blood,
that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body,
and our souls washed through his most precious blood,
and that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.**

The Ministry of the Sacrament

The Lord be with you
And with thy spirit
Lift up your hearts
We lift them up unto the Lord
Let us give thanks unto our Lord God
It is meet and right so to do

It is very meet, right and our bounden duty,
that we should at all times, and in all places,
give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father,
almighty, everlasting God.

Therefore, with angels and archangels,
and with all the company of heaven,
we laud and magnify thy glorious name,
evermore praising thee, and singing:

The soloist sings the Sanctus and Benedictus

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts,
heaven and earth are full of thy glory.
Glory be to thee, O Lord most high.

Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord
Hosanna in the highest.

The Prayer of Consecration

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of thy tender mercy didst give thine only Son 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; and did institute, and in his holy gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death, until his coming again:

Hear us, O merciful Father, we most humbly beseech thee; and grant that we receiving these thy creatures of bread and wine, according to thy 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, when he had given thanks, he brake 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.

Likewise after supper he took the cup; and, when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of this; for this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for you and for many for the remission of sins: do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me.

And here we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, ourselves, our souls and bodies, to be a reasonable, holy and lively sacrifice unto thee; humbly beseeching thee, that all we, who are partakers of this holy communion, may be fulfilled with thy grace and heavenly benediction through Jesus Christ our Lord; by whom, and with whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost, all honour and glory be unto thee, O Father almighty, world without end. **Amen**

And now as our Saviour Christ hath commanded and taught us, we are bold to say

**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,
for ever and ever. Amen.

The distribution of Holy Communion

The soloist sings the Agnus Dei

Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.
Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.
Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, grant us thy peace.

Prayer after Communion

Almighty and ever-living God, we most heartily thank thee, for that thou dost vouchsafe to feed us, who have duly received these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious body and blood of thy Son our Saviour Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favour and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, which is the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs through hope of thy everlasting kingdom, by the merits of the most precious death and passion of thy dear Son. And we most humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honour and glory, world without end. **Amen.**

The Blessing

The peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord: and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be amongst you and all those whom you love, today and always. **Amen.**

Closing hymn

Lead us heavenly Father, lead us

James Edmeston (1791-1867)

Tune: Mannheim – Melody from Friedrich Filitz, Choralbuch, 1847, harmonised by Lowell Mason (1792-1872)