

Ash Wednesday With Holy Eucharist For Young Children And Their Families

We are gathered here today to mark the beginning of the Church's holy season of Lent. Lent begins today. Lent ends after 40 days when Jesus rises from the dead at Easter. Lent is a special time when God invites us to go without so that we can be reminded of how much God has given us. Lent is about changing ourselves and thinking of others.

The congregation's responses are in red.

Procession into Worship

Opening Prayer:

Almighty God, you love everything you have made, and you forgive the sins of all who are sorry: Create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we may obtain from you, the God of all mercy, perfect forgiveness of our sins; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Let us listen to what Jesus had to say to his friends about the best way to give.

Priest: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

People: **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Be careful that you don't practice your religion in front of people to draw their attention. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven.

Whenever you give to the poor, don't blow your trumpet as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets so that they may get praise from people. I assure you, that's the only reward they'll get. But when you give to the poor, don't let your left hand know what your right hand is doing so that you may give to the poor in secret. Your Father who sees what you do in secret will reward you.

When you pray, don't be like hypocrites. They love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners so that people will see them. I assure you, that's the only reward they'll get. But when you pray, go to your room, shut the door, and pray to your Father who is present in that secret place. Your Father who sees what you do in secret will reward you.

Priest: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to you Lord Christ.**

Homily

After everyone who wants to has been marked with a cross of ashes, we will say the following together:

Psalm 51:11-14, 16, 18 (Easy-to-Read Version)

God, create a pure heart in me, and make my spirit strong again.

Do not push me away or take your Holy Spirit from me.

Your help made me so happy. Give me that joy again. Make my spirit strong and ready to follow you.

I will teach the guilty how you want them to live, and the sinners will come back to you.

My Lord, I will open my mouth and sing your praises!

The sacrifice that God wants is a humble spirit. God, you will not turn away someone who comes with a humble heart and is willing to follow you.

LITANY OF BEING SORRY

We confess to you, God, that we have not always been good children to you. We have not always loved you as we should. We have not always loved our neighbors as ourselves. Forgive us, God, and help us to follow you.

Loving God, hear our prayer.

We have not always loved our families, our moms and dads and brothers and sisters. Forgive us, God, and help us to follow you.

Loving God, hear our prayer.

We have not always done our homework, cleaned our rooms, helped with the chores. We have not always been obedient. We have not always told the truth. Forgive us, God, and help us to follow you.

Loving God, hear our prayer.

We have not always been kind to our friends at school, our teachers, and our classmates. Sometimes we have judged them or been jealous of them. Forgive us, God, and help us to follow you.

Loving God, hear our prayer.

We have not always been generous with what we have, giving to people who are poor or in need. Forgive us, God, and help us to follow you.

Loving God, hear our prayer.

We have not always asked for help when we need it; we have forgotten to pray to you in the morning when we wake up and in the evening when we go to sleep. Forgive us, God, and help us to follow you.

Loving God, hear our prayer.

We have not always said thank you to our parents, friends, and to you, God. Forgive us, God, and help us to follow you.

Loving God, hear our prayer.

Then the priest says

God loves us and wants us to be the best people we can possibly be. God loves us and forgives us when we've done wrong. God loves us and wants us to share that love with others. So we ask God to forgive us today and to help us always to follow God, to be faithful, and to be good, because God has made us good.

Amen.

The Peace

Priest: The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: **And also with you.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

From *Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia* (www.liturgy.co.nz)

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.
People: **And also with you.**
Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.
People: **We lift them to the Lord.**
Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People: **It is right to offer thanks and praise.**

God, you made us, and the world and everything in it. All the good we see comes from you. You have always loved us but people have not always loved you. You sent Jesus to show us how to live and to bring us back to you again. He died for us on the cross so that through your Spirit we can all be your people. And so with thanks we praise you singing

**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.**

The priest continues

We are here because on the night before he died Jesus shared a meal with his friends. There he took some bread and gave thanks to you, God. He broke it into pieces, and gave it to them. 'This is my body,' he said, 'Do this, and know that I am with you.' Later, he took a cup of wine and gave thanks to you. He shared it with them, and said, 'This is my blood, which brings new life. Do this, and know that I am with you.' And so, remembering Jesus, who died, was raised to new life by you, and is alive forever, we are glad to share that life and live in him and proclaim the mystery of our faith.

Priest and people

**Christ has died,
Christ is risen,
Christ will come in glory.**

Send your Holy Spirit so that this bread and wine can be for us the body and blood of Jesus, and through this food give us strength to live as your people. Help us to care for your world and for each other in the way that Jesus showed us. Until he comes again, with all your people in every time and every land we worship you in songs of everlasting praise.

Blessing, honor and glory be yours, here and everywhere, now and for ever. Amen.

Priest

As Jesus taught us, we now pray:

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
Thy kingdom come, they 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, and the power and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

The priest breaks the bread and says

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: **have mercy on us.**

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: **have mercy on us.**

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: **grant us peace.**

All are welcome at Christ's table, regardless of age. Gluten-free wafers are available; simply ask the priest when you go to receive communion.

Post Communion Prayer

Thank you God for loving us as your own children and for giving us Jesus. Go with us into the world and help us to love you and love our neighbors. Amen.

Dismissal

Priest: Let us bless the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

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