

Ash Wednesday
7.00 pm - 5 March 2025



Celebrant: Fr Jordan Greatbatch
Organ: Paul Ellis
Organ Voluntary: Trio in C minor Johann Krebs
Mass Setting: New People's Mass Dom Gregory Murray

Introit Hymn: 507

**Hear us, O Lord, have mercy upon us:
for we have sinn'd against thee.**
To thee, Redeemer, on thy throne of glory:
lift we our weeping eyes in holy pleadings:
listen, O Jesu, to our supplications.
Hear us....

God, we implore thee, in thy glory seated
bow down and hearken to thy weeping
children pity and pardon all our
grievous trespasses.
Hear us....

O thou chief Corner-stone,
Right Hand of the Father
Way of Salvation, Gate of Life Celestial
cleanse thou our sinful souls
from all defilement.
Hear us....

Sins oft committed now we lay before thee
with true contrition,
now no more we veil them
grant us, Redeemer, loving absolution.
Hear us....

Innocent, captive,
taken unresisting falsely accused,
and for us sinners sentenced,
save us, we pray thee, Jesu our Redeemer.
Hear us....

Greeting:

Ki te ingoa ✠ o te Matua, me te Tamaiti, me te Wairua Tapu. Amine.
(In the name of the Father, and of the Son, ✠ and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.)

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

The people are invited to call to mind their sins

Silence

Together we pray:

**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.**

**Kyrie, eleison, Kyrie, eleison.
Christe, eleison, Christe, eleison.
Kyrie, eleison. Kyrie, eleison.**

The 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.**

Let us pray for grace to keep Lent faithfully.

Grant us, Lord, the grace to begin this time of Christian service with a holy fast, that, as we struggle against the spirit of evil, we may be strengthened by the practice of self-discipline. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Congregation sits.

First Reading: *(sit)* Joel 2: 1–2, 12–17

Margaret Maclagan

Blow the trumpet in Zion; sound the alarm on my holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble, for the day of the Lord is coming, it is near—a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness!

Like blackness spread upon the mountains a great and powerful army comes; their like has never been from of old, nor will be again after them in ages to come.

Yet even now, says the Lord, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; rend your hearts and not your clothing. Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing. Who knows whether he will not turn and relent, and leave a blessing behind him?

Blow the trumpet in Zion; sanctify a fast; call a solemn assembly; gather the people. Sanctify the congregation; assemble the aged; gather the children, even infants at the breast. Let the bridegroom leave his room, and the bride her canopy. Between the vestibule and the altar let the priests, the ministers of the Lord, weep. Let them say, "Spare your people, O Lord, and do not make your heritage a mockery, a byword among the nations. Why should it be said among the nations, 'Where is their God?'"

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church. **Thanks be to God.**

R. Have mercy on me, O God, in your great kindness and cleanse me from my sin.

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. **R.**

For I acknowledge my faults, and my sin is always before me. Against you only have I sinned, and done evil in your sight. **R.**

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. **R.**

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. **R.**

Second Reading: (*sit*) 2 Corinthians 5: 20b-6:10 Joshua Wilson Black

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. 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.'

Behold, now is the acceptable time; behold, now is the day of salvation!

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church. **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation: (*stand*)

Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God. If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts. **Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God.**

The Lord be with you

A reading from the Holy Gospel of Matthew

The Lord bless you

Praise and Glory to God

Gospel: Matthew 6: 1–6, 16–21 Deacon Robert Jamieson

Jesus said to the disciples: Beware of practising your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven. So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others.

Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

And when you fast, do not look dismal like the hypocrites, who disfigure their faces to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that your fasting may be seen not by others, but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume, and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

This is the Gospel of Christ. **Praise to Christ the Word.**

Sermon: Fr Jordan Greatbatch

Call to Repentance:

E te whanau a te Karaiti/ 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 pray. *(silent prayer)*

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.**

The Imposition of ashes: Wash me throughly SS Wesley

(Those who desire to receive ashes come forward. The ashes are imposed on each person with the following words.)

Remember you are dust, and to dust you shall return.

The Peace

The peace of Christ be always with you. **And also with you.**
At the Peace all may exchange a non physical greeting with those near them.

E te whanau, we are the body of Christ.
By one spirit we were baptised into one body.
Keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace:
Amen. We are bound by the love of Christ.

Offertory: Brenda Withell, Mary Stevenson

The Preparation of the Gifts

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation. Through your goodness we have this bread to offer, which earth has given and human hands have made. It will become for us the bread of life. **Blessed be God for ever.**

By the mystery of this water and wine may we come to share in the divinity of Christ, who humbled himself to share in our humanity.

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation. Through your goodness we have this wine to offer, fruit of the vine and work of human hands. It will become our spiritual drink. **Blessed be God for ever.**

Offertory Hymn: 383

Jesu, Lover of my soul,
Let me to thy bosom fly,
While the nearer waters roll,
While the tempest still is high:
Hide me, O my Saviour, hide
Till the storm of life is past;
Safe into the haven guide,
O receive my soul at last.

Other refuge have I none,
Hangs my helpless soul on thee;
Leave, ah, leave me not alone,
Still support and comfort me.
All my trust on thee is stayed,
All my help from thee I bring;
Cover my defenceless head
With the shadow of thy wing.

Plenteous grace with thee is found,
Grace to cover all my sin;
Let the healing streams abound,
Make and keep me pure within.
Thou of life the fountain art,
Freely let me take of thee,
Spring thou up within my heart,
Rise to all eternity.

Pray, sisters and brothers, that our sacrifice may be acceptable to God, the almighty One.

May the Lord receive the sacrifice at your hands, for the praise and glory of his name, for our good, and the good of all his Church.

Priest:

Lord God, as Lent begins we offer you this solemn sacrifice, begging that through our works of charity and penance we may turn away from sin and harmful pleasures and unite ourselves more closely to the passion of your Son, who lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord is here.

Lift up your hearts.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

God's Spirit is with us.

We lift them to the Lord.

It is right to offer thanks and praise.

It is right indeed, it is our joy and our salvation, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, at all times and in all places to give you thanks and praise through Christ your only Son.

Each year you give us this season, when we prepare to celebrate the paschal mystery with mind and heart renewed. You give us a spirit of loving reverence for you, our God, and of willing service to our neighbour.

As we recall the great events that gave us new life in Christ, you bring the image of your Son to perfection within us.

Therefore with the faithful who rest in him, with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven, we proclaim your great and glorious name, for ever praising you and 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.

All glory and thanksgiving to you, holy Father. Send your Holy Spirit, that these gifts of bread and wine which we receive may be to us the body and blood of Christ, and that we, filled with the Spirit's grace and power, may be renewed for the service of your kingdom.

On the night before he died, your Son Jesus Christ took bread; when he had given you thanks, he broke it, gave it to his disciples, and said: Take, eat, this is my body which is given for you; do this to remember me.

After supper he took the cup; when he had given you thanks, he gave it to them, and said: Drink this, all of you, for 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, to remember me.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Glory to you, Lord Christ: your death we show forth; your resurrection we proclaim; your coming we await. Amen! Come, Lord Jesus.

Therefore, loving God, recalling your great goodness to us in Christ, his suffering and death, his resurrection and ascension, and looking for his coming in glory, we celebrate our redemption with this bread of life and this cup of salvation. Accept our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving which we offer through Christ, our great high priest.

United in Christ with all who stand before you in earth and heaven, we worship you, O God, in songs of everlasting praise:

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

Silence

As Christ teaches us we pray:

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever.
Amen.**

Eucharistic Ministers: Rachel Watson, Michael Graveston

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

We who are many are one body, for we all share the 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 your peace.**

He who ponders the law of the Lord day and night will yield fruit in due season.

This is the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.
Happy are we who are called to his supper.

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

For Communion, leave your seat by the side aisle and come down the central aisle. You are encouraged to use the hand sanitiser.

Anthem: Come down O love divine William Harris

Prayer after Communion:

Lord, may the sacrament we have received in faith sustain and strengthen us, so that our Lenten fast may win favour in your sight and help to remedy our human weakness. Grant this in the name of Jesus, the Lord. **Amen.**

Blessing:

Christ give you grace to grow in holiness, to deny yourselves, to take up your cross, and to follow him.

May the blessing of almighty God, the Father, the Son ✠ and the Holy Spirit, be with you now and always. **Amen.**

Final Hymn: 64

Be thou my guardian and my guide,
And hear me when I call;
Let not my slippery footsteps slide,
And hold me lest I fall.

The world, the flesh, and Satan dwell
Around the path I tread;
O, save me from the snares of hell,
Thou quickener of the dead.

And if I tempted am to sin,
And outward things are strong,
Do thou, O Lord, keep watch within,
And save my soul from wrong.

Still let me ever watch and pray,
And feel that I am frail;
That if the tempter cross my way,
Yet he may not prevail.

Organ Voluntary: Jesu, hilf siegen

Sigfrid Karg-Elert



Health & Safety Regulations: In an emergency, use the closest exit and assemble in the drop-off zone. In an earthquake, drop down and shelter behind or under a pew, covering your head. Follow instructions.