

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING: *Joel 2:12-18* *Sit*

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: *Psalm 50: 3-6, 12-14, 17*

Response: **Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.**

SECOND READING: *2 Corinthians 5:20- 6:2*

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: *Stand*

**All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, King of endless glory!
If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, King of endless glory!**

GOSPEL: *Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18*

SHARED REFLECTION *Sit*

BLESSING AND GIVING OF ASHES

Leader: Dear friends in Christ,
let us implore God our Father to bless and sanctify these ashes,
which we place on our heads as a sign of repentance.

Lord, you do not wish sinners to die but to turn to you and live.
In your goodness hear our prayer:

Pour out your blessing on these ashes,
which we place on our heads to remind us
that we are dust and unto dust we shall return.

Grant that by our faithful observance of Lent
we may gain pardon for our sins and newness of life
in the image of your risen Son.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

*The ashes are now sprinkled with holy water in silence and the Leaders
sign each other with the ashes.*

Leader: I now invite you to receive these ashes as a sign of your desire for
forgiveness and conversion.

The ashes are now received by all.

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

Stand

RITE OF THANKSGIVING

Kneel

Leader: On this day we acknowledge our need for repentance
and our desire to live this Lent well. We also realise that God is
always with us in our daily lives and for this we should always give
thanks. Let us kneel and offer our praise and thanks to God.

Praise to you, Father of mercies, for in Christ's death and
resurrection you have set us free from sin and offered us the
promise of eternal life. Your people give you glory:

All: We praise your name, O God.

Leader: Praise to you, Father of compassion, you lift those who are
bowed down and give strength to those who suffer. You sustain
us on this Lenten pilgrimage. Your people give you glory:

All: We praise your name, O God.

Leader: Praise to you, Father of love, you sent your Son into the world
to be our Saviour and brother. In him we are reconciled into
your loving embrace. Your people give you glory:

All: We praise your name, O God.

Leader: Praise to you, Father of all, in Christ we hear the Word of truth,
the Gospel of salvation. Christ's example of faithful service is
the pattern for Christian life. Your people give you glory:

All: We praise your name, O God.

Leader: We glorify you, O God, for the marvels of your mercy.
To you be glory and honour, through Christ,
and in the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

All: Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Leader: Jesus invites us to call on his Father's name:
Filled with trust in Jesus' power, we stand as we
conclude our prayer of thanksgiving in his own words:

