

LANCASTER PRIORY

St Mary with St George and St John

**A WELCOMING, INCLUSIVE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY,
SERVING THE PEOPLE OF LANCASTER**



**ASH WEDNESDAY
2021**

President: The Revd Canon Brenda Harding, Hon. Associate Priest

Sermon: The Revd Canon John Roff, Hon. Associate Priest

Readers: Sally Bushell, Dylan Bushell

Intercessions: Rachel Ann Powers

Organist: Ian Pattinson FRCO, Priory Organist

Introit: Improvisation

Offertory: Prelude on 'Aberystwyth' (Hylton Stewart)

Final Voluntary: Prelude on 'Ich ruf zu dir' (Bach)

Cantor: Kaarina Leong

Mass setting: Merbecke

WELCOME TO LANCASTER PRIORY

as we observe together, whether in the building or online, the solemnities of
ASH WEDNESDAY.

*Please join in saying the words in **bold** type.*

The priest greets the congregation:

In the name of the Father, and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus
Christ be with you **and also with you.**

Brothers and sisters in Christ, since early days Christians have
observed with great devotion the time of our Lord's passion and
resurrection and prepared for this by a season of penitence and
fasting. By carefully keeping these days, Christians 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 CANTOR SINGS THE KYRIE

*Lord have mercy upon us, Christ have mercy upon us,
Lord have mercy upon us*

THE COLLECT

Let us pray for grace to keep Lent faithfully.

Silence is kept

Almighty and everlasting God, you hate nothing that you have made and forgive the sins of all those who are penitent: create and make in us new and contrite hearts that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, may receive from you, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

Please sit for

THE FIRST READING

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah

(Isa 58.1-12)

Shout out, do not hold back! Lift up your voice like a trumpet! Announce to my people their rebellion, to the house of Jacob their sins. Yet day after day they seek me and delight to know my ways, as if they were a nation that practised righteousness and did not forsake the ordinance of their God; they ask of me righteous judgements, they delight to draw near to God. 'Why do we fast, but you do not see? Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?' Look, you serve your own interest on your fast-day, and oppress all your workers. Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight and to strike with a wicked fist. Such fasting as you do today will not make your voice heard on high. Is such the fast that I choose, a day to humble oneself? Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush, and to lie in sackcloth and ashes? Will you call this a fast, a day acceptable to the LORD? Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin? Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you, the glory of the LORD shall be your rearguard. Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am. If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil, if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday. The LORD will guide you continually, and satisfy your needs in parched places, and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters never fail. Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in.

For the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God**

CANTOR

*Drop, drop, slow tears,
And bathe those beautiful feet,
Which brought from heaven
The news and Prince of Peace.*

*Cease not, wet eyes,
His mercies to entreat;
To cry for vengeance
Sin doth never cease.*

*In your deep floods
Drown all my faults and fears;
Nor let his eye
See sin, but through my tears.*

Phineas Fletcher (1582-1650)

THE SECOND READING

A reading from the Second Letter of Paul to the Corinthians (2 Cor 5.20b - 6.10)

We entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made himself 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. For the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God**

THE GOSPEL

Please stand for the Gospel Acclamation:

*Cantor: Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.
Blessed are those who have endured temptation;
they have stood the test and will receive the crown of life.
Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.*

*Deacon: The Lord be with you **and also with you***

Deacon: Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John
Glory to you, O Lord

(John 8.1-11)

Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. 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 the people, they said to Jesus, '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 Jesus, 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 to you, O Christ.**

SERMON The Revd Canon John Roff, Hon. Associate Priest

SELF EXAMINATION AND CONFESSION

Please kneel or sit:

Let us now call to mind our sin and the infinite mercy of God.

God the Father, **have mercy on us.**

God the Son, **have mercy on us.**

God the Holy Spirit, **have mercy on us.**

Trinity of love, **have mercy on us.**

Most merciful God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we confess that we have sinned in thought, word and deed. We have not loved you with our whole heart, and mind, and strength. We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves. We have not forgiven others, as we have been forgiven: In your mercy forgive what we have been, help us to amend what we are, and direct what we shall be; that we may do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with you, our God. Amen.

Dear friends in Christ, I invite you to receive these ashes as a sign of the spirit of penitence with which we shall keep this season of Lent. 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.**

While the CANTOR sings Psalm 51 – v 1-18. the president and those present receive the sprinkling of ash, the president first doing this for themselves. The act takes place without words, marking the profundity of the symbolism.

Then, once the Psalm has finished, the president says:

The Lord enrich you with his grace, and nourish you with his blessing;
the Lord defend you in trouble and keep you from all evil;
the Lord accept your prayers, and absolve you from your offences,
for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Saviour.

Amen.

All stand for

THE PEACE

Since we are justified by faith,
We have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,
who has given us access to his grace.
The peace of the Lord be always with you
and also with you

Deacon: Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

All may exchange a sign of peace

THE OFFERTORY *The Gifts are brought to the Altar*

PREPARATION OF THE TABLE

Merciful Father, turn us from sin to faithfulness and from disobedience to love, and prepare us to celebrate the death and resurrection of Christ our Saviour who is alive and reigns, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

(Please remain standing, if you feel able, until after we have recited the Lord's Prayer together and seen the bread broken before us)

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

It is indeed right and good to give you thanks and praise, almighty God and everlasting Father, through Jesus Christ your Son. For in these forty days you lead us into the desert of repentance that through a pilgrimage of prayer and discipline we may grow in grace and learn to be your people once again. Through fasting, prayer

and acts of service you bring us back to your generous heart. Through study of your holy word you open our eyes to your presence in the world and free our hands to welcome others into the radiant splendour of your love. As we prepare to celebrate the Easter feast with joyful hearts and minds we bless you for your mercy and join with saints and angels for ever praising you and singing:

THE CANTOR SINGS THE SANCTUS AND BENEDICTUS

*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*

Accept our praises, heavenly Father, through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ, and as we follow his example and obey his command, grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit these gifts of bread and wine may be to us his body and his blood; who, in the same night that he was betrayed, took bread and gave you thanks; he broke 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.

In the same way, after supper he took the cup and gave you thanks; he gave it to them, saying: Drink this, all of you; 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, in remembrance of me.

Therefore, heavenly Father, we remember his offering of himself made once for all upon the cross; we proclaim his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; we look for the coming of your kingdom, and with this bread and this cup we make the memorial of Christ your Son our Lord.

Christ is the bread of life:

When we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim your death, Lord Jesus, until you come in glory.

Accept through him, our great high priest, this our sacrifice of thanks and praise, and as we eat and drink these holy gifts in the presence of your divine majesty, renew us by your Spirit, inspire us with your love and unite us in the body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, with all who stand before you in earth and heaven, we worship you, Father almighty, in songs of everlasting praise:

**Blessing and honour and glory and power be yours for ever and ever.
Amen.**

Lord Jesus, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.
(each in our own language)

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

BREAKING OF BREAD

Every time we eat this bread and drink this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

God's holy gifts for God's holy people.
**Jesus Christ is holy, Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.**

THE GIVING OF COMMUNION

As an Act of Spiritual Communion, you may wish to give thanks for the saving death and resurrection of Jesus and ask him to be with you now by saying this prayer:

Thanks be to you, Lord Jesus Christ,
for all the benefits you have given me
for all the pains and insults you have borne for me.
Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally,
I ask you to come spiritually into my heart.
O most merciful redeemer, friend and brother,
may I know you more clearly,
love you more dearly,
and follow you more nearly, day by day.
Amen.

During the communion the cantor sings: Lord Jesus think on me (NEH 70)

Lord Jesus, think on me, and purge away my sin; from earthborn passions set me free, and make me pure within.

Lord Jesus, think on me with many a care opprest; Let me thy loving servant be, and taste thy promised rest.

Lord Jesus, think on me, nor let me go astray; through darkness and perplexity point thou the heavenly way.

Lord Jesus, think on me, that, when the flood is past, I may the eternal brightness see, and share thy joy at last.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Almighty God,

you have given your only Son to be for us both a sacrifice for sin and also an example of godly life:

give us grace that we may always most thankfully

receive these his inestimable gifts, and also daily endeavour to follow the blessed steps of his most holy life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

God of our pilgrimage, you have led us with the bread of heaven.

Refresh and sustain us as we go forward on our journey, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

This is love, not that we loved God,

but that he loved us and sent his Son.

He is the sacrifice for our sins,

that we might live through him.

If God loves us so much

we ought to love one another.

If we love one another

God lives in us.

Deacon: Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

(Luke 15.4-7)

Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbours, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.' Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous people who need no repentance.

This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ**

The priest gives the Blessing

Christ give you grace to grow in holiness, to deny yourselves, take up your cross, and follow him; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Deacon: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ.

Amen.



In this period until a new vicar is appointed,
the churchwardens (Pauline Fielding & Andrew Nicholson)
will try to address any concerns you may have.

You can contact them by emailing:
office@lancasterpriory.org or ring 01524 65338.

The Priory is taking a big hit from a drop in visitor income, venue income, and service collections.

If your income is keeping up, please consider using the barcode to make a donation to the work of the Priory.

We share a great sense of thanksgiving for all that God is inspiring around us in these difficult times.



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