**Times and Seasons**

**Part 2 – Lent, Holy Week and Easter**

**Section 2**

**Lent**

# ASH WEDNESDAY

# *The Holy Eucharist and*

# *the Giving/Imposition of Ashes*

# *As we begin our Lenten journey, we turn to the Lord in a corporate act of penitence, acknowledging our need for his forgiveness and love, his grace and strength. As we set our faces toward the paschal celebration of Christ’s saving death and resurrection, we pray that we may use the season of Lent as a favourable time of preparation, a time of sacrifice and fasting, a time of reconciliation and service of our neighbour, so that reconciled with God and one another, we may embrace the gospel of Christ and rejoice in his Passover Feast.*

# *It is a custom that ashes are used as a sign or mark of our repentance: a physical, symbolic gesture of sorrow for our sins and our need for God’s loving forgiveness. The ashes used today come from the branches blessed the preceding year on Palm Sunday.*

### The Penitential Rite and the Gloria are omitted, and the Eucharist follows the usual pattern, with the following additions. If the rite of Ashes is not celebrated, then a general confession is used.

***Greeting***

*Either:*

From God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ,

who calls us to conversion of heart:

grace and peace be with you.

**And also with you.**

*Or:*

Grace and peace be with you.

**And keep you in the love of Christ.**

***Introduction***

*The following or similar words of introduction may be used:*

Brothers and sisters in Christ, since early days, the mystery of our Lord's Passion and resurrection has been observed with great devotion by Christians and they have prepared for this by a period of penitence and fasting. Through this holy season of Lent, we take to heart the call to repentance and the assurance of forgiveness proclaimed in the gospel, and we seek to deepen our faith and friendship with the Lord.

This is also a season in which those who seek to be immersed in the saving waters of Baptism at Easter receive instruction and preparation, so that plunged into the paschal mystery of Christ they may know the reconciling love of God and be gathered into the community of the Church.

I invite you, therefore, to the observance of a holy Lent through penitence and prayer, sacrifice and self-denial, fasting and charity, and by reading and meditating on God's holy word that we may come to celebrate with joy the paschal mysteries through which we are saved.

# *Collect for Ash Wednesday*

Let us pray.

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 our Lord,

who is alive and reigns with you,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

*The Liturgy of the Word follows.*

# *After the Sermon:*

## Blessing and Giving/Imposition of Ashes

## There are two alternative forms provided, which may include a Penitential Rite.

***First Form***

*The priest says, either:*

Dear friends in Christ, now is the favourable time: this is the day of salvation. The Lord beckons us to return to him with all our heart, leaving the past in dust and ashes, and turning to God with tears and fasting, but also with confidence in his tenderness and compassion. So, let us ask God to strengthen and bless us as we use these ashes as the mark of our repentance.

*Or:*

Today the whole community is summoned and gathered together to be embraced by the tender compassion of the Lord. He is slow to anger, rich in graciousness and ready to forgive. We are called to come back to the Lord with all our heart, to embrace sacrifice, to be filled with sorrow for our sins and to weep over all that has led us astray. So, dear friends in Christ, let us turn away from sin, embrace the gospel of the Lord and begin this Lenten season in a spirit of penitence and faith.

*Or:*

Dear friends in Christ, harden not your hearts today. We have listened to the voice of the Lord. He calls us to turn away from sin and to return to him with faithfulness and love. Let us ask the Father to bless these ashes which we use as the mark of our repentance.

*Silent Prayer, followed by one of the following prayers.*

*Either:*

Lord God, full of tenderness and compassion,

slow to anger and rich in mercy,

you do not want sinners to die

but to live with the Risen Christ.

Search the secrets of our hearts,

and come to our help as we call on you.

Bless these ashes and all who receive them

as we turn away from sin

# and embrace the gospel of the Lord.

# Forgive our sins

# and strengthen us for our Lenten journey

# that we may come to celebrate the joy of Easter.

# We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Or:*

Lord God,

the ugliness of sin is transformed

by the beauty of your forgiveness,

and the darkness of our minds

is transformed by the light of your truth.

May the broken hearts of all who receive these ashes

be renewed by your grace,

# and their eyes and ears be opened

# to the gospel of the risen Christ,

# who reigns with you for ever and ever. Amen.

*The priest and people receive the ashes in the form of a cross on their foreheads.*

*As each person receives the ashes, the priest says:*

# *Either:*

### Turn away from sin and be faithful to the gospel.

# *Or:*

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

*Or:*

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

# *Either silence is kept or appropriate psalms, antiphons or songs may be sung during the imposition of ashes.*

*The Eucharist continues with the Intercessions.*

## Second Form

*Either:*

*The priest invites the people to call their sins to mind using these words followed by the Litany*

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

#### **The Litany** [Kneel]

God the Father,

**have mercy on us.**

God the Son,

**have mercy on us.**

God the Holy Spirit,

**have mercy on us.**

Holy, blessed, and glorious Trinity,

**have mercy on us.**

From all evil and harmful actions;

from pride, vanity, and hypocrisy;

from envy, hatred, and malice;

and from all evil intent,

**Good Lord, deliver us.**

From sloth, worldliness, and love of money;

from hardness of heart

and contempt for your word and your laws,

**Good Lord, deliver us.**

From sins of body and mind;

From the deceits of the world, the flesh, and the devil,

**Good Lord, deliver us.**

From famine and disaster;

from violence and murder,

and from dying unprepared,

**Good Lord, deliver us.**

In all times of sorrow;

in all times of joy;

in the hour of death, and at the day of judgement,

**Good Lord, deliver us.**

By the mystery of your holy incarnation;

by your birth, childhood, and obedience;

by your baptism, fasting, and temptation,

**Good Lord, deliver us.**

By your ministry in word and work;

by your mighty acts of power;

and by your preaching of the kingdom,

**Good Lord, deliver us.**

By your agony and trial;

by your cross and passion;

and by your precious death and burial,

**Good Lord, deliver us.**

By your mighty resurrection;

by your glorious ascension;

and by the coming of the Holy Spirit,

**Good Lord, deliver us.**

Give us true repentance;

forgive us our sins of negligence and ignorance

and our deliberate sins;

and grant us the grace of your Holy Spirit

to amend our lives according to your holy word.

**Holy God,**

**holy and strong,**

**holy and immortal,**

**have mercy upon us.** *(Daily Prayer 2010)*

*Or:*

It is the Church’s custom to prepare for Easter by keeping Lent as a season of self-discipline and penitence. We remember that pardon for all sin is given through repentance and faith in Christ Jesus. Let us therefore examine ourselves and confess our sins, that we may receive God’s forgiveness and, by his grace, continue in newness of life.

Our duty towards God is to worship him as the only true God, to love, trust and obey him, and by witness of our words and deeds to bring others to serve him.

Have mercy on me, O God, after your great goodness:

**According to the multitude of your mercies, put away my offences.**

Our duty towards God is to allow no created thing to take his place, but to use our time, our gifts and our possessions as those who must give an account to him.

Have mercy on me, O God, after your great goodness:

**According to the multitude of your mercies, put away my offences.**

Our duty towards God is to reverence him in thought, word and deed.

Wash me throughly from my wickedness and cleanse me from my sin:

**For I acknowledge my faults and my sin is ever before me.**

Our duty towards God is the keep the Lord’s day for worship and rest from work.

Wash me throughly from my wickedness and cleanse me from my sin:

**For I acknowledge my faults and my sin is ever before me.**

Our duty towards our neighbour is to love, respect and help our parents; to honour the Queen; to obey those in authority over us in all things lawful and good; and to fulfil our duties as citizens.

Turn your face from my sins and put out all my misdeeds:

**Make me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.**

Our duty towards our neighbour is to hurt nobody by word or deed; to bear no grudge or hatred in our heart; to promote peace among people; to be courteous to all; to be kind to all God’s creatures.

Turn your face from my sins and put out all my misdeeds:

**Make me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.**

Our duty towards our neighbour is to be clean in thought, word and deed, controlling our bodily desires through the power of the Holy Spirit who dwells within us; and, if called to the state of marriage, to live faithfully in it.

Cast me not away from your presence:

**And take not your Holy Spirit from me.**

Our duty towards our neighbour is to be honest and fair in all we do; not to steal or cheat; to seek justice, freedom and plenty for all people.

Cast me not away from your presence:

**And take not your Holy Spirit from me.**

Our duty towards our neighbour is to keep our tongues from lying, slandering and harmful gossip, and never by our silence to let others be wrongly condemned.

O give me the comfort of your help again:

**And strengthen me with a willing spirit.**

Our duty towards our neighbour is to be thankful and generous; to do our duty cheerfully, and not to be greedy or envious.

O give me the comfort of your help again:

**And strengthen me with a willing spirit.**

Lord Jesus, by your coming to seek and save humankind; by your holy Incarnation; by your Cross and Passion:

**Incline our hearts to do your will.**

By your glorious Resurrection and Ascension, and by the coming of the Holy Spirit:

**Incline our hearts to do your will.**

By your continual intercession; by your ever-abiding presence with your Church:

**Incline our hearts to do your will.**

*The following may be added:*

Our Saviour Christ says to all who truly turn to him: Come to me, all who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

Hear also what Saint Paul says: This saying is true and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.

Hear also what Saint John says: If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just, and will forgive our sins, and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

*Or the Ten Commandments from HE04 may be used*

*Or the general confession may be used:*

[Make our hearts clean, O God;  
**and renew a right spirit within us.]**

**Heavenly Father,**

**we have sinned in thought, word and deed,**

**and have failed to do what we ought to have done.**

**We are sorry and truly repent.**

**For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ who died for us,**

**forgive us all that is past and lead us in his way**

**to walk as children of light. Amen.** *(HE04)*

As a sign of the spirit of penitence

with which we shall keep this season of preparation for Easter,

I invite you to receive on your head in ash the sign of the cross,

the symbol of our salvation.  
  
*The priest then says the following prayer over the ashes:*

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.**

*The priest and people receive the ashes in the form of a cross on their foreheads.*

*As each person receives the ashes, the priest says:*

# *Either:*

### Turn away from sin and be faithful to the gospel.

# *Or:*

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

*Or:*

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

# *Either silence is kept or appropriate psalms, antiphons or songs may be sung during the imposition of ashes.*

*After the giving/imposition of Ashes, one of the following prayers may be said:*

God our Father,  
the strength of all who put their trust in you,  
mercifully accept our prayers;  
and because, in our weakness,  
we can do nothing good without you,  
grant us the help of your grace,  
that in keeping your commandments  
we may please you, both in will and deed;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.** *(LHWE)*

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.**

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent,

have mercy on you and set you free from sin,

strengthen you in goodness and keep you in eternal life;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.** *(HE04)*

*The Eucharist may continue with the following or other appropriate Intercessions, or proceed directly to the Peace.*

***Intercessions***

*Invitation*

'At the favourable time, I have listened to you; on the day of Salvation I came to your help.'

As we heed the Lenten call to prayer, fasting and charity, let us lift our voices in prayer to the one who has come to save us.

*Petitions*

For the Church throughout the world and this community summoned today to this holy fast, that we may strengthen the weak, raise up the fallen and lead others to the waters of life, we pray to the Lord.

*Either: Or:*

Lord, in your mercy. Now is the favourable time.

**Hear our prayer. This is the day of Salvation.**

For those who call us to repentance, that all ministers of word and sacrament may live in sincerity of heart and be for us examples of holiness and love, we pray to the Lord.

For those whose lives we seek to strengthen by the sacrifices we make, that the fasts of the rich may be the feasts of the poor, we pray to the Lord.

For those for whom fasting is not a choice and whose hunger comes from injustice and inequality, that the earth may flow with the justice and peace of God, we pray to the Lord.

For those whose land is dry and barren and fruitless, that the riches of the earth may be shared among all people, we pray to the Lord.

For those who live in the wilderness of war and violence that the desire for peace may fill the hearts of all nations, we pray to the Lord.

For those whose faith is fragile or who have been separated from the fold of Christ's church, that they may know again the joy of God's help and be sustained by his powerful Spirit, we pray to the Lord.

For those trapped by sin, that they may turn to the Lord for he is all tenderness and compassion and love, slow to anger and rich in graciousness, we pray to the Lord.

In silence, we pray to God who searches our hearts and know us.

*Concluding Prayer*

God our Father,

as we call to you, you have already come to our help.

As we make our prayer, we have already been heard.

May we who begin this Lenten season with sorrow for our sins

continually turn to you, to receive your saving help;

through Jesus Christ our Lord.  **Amen.**

*If the Holy Eucharist is not celebrated, the service concludes with the Lord's Prayer and a Blessing.*

*If the Holy Eucharist is celebrated, the liturgy continues with the Peace.*

***The Peace***

*One of the following sentences from HE04 may be used:*

Now that we have been justified through faith, we are at peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Jesus says: ‘Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Do not let your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.’

***Preface for the Eucharistic Prayer***

Who was tempted in every way, yet did not sin.

By his grace we are able to triumph over every evil

and to live no longer for ourselves alone

but for him who died for us and rose again. *(HE04)*

***Introduction to the Lord's Prayer***

*Either:*

While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

With confidence in God's love for us, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

*Or:*

Let us ask God our Father to forgive our sins

as we forgive those who sin against us:

***The Blessing***

*One of the following seasonal sentences from HE04 may be used:*

Christ give you grace to grow in holiness,

to deny yourselves, take up your cross and follow him ...

The God of mercy transform you by his grace

and give you strength to overcome temptation ...

***Dismissal***

*Either:*

You are ambassadors for Christ, called to be ministers of reconciliation.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**In the name of Christ. Amen.**

*Or:*

God has given you the joy of his help and sustained you with the gift of faith.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**In the name of Christ. Amen.**

The Eucharist During Lent

## Greeting

## Appropriate for weeks 1 to 4

***I***

The grace and love of Jesus Christ, who calls us to conversion, be with you all.

**And also with you.**

***II***

May the grace and peace of God, who is full of compassion and tenderness,

and who calls us back with all our heart, be with you all.

**And also with you.**

## The following greeting are appropriate for weeks 5 and 6 (Passiontide)

***I***

Brothers and sisters, chosen by God to be made holy by the Spirit,

obedient to Jesus and sprinkled with his blood:

grace and peace be with you.

**And also with you.**

***II***

May the grace and peace of Jesus Christ,

who accepted death, death on a cross, be with you all.

**And also with you.**

# *Invitation to the Penitential Rite*

## I

As we gather for this Eucharist, let us listen to the Lenten call to conversion of heart as we acknowledge our sins and seek reconciliation with God and one another.

***II***

Brothers and sisters, all of us have sinned and fallen short of God's glory. So let us forgive one another from the depths of our hearts and ask forgiveness from God who is merciful and just and cleanses us by the blood of Christ.

***III***

God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Confident of his saving love, let us acknowledge our failures and ask the Lord for pardon and strength.

***IV***

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life. Believing in him, let us turn to him in humility that we may know the freedom his forgiveness brings.

***V***

Let us set aside the past and strain ahead for what is still to come, racing for the finish, for the prize to which God calls us to receive in Christ Jesus. So let us leave behind all that hinders us and seek reconciliation with God and one another.

## Invocations for the Penitential Rite

#### **I**

You command us to forgive one another before we bring our gifts to your altar.

Lord, have mercy.  **Lord, have mercy.**

On the cross you prayed to the Father to forgive us sinners.

Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

You have entrusted to your church the ministry of reconciliation.

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

#### **II**

Lord Jesus, you transformed the tree of the cross into the tree of our salvation.

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you suffered for us, leaving us an example that we might walk in your ways.

Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you embraced the wood of the cross, burdened with our sins,

that dead to sin we might live in your peace.

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

***III***

By your passion and death on the cross.

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

By your burial and rest in the tomb.

Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

By your glorious resurrection.

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

***IV***

You save us and call us to be holy

for your own purpose and by your own grace.

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Your grace had been granted to us

before the beginning of time.

Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

You abolished death

and proclaimed the good news of eternal life.

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**  *(2 Timothy 1:8-10)*

***V***

We are filled with trust in God through Jesus Christ

through whom we have gained our reconciliation

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

When we were still helpless,

at his appointed time Christ died for the sinful.

Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

The love of God has been poured into our hearts

by the Holy spirit which has been given to us.

Lord, have mercy.  **Lord, have mercy.** *(Romans 5:1-8)*

***VI***

Lord Jesus, though you were in the form of God

you did not count equality with God something to grasp.

**Lord, be merciful to us sinners.**

Lord Jesus, you emptied yourself and took the form of a slave,

becoming fully human.

**Lord, be merciful to us sinners.**

Lord Jesus, you were humbler yet,

even to accepting death, death on a cross.

**Lord, be merciful to us sinners.**

Lord Jesus, you were raised on high by God,

who gave you the name which is above all other names.

**Lord, be merciful to us sinners.**

Lord Jesus, all beings in heaven and on earth

will bend the knee at your name

**and every tongue confess that you are Lord**

**to the glory of God the Father!** *(Philippians 2:6-11)*

***Gospel Acclamations***

*It is a widespread custom to greet the gospel reading with an acclamation which includes 'Alleluia!' or some other song of praise. However, the following acclamations of praise may be used during Lent to replace the usual Alleluia which is absent during this season.*

1. **Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory!**
2. **Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!**
3. **Glory and praise to you, O Christ!**
4. **Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God!**
5. **Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus!**

***Intercessions I***

*Introduction*

During his life on earth, Christ offered up prayer, aloud and in silent tears, to the one who had power to save him out of death, and he submitted so humbly that his prayer was heard.

*Petitions*

For the Church:

that we may learn afresh to worship the Lord our God

and to serve him alone.

*Either: Or:*

Lord, in your mercy. We offer up prayer aloud and in silent tears:

**Hear our prayer. Hear our prayer, O Lord.**

For all who bear hardships for the sake of the gospel:

that they may rely on the power of God,

who has saved us and called us to be holy.

For reconciliation between all nations:

that all leaders may know the perfect law of the Lord,

a rule to be trusted, giving wisdom and joy, light and life.

For those who live in poverty:

that they may know the immeasurable riches of the Lord,

who is full of grace and goodness.

For those caught up in political conflicts or military action:

that the leaders of the nations and all people everywhere

will be illuminated by the light of Christ to seek peace and reconciliation.

For this community of faith:

that through humble service and a pure heart

we may preach Christ crucified, the power of God and the wisdom of God.

*Concluding Prayer*

God our Father,

hear our prayer which we have made from the depths of our heart

and in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

***Intercession II***

*Introduction*

Rejoicing in the new covenant which God has made with his people through Christ, let us turn to him in prayer, for he is our God and we are his people.

*Petitions*

For all Christians:

that we may try to discover what the Lord wants of us

and have nothing to do with the futile works of darkness.

*Either: Or:*

Lord, in your mercy. You are our God.

**Hear our prayer. Hear the prayers of your people.**

For Christian preachers:

that they may proclaim that the kingdom of God is close at hand,

announcing the need to repent and believe the Good News.

For those who administer justice in our society:

that they may do so with wisdom, insight and humility.

For those who are enemies of the cross of Christ:

that they may be transformed and have their hearts and minds raised to heaven

and submit to the power of God.

For those who experience failure, disappointment and rejection:

that they may set their hearts on the perfection that comes through faith in Christ.

For this community of faith created in Christ Jesus:

that we may find the fullness of life that God intends for us.

*Concluding Prayer*

Father,

listen to the prayers of your people,

which we have made in humility and love

and in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ, who died on the cross and rose again,

and who is Lord for ever and ever. **Amen.**

***Intercessions III***

*Introduction*

Let us seek for the Lord who will answer us, who will free us from all of our fears. Let us look to the Lord and be radiant; our faces shall not be ashamed.

*Petitions*

For the Church, to whom God in Christ has entrusted the ministry of reconciliation:

that we may live as a new creation,

appealing in Christ's name for all to be reconciled to God.

*Either: Or:*

Lord, in your mercy. If we seek the Lord, he will answer us.

**Hear our prayer. Lord, come to our rescue and set us free.**

For all who are caught up in love of material things:

that they may look on everything as rubbish

compared to knowing Christ and having a place in him.

For all who suffer:

that in sharing in Christ's sufferings for the world

they may know, too, the joy of his risen life.

For those with broken friendships or family rifts:

that they may know the reconciliation of Christ

who pleads for us as the right hand of the Father.

For all who are spiritually thirsty:

that they may drink of the water which Christ gives,

and which wells up within us to eternal life.

For those who exercise the ministry of deliverance:

that they may know the protection of the Holy One

and be filled with discernment and peace.

*Concluding Prayer*

Let your face shine on us, O Lord,

as we make our prayer to you.

Rescue us from our distress

and transform our poverty by the richness of your grace.

We ask this through Jesus Christ the Lord. **Amen.**

***Intercessions IV***

*Introduction*

The Lord is our refuge and strength. When we call, God will answer 'I am with you.'

Let us open our hearts and our lives to his saving love, as we pray for the Church and the whole world.

*Petitions*

For the Church:

that we may show all ages to come how infinitely rich in grace is God.

*Either: Or:*

Lord, in your mercy. Lord, you are our refuge and strength.

**Hear our prayer. Hear us as we call to you.**

For the young:

that guided along the right path,

goodness and kindness will follow them all the days of their life.

For understanding and tolerance between different religions:

that all religious people and leaders may seek peace

and proclaim a message of love.

For the dying:

that they may be led to restful waters

and come to dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

For our own nation and political leaders:

that we may be a source of good in the world,

seeking peace and reconciliation.

For the bereaved:

that they may know the comfort and consolation of Christ,

the resurrection and the life.

*Concluding Prayer*

We call to you, O Lord,

conscious of our own sinfulness

but confident in your love,

for you are our refuge and strength.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

***Intercessions V***

*Introduction*

The Lord is compassion and love, slow to anger and rich in mercy. Let us never forget all his blessings as we seek his judgement for the oppressed, his forgiveness for all who live in the shadow of death and his saving love for all people.

*Petitions*

For the Church:

that all Christians may live in penitence and faith,

trusting in the goodness of the Lord.

*Either: Or:*

Lord, in your mercy. Lord, you are compassion and love.

**Hear our prayer. Slow to anger, rich in mercy.**

For those preparing for baptism *(and confirmation and first communion)*

that dying and rising with Christ

they may live as children of light,

with goodness, right living and truth.

For all godparents and sponsors:

that living by the truth

they may accompany the newly baptised into the light of Christ.

For all who live under the shadow of condemnation:

that they may know the liberating power of God,

who does not refuse anything he can give.

For all who are displaced from their homeland:

that all refugees and seekers of asylum

may meet with respect and experience happiness and security.

For all prisoners:

that they may know that Christ, innocent though he was,

died for the guilty, to lead us to God.

For all who live with loneliness:

that they may know the support of God's holy people

and the compassion and love of the Lord.

For those who live with the pain of past events:

that they may see the new deeds of God

and all that comes to light.

*Concluding Prayer*

Lord God, you are rich in mercy.

We appeal to your mercy now as we pray for the church and the world.

Pour your blessings upon us that we may be faithful to your word.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

***Preface of Eucharistic Prayer***

Lent until Passiontide

Who was tempted in every way, yet did not sin.

By his grace we are able to triumph over every evil

and to live no longer for ourselves alone

but for him who died for us and rose again. *HE04*

Passiontide

Who, bearing the human likeness, humbled himself

and in obedience accepted death, even death on a cross.

He was lifted up from the earth

that he might draw all people to himself. *HE04*

***Introduction to the Lord's Prayer***

***I***

Let us pray to the Father for the forgiveness of our sins

and that we may forgive those who sin against us.

***II***

Let us pray that we may be delivered from evil

and brought safely to our homeland in heaven.

***III***

Let us pray the prayer of Jesus

who suffered and died for us

and who pleads for us in the Father's presence.

***IV***

Chosen by God to live as his children

let us pray that we may be obedient to his will.

***The Blessing***

*One of the following seasonal sentences from HE04 may be used:*

Christ give you grace to grow in holiness,

to deny yourselves, take up your cross and follow him ...

The God of mercy transform you by his grace

and give you strength to overcome temptation ...

***Dismissals***

*Either:*

Saved by faith and created in Christ for good works.

go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**In the name of Christ. Amen.**

*Or:*

Reconciled to God through Christ and made a new creation,

go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**In the name of Christ. Amen.**

*Or:*

Confessing that Jesus is Lord, to the glory of God the Father,

go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**In the name of Christ. Amen.**

Admission and Welcome of Catechumens

*In the Early Church, when baptism was more commonly administered to adults, those coming for baptism were known as catechumens, because they entered a period of instruction (The Greek term catechesis means “spoken instruction”). The “catechumenate” was a series of instructional rites, usually held during Lent before baptism at Easter, after which the candidate would be admitted to the Eucharist and be allowed to participate fully in the liturgy of the Church. Later, this catechumenate developed into formal catechesis which often took the form of questions and answers, and eventually led to the publication of written “catechisms”, such as that of the Church in Wales in the 1984 Prayer Book. The present Church in Wales wishes to renew the strong emphasis to be put on instruction and preparation for baptism and confirmation and the importance of these rites, so that the commissioning of those beginning instruction can play a significant role in emphasising the importance of preparation.*

*The Church in Wales Services of Christian Initiation (Appendix 2 – 4) provides various rites for admission of candidates for preparation for Baptism and/or Confirmation.*

*These rites could appropriately be used on various Sundays during Lent.*

*They include:*

*the Signing of the Cross,*

*Anointing with the Oil of Catechumens,*

*Presentation of the Gospels and the Creed*

*Intercessions for the candidates.*

***Admission and Welcome of Candidates for Baptism and Confirmation***

*The use of this act of admission and welcome is optional. If used, it should take place during an act of public worship, ideally at the Holy Eucharist on a Sunday. At the Holy Eucharist, it precedes the Nicene Creed. At Morning and Evening Prayer, it may replace the intercessory prayers.*

*The minister addresses those to be baptized and confirmed.*

What do you ask of the Church of God?

**I ask to be baptized and confirmed.**

Why do you ask to be baptized and confirmed?

**Because I want to be a disciple of Jesus Christ.**

Why do you want to be a disciple of Jesus Christ?

**Because Jesus Christ is Lord.**

*The minister addresses the candidates’ sponsors:*

These candidates have asked to be baptized and confirmed. Are you willing to play your part in their preparation through your prayers, encouragement and good example?

**We are.**

*The minister addresses the congregation:*

These candidates *are now setting out/ have set out* on the road to baptism and confirmation. They will need the support of our prayers and love. Will you give them that support?

**We will.**

*The minister addresses those to be confirmed:*

What do you ask of the Church of God?

**I ask to be confirmed.**

Why do you ask to be confirmed?

**Because I want to be strengthened by the Holy Spirit.**

Why do you seek that strength?

**To help me be a faithful disciple of Jesus.**

*The minister addresses the candidates’ sponsors:*

These candidates have asked to be confirmed. Are you willing to play your part in their preparation through your prayers, encouragement and good example?

**We are.**

*The minister addresses the congregation:*

These candidates *are now setting out/ have set out* on the road to confirmation. They will need the support of our prayers and love. Will you give them that support?

**We will.**

*The minister says to the candidates:*

By his cross and precious blood, our Lord Jesus Christ has redeemed the world. He has told us that, if any want to become his followers, they must deny themselves, take up their cross and follow him day by day.

*The minister makes the sign of the cross, using the oil of catechumens if desired, on the forehead of each one who is to be baptized and confirmed, saying to each:*

N. receive the sign of the cross. May Christ our Redeemer protect and guide you. **Amen.**

*The minister makes the sign of the cross on the forehead of each one who is to be confirmed, saying to each:*

N. receive the sign of the cross. May Christ our Redeemer, who in your baptism claimed you for his own, protect and guide you. **Amen.**

*When all the candidates have been signed with the cross, the minister continues:*

I admit you as candidates for *baptism and* confirmation. The Lord bless you and keep watch over you; the Lord’s face shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord look lovingly on you and give you peace. **Amen.**

*A representative of the congregation welcomes the candidates:*

We welcome you joyfully as fellow disciples of Jesus, praying that with us you will come to know Christ more fully day by day and that you will try to live the Christian life.

Another representative of the congregation may present copies of a gospel to the candidates, saying:

Receive this book. It contains the good news of God’s love. Take it as your guide.

*Suitable petitions for the candidates should be included in the Intercession, for example:*

May God the Father reveal his Christ to them more and more with every passing day.

May they undertake with generosity whatever the Lord may ask of them.

May their hearts and ours become more responsive to the needs of others.

May they be preserved from all discouragement and fear.

Cleansed from their sins, strengthened by the Holy Spirit and nourished with the bread of life, may they come to know Christ more clearly, to love him more dearly and to follow him more nearly.

***The Apostles’ Creed***

*At an appropriate stage in their preparation, the Apostles’ Creed may be formally presented to the candidates for baptism and/or confirmation. If this is done at the Holy Eucharist, the Apostles’ Creed should on this occasion replace the Nicene Creed.*

*The minister addresses the candidates:*

Brothers and sisters, listen carefully to the words of the Apostles’ Creed. It was formed in the earliest centuries as a summary of the Christian Faith for those being received into the Church. It speaks to us of God’s great love for the world.

*The candidates listen while the Apostles’ Creed is said.*

*The minister says:*

Holy God,

faithful and unchanging,

enlarge our minds with the knowledge of your truth

and draw us more deeply into the mystery of your love,

that we may truly worship you, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,

one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

# *Intercession for the Candidates*

On a suitable occasion as the day of baptism and confirmation approaches, the following Intercession may be used:

Let us pray to the Lord for the candidates for *baptism and* confirmation and for ourselves, that we all may be renewed by God’s grace and together share the joy of discipleship.

That the candidates for *baptism and* confirmation may sincerely reject everything in their lives that is displeasing and contrary to Christ, we pray to you, O Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

That those who are instructing them in the Christian faith may convey to them the truth of your word, we pray to you, O Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

That their sponsors may be living examples of the Gospel, we pray to you, O Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

That we all may grow in love and be constant in prayer, we pray to you, O Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

That we may share with others the joy we have found in our faith, we pray to you, O Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

That, in fellowship with us, those who hesitate to trust in Christ may find him, we pray to you, O Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

*One or both of the following prayers is then said, as appropriate.*

*(For the candidates for baptism and confirmation.)*

Father, through Jesus your Son you have granted us new birth in the Spirit. Bless these your servants as they earnestly prepare for their baptism and confirmation. Sanctify them in preparation for your gifts, that they may be reborn as your children and be made inheritors of your kingdom and members of your Church; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

(For the candidates for confirmation.)

Father, bless these your servants who have been baptized by water and the Holy Spirit, that they may persevere in following Christ. Enlighten them with your presence, and give them joy as they worship and serve you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Way of the Cross

*The Way of the Cross is a devotional journey which consists of fourteen stops or stations. Each station focusses on an incident that occurred from the time that Jesus is sentenced to death to his burial in the tomb. Many churches have various images (carvings, paintings or sometimes a simple cross) to mark each stop along the way. Often a fifteenth station is added, depicting the Resurrection of Christ.*

*The Way of the Cross is essentially a biblical meditation. However, several stations are based on tradition rather than biblical record and for those communities which prefer a strictly biblical structure to this devotion an alternative is suggested. However, it is acknowledged that for some churches the contents of the Way of the Cross may be determined by the images already in place.*

*There are various ways in which this devotion may be made as the devotion is suitable for both groups and individuals, and there are many and various resources widely and easily available.*

***Music***

An appropriate song or chant or verse of a hymn may be sung between each station. A traditional custom is to sing a verse of the hymn *Stabat Mater* as the people move from station to station.

***Movement and Posture***

The nature of the Way of the Cross is such that a journey from one Station to the next is required. However, where circumstances make this difficult or when individuals are unable to make such movement, participants should be encouraged to turn to face each station at the appropriate time.

***Prayers and Responses***

Suitable prayers and responses can be used at each station, most of which can be drawn from liturgical material used throughout the year such as The Lord's Prayer, Lamb of God, Glory be, Kyries, etc. as well as the *Trisagion* *('Holy God, holy and strong, holy and immortal, have mercy on us')* and other traditional prayers.

***The Structure of the Stations of the Cross***

***Gathering***

Jesus told his disciples, ‘If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will ﬁnd it.’ (*Matthew 16.24,25)*

*The minister may introduce the Stations of the Cross using appropriate words.*

Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God,

who in your tender love towards the human race

sent your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ

to take upon him our flesh

and to suffer death upon the cross:

grant that we may follow the example of his patience and humility,

and also be made partakers of his resurrection;

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.** *(CinW Collect for Palm Sunday)*

***At each station:***

*The Station is announced, followed by:*

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

**Because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.**

*The following order may be used:*

*Scripture Reading*

*Reflection/Meditation*

*Prayer and/or responses*

***Conclusion***

*The Stations of the Cross may conclude with The Lord's Prayer and/or another suitable prayer or response and a blessing or by saying the Grace together.*

***Traditional Stations of the Cross***

1. Jesus is Condemned to Death *(Matthew 27:13-25)*
2. Jesus Receives his Cross *(John 19:17)*
3. Jesus Falls for the First Time *(Isaiah 53:7)*
4. Jesus Meets his Mother *(John 19:26)*
5. Simon of Cyrene helps Jesus to Carry his Cross *(Luke 23:26)*
6. Veronica Wipes the Face of Jesus *(Matthew 25:40)*
7. Jesus Falls for the Second Time (Matthew 23:37-38)
8. Jesus Speaks to the Women of Jerusalem *(Luke 23:27-28)*
9. Jesus Falls for the Third Time *(1 Corinthians 1:23-25)*
10. Jesus is Stripped of his Garments *(John 19:23)*
11. Jesus is Nailed to the Cross *(Luke 23:33-43)*
12. Jesus Dies on the Cross *(Matthew 27:45; Luke 23:46)*
13. Jesus is Taken Down from the Cross *(John 19:32-38)*
14. Jesus is Laid in the Tomb *(Matthew 27:57-61)*
15. (Jesus is Risen from the Dead) *(John 20:1-10)*

***'Biblical' Stations of the Cross***

1. Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane (Matthew 26:36-41)
2. Jesus, Betrayed by Judas, is Arrested (Mark 14: 43-46)
3. Jesus is Condemned by the Sanhedrin (Luke 22: 66-71)
4. Jesus is Denied by Peter (Matthew 26: 69-75)
5. Jesus is Judged by Pilate (Mark 15: 1-5, 15)
6. Jesus is Scourged and Crowned with Thorns (John 19: 1-3)
7. Jesus Bears the Cross (John 19: 6, 15-17)
8. Jesus is Helped by Simon of Cyrene to Carry the Cross (Mark 15: 21)
9. Jesus Meets the Women of Jerusalem (Luke 23: 27-31)
10. Jesus is Crucified (Luke 23: 33-34)
11. Jesus Promises His Kingdom to the Good Thief (Luke 23: 39-43)
12. Jesus Speaks to His Mother and the Disciple (John 19: 25-27)
13. Jesus Dies on the Cross (Luke 23: 44-46)
14. Jesus is Placed in the Tomb (Matthew 27: 57-60)
15. Jesus is risen from the dead *(John 20:1-10)*

A Liturgy of Reconciliation during Lent

*During Lent, we are called back to the Lord, called away from sin to embrace his reconciling love and forgiveness. This Liturgy is provided for use during Lent. An opportunity may be provided during the liturgy for penitents to make their confession individually in the presence of a priest, whilst suitable songs or chants are sung. Alternatively, other appropriate ritual acts may be used to give a symbolic act of repentance. Hymns and songs may be selected and inserted as appropriate. Other parts of the liturgy, such as the Psalm, Gospel Acclamation, and response to the Litany may also be sung.*

***Gathering***

*A hymn may be sung*

In the name of the Father,

and of the Son,

and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

*Either:*

Grace and peace be with you from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ,

who loved us and washed away our sins with his blood.

**Glory to him for ever. Amen.**

*Or:*

From God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ,

who laid down life for his sheep: grace and peace be with you.

**And also with you.**

***Introduction***

*The celebrant introduces the liturgy with the following or similar words:*

*Either:*

My dear friends, in this season of Lent, the springtime of the Church, let us prune our lives of all that is sinful, turning away from selfishness, and seeking reconciliation with God and one another.

Together, let us acknowledge the ways our sins have wounded the hearts of others and spoiled our friendship with God and our neighbour. Let us return to the Lord, for only he can restore us, only he can bind up our wounds, only he can remove the veil of sorrow that surrounds his people when they sin and wander away from his plan for the world. Only in God’s love and forgiveness, poured out in Christ through his death on the cross, can we flourish and bear fruit, fruit that will last. So, confident in Christ, let us approach God with heads bowed, seeking refuge and strength, forgiveness and reconciliation.

*Or:*

Dear brothers and sisters, during this Lenten season let us attend more fervently to God's word, which calls us back to him. His word does not fall to the earth without bearing fruit. Let us pray that his love and compassion may bear fruit in our lives, as we turn away from sin, accept his forgiveness in our lives, and be resolved to live our lives for him alone.

## Opening Prayer

Let us pray.

*One of the following prayers may be used:*

Loving Father, faithful and forgiving,

you call sinners back to you,

going out to meet them

and embracing them as your children.

You raise their drooping heads

and mend their broken hearts

as they return to your outstretched arms

to receive your healing touch.

Help us to be attentive to your word

so that in listening we may know you,

and in knowing you we may love you,

and in loving you we may receive your forgiveness

and the strength to serve you as you have shown us in Jesus your Son.

Raise us from death to life,

heal our hearts, broken by sin,

and bind up the wounds of our selfishness,

so that we may live in Christ,

who lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Father of all,

you have created us from the dust of the earth

and raised us up to be your children,

pouring your love into the world through Jesus your Son.

Help us to listen to your word,

so that we may hear your voice

calling us away from sin and back to life with you.

Make us alert to the presence of Christ,

who seeks out the lost,

lifts us up and carries us back to you,

so that our lives may be filled with joy

and give glory to you for ever. **Amen.**

Loving Father

during his life on earth,

your Son Jesus Christ

offered up prayer, aloud and in silent tears,

for you alone had the power to save him from death.

He submitted to your will,

embraced suffering and pain,

and became the source of salvation for all who follow his way.

We plead in his name, offering our prayers and heartfelt cries

to be saved from the power of sin and death

by accepting the forgiveness and salvation his death has won for us,

and promising to live as he has shown us,

for he is Lord forever and ever. **Amen.**

Lord God,

full of compassion and love,

send your gentle Spirit to console us in our grief.

Help us to be attentive to your word

so that turning away from sin,

we may come to the joy of your kingdom.

with the promise of paradise alive in our hearts.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Come, Lord Jesus,

visit us, we pray:

sit with us and stay with us,

for we are lost and alone

and we have sinned and turned away from the life of your kingdom.

Make your presence known to us

as we listen to your word,

that your salvation may come to us now

through your reconciling love,

and make us worthy of the life of heaven,

where you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit,

one God for ever and ever. **Amen.**

## Liturgy of the Word

## Suggested Readings

*One or more readings may be used (one of which should be a Gospel reading, along with a psalm and appropriate gospel acclamation)*

***Old Testament***

*Exodus 20:1-17 The Giving of the Law on Mount Sinai*

*Joel 2:12-17 'Return to me with all your heart.'*

*Hosea 6:1-6, 11b 7:1-2 'Come let us return to the Lord.'*

*Isaiah 58:1-8 'Shout as loud as you can! Tell my people Israel about their sins.'*

*Amos 6: 6- 15 'If you would live, resort to the Lord.'*

*Malachi 4: 1- 2 'The Sun of righteousness shall rise with healing in his wings'*

***New Testament***

*Romans 4: 6 – 11 'While we still were sinners Christ died for us.'*

*Romans 8: 12 – 17 'If you live according to the flesh you will die...'*

*Romans 8:31-39 'What can separate us from the love of God?'*

*2 Corinthians 5: 16 – 21 'Be reconciled to God.*

*'Galatians 5: 16 – 26 'Live by the Spirit.'*

*Ephesians 2: 1 – 10 'For by grace you have been saved through faith...'*

*Colossians 3: 1 – 17 'Set your minds on things that are above...'*

*Philippians 2: 1 – 4 (5 – 13) 'Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus.'*

*Hebrews 5: 7 – 10 'He became the source of salvation for all who obey him.'*

***Psalm***

*Psalm 6 'O Lord do not rebuke me in your anger.'*

*Psalm 23 'The Lord is my shepherd.'*

*Psalm 51: 'Have mercy upon me, O God, after your great goodness.'*

*Psalm 103:1-12 'Bless the Lord my soul...who forgives all your iniquity.'*

*Psalm 106: 1- 12 'Both we and our ancestors have sinned.'*

## Gospel Acclamation

*The following or another suitable acclamation may be used:*

Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus!

**Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus!**

*I will leave this place and go to my father and say:*

*'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you.'*

**Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus!**

## Gospel

*Luke 15:1-3. 11 – 32 'He went out to meet him.'*

*Luke 18: 9 – 14 'God, be merciful to me a sinner.'*

*Luke 19: 1 – 10 'Salvation has come to this house.'*

*Luke 23: 39 – 43 The Penitent Thief*

*John 7: 53 – 8:11 Woman caught in adultery...*

*John 10: 11 – 18 'I am the Good Shepherd.'*

***Homily***

*A period of silence may follow for silent reflection.*

*Introduction to the Prayers of Penitence*

*I. Prodigal Son*

My dear friends, calling to mind our sins, let us arise and go to God our Father, and say to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your child.’ If we are truly sorry for our sins we can be confident that the Lord will come to meet us, shower his forgiveness upon us, heal our hearts, and embrace us in his love. So, with Jesus as our Advocate, who pleads for us and presents us to the Father, let us seek the Lord’s mercy and know the power of his reconciling love.

***II. Lost Sheep***

My dear friends, lost in a world with attractions and temptations, we have sinned against God through our waywardness and wandering. Despite our unworthiness we can be confident in Christ who seeks us out when we are lost, comforts us when we are alone, and returns us to the Father, with his heart full of joy. Turning to him in sorrow let us open our lives and wait for his forgiving embrace to mend our shattered hearts and carry us home rejoicing.

***III Salvation has come to this house***

My brothers and sisters, we have come to see the Lord, to listen to his word and to glimpse his glory for he has come to dwell in our midst with healing in his wings. He brings us salvation, seeking out and saving the lost, so that we may grow into the full stature of Christ and live for him alone. So, let us welcome the salvation which has come to this house, confessing our sins with penitence and hope.

*Litany*

*One of the following may be used:*

***I.***

You humbled yourself for our sake

and was obedient even to the point of death.

**Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner**.

You were sent with good news for the poor,

with freedom for all the oppressed.

**Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

You came to call sinners, not the just,

to heal the broken hearted and raise up the humble.

**Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

You forgave the many sins of the woman who showed great love for you.

**Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

You did not reject the outcast or sinner.

**Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

You searched out the lost sheep

and carried them back in your arms, rejoicing.

**Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

You did not pass a guilty verdict on the woman caught in adultery,

but sent her away in peace.

**Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

You raised your eyes to Zacchaeus

and called him down to turn away from sin and raised him to new life.

**Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

You promised a place in Paradise to the penitent thief

who, on the verge of death, had turned to you.

**Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

You are always interceding for us at the right hand of the Father.

**Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

Now, let us pray as Jesus taught us, joining in prayer to the Father,

asking him to forgive us as we forgive others.

*Either:*

**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. Amen.**

*Or:*

**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. Amen.**

***II.***

Lord Jesus, you were in the form of God but laid no claim to equality with God.

**Lord, have mercy.**

You made yourself nothing and assumed the form of a slave.

**Lord, have mercy.**

You bore the human likeness and shared our human lot.

**Lord, have mercy.**

You were humble and obedient, even to death, death on a cross.

**Lord, have mercy.**

God raised you to the heights and gave you the name that is above all other names

**Lord, have mercy.**

At your name every knee shall bow and every tongue confess

that you are Lord to the glory of God the Father.

**Lord, have mercy.**

God is at work in us. With fear and trembling, let us ask him to

inspire our will and our deed, for his own chosen purpose.

*Either:*

**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. Amen.**

*Or:*

**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. Amen.**

***III.***

*Introduction*

Let us with confidence draw near to the throne of grace,

that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need:

*Petitions*

Lord Jesus Christ, the Spirit of the Lord God was upon you, because he anointed you to preach good news to the poor. He sent you to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who were oppressed.

Lead us from darkness to light,

**from death to life.**

Lord Jesus Christ, you ate and drank with sinners; for those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. You did not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.

Lead us from darkness to light,

**from death to life.**

Lord Jesus Christ, you said to the Scribes and Pharisees who brought to you a woman caught in adultery, 'Let him who is without sin be the first to throw a stone.' And when they had gone away, one by one, you looked at her and said, 'Has no-one condemned you? Neither do I condemn you; go, and do not sin again.'

Lead us from darkness to light,

**from death to life.**

Lord Jesus Christ, you called Zacchaeus to hasten and come down from the sycamore tree that he might receive you into his home. He gave half his goods to the poor and restored four-fold to any he had defrauded. You brought the joy of salvation to his house that day. For the Son of Man came to seek and save the lost.

Lead us from darkness to light,

**from death to life.**

Lord Jesus Christ, you welcomed the sinful woman when she knelt before you in the house of Simon. She washed your feet with her tears and dried them with the hair of her head, and anointed you with costly ointment. You forgave her sin, and sent her on her way in peace. Her sins, which were many, were forgiven, for she loved much.

Lead us from darkness to light,

**from death to life.**

Lord Jesus Christ, you were crucified between two thieves, one on your right and one on your left. One of them hurled insults at you, but the other confessed his sin and asked you to remember him when you came into your kingdom. In the hour of your agony, you said to the penitent thief, 'Today you will be with me in paradise.'

Lead us from darkness to light,

**from death to life.**

Lord Jesus Christ, in the glory of your risen life you restored Simon Peter who had disowned you in the time of trial. You committed to him the care of your flock and once again called him to follow you in the way of the cross.

Lead us from darkness to light,

**from death to life.**

With Christ the Lord, we dare to call God Father,

and present our whole prayers and lives to him.

*Concluding Prayer*

Almighty God,

you fed your people in the wilderness,

and guided them by cloud and fire,

giving commandments to order their lives.

Give us eyes to see your purpose,

perseverance to follow where you lead,

and courage to know the truth that sets us free;

that our lives may be blessed and your will be done;

through Jesus Christ our Lord.  **Amen.** *(CinW Daily Prayer)*

*One of the following prayers may be used:*

Good and Loving Father,

may we reach out to grasp your hand,

to feel your loving embrace greeting us with joy

and raising us from death to life.

Dead to sin and alive to you in Christ,

may we live to your glory

and come at last to the banquet of heaven

and feast in your presence for ever.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

God our Father,

when we were lost

and could not find the way to you,

you looked on us with love and compassion

and gave us Jesus your Son, innocent and without sin.

Through his death and resurrection

he shepherds your people,

and seeks out the lost.

Rescued from the clutches of sin

may we be led back to you,

and restored to the flock of your church,

reconciled to you and one another,

and live to your glory forever and ever. **Amen.**

God our Father,

you are the source of life,

the fount of forgiveness

and the well-spring of all holiness.

Bring us back to you,

fill our hearts with love and compassion,

and renew our lives,

that we may live to your glory,

and come with Christ our Saviour

to the glory of your kingdom,

where he reigns forever and ever. **Amen.**

***Act of Penitence***

*It may be appropriate for individuals to make their individual confession to a priest. Whilst this is happening, suitable hymns or songs may be sung by the congregation. Alternatively, other ritual acts (corporate or individual) may be adapted to give a physical, symbolic expression of our penitence and conversion of heart.*

***Concluding Prayer***

Let us pray.

*Either:*

God our Father,

you loved the world so much that you gave us

your only Son for our salvation.

May he make us an everlasting gift to you

and raise us up to revere your glory.

Help us to serve you in faith.

Fill our days with love

and our whole lives with faith in you,

until at last we receive the reward of everlasting life

and praise you for ever in the glory of heaven.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*Or:*

Lord God and Father of all,

we have come to you in sorrow for our sins

and you have assured us of your forgiveness.

You have comforted our hearts in love

and given us the joy of salvation.

Now, as you send us out to live to your praise and glory,

may our whole lives resound with the love of your Son

who gave himself up for our sake,

that we may live no longer to sin,

but be alive to you in Christ Jesus our Lord,

who reigns for ever and ever. **Amen.**

*Or:*

Salvation has come to this place, O God,

through the life giving death of Jesus your Son.

We have opened our lives to the forgiveness he brings

and he has set us free from all that has weighed us down.

Keep us faithful to your promises,

so that we may be a holy dwelling place,

alive in the Spirit and singing your praise for ever and ever.

Through Christ the Lord. **Amen.**

*Or:*

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent,

have mercy on *you/us* and set *you/us* free from sin,

strengthen *you/us* in goodness and keep *you/us* in eternal life;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*Or some other appropriate prayer*

***Blessing and Dismissal***

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Keep your eyes fixed on Christ who was wounded for our sake,

and the blessing of Almighty God, the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit

be among you and remain with you always.

The Lord has put away your sin.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**In the name of Christ. Amen.**

*A hymn may be sung*

Fourth Sunday of Lent

***Notes***

*The Fourth Sunday of Lent indicates for many a relaxation of the rigours of Lent, as we draw closer to the Paschal Mysteries of Christ's suffering, death and resurrection. It has long been known as Laetare Sunday, which refers to the traditional opening Antiphon which was sung at the Eucharist 'Laetare Jerusalem' ('O be joyful, Jerusalem') (Isaiah 66:10)*

*This Sunday is also known as 'Refreshment Sunday' or even 'Rose Sunday' indicated by the rose coloured vestments and liturgical colours which are often used on this day. On this day, the Book of Common Prayer Volume 1 (1984) provides John 6:1-15 as the Gospel Reading (The Feeding of the Five Thousand) as have many other churches and so the day in some places has been called 'The Sunday of the Five Loaves.' In the Revised Common Lectionary we are provided with the following gospel readings: In Year A , John 9:1-41 (The healing of the blind man from birth). In Year B, John 3:14-21 (Jesus speaks with Nicodemus). In Year C, Luke 15 (The parable of 'The Prodigal Son')*

*This day is also known as Mothering Sunday when, from the sixteenth century, people returned to their 'mother church' which was the cathedral or main church of the area. In later times 'Mothering Sunday' became a day when domestic servants including children and young people 'in service' were given a day off to visit their mother church, usually with their own mothers and other family members. In addition to the readings of the three-yearly cycle, the Church in Wales provides alternative readings for 'Mothering Sunday.'*

*It has become a widespread tradition for flowers to be presented to children and others as gifts for their own mothers or those who have nurtured and loved them at home or within the family of the church community. Four prayers have been provided here. One focusses on the love and care we have received from God our Father, the second on the love Jesus received from his own mother, Mary, and the third expresses the love we receive from 'Mother Church.' The fourth is written in more simple, child-like way. The flowers may be distributed at any suitable time during the Eucharist, such as after the Homily or Intercessions or before the final blessing and dismissal. Simnel cake is also a traditional food eaten on this day. Young girls in 'service' would make one to take home as a gift. A prayer of blessing is also provided at the end of this section.*

***An Introduction and Welcome on Mothering Sunday***

*For use at the beginning of the main Sunday Service*

*'Rejoice, Jerusalem,*

*and all who love her.*

*Be joyful, all who were in mourning;*

*exult and be satisfied by her consoling love' (cf Isaiah 66:10-11)*

My brothers and sisters, we gather with joy and greet one another in the name of the Lord, grateful for the many ways in which we have been nurtured in God's love. From our mothers' arms, God has blessed us on our way with countless gifts of love. Through our baptism, we have been born into the life of God's family, the Church and known God's loving care.

Jesus himself was nursed by a loving mother and cradled within a human family, through which he grew in stature and wisdom, in favour with God and humankind. His mother, Mary, has given us example of loving service and attentiveness to her son and Saviour.

Today, our gathering is particularly brightened by the presence of those who have come home to be with their families, or who have returned to this place because they have experienced the love of God through the care and support of God's family, the Church.

We are mindful, too, of those whose mothers have died but who are remembered with gratitude and love. We commend them anew to God's loving embrace.

May our time together be filled with many blessings and may the Holy Spirit kindle in our hearts the fire of God's love.

***Intercessions for Mothering Sunday***

*Introduction*

Today we are joyful, refreshed by the love of God. Let us pray that the whole world and all people may be filled with knowledge of his love.

*Petitions*

That the church will live as the family of God,

and welcome all who come in the Lord's name.

God of love:

**Hear our prayer**

That all families will be united in God's love

and all people treated with care and respect.

That the whole human race may seek peace

and come to live as the family of God.

That those who are lonely or bereaved may know God's consoling love

and the friendship of God's holy people.

That all children will be nurtured in love and safe from harm

and their homes be aglow with the warmth of the Spirit.

That parents and all who have the care of children may be given the gifts they need

and help to create a community of love.

That our community and all gathered here today may live as God's family

and enable others to call God 'Father.'

That the poor and hungry will be filled with good things

and all people seek justice and love in the world.

That our departed loved ones and all who have died

may rejoice in the light of heaven.

*In Year A:*

That we may care for all in our society who are overlooked or in need

and bring the healing love of Jesus to all people.

*In Year B:*

That all who seek Jesus will discover his life and love among his holy people

and learn to walk in newness of life.

*In Year C:*

That all children and parents separated by distance, selfishness, war or upset

may be reunited and come to embrace one another in love.

*Concluding Prayer*

Loving God, listen to our prayer.

May the love of Jesus fill the Church and the hearts of all people

that all will know the joy and happiness that comes from knowing Jesus,

for he is Lord for ever and ever. **Amen.**

***Blessing of Flowers on Mothering Sunday***

*This may take place after the Prayer after Communion*

***I.***

Loving God,

you have fashioned and formed us,

caring for us as your children,

teaching us through Jesus to call you Father.

You nourish us with the Word of Life

and feed us with bread from heaven

and call us to love one another as we have been loved.

Bless us and all who receive these flowers

as signs of love and gratitude

for the life we have enjoyed

and the love we have received.

We make our prayer in Jesus name. **Amen.**

***II.***

Loving Father,

your Son Jesus Christ was born into a human family

and was nurtured with deep love and affection

by his Mother, the Blessed Virgin Mary.

We thank you for our own families, particularly our mothers:

for the love we have received

and the life we have been given.

Bless us and all who will receive these flowers.

May the family life of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

be an example of holiness and love,

of peace and respect,

of affection and gratitude,

until at last we come to our heavenly home

where, with all your children, we shall live together in your eternal love.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

***III***

Lord God,

in the loving embrace of your Church

we are nurtured and loved,

nourished and sustained.

You gather us as a hen gathers her chicks,

protecting and providing for all our needs.

Bless us and all who receive these flowers,

a sign of the beauty of your love.

May we who have known such love in our lives

respond with thankfulness and joy,

and learn to share your love with others.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

***IV***

God our Father,

we love to give gifts to others:

gifts to say 'Thank you,'

gifts to say 'I love you,'

gifts to bring a smile to someone's face.

Bless everyone who will receive these flowers.

Help them grow in your love

and to know how much we love the things they do for us.

We ask this through Jesus the Lord. **Amen.**

*There is also a prayer for Blessing of Simnel Cake in the Appendix*

Fifth Sunday of Lent

*This Sunday is traditionally known as Passion Sunday and indicates a beginning of a two-week period known as Passiontide, which brings the passion of Jesus closer to mind, expressed in many Passiontide hymns, as we draw closer to the events of Holy Week and Easter.*

*On this day, many church communities veil the crosses in church (which then gives deeper meaning to the unveiling of the cross on Good Friday). Instead of the Lenten purple, an option is given to have Passion Red as the liturgical colour during this period.*