

## **Welcome - [OLIVER]**

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Welcome to St Mary's Cathedral, Glasgow for this gathering to mark the beginning of the season of Lent.

'But how much more Lent can it be?' someone asked recently. 'It feels like we've had a whole year of it!' Indeed, for a lot of folk it has been a sombre year—one of denying ourselves things we would normally enjoy. It's been a year in which a lot has been stripped back, and this has uncovered some things in us and in our world. Many have gotten a closer look at iniquities that were always there, but which were brought into focus through this pandemic.

And now we ask ourselves, 'What next? What do we do to be people of resurrection?'

Dear Friends in Christ, it is the custom of Christian people to prepare to mark the time of Christ's passion and resurrection by a season of penitence and fasting.

The church calls each of us during these forty days to repent of all that causes harm to ourselves, harm to our earthly dwelling place and harm to our relationship with God.

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 devotion. In turning our hearts towards God, we discover anew the boundless grace of God.

For God will help us to create beauty even within the turmoil of this chaotic world and will help us to gather a harvest of joy and gladness from lives of sorrow and care. Today and every day, God calls the wandering exile home.

We are invited 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 Litany of Penance**

[KELVIN]

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.

**Lord, have mercy.**

We have not heard your call to serve, as Christ served us. We have not been true to the mind of Christ. We have grieved your Holy Spirit.

**Lord, have mercy.**

[SISTER HELENA]

We confess to you, Lord:

All our past unfaithfulness: the pride, hypocrisy and impatience of our lives.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Our anger at our own frustration and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts and our dishonesty in daily life and work.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Our negligence in prayer and worship and our failure to commend the faith that is in us.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Accept our repentance, Lord:

For the wrongs we have done, for our blindness to human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty.

**Accept our repentance, Lord.**

For all false judgements, for uncharitable thoughts towards our neighbours and for our prejudice and contempt towards those who differ from us.

**Accept our repentance, Lord.**

For our waste and pollution of your creation and our lack of concern for those who come after us.

**Accept our repentance, Lord.**

[OLIVER]

Restore us, good Lord, and let your anger depart from us.

**Favourably hear us, for your mercy is great.**

Accomplish in us the work of your salvation,  
**that we may show your glory in the world.**

By the cross and passion of your Son our Lord,  
**bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.**

*Silence is kept.*

**We have not loved you with our whole heart. We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves. 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.**

**Kyrie - [MORVEN]**

Kyrie eleison.  
Christe eleison.  
Kyrie eleison.

**Collect - [OLIVER]**

Let us pray for grace to keep Lent faithfully.

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, lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, we may receive from you, the God of all mercy, perfect forgiveness and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

**Amen.**

**Gospel: Matthew 6:1-6,16-21 – [SISTER HELENA]**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.  
**Glory to Christ our Saviour.**

Jesus said to his disciples, 'Beware of practising your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven.

'So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that

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

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

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

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

Give thanks to the Lord for his glorious Gospel.

**Praise to Christ our Lord.**

### **The Imposition of Ashes [OLIVER]**

Let us pray.

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.**

As a sign of the spirit of penitence with which we shall keep this season of preparation for Easter, I invite you to make the sign of the cross on your forehead as I speak the words for the imposition

of ashes in this video. It may look something like this. In this way, we mark ourselves with the symbol of our salvation.

Remember you are mortal; from dust you came and to dust you will return. Turn away from sin and believe in the gospel.

**Amen.**

### **Absolution - [OLIVER]**

May God enrich you with grace and nourish you with blessings and defend you from trouble and keep you from evil and accept your prayers and absolve you from your offences; for the sake of Jesus our Saviour. **Amen.**

### **Offertory - [OLIVER]**

Jesus asked that almsgiving be discreet. Right now, people's giving couldn't be more discreet. Instead of everyone watching the offering plate get passed around, folk are making financial contributions in their own rooms behind shut doors. I don't see it, the person next to us doesn't see it, nor do the stewards in the aisles.

Have contributions decreased? Now that folk aren't meeting physically in a building, are they still giving?

Yes, and many more than before. What a wonderful thing to know!

If you'd like to learn more about making a financial contribution to the Cathedral, visit [www.thecathedral.org.uk](http://www.thecathedral.org.uk) from wherever you are and click 'Donate to St Mary's Cathedral'.

To all who give, thank you.

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

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation; through your goodness we have this wine to offer, fruit of the vine and work of human

hands; it will become the cup of our salvation. **Blessed be God forever.**

### **Eucharistic Prayer - [OLIVER]**

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 God thanks and praise.**

Worship and praise belong to you, maker of light and darkness. Your wisdom draws beauty from chaos, brings a harvest out of sorrow and leads the exiles home. In Christ your Son, enemies are reconciled, debts forgiven and strangers made welcome.

Your spirit frees us to live as sons and daughters in our Father's house. We, who by Christ's power follow the way of the Cross, sharing the joy of his obedience, now offer you our praise, with angels and archangels and the whole company of heaven singing the hymn of your unending glory:

### **SANCTUS & BENEDICTUS - [MORVEN]**

**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.**

Glory and thanksgiving be to you, most loving Father, for Christ in whom the world is reconciled. Lifted on the cross, his suffering and forgiveness spanned the gulf our sins had made. Through that dark struggle death was swallowed up in victory that life and light might reign.

Before he was given up to suffering and death, recalling the night of Israel's release, the night in which the sons of Egypt died, your Chosen One, himself the Firstborn, freely offered his life.

At supper with his disciples he took bread and offered you thanks. He broke the bread, and gave it to them, saying: 'Take, eat. This is my Body: it is broken for you.' After supper, he took the cup, he offered you thanks, and gave it to them saying: 'Drink this, all of you. This is my Blood of the new covenant; it is poured out for you, and for all, that sins may be forgiven. Do this in remembrance of me.'

**We now obey your Son's command. We recall his blessed passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension; and we look for the coming of his Kingdom. Made one with him, we offer you these gifts and with them ourselves a single, holy, living sacrifice.**

Hear us, most merciful Father, and send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon this bread and this wine, that, overshadowed by the Spirit's life-giving power, they may be the Body and Blood of your Son, and we may be kindled with the fire of your love and renewed for the service of your Kingdom.

**Help us, who are baptised into the fellowship of Christ's Body, to live and work to your praise and glory; may we grow together in unity and love until at last, in your new creation, we enter into our heritage in the company of the Virgin Mary, the apostles, and prophets, and of all our brothers and sisters living and departed.**

Through Jesus Christ our Lord, with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory be to you, Lord of all ages, world without end.

**Amen.**

**Breaking of the Bread**



The living bread is broken for the life of the world.  
**Lord, unite us in this sign.**

### **Lord's Prayer [KELVIN]**

As our Saviour has taught us,  
so we pray:

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those  
who sin against us.  
Do not bring us  
to the time of trial  
but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power  
and the glory are yours,  
now and for ever.  
Amen.**

### **Communion - [OLIVER]**

God is with us wherever we are.

As we gaze in adoration we feed on God in our hearts and minds  
that we may in turn feed the world.

O God, even as this broken bread was scattered over the hills, and  
was gathered together and became one, so let Your Church be  
gathered together from the ends of the earth into your kingdom; for  
yours is the glory and the power through Jesus Christ for ever.  
**Amen.**

### **Music at Communion - [MORVEN]**

Wash me thoroughly from my wickedness, and forgive me all my sin. For I acknowledge my faults, and my sin is ever before me.

### **Post Communion Prayer - [SANDY]**

God of compassion, through your Son Jesus Christ you reconciled your people to yourself. Following his example of prayer and fasting, may we obey you with willing hearts and serve one another in holy love; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

### **Blessing - [OLIVER]**

Perhaps this year's Lent will be more scriptural than any other. For, without a choice in the matter, many can't—as Jesus warned us against—publicly stand and pray in churches or meeting places. No one—for now, in this country, at least—is seeing anyone else. But don't let that get you down. The truth is, although we may not see it, we join with a host of others in prayer this season. If you feel isolated and alone, reach out. Someone is here.

Thanks to all who extend and all who receive a welcome at this Cathedral.

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.**

### **Voluntary - [STEVEN]**

Lamento (Op.90, iv) - A. Guilmant

*A hymn is available on the online worship page at [www.thecathedral.org.uk/worship](http://www.thecathedral.org.uk/worship).*