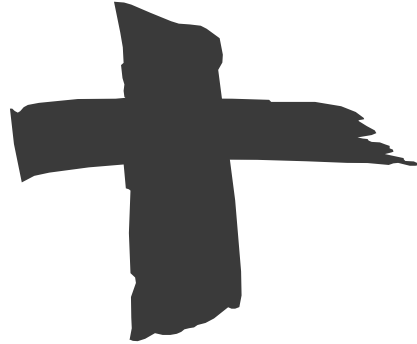


Christ The Saviour

Ash Wednesday

17 February 2010

Hymns: 7.30pm (NEH) 76 67 70 75



Remember that you are but dust and unto dust you shall return. Repent and believe the Gospel

Collect

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
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever. Amen

A reading from the prophet Joel(2:12-18)

Rend your hearts and not your garments.

Yet even now,' says the Lord,
'return to me with all your heart,
with fasting, with weeping, and with
mourning;
and rend your hearts and not your garments.
Return to the Lord, your God,
for he is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love,
and repents of evil.
Who knows whether he will not turn and repent,
and leave a blessing behind him,
a cereal offering and a drink offering
for the Lord, your God ?

Blow the trumpet in Zion; sanctify a fast;
call a solemn assembly;
gather the people.
Sanctify the congregation;
assemble the elders;

gather the children,
even nursing infants.
Let the bridegroom leave his room,
and the bride her chamber.

Between the vestibule and the altar
let the priests, the ministers of the Lord, weep and
say, 'Spare thy people, O Lord,
and make not thy heritage a reproach,
a byword among the nations.
Why should they say among the peoples, "Where is
their God?"'

Then the Lord became jealous for his land, and had
pity on his people.
This is the word of the Lord.

Psalm Response:

**Have mercy on us, O Lord, for we have
sinned.**

**A reading from the second letter of St Paul to the
Corinthians (5:20-6:2)**

*Be reconciled to God . . . behold, now is the
acceptable time.*

We are ambassadors for Christ, God making his
appeal through us. We beseech you on behalf
of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake
he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in
him we might become the righteousness of God.
Working together with him, then, we entreat you
not to accept the grace of God in vain. For he says,
"At the acceptable time I have listened to you, and
helped you on the day of salvation".
Behold, now is the acceptable time; behold, now is
the day of salvation.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!
A pure heart create for me, O God,
And give me again the joy of your help.
Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!**

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to
Matthew (6:1-6.16-18)**

Your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

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

Thus, when you give alms, sound no trumpet
before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues
and in the streets, that they may be praised by men.
Truly, I say to you, they have 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 in secret; and your Father who sees in secret
will reward you.

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

'And when you fast, do not look dismal, like the
hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their
fasting may be seen by men. Truly, I say to you,
they have their reward. But when you fast, anoint
your head and wash your face, that your fasting may
not be seen by men but by your Father who is in
secret; and your Father who sees in secret will
reward you'.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

The Blessing and imposition of Ashes will take
place after the Homily.

*In the Bible to cover one's head with ashes, to wear
sackcloth and to fast are penitential signs; they
express the sinner's repentance imploring the divine
mercy, and the resolve to change one's heart so as
to love God and one's neighbour.*

*So, our reception of ashes at the beginning of Lent
means we recognise ourselves as sinners; we ask
God's pardon for his Church and show our own
sincere desire to change our ways. Faith in the
Lord's word makes us pass with him from death to
life.*

Prayer over the gifts

Lord, help us to resist temptation
by our Lenten works of charity and penance.
By this sacrifice
may we be prepared to celebrate
the death and resurrection of Christ our Saviour
and be cleansed from sin and renewed in spirit.
Through Jesus Christ Our Lord. Amen

Prayer after Communion

Lord, through this communion
may our Lenten penance give you glory
and bring us your protection,
Through Jesus Christ Our Lord. Amen