www.holytrinitystirling.org

Holy Trinity Church

Albert Place, Stirling, FK8 2RG

Scottish Charity: SC016471

Open
inclusive
inspiring
friendly
deep

Rector: The Revd Canon Christoph Wutscher · Tel: 01786 359821 · rector@holytrinitystirling.org

Sunday 5th March 2025 6.30 p.m. Sung Eucharist and Rite of Ashing
ASH WEDNESDAY

Celebrant: The Rector
Readings: David Brown
Sidespeople: Volunteers

PREPARATION

Organ Prelude Johann Sebastian Bach: Erbarm dich mein, o Herre Gott BWV 721

Opening Hymn *stand*

1 From ashes to the living font
your Church must journey, Lord,
baptized in grace, in grace renewed
by your most holy word.

2 Through fasting, prayer and charity
your voice speaks deep within,
returning us to ways of truth
and turning us from sin.

3 From desert to the mountaintop
in Christ our way we see,
so, tempered by temptation's might,
we might transfigured be.

4 For thirsting hearts let water flow,
our fainting souls revive;
and at the well your waters give
our everlasting life.

5 From ashes to the living font
your Church must journey still;
through cross and tomb to Easter joy,
in Spirit-fire fulfilled.

Alan J. Hommerding (b. 1956)

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

Collect
O Lord, grant that your faithful people may enter this season of penitence with faithfulness, and complete it with steadfast devotion; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading: Isaiah 58.1-12 *sit*

[1]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. [2]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. [3]'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. [4]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. [5]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? [6]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? [7]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? [8]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. [9]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, [10]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. [11]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. [12]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.

Gradual Psalm 51.1-11 *(please join in saying the psalm, pausing shortly at the * asterisk)*

Refrain: Have mercy on me, O God.

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your loving-kindness; *
in your great compassion blot out my offences.

Wash me thorough and through from my wickedness *
and cleanse me from my sin.

For I know my transgressions, *
and my sin is ever before me.

Against you only have I sinned *
and done what is evil in your sight,

And so you are justified when you speak *
and upright in your judgement.

Indeed, I have been wicked from my birth, *
a sinner from my mother's womb.

For behold, you look for truth deep within me, *
and will make me understand wisdom secretly.

Purge me from my sin and I shall be pure; *
wash me, and I shall be clean indeed.

Make me hear of joy and gladness, *
that the body you have broken may rejoice.

Hide your face from my sins *
and blot out all my iniquities.

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

Cast me away from your presence *
and take not your holy spirit from me.

Refrain: Have mercy on me, O God.

Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 5.20*b*-6.10

20We entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. 21For our sake he made him to be sin who knew
no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. 1As we work together with him, we urge
you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. 2For 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! 3We are putting no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, 4but
as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions,
hardships, calamities, 5beatings, imprisonments, riots, labours, sleepless nights, hunger; 6by purity,
knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, 7truthful speech, and the power of God; with
the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; 8in honour and dishonour, in ill repute and
good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; 9as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying,
and see—we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; 10as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making
many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

Gospel Acclamation *see separate sheet* *stand*

Gospel: Matthew 1-6,16-21

When it is announced: Glory to Christ our Saviour.

Jesus said to the disciples, 1'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. 2'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. 3But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what
your right hand is doing, 4so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will
reward you. 5'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. 6But 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. 16'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. 17But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, 18so 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. 19'Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where
thieves break in and steal; 20but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor
rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. 21For where your treasure is, there your heart will
be also.'

Give thanks to the Lord for this glorious Gospel. Praise to Christ our Lord.

Homily: The Rector

THE LITANY AND IMPOSITION OF ASHES

The Litany (please sit or 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 mischief: 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;
from error and false doctrine, **good Lord, deliver us.**

In all times of sorrow, in all times of joy; in the hour of death, and at the day of judgment,
good Lord, deliver us.

Govern and direct your holy Church: fill it with love and truth:
and grant it that unity which is your will. **Hear us, good Lord.**

Give us boldness to preach the gospel in all the world, and to make disciples of all the nations. **Hear us, good Lord.**

Enlighten your ministers with knowledge and understanding, that by their teaching and their lives they may proclaim your word. **Hear us, good Lord.**

Give your people grace to hear and receive your word, and to bring forth the fruit of the Spirit. **Hear us, good Lord.**

Bring into the way of truth all who have erred and are deceived. **Hear us, good Lord.**

Strengthen those who stand: comfort and help the faint-hearted: raise up the fallen; and finally beat down Satan under our feet. **Hear us, good Lord.**

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 Strong.
Holy Immortal.
Have mercy on us.

Silence

Act of Penitence

Create in us clean hearts, O God: and renew a right spirit within us.

Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith.

Almighty God, Creator of heaven and earth,
we confess that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed.
We have not loved you with all our being,
we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves:
we have disfigured your image in which we are made.
In your mercy, forgive what we have been and what we have done,
guide us and help us to amend our lives, and bring us to fullness of life in you,
for the sake of your Son who died for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Imposition of Ashes

Almighty God, you have compassion on all your children, and hate nothing you have made; you do not desire the death of sinners, but that they turn from their ways and live. May these ashes be for us, who are redeemed through the cross of Christ, a sign of our death to sin, and the pledge of our life in Christ; who lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.

I invite you to receive the mark of Christ's cross, with which we are signed at Baptism, and by which we are forgiven our sins and live to the glory of God.

You are invited to come forward to receive the sign of the cross on your forehead.

Lord God Almighty, your people are washed clean in the saving flood of baptism, and born again: as we follow the way of the cross, we ask you to unseal for us the wellspring of your grace, cleanse our hearts of all that is not holy, and cause your gift of new life to flourish in us; grant this through Jesus Christ your Son, who sets us free from sin, and lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, holy and mighty God, world without end. Amen.

Hymn

1 All things of dust to dust return
on earth and in the sky.
The hottest, brightest suns that burn
in time grow dim and die.
The fish that leap, the birds that soar,
the newborn young that play,
the leaves that fill the forest floor
revert to dust and clay.

2 Lord, mark with dust and ash my brow
so I may comprehend
that every moment here and now
links me to that same end
I share with all that breathe and burn,
that flare and fade and tire
yet by their waning light discern
your own undying fire.

3 Lord, mark upon my brow this sign:
a stark and barren cross
reminding me that though divine
you know my pain and loss,
and at the touch of dust and ash
awake my heart to view
how death itself is but a flash
that dies away in you.

Thomas H. Troeger (1945-2022)
CCLI Licence # 237731

The Peace

We meet in Christ's name. **Let us share his peace.**

THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

Offertory Prayer

Let us present our offerings to the Lord. **Yours, Lord, is the greatness, the power, the glory, the splendour and the majesty; for everything in heaven and on earth is yours. All things come from you, and of your own we give you.**

The Eucharistic Prayer

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 our 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:

Holy, holy, holy Lord. God of power and might, *see separate sheet*
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. *sit*

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 the 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 First-Born, 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.

The Breaking of the Bread

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

The Lord's Prayer

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.

Agnus Dei

see separate sheet

Jesus, Lamb of God: have mercy on us.
Jesus, bearer of our sins: have mercy on us.
Jesus, Redeemer of the world: give us your peace.

Communion *is administered in both kinds at the bottom of the chancel steps. Hand sanitiser is provided. It is perfectly acceptable to only receive the bread, should you so wish. Please do not intinct (dip the bread into the wine) as this is not considered to be a hygienic practice.*

THANKSGIVING AND SENDING OUT

Post Communion Prayer

stand

Father of all, we give you thanks and praise that when we were still far off you met us in your Son and brought us home. Dying and living, he declared your love, gave us grace, and opened the gate of glory. May we who share Christ's body live his risen life; we who drink his cup bring life to others; we whom the Spirit lights, give light to the world. Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us, so we and all your children shall be free, and the whole earth live to praise your name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Final Hymn

1 Forty days and forty nights
thou wast fasting in the wild;
forty days and forty nights
tempted, and yet undefiled:

2 Sunbeams scorching all the day
chilly dew-drops nightly shed;
prowling beasts about the way;
stones thy pillow, earth thy bed.

3 Shall not we thy sorrows share
and from earthly joys abstain,
fasting with unceasing prayer,
glad with thee to suffer pain?

4 And if Satan, vexing sore,
flesh or spirit should assail,
thou, his vanquisher before,
grant we may not faint nor fail.

5 So shall we have peace divine;
holier gladness ours shall be;
round us too shall angels shine,
such as ministered to thee.

6 Keep, O keep us, Saviour dear,
ever constant by thy side,
that with thee we may appear
at the eternal Eastertide.

G.H. Smyttan & Francis Pott

The Blessing & Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. In the name of Christ. Amen.

Organ Prelude Johann Sebastian Bach: Jesus, meine Zuversicht BWV 728

NOTICES

Lent Groups 2025: Voice of the Living Light

This Lent, we will look at the work and legacy of the nun, visionary and theologian Hildegard of Bingen (1098-1179) by reflecting on her life and on excerpts of her writing – and by meditating on some of the images accompanying her visions and music she composed.

Two groups will meet in parallel on Thursday mornings (after the 11a.m. service) and in the evenings at 8 p.m. on 13th, 20th, 27th March and 3rd & 10th April.