*The Gathering*

*Hymn Forty Days and Forty Nights*

In the name of the Father,

and of the Son,

and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

*The Greeting*

The Lord be with you

**and also with you.**

**Introduction**

*The president explains the meaning of Lent and invites the people to observe it faithfully*

Brothers and sisters in Christ, since early days Christians have observed with great devotion the time of our Lord’s passion and resurrection and prepared for this by a season of penitence and fasting.

By carefully keeping these days, Christians take to heart the call to repentance

and the assurance of forgiveness proclaimed in the gospel,

and so grow in faith and in devotion to our Lord.

I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church, to the observance of a holy Lent,

by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial;

and by reading and meditating on God’s holy word.

**The Collect**

*The president introduces a period of silent prayer with the words*

Let us pray for grace to keep Lent faithfully.

*Silence is kept.*

Holy God, our lives are laid open before you:

rescue us from the chaos of sin and through the death of your Son

bring us healing and make us whole in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*The Liturgy of the Word*

**First Reading**

Joel 2.1-2,12-17

1Blow the trumpet in Zion; sound the alarm on my holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble, for the day of the LORD is coming, it is near – 2a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness! Like blackness spread upon the mountains a great and powerful army comes; their like has never been from of old, nor will be again after them in ages to come. 12Yet even now, says the LORD, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; 13rend your hearts and not your clothing. Return to the LORD, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing. 14Who knows whether he will not turn and relent, and leave a blessing behind him, a grain-offering and a drink-offering for the LORD, your God? 15Blow the trumpet in Zion; sanctify a fast; call a solemn assembly; 16gather the people. Sanctify the congregation; assemble the aged; gather the children, even infants at the breast. Let the bridegroom leave his room, and the bride her canopy. 17Between the vestibule and the altar let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep. Let them say, ‘Spare your people, O LORD, and do not make your heritage a mockery, a byword among the nations. Why should it be said among the peoples, “Where is their God?”’

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

**Gospel Reading**

Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.
The Lord is a great God, O that today you would listen to his voice.
Harden not your hearts.

All Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

All Glory to you, O Lord.

Matthew 6.1-6,16-21

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. 2So 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. 5And 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. 6 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. 16And 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. 19Do 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.’

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

*Sermon*

*The Liturgy of Penitence*

**Self-examination and Confession**

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 been deaf to 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.**

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.**

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.**

**The Imposition of Ashes**

Dear friends in Christ, I invite you to receive these ashes

as a sign of the spirit of penitence with which we shall keep this season of Lent.

God our Father, you create us from the dust of the earth:

grant that these ashes may be for us a sign of our penitence

and a symbol of our mortality; for it is by your grace alone

that we receive eternal life in Jesus Christ our Saviour.

**Amen.**

*The president and people receive the imposition of ashes, the president first receiving the imposition from another minister. At the imposition the minister says to each person*

Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.

Turn away from sin and be faithful to Christ.

*Quiet Music: Bach: O Mensch, bewein dein Sünde groß*

*ABSOLUTION*

The Lord enrich *you* with his grace, and nourish *you* with his blessing;

the Lord defend *you* in trouble and keep *you* from all evil;

the Lord accept *your* prayers, and absolve *you* from *your* offences,

for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Saviour. **Amen.**

*The Liturgy of the Sacrament*

*The Peace*

Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,

who has given us access to his grace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you

**and also with you.**

*Hymn Dear Lord and Father of Mankind*

*Preparation of the Altar*

*Prayer at the preparation of the altar.*

Risen Lord and Saviour, present among us with the wealth of your love.

Cleanse us from sin and give us the faith

to offer our praise and grow in your grace. **Amen.**

*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 thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right and good to give you thanks and praise,

almighty God and everlasting Father, through Jesus Christ your Son.

For in these forty days you lead us into the desert of repentance

that through a pilgrimage of prayer and discipline

we may grow in grace and learn to be your people once again.

Through fasting, prayer and acts of service you bring us back to your generous heart.

Through study of your holy word you open our eyes to your presence in the world

and free our hands to welcome others into the radiant splendour of your love.

As we prepare to celebrate the Easter feast with joyful hearts and minds

we bless you for your mercy and join with saints and angels

for ever praising you and saying:

**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.**

All glory be to you, our heavenly Father, who, in your tender mercy, gave your only Son our Saviour Jesus Christ to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption; who made there by his one oblation of himself once offered a full, perfect and sufficient sacrifice, oblation and satisfaction for the sins of the whole world; he instituted, and in his holy gospel commanded us to continue, a perpetual memory of his precious death until he comes again.

Hear us, merciful Father, we humbly pray, and grant that, by the power of your Holy Spirit,

we receiving these gifts of your creation, this bread and this wine, according to your Son

our Saviour Jesus Christ's holy institution, in remembrance of his death and passion,

may be partakers of his most blessed body and blood; who, in the same night that he was betrayed, took bread and gave you thanks; he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper he took the cup and gave you thanks; he gave it to them, saying: Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

Jesus Christ is Lord:

**Lord, by your cross and resurrection you have set us free.
You are the Saviour of the world.**

Therefore, Lord and heavenly Father, in remembrance of the precious death and passion,

the mighty resurrection and glorious ascension of your dear Son Jesus Christ,

we offer you through him this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Grant that by his merits and death, and through faith in his blood, we and all your Church may receive forgiveness of our sins and all other benefits of his passion. Although we are unworthy, through our manifold sins, to offer you any sacrifice, yet we pray that you will accept this the duty and service that we owe. Do not weigh our merits, but pardon our offences, and fill us all who share in this holy communion with your grace and heavenly blessing;

through Jesus Christ our Lord, by whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

*The Lord's Prayer*

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name;**

**thy kingdom come; thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread.**

**And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.**

**And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory,**

**for ever and ever. Amen.**

*Breaking of the Bread*

*The president breaks the consecrated bread.*

Every time we eat this bread and drink this cup,

**we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.**

*Agnus Dei*

**Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us.**

**Jesus, bearer of our sins, have mercy on us.**

**Jesus, redeemer of the world, grant us peace.**

*Giving of Communion*

Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

Blessed are those who are called to his supper.

**Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,**

**but only say the word, and I shall be healed.**

*Quiet Music O, Lord hear my prayer (Taize)*

*Prayer after Communion*

*Silence is kept.*

Almighty God, you have given your only Son to be for us both a sacrifice for sin and also an example of godly life, give us grace that we may always most thankfully receive these his inestimable gifts, and also daily endeavour to follow the blessed steps of his most holy life;

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

*Then we pray together:*

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

**Refresh and sustain us as we go forward on our journey,**

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

*Responsory*

This is love, not that we loved God,

**but that he loved us and sent his Son.**

He is the sacrifice for our sins,

**that we might live through him.**

If God loves us so much

**we ought to love one another.**

If we love one another

**God lives in us.**

*The Dismissal*

May God the Father, who does not despise the broken spirit, give to you a contrite heart. **Amen.**

May Christ, who bore our sins in his body on the tree, heal you by his wounds. **Amen.**

May the Holy Spirit, who leads us into all truth, speak to you words of pardon and peace. **Amen.**

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

be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

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

Hymn Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us