

*Everyday God
Enriching Worship
Ash Wednesday*



The Story of the Prodigal Son could be used as an alternative Gospel to illustrate the Lenten process of returning to God in penitence and faith.

Actions in the Liturgy

The ancient rite of Ashing is used to illustrate a fresh commitment to the way of the cross.

Symbols for people to carry home

A small picture of the Prodigal Son poster can be distributed to the people.

Resources and action for Young People

There are resources available for use with children under 5, 5 - 11's and young people's groups.

See the diocesan website at:

www.wakefield.anglican.org

on the Children and Youth Team Page

Liturgical Material

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 Trisagion or another suitable penitential song may be used

**Holy God,
holy and strong,
holy and immortal,
have mercy upon us.**

The Collect

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 imposition of ashes may follow the sermon and an extended rite of penance. The president says

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.**

[LHWE p26]

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 the Gospel.

[LHWE p26*]

or the ashes may be imposed without the use of words.

During the imposition silence may be kept, or a hymn, anthem or psalm may be sung.

One of these two prayers may be said by the president.

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 p27]

or

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.

[CW p136]

The service continues with the peace

For your prayer at Home

Place the Prodigal Son Postcard in the prayer corner and use as "focus" for daily prayer.

Other Resources / Material

A fully worked out Ash Wednesday service is part of the Times and Seasons provision available on the Praxis web site
<http://www.praxisworship.org.uk/LHWE/index.htm>

There may be small changes before official publication by the C of E
Common Worship and New Patterns for Worship material may be found at
<http://www.cofe.anglican.org/worship/liturgy/commonworship/texts/index.html>

Roots on the Web

<http://www.rootsontheweb.com/>

Susan Sayers

The resource centre can supply some of the materials needed for the Liturgy
An order form is available
Small fountains can be found in Shops / Garden Centres
Please contact Tony Macpherson
tonymacpherson@blueyonder.co.uk if you have any questions [01924 275274]