

Let us offer our prayer to the Father:

Our Father Hail Mary

CLOSING PRAYER

Father, our source of life, you know our weakness. May we reach out with joy to grasp your hand and to walk more readily in your ways. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

May the Father bless us, for he has adopted us as his children. Amen.

May the Son come to help us, for he has received us as brothers and sisters. Amen.

May the Spirit be with us, for he has made us his dwelling place. Amen.

In the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Offer each other a sign of peace.

So Lent begins



Celebration of Ash Wednesday At Home



St. Erconwald's Church
Wembley, Preston Road

ORDER OF SERVICE

[Gather with your family, in the household or 'support bubble' of which you are a part.]

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

Praised be the God of grace, mercy, and peace. Blessed be God for ever.

Blessed be God for ever.

As we begin this season of Lent, we gather today to acknowledge that we are sinners. As we express our sorrow, may God be merciful to us and restore us to his friendship.

OPENING PRAYER

Father in heaven, May this season of repentance bring us the blessing of your forgiveness and the gift of your light. Grant this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Psalm 50 [Say together]

Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness.
In your compassion blot out my offence.
O wash me more and more from my guilt
and cleanse me from my sin.

My offences truly I know them;
my sin is always before me.
Against you, you alone, have I sinned;
what is evil in your sight I have done.

Indeed you love truth in the heart;
then in the secret of my heart teach me wisdom.
O purify me, then I shall be clean;
O wash me, I shall be whiter than snow.

O rescue me, God, my helper,
and my tongue shall ring out your goodness.
O Lord, open my lips
and my mouth shall declare your praise.

A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew

Jesus said to his disciples: "When you do good deeds, do not try to show off. If you do, you will not get a reward from your Father in heaven.

"When you pray, do not be like those show-offs who love to stand up and pray in the meeting places and on the street corners. They do this just to look good. I promise you that they already have their reward.

"When you pray, go into a room alone and close the door. Pray to your Father in private. He knows what is done in private, and he will reward you.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

DISTRIBUTION OF ASHES

Receiving ashes is an outward sign of an inner step, a movement of the heart towards our beloved Lord. This year, we will concentrate much more on this inner, spiritual movement than on its outward manifestation in the imposition of ashes.

PRAYER [Say Together]

Lord God, with all our hearts we beseech you: have mercy on your people; spare your people; strengthen all people in the struggle against the havoc of this pandemic. Lord our God, without you we are so weak and our courage so limited. Give us your strength; give us your love; give us wisdom and skill to continue this fight. Spare your people, O Lord we pray. Comfort those who mourn and gather into your kingdom all who have died. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord, who died and rose to life, who lives and reigns with you, for ever and ever. Amen.'

[Bless each other by making the sign of the cross on each other's forehead using the words you choose, or "Repent and believe in the Gospel".

Spend some time praying in a way that you know. Make this a prayer of your heart for God's mercy upon this world struggling to cope with the terrible pandemic and the devastation it is bringing.]

