



The fight between the carnival and lent by Bruegel

Order of Service

*St. Matthew's Church, Wych Lane, Bridgemyr PO13 0JN
in partnership with Bridgemyr Community Sports College*

www.StMatthewsBridgemyr.org.uk



an Inclusive Church

Introduction to the Season

Lent may originally have followed Epiphany, just as Jesus' sojourn in the wilderness followed immediately on his baptism, but it soon became firmly attached to Easter, as the principal occasion for baptism and for the reconciliation of those who had been excluded from the Church's fellowship for apostasy or serious faults. This history explains the characteristic notes of Lent – self-examination, penitence, self-denial, study, and preparation for Easter, to which almsgiving has traditionally been added.

Now is the healing time decreed
for sins of heart and word and deed,
when we in humble fear record
the wrong that we have done the Lord.

(Latin, before 12th century)

As the candidates for baptism were instructed in Christian faith, and as penitents prepared themselves, through fasting and penance, to be readmitted to communion, the whole Christian community was invited to join them in the process of study and repentance, the extension of which over forty days would remind them of the forty days that Jesus spent in the wilderness, being tested by Satan. Ashes are an ancient sign of penitence; from the middle ages it became the custom to begin Lent by being marked in ash with the sign of the cross. The calculation of the forty days has varied considerably in Christian history. It is now usual in the West to count them continuously to the end of Holy Week (not including Sundays), so beginning Lent on the sixth Wednesday before Easter, Ash Wednesday. Liturgical dress is the simplest possible. Churches are kept bare of flowers and decoration. *Gloria in excelsis* is not used. The Fourth Sunday of Lent (*Laetare* or Refreshment Sunday) was allowed as a day of relief from the rigour of Lent, and the Feast of the Annunciation almost always falls in Lent; these breaks from austerity are the background to the modern observance of Mothering Sunday on the Fourth Sunday of Lent. As Holy Week approaches, the atmosphere of the season darkens; the readings begin to anticipate the story of Christ's suffering and death, and the reading of the Passion Narrative gave to the Fifth Sunday its name of Passion Sunday. There are many devotional exercises which may be used in Lent and Holy Week outside the set liturgy. The Stations of the Cross, made popular in the West by the Franciscans after they were granted custody of the Christian sites in the Holy Land, are the best known.



The Liturgy for Lent

When the bell rings please stand

A hymn may be announced or music may be played as the procession enter

Priest In the name of the + Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
All **Amen.**

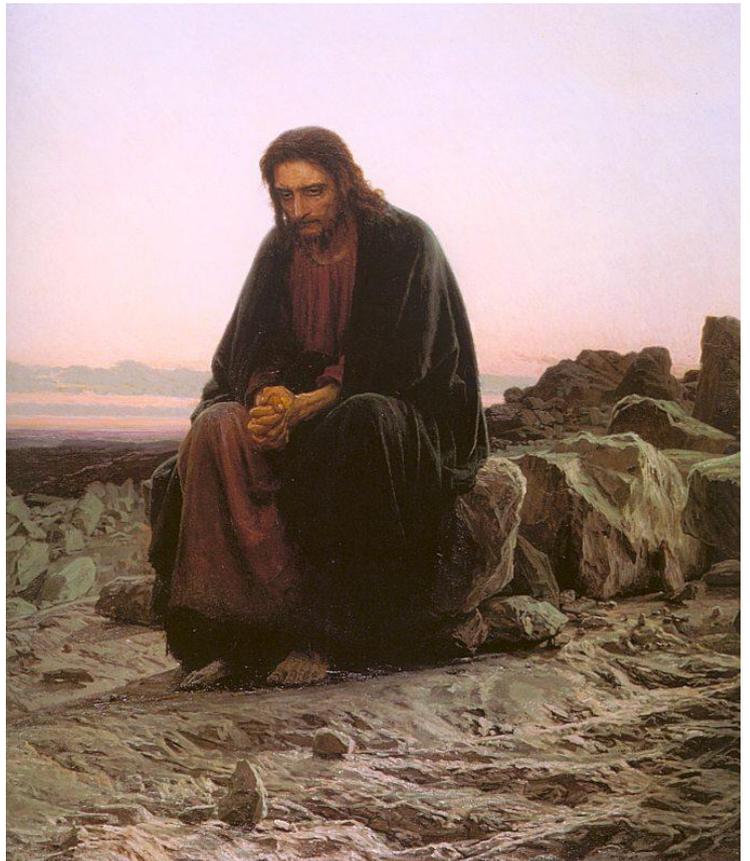
All The Lord be with you.
 and also with you.

All **Almighty God,
to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hidden:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your holy name;
through Christ our Lord.**

Amen.

A Litany may be used for the Confession or the following may be said

Priest Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. Let us confess our sins remembering before God the times when we have fallen from temptation into sin.



silence is kept for reflection and personal confession

All Father eternal,
giver of light and grace,
we have sinned against you and against our neighbour,
in what we have thought,
in what we have said and done,
through ignorance, through weakness,
through our own deliberate fault.
We have wounded your love,
and marred your image in us.
We are sorry and ashamed,
and repent of all our sins.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
who died for us,
forgive us all that is past;
and lead us out from darkness

to walk as children of light. Amen.

Kyrie may be said or sung

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**
Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Priest Almighty God,
who forgives all who truly repent,
have mercy upon you
pardon + and deliver you from all your sins,
Confirm and strengthen you
in all goodness and bring you to life eternal,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All AMEN

The Collect

Priest Let us pray

The priest says/sings the collect for the day

All AMEN

Sit for the first readings

Each reading ends with the words

Reader This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

A hymn or song may be announced

One of these acclamations is said or sung

Gospel Acclamations

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.

cf Psalm 95.3,8

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

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

Blessed are those who have endured temptation;
they have stood the test and will receive the crown of life.

James 1.12

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

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

I am the light of the world, says the Lord,
whoever follows me will have the light of life.

John 8.12

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

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

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

Psalm 119.105

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

The Gospel

Minister The Lord be with you

All **And also with you.**

Minister Hear the + Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to *N.*

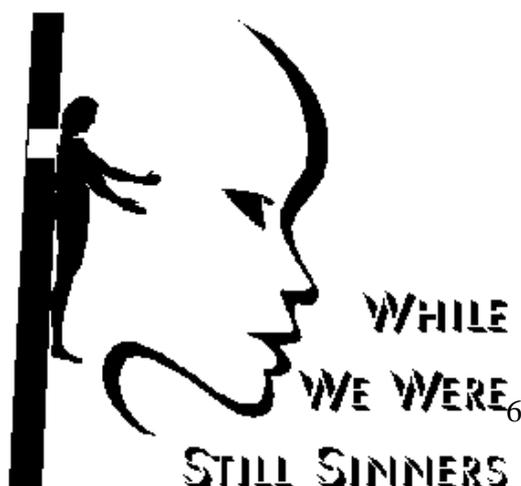
All **Glory to you, O Lord.**

We listen attentively to the Gospel reading

Minister This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sit



Sermon

The Nicene Creed

On Sundays and Principal Holy Days an authorized translation of the Nicene Creed is used

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is,
seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come.**

Amen.

Prayers of Intercession *sit, kneel or stand before God*

This form or another form may be used

Minister We pray to the Lord for courage to give up other things
and to give ourselves to him this Lent.

Give your Church the courage to give up her preoccupation
with herself and to give more time to your mission in the world.

[We pray for...]

May the blood and water flowing from the side of Jesus
bring forgiveness to your people
and help us to face the cost of proclaiming salvation.

Lord, meet us in the silence,

give us strength and hear our prayer.

Give your world the courage
to give up war, bitterness and hatred,
and to seek peace.

[We pray for...]

May the shoulders of the risen Jesus,
once scourged by soldiers,
bear the burden of political and military conflict in our world.

Lord, meet us in the silence,

give us strength and hear our prayer.

Give us the courage to give up quarrels, strife and jealousy
in our families, neighbourhoods and communities.

[We pray for...]

May the presence of the risen Jesus,
his body once broken and now made whole,
bring peace and direction as we live with one another.

Lord, meet us in the silence,

give us strength and hear our prayer.

Give us the courage
to give up our selfishness as we live for others,
and to give time, care and comfort to the sick.

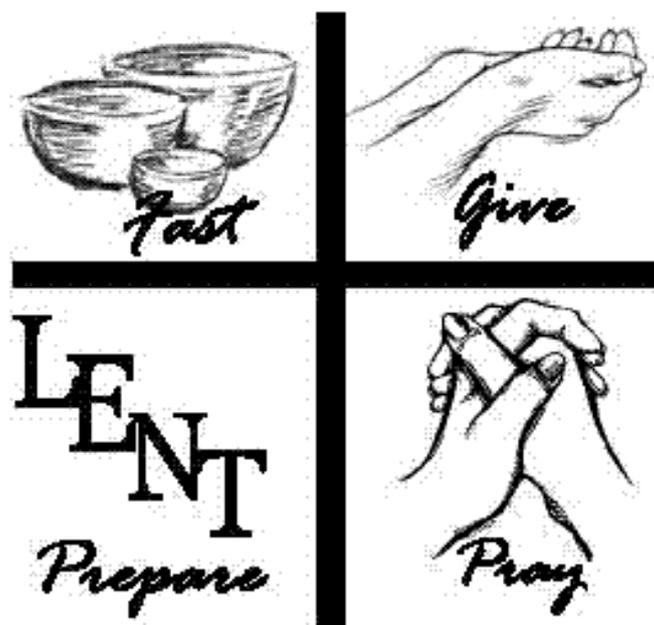
[We pray for...]

May the wounded hands of Jesus bring his healing touch,
and the light of his presence fill their rooms.
Lord, meet us in the silence,
give us strength and hear our prayer.

Give us the courage to give up our fear of death
and to rejoice with those who have died in faith.
[Especially we hold ... in our minds.]
May the feet of the risen Lord Jesus, once nailed to the cross,
walk alongside the dying and bereaved in their agony,
and walk with us and all your Church
through death to the gate of glory.
Lord, meet us in the silence,
**give us strength and hear our prayer,
here and in eternity.**

Let us pray for ourselves, our hopes and needs, our joys and
our anxieties.....

Rejoicing in the fellowship of the Blessed Virgin Mary,
St Matthew and all the saints, we commend ourselves and all
people to your unfailing love.
**Merciful father,
Accept these prayers
for the sake of your Son,
our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.**





Stand

The Peace

Priest Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given us access to his grace. *Romans 5.1,2*

All The peace of the Lord be always with you
and also with you.

Minister Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

All may exchange a sign of peace,

Preparation of the Table

During the preparation we sing the hymn

Priest Yours, Lord, is the greatness, the power,
the glory, the splendour, and the majesty;
for everything in heaven and on earth is yours.

All **All things come from you,
and of your own do we give you.**



One of these prayers is said

God of wisdom,
may the light of your eternal Word,
our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ,
lead us in holiness and guide us to glory;
we ask this in his name. **Amen.**

God of mercy and compassion,
your Word calls us home to faith and love.
accept all we offer you this day;
in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord. **Amen.**

God of our journey,
as we walk with you on your path of obedience,
sustain us on our way and lead us to your glory;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**



The Eucharistic Prayer

Priest The Lord be with you
All **and also with you**

All Lift up your hearts
We lift them to the Lord

All 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/singing*:

**All say Holy holy holy Lord
 God of power and might
 Heaven and earth are full of your glory
 Hosanna in the highest**

**All say Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord
 Hosannas in the highest**



Priest Lord, you are holy indeed,
the source of all holiness;
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit,
and according to your holy will,
these gifts of bread and wine
may be to us the + body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ;

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.*

Minister Great is the mystery of faith:

**All say Christ has died:
Christ is risen:
Christ will come again.**

Priest And so, Father,
calling to mind his death on the cross,
his perfect sacrifice made once for the sins
of the whole world;
rejoicing in his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension,
and looking for his coming in glory,
we celebrate this memorial of our redemption.
As we offer you this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving,
we bring before you this bread and this cup
and we thank you for counting us worthy
to stand in your presence and serve you.

Send the Holy Spirit on your people
and gather into one in your kingdom
all who share this one bread and
one cup, so that we, in the company
of the Blessed Virgin Mary,
St Matthew and all the saints,
may praise and glorify you for ever,
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.

All AMEN



Sit or kneel for a moment of silent adoration

The Lord's Prayer

Priest As our Saviour taught us so we pray

**All 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.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever.
Amen.**

Breaking of the Bread

Priest We break this bread
to share in the body of Christ.

**All Though we are many, we are one body,
because we all share in one bread.**

As the bread is broken the we sing "Lamb of God".

Lamb of God you take away the sin of the world have mercy on us
Bread of life you take away the sin of the world have mercy on us
Saving God you take away the sin of the world have mercy on us
Lamb of God you take away the sin of the world Grant us your peace

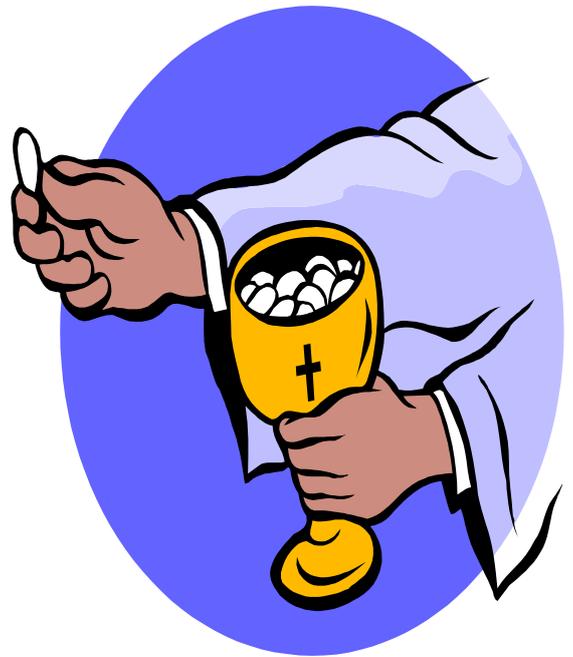
Priest Jesus is the Lamb of God
who takes away the sin of the world.
Blessed are those who are called to his supper.
**All Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,
but only say the word, and I shall be healed.**

Communion Antiphon is said

If you normally receive Holy Communion in your Church you are welcome to do so here at St Matthew's.

Please come to the communion rail. Please hold your hands out clearly in front of you.

If you do not want to receive Holy Communion please come forward and keep your head bowed to receive a blessing.



Music is used as an aid to prayer during communion and the clearing of the altar

silence is held

Prayer after Communion

Priest Let us pray

the post communion prayer is said

**All 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.**

Hymn & any notices are given out

The Blessing and Dismissal

Priest The Lord be with you
All **and also with you**

Let us bow our heads and pray for God's blessing

One of these blessing is used

Christ give you grace to grow in holiness,
to deny yourselves, take up your cross, and follow him;
and the blessing ...

God,
who from the death of sin raised you to new life in Christ,
keep you from falling and set you in the presence of his glory;
and the blessing ...

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 ...

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

Music may be played as the ministers depart, on Sundays you are invited to join us for a cup of coffee and say hello to other people

From sins of body and mind; from the deceits of the world, the flesh and the devil,
good Lord, deliver us.

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

By the mystery of your holy incarnation; by your birth, childhood and obedience; by your baptism, fasting and temptation,
good Lord, deliver us.

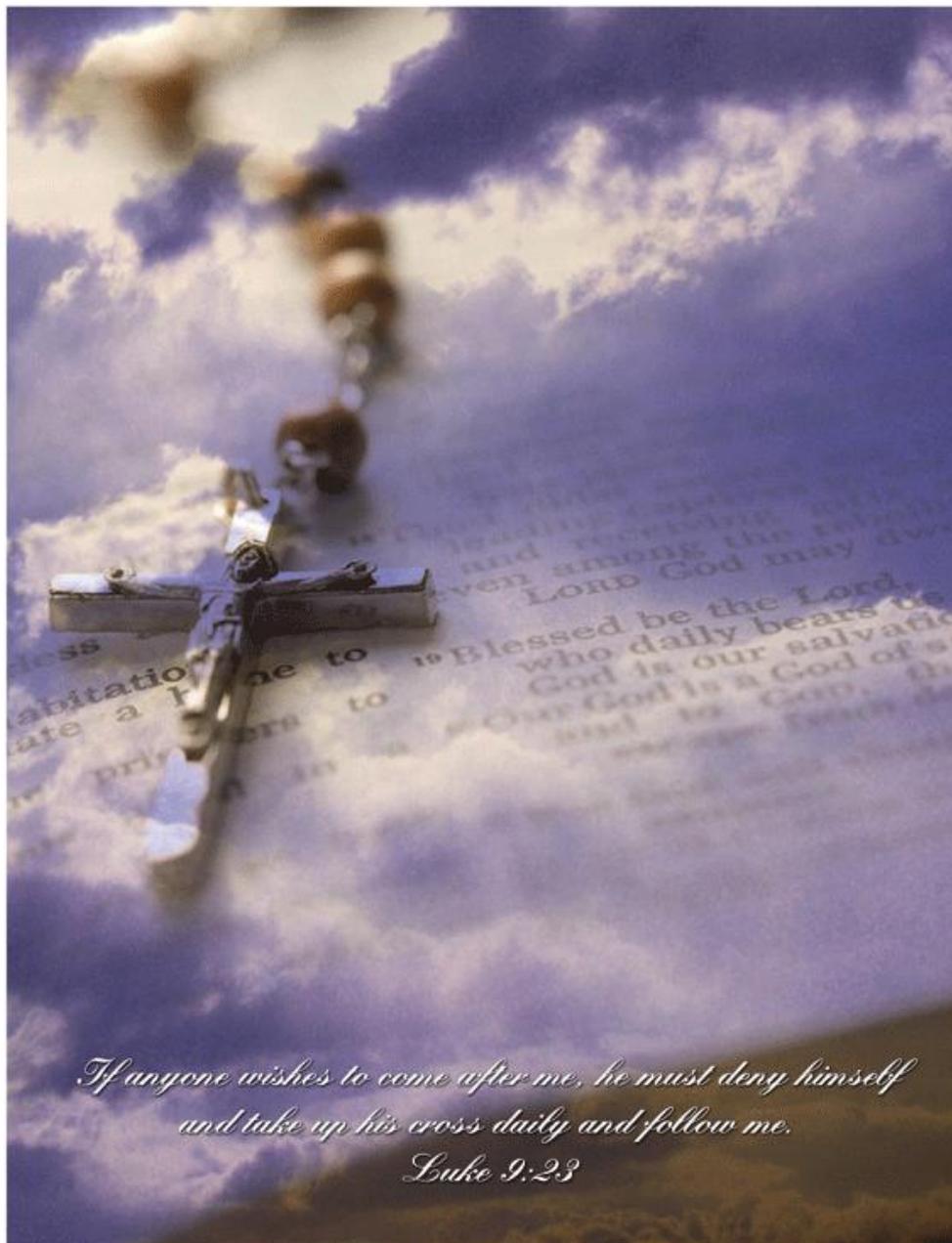
By your ministry in word and work; by your mighty acts of power;
and by your preaching of the kingdom,
good Lord, deliver us.

By your agony and trial; by your cross and passion; and by your precious death and burial,
good Lord, deliver us.

By your mighty resurrection; by your glorious ascension;
and by your sending of the Holy Spirit,
good Lord, deliver us.

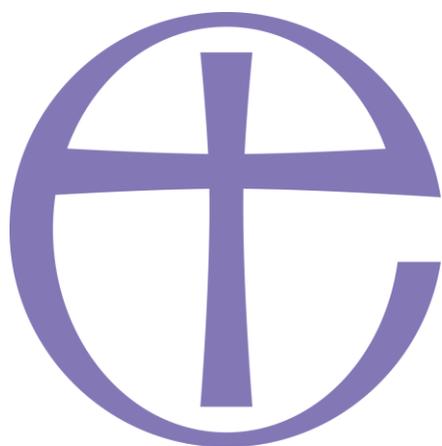
Give us true repentance;
forgive us our sins of negligence and ignorance
and our deliberate sins;
and grant us the grace of your Holy Spirit
to amend our lives according to your holy word.

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



Order of service produced by Fr Reuben James Preston for the parish of Bridgemyr using authorised materials of the Church of England

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**THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND**

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