

# Lent 2

# Agape Service

## Welcome & Introduction

*Officiant* Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father  
and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you

*All* **and also with you.**

*Officiant* Welcome to this agape meal, in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

We gather to celebrate God's love revealed for our world by our Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer.

*All* **We come to share our food, our lives and God's grace.**

*Officiant* O Lord, open our lips.

*All* **and our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

## Prayers of Penitence

*Officiant* Hear the words of our Saviour Jesus Christ:

'I am the light of the world.

Whoever follows me shall never walk in darkness

but shall have the light of life.'

Let us therefore bring our sins into his light

and confess them in penitence and faith.

(John 8.12)

Lord Jesus, you came to reconcile us

to one another and to the Father:

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you heal the wounds of sin and division:

Christ, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you intercede for us with your Father:

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

*Officiant* May Almighty God,  
who forgives all who truly repent,  
have mercy upon us,  
pardon and deliver us from all our sins,  
confirm and strengthen us in all goodness,  
and keep us in life eternal;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## **Collect**

*Officiant* Almighty God,  
*All* **by the prayer and discipline of Lent  
may we enter into the mystery of Christ's sufferings,  
and by following in his Way  
come to share in his glory;  
in Jesus Christ our Lord.**

**Amen.**

## **Ministry of the Word**

### **Genesis 17: 1-7, 15-16**

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said to him, 'I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous.' Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, 'As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. I will

establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you. God said to Abraham, 'As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her.'

### **Psalm 22: 23-31**

*Officiant* Praise the Lord, you that fear him;  
O seed of Jacob, glorify him; stand in awe of him, O seed of Israel.

*All* **For he has not despised nor abhorred the suffering of the poor;  
neither has he hidden his face from them;  
but when they cried to him he heard them.**

*Officiant* From you comes my praise in the great congregation;  
I will perform my vows in the presence of those that fear you.

*All* **The poor shall eat and be satisfied;  
those who seek the Lord shall praise him;  
their hearts shall live for ever.**

*Officiant* All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord,  
and all the families of the nations shall bow before him.

*All* **For the kingdom is the Lord's  
and he rules over the nations.**

*Officiant* How can those who sleep in the earth bow down in worship,  
or those who go down to the dust kneel before him?

*All* **He has saved my life for himself; my descendants shall serve him;  
this shall be told of the Lord for generations to come.**

*Officiant* They shall come and make known his salvation, to a people yet unborn,  
declaring that he, the Lord, has done it.

*All* **Glory to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning is now  
and shall be for ever.**

**Amen.**

## Hymn

*Words: Horatius Bonar; Tune: Kingsfold  
Cantor: Greg Bannan.*

I heard the voice of Jesus say,  
'Come unto me and rest;  
lay down, thou weary one, lay down  
thy head upon my breast:'  
I came to Jesus as I was,  
weary and worn and sad;  
I found in him a resting-place,  
and he has made me glad.

I heard the voice of Jesus say,  
'Behold I freely give  
the living water, thirsty one;  
stoop down and drink and live:'  
I came to Jesus, and I drank  
of that life-giving stream;  
my thirst was quenched, my soul revived,  
and now I live in him.

I heard the voice of Jesus say  
'I am this dark world's light;  
look unto me, thy morn shall rise,  
and all thy day be bright:'  
I looked to Jesus, and I found  
in him my star, my sun;  
and in that light of life I'll walk  
till travelling days are done.

## Mark 8: 31-38

Jesus began to teach his disciples that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, 'Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.' He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, 'If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their

life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.'

## **Sermon**

A short address by Doreen Mills, Reader at St Mary's

## **Intercessions**

*Officiant* In the power of the Spirit and in union with Christ, let us pray to the Father.

*This response is used:*

Lord, hear us.

**Lord, graciously hear us.**

*At the end:*

Merciful Father,

**accept these prayers**

**For the sake of your Son**

**our saviour Jesus Christ.**

**Amen.**

## **AGAPE**

*Officiant* In our Agape Meal, as we approach Lent, we journey towards Calvary and the cross, walking with Jesus and his disciples.

Therefore we acknowledge these symbols to remind us of Christ's promises to us:

A candle, to remind us of the description of Christ in John's Gospel: 'What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.'  
(John 1: 4-5)

Some food to remind us of Jesus words on the road to Jerusalem: "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it." (Mark 8: 34-35)

A cup of wine or grape juice to remind us of Jesus words to his disciples in the Upper Room: "I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me, and I in them, bear much fruit". (John 15: 5)

Let us pray:

Living and Risen Christ, we welcome your presence with us. May the food, drink and companionship we share nourish our bodies, hearts and minds. And may our spirits be refreshed. As we live in the light of your presence with us now, and at all times and places.

**Amen.**

## **Sharing of Food and Drink**

A portion of our food is eaten, followed by the sharing of the cup. If there are others present in your 'bubble' they can be passed from person to person, during which we hear 'Wash me thoroughly' (Words: Psalm 51:2-3; Music: Samuel Sebastian Wesley) A new recording by St Mary's choirs, recorded separately in lockdown and edited together to make a virtual performance.

WASH ME THOROUGHLY FROM MY WICKEDNESS, AND FORGIVE ME ALL MY SINS;

FOR I ACKNOWLEDGE MY FAULTS, AND MY SIN IS EVER BEFORE ME.

## **Conclusion**

*Officiant* As our Saviour has taught his followers, so we pray

*All*

**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.**

## **Hymn**

*Words: Latin tr Edward Caswall; Tune: St Bernard  
Cantor: Greg Bannan.*

**All ye who seek a comfort sure  
in trouble and distress,  
whatever trouble vex the mind,  
or guilt the soul oppress,**

**Jesus, who gave himself for you  
upon the cross to die,  
opens to you his sacred heart;  
O to that heart draw nigh.**

**Ye hear how kindly he invites;  
ye hear his words so blest --  
“All ye that labour come to me,  
and I will give you rest.”**

**O Jesus, joy of saints on high,  
thou hope of sinners here,  
attracted by those loving words  
to thee I lift my prayer.**

**Wash thou my wounds in that dear blood  
which forth from thee doth flow;  
new grace, new hope inspire, a new  
and better heart bestow.**

## Blessing

*Officiant* Christ give us grace to grow in holiness,  
to deny ourselves, take up our cross, and follow him;  
and may the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among us and remain with us always.

*All* **Amen.**

*Officiant* Live in the peace of the coming light of Christ!

*All* **Thanks be to God!**

## Organ Voluntary

*CHRISTE DU LAMM GOTTES (BWV 619) J. S. BACH (1685-1750)*

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