

WORCESTER COLLEGE CHAPEL

## ASH WEDNESDAY

17 February 2021

### INTROIT

Hear my prayer, O Lord

Thomas Tomkins

*The Chaplain says*

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.

Let us pray for grace to keep Lent faithfully.

*Silence is kept.*

Almighty and everlasting God,  
you hate nothing that you have made  
and forgive the sins of all those who are penitent:  
create and make in us new and contrite hearts  
that we, worthily lamenting our sins  
and acknowledging our wretchedness,  
may receive from you, the God of all mercy,  
perfect remission and forgiveness;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.  
Amen.

*Choral Scholar Zoe Dixon sings*

How beautiful are the feet

G.F. Handel

*The Assistant Chaplain says*

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

'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.

'So 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. But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

'And 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. 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.

'And 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. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so 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.

'Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

*Choral Scholar James Beggs sings*

Vouchsafe, O Lord

G.F. Handel

*The Assistant Chaplain prays the Litany.*

Let us now call to mind our sin and the infinite mercy of God.

God the Father,

*All have mercy upon us.*

God the Son,

*All have mercy upon us.*

God the Holy Spirit,

*All have mercy upon us.*

Holy, blessed and glorious Trinity,

*All have mercy upon us.*

From all evil and mischief;

from pride, vanity, and hypocrisy;

from envy, hatred, and malice;

and from all evil intent,

*All good Lord, deliver us.*

From sloth, worldliness and love of money;

from hardness of heart

and contempt for your word and your laws,

*All good Lord, deliver us.*

From sins of body and mind;

from the deceits of the world, the flesh and the devil,

*All 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,

*All good Lord, deliver us.*

By the mystery of your holy incarnation;

by your birth, childhood and obedience;

by your baptism, fasting and temptation,

*All good Lord, deliver us.*

By your ministry in word and work;

by your mighty acts of power;

and by your preaching of the kingdom,

*All good Lord, deliver us.*

By your agony and trial;

by your cross and passion;

and by your precious death and burial,

*All good Lord, deliver us.*

By your mighty resurrection;  
by your glorious ascension;  
and by your sending of the Holy Spirit,  
**All 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.**

*Silence is kept.*

Make our hearts clean, O God;  
and renew a right spirit within us.

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.

*The Chaplain prays*

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.

Lord Jesus, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray.  
Our Father...

*Choral Scholar Will Harmer sings the*

#### HYMN

In heavenly love abiding

*The Chaplain declares*

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.

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

*Organ Scholar Alex Wilson plays the*

#### VOLUNTARY

O Mensch, Bewein dein Sünde groß (BWV 622)

J.S. Bach