

All

Set free O God, our souls from all restlessness and anxiety. Give us that peace and power, which flows from You. Save us from all perplexities and distresses, in all fears and unfaithfulness; So that, upheld by Your power, and stayed on the rock of Your faithfulness, We may through storm and stress abide in You; Through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*

Minister:

Almighty God, The Redeemer of all who trust in You; Give heed to the cry of Your People; Deliver us from the bondage of sin; That we may serve You in perfect freedom; And rejoice in Your unfailing love; Through Jesus Christ our Saviour
Amen.

Living God, mercifully give us: Courage to stand before Your searching gaze and accept Your Verdict, Humility to accept Your correction and receive forgiveness, Wisdom to hear Your Word and feed on it through faith. So in the days ahead, may we grow closer to You in the likeness of Christ, Lord hear our prayer for we ask in the Name of Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Benediction:

Unto God’s gracious mercy and protection we commit you
The Lord bless you and keep you;
The Lord make His face to shine upon you
And be gracious unto you;
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you
And give you peace;
Both now and forever more. *Amen.*

23. Notices

24. ORGAN POSTLUDE

**LENT AND SELF DENIAL – ISAIAH 58:10
THE TRUE SPIRIT OF LENT**

Self denial is one of the major essence of **LENT**. We are to deny ourselves the pleasures of Milk in our Tea, daily soft drinks, meat, fish or egg, buying newspapers, eating three times a day, monetize them and set them aside for **WIDOWS, ORPHANS, THE NEEDY AND THE LESS PRIVILEGED**. This is the true spirit and essence of **LENT**. This is the **FAST** that is acceptable to our God.

DIOCESE OF LAGOS WEST

(Anglican Communion)



**ARCHBISHOP VINING MEMORIAL
CHURCH CATHEDRAL**
Oba Akinjobi Way, GRA, Ikeja

**2025
ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE**

WEDNESDAY, 5TH MARCH, 2025

@

6.00PM.

DIOCESAN THEME:

BE A BEACON OF LIGHT”

Matt. 5:16

SUB-THEME:

REND YOUR HEARTS: SHINE YOUR LIGHT

THE RT. REVD. DR. JAMES OLUSOLA ODEDEJI

The Bishop, Diocese of Lagos West

ORDER OF SERVICE

CELEBRANT: THE DIOCESAN
PREACHER: THE DIOCESAN
LITANY/INTERCESSION: THE DEAN
O.T. READING: THE REV. FIKAYO ADENLE
EPISTOLLER: THE VEN. DR. BENJAMIN OKERE
GOSPELLER: THE REV. YINKA AKINPEJU

1. Organ Recital
2. Opening Hymn / Introit: CONH 280
3. The Preparation to Penitence
4. O.T. Reading: Joel 2:12-17
5. The Epistle: James 4:1-10
6. Gradual Hymn: CONH 267
7. The Gospeller: Matthew 6:16-21
8. Athanasius Creed **(Worship Book Page 64 / Prayer Book Page 47)**

9. Hymn: CONH 427

10. Litany **(Worship Book Page 136/ Prayer Book Page 49)**

11. Hymn: CONH 282
12. The Communion
13. Hymn for Sermon: CONH 419
14. **THE SERMON**
15. The Peace
16. Offertory Hymn: CONH 503 - Sitting
CONH 184 - Standing
17. The Consecration Prayer
18. Administration with Hymns: CONH 278, 291, 284,
624, 440
19. Ablution Hymn: CONH 428
20. Post Communion Prayer
21. Blessing & Imposition of Ashes
22. Episcopal Blessings
23. Greetings & Notices
24. Organ Postlude

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Sentence:

The Sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, a broken and a contrite heart, O God, You will not despise.

Psalm 51:17.

COLLECT FOR ASH WEDNESDAY

Almighty and Merciful God, You hate nothing that You have made; and You forgive the sins of all those who are penitent. Create and make in us new and contrite hearts; that lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness; we may receive from You, the God of all mercy, perfect forgiveness and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, Who died for us, rose from the dead,

For a world of lost sinners was slain

*Chorus: So I'll cherish the Old Rugged Cross
Till my trophies at last I lay down
I will cling to the Old Rugged Cross
And exchange it some day for a crown*

2. Oh! That Old Rugged Cross so despised by the world
Has a wondrous attraction for me
For the dear Lamb of God left His glory above
To bear it to dark Calvary
Chorus: So I'll cherish the Old Rugged Cross

3. In the Old Rugged Cross, stained with blood so divine
A wondrous beauty I see
For it was on that old Cross Jesus suffered and died
To pardon and sanctify me
Chorus: So I'll cherish the Old Rugged Cross

4. To the Old Rugged Cross I will ever be true
Its shame and reproach gladly bear
Then He'll call me some day to my home far away
Where His glory for ever I'll share
Chorus: So I'll cherish the Old Rugged Cross

22. The Blessing & Imposition of Ashes

Minister:

O God, You desire not the death of a sinner, but rather that he should turn from his sin, and be saved. mercifully look upon the frailty of our mortal nature; and of Your goodness vouchsafe to bless these ashes now to be set upon our heads in token of humility and to obtain Your pardon: that we knowing we are but dust, and that for our unworthiness, unto dust shall we return, may through Your mercy be found meet to receive forgiveness of all our sins; and those good things which You have promised to the penitent; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Minister:

Remember that you are dust and into dust you shall return.

All: Amen.

Concluding Prayers

After all have received the imposition of ashes, these Concluding Prayers may be said, kneeling

Priest: O Lord, save Your people
All: **Who put their trust in You**
Priest: Send them help from above
All: **And ever more mightily defend them.**
Priest: Help us, O Lord our Saviour
All: **And for the glory of Your Name deliver us. Show mercy to us sinners, for the honour of Your Name.**

Priest: O Lord, hear our prayer
All: **And let our cry come to You**
Priest: **Let us pray**

O Lord, we pray You, merciful to hear our prayers, and spare those who have confessed their sins to You, that those whose conscience accuse them of sin may by Your merciful pardon, be absolved; through Christ our Lord. **Amen**

O Most Mighty God and Father of mercy, You show compassion upon all people and do not hate anything You have made; You do not desire that any sinner should perish, but that he may turn from his sin, and be saved. In Your mercy, forgive us our evil ways, receive and comfort us, who are grieved and wearied with the burden of our sins. You alone can show mercy, You alone can forgive sins. Save us, Good Lord, save Your people whom You have redeemed; Do not enter into judgement with us. Mercifully turn Your anger from us, who are truly penitent and so make haste to help us now, that we may always live with You in the world to come, through Jesus Christ our Lord and our Lord and Redeemer. **Amen**

All:
Good Lord, turn us to Yourself. Show us Your favour as we turn to You weeping, fasting and praying. You are a God of mercy, full of compassion, long suffering and of great pity. You pardon even when we deserved to be punished; and in justice You show mercy. Save us good Lord; and let us not be confused. Hear us, O Lord, for Your mercy is great. In Your mercy, look upon us; through the merits and mediation of Your blessed Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

13. Hymn for Sermon: CONH 419

14. The Sermon

15. The Peace

16. Hymns for Offertory:

(A) CONH 503 - Sitting

(B) CONH 184 - Standing

17. Eucharistic Prayer

18. Administration: CONH 278, 291, 284, 624, 440

19. Ablution Hymn: CONH 428 (Collection of self Denial Envelopes)

20. Post Communion Prayer

21. Hymn Old Rugged Cross (Kneeling)

1. On a hill far away stood an Old Rugged Cross
The emblem of suffering and shame
And I love that old cross where the dearest and best

and now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, One God forever and ever. Amen.

Post Communion Sentence:

He is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers. Psalm 1:3.

12. THE PENITENTIAL OFFICE OR COMMUNION SERVICE

A. After the Hymn, and the people standing or kneeling, the Minister says:

Priest: Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins

All: **His mercy endures forever.**

Priest Seek the Lord while He may be found, call upon Him while He is near

All: **Let the wicked forsake his way, the unrighteous man his thoughts, let him return to the Lord, that He may have mercy upon him, and to our God for He will abundantly pardon.**

Priest: Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit

All: **And blessed be His kingdom, now and forever, Amen.**

B. The Minister shall pronounce God's anger against sinners saying:

Dear people of God, the first Christians observed with great devotion and Godly discipline the days of our Lord's passion and resurrection. This season of Lent provide a time when those convicted of notorious sins were put to open penance, and punished so that their souls might be saved on the last day. It was also a time when those who because of notorious sin, had been separated from the body of the faithful were reconciled by penitence and forgiveness and restored to the fellowship of the Church. Others will be warned by their example, and might be more afraid to offend or sin. Thereby, the whole Congregation was put in mind of the message of pardon and absolution set forth in the Gospel of our Saviour and of the need, which all Christians continually have to renew their repentance and faith. I invite you therefore in the name of God, 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. In order to make a right beginning of repentance and to affirm God's judgement upon sin, it is thought good that we be reminded of God's commandment. We should implore His mercy by answering '**Amen**' as a sign of or assent to them.

Silence

C. *The Minister Continues*

Priest: God is One: Those who do not worship Him wholeheartedly but worship idols, images, wealth and have loyalty in cults and secret societies, God shall judge

All: **Amen. Lord, have mercy upon us**

Priest: God's Name is Holy. Those who blaspheme it and those who use it in vain, God will judge

All: **Amen. Lord, have mercy upon us**

Priest: The Lord's day is Holy: do not neglect the coming together of the brethren for worship. Those who profane it, God shall judge

All: **Amen. Lord, have mercy upon us**

Priest: Honour your parents and elders. Those who dishonour them and that are lawless and seditious, God shall judge.

All: **Amen. Lord, have mercy upon us**

Priest: Do not commit murder: Those who bear grudges unforgivingly and they that are malicious and cruel, God shall judge.

All: **Amen. Lord, have mercy upon us**

Priest: Your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit. Those who commit adultery and all fornicators and lustful persons, God shall judge.

All: **Amen. Lord, have mercy upon us**

Priest: All good works are God's work, good works honour God, those who steal and they who defraud others, God shall judge

All: **Amen. Lord, have mercy upon us**

Priest: Speak the truth at all times. Those who bear false witness and who lie and speak evil of others, God shall judge.

All: **Amen. Lord, have mercy upon us**

Priest: Honour the property of others. Those who covert, extort and oppress others, God shall judge.

All: **Amen. Lord, have mercy upon us**

Priest: Love your neighbour as yourself; witches and wizards, sorcerers and others who work against the good of their neighbor, God shall judge

All: **Amen. Lord have mercy upon us, and do not count these sins against us.**

4.

Silence may be kept

D. *All shall kneel and say Psalm 51 –*

1. Have mercy on me O God in your en/during goodness: according to the fullness of your compassion/ blot out/ my of/fences.
2. Wash me thoroughly/ from my /wickedness: and/ cleanse me/ from my/ sin.
3. For I acknowledge/ my re/bellion: and my/ sins is/ ever be/fore me.
4. Against you only have I sinned* and done what is evil in your /eyes: so you will be just in your sentence* and/ blameless/ in your/ judging.
5. Surely in wickedness I was/ brought to/ birth: and in/ sin my/ mother con/ceived me.
6. You that desire truth in the/ inward/ parts: O teach me wisdom in the secret/ places/ of the heart.
7. Purge me with hyssop and I/ shall be/ clean: wash me and I shall be/ whiter than/ snow.
8. Make me hear of /joy and /gladness: let the bones which/ you have/ broken rejoice.
9. Hide your/ face from my/ sins: And/ blot out/ all my in/iquities.
10. Create in me a clean/ heart O /God: and re/new a right/ spirit with/in me.
11. Do not cast me/ out from your/ presence: do not take your/ holy/spirit/ from me.
12. O give me the gladness of your/ help a/gain: and sup/port me with a/ willing/ spirit.
13. Then will I teach trans/gressors your/ ways: and sinners shall /turn to /you a/gain.
14. O Lord God of my salvation* deliver me from/ bloodshed: and my/ tongue shall/ sing of your/ righteousness.
15. O Lord/ open my/ lips: and my /mouth shall pro/claim your/ praise.
16. You take no pleasure in sacrifice or/ I would /give it: burnt-/ offerings you /do not/ want.
17. The sacrifice of God is a/ broken/ spirit: a broken and contrite heart O God/ you will/ not de/spise.
18. In Your graciousness do/ good to/ Zion: re/build the/ walls of Je/rusalem.
19. Then will you delight in right sacrifices In burnt-offerings/ and ob/lations: then will they offer young/ bulls up/on your/ altar.

E. *Then the following prayers are said:*

Priest: Let us pray; Lord, have mercy upon us

All: **Christ have mercy upon us,**

Priest: Lord, have mercy upon us.

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 Glory are Yours, Now and forever. Amen

5.

