**Agape for the season of lent**

Music played –

**WELCOME AND OPENING RESPONSES**

We meet in the presence of God
**who knows our needs, hears our cries,
feels our pain, and heals our wounds.**

Be with us, Spirit of God;
**nothing can separate us from your love.**
Breathe on us, breath of God;
**fill us with your saving power.**
Speak in us, wisdom of God;
**bring strength, healing and peace.**

Lord, direct our thoughts, and teach us to pray.
Lift up our hearts to worship you in spirit and in truth,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
**Amen.**

**CALL TO RECONCILLIATION**

Jesus says:

“The time is ready, the kingdom of God is at hand, repent and believe the Gospel.”

So let us turn away from sin and turn to the Lord, confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

**PRAYER OF CONFFESION**

**God, we come with hesitant steps and uncertain motives**

**to sweep out the corners where sin has accumulated,**

**and uncover the ways we have strayed from Your truth.**

**Expose the empty and barren places**

**where we don’t allow you to enter.**

**Reveal our half-hearted struggles**

**where we have been indifferent**

**to the suffering of others.**

**Nurture the faint stirrings of new life,**

**where your spirit has begun to grow.**

**Let your healing light transform us**

**into the image of Your Son.**

**For You alone can bring new life**

**and make us whole.**

**ABSOLUTION**

May the God of love bring you back to himself,
forgive you your sins, and assure you of his eternal love
in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**THE COLLECT –**

**READINGS -***after each reading*

 This is word of the Lord.

 **Thanks be to God.**

**CANTICLE- A Song of Christ the Servant**

Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps.

**He committed no sin, no guile was found on his lips,**

**when he was reviled, he did not revile in turn.**

When he suffered, he did not threaten, he trusted himself to God who judges justly.

**Christ himself bore our sins in his body on the tree,**

**that we might die to sin and live to righteousness.**

By his wounds, you are healed, you were straying like sheep, but are now returned.

**To the shepherd and guardian of your souls.**

**GOSPEL**

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.

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

Or

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.

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

*At the end*

**This is the Gospel of the Lord.**Praise to you, O Christ.

**SERMON.**

**Time for reflection**

**CREED**

**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.**

**INTERCESSIONS**

Lord in your Mercy

**Hear our prayer**

 Merciful Father:

**accept these prayers for the sake of your Son,**

**our Saviour Jesus Christ.**

**THE PEACE**

**Introduction**

Since we are justified by faith,

we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,

who has given us access to his grace.

Or

Once we were far off but now in union with Christ Jesus we have been brought near

through the shedding of Christ’s blood, for he is our peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**And also with you.**

 *(We will be unmuted to share the peace of Christ with each other so please wave and join in}*

**THE AGAPE MEAL OF THANKSGIVING**

We give you thanks because each year you give us this joyful season

when we prepare to celebrate the paschal mystery with mind and heart renewed.

You give us a spirit of loving reverence for you and of willing service to our neighbour.

As we recall the saving acts that give new life in Christ,

you bring the image of your Son to perfection within our hearts.

**Jesus said, ‘Those who believe in me,**

**out of their hearts will flow streams of living water.’**

We are all invited to a common table to share in an Agape Feast.

We come as brothers and sisters in the Holy Family of God.

We come so that we may give thanks Lord that you blessed our lives

with your promise to be with us always.

**As grains of wheat scattered on the fields are gathered to become bread,**

**may we who are scattered in many places become one company in Christ.**

We come to share symbols that remind us of your love for us in that promise

A candle, to remind us of the way, “I am the light of the world;

those who follow me will not walk-in darkness but will have the light of life”.

The bread that I shall give is myself for the life of the world”.

Drink, a symbol of the blood shed for us. “for the forgiveness of sins”

Through these symbols may we never forget your presence in our lives.

God of all creation, all you have made is good, and your love endures forever.

We have shared your peace and given thanks that our lives depend on you.

Separated but in solidarity and agape we now share the ordinary fruits of the earth

Our symbols of all you have given us, food, and drink for our nourishment.

**Blessed be God forever!**

**We welcome your presence with us, sustain our bodies, hearts, and spirit.**

**We live in the light of your presence, at all times and in all places.**

**Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest,.**

**LORD’S PRAYER**

We pray together with the words Jesus taught us.
**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 and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

**WASHING OF HANDS**

*Wash your hands or use sanitiser gel:*

**Wash me, O Lord, and cleanse me from my sin.”**

**THE FOOD AND DRINK ARE CONSUMMED**

 **As we eat and drink may our souls be refreshed.**

**Music is played as we eat and drink**

**PRAYER AFTER AGAPE**

God of mystery,

we journey with Jesus during this Lenten season

with the certain hope that you will recreate our world

so that all people will live in peace and justice.

**Call us out of the wilderness of apathy**

**and help us to reach out to those who do not know hope or love.**

**Hear the longings of our hearts**

**and the cries of those who yearn to live in peace and justice.**

**Let Easter burst into a world waiting to be re-created.  Amen.**

**BLESSING**

May Christ give you grace to grow in holiness,
to deny yourselves, take up your cross, and follow him;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

**DISMISSAL RESPONSES** -

Lord, grant us simplicity of faith
**And a generosity of service**
That gives without counting cost
**A life overflowing with Grace**
Poured out from the One, Who gave everything
**That we might show the power of love to a broken world**And share the truth From a living Word
**Lord, grant us simplicity of faith and a yearning to share it**Go in the peace of Christ. **Thanks be to God**