

ASH WEDNESDAY LITURGY - 2022
CONFESSION, IMPOSITION OF ASHES, HOLY COMMUNION
(* Designates Evening Service Only)



MUSIC FOR MEDITATION

CALL TO LENTEN DEVOTION

*Choir Anthem "Speak to Me in Ashes" - Douglas Nolan

Brothers and sisters, as we begin our Lenten journey, let us remember what our Lord Jesus said:

[At the end of time] people will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory.
Therefore keep watch because you do not know when the Master will come back.
If he comes suddenly, do not let him find you sleeping. What I say to you, I say to everyone:
Keep Watch! *(Mark 13:26, 35-37)*

Almighty and eternal God, you hate nothing you have made and forgive the sins of all those
who return to you.

**Create in us new and contrite hearts, that lamenting our sins and acknowledging
our wretchedness, we may obtain from you, the God of all mercy, perfect forgiveness
and the gift of your Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

CONFESSION BEFORE GOD - PSALM 32:1-8, 12 *(Please Sit; Noon, Spoken, Evening, Chanted, LBW, p.230)*

Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, / **and whose sin is put away!**

Happy are they to whom the Lord imputes no guilt, / **and in whose spirit there is no guile!**

While I held my tongue, my bones withered away, / **because of my groaning all day long.**

For your hand was heavy upon me day and night / **my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.**

Then I acknowledged my sin to you, / **and did not conceal my guilt.**

I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord." / **Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.**

(Silent Confession is made for the sins that trouble one's conscience)

Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of trouble; / **when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them.**

You are my hiding-place; you preserve me from trouble; / **you surround me with shouts of deliverance.**

Be glad, you righteous and rejoice in the Lord; / **shout for joy, all who are true of heart.**

THE IMPOSITION OF ASHES *(Please Stand)*

As children of a fallen humanity, each of us shares in God's condemnation of sin.

We read in Genesis 2:

"The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it. And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."

And in Genesis 3:

"By the sweat of your brow you shall eat bread, until you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

Yet we also read in 2 Corinthians 5:

"God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. "

As we enter the season of Lent, we receive these ashes as a sign of our fallen, mortal nature. Yet they are marked on the brow in the form of a cross, a sign of Christ's forgiveness in which we place our hope. I bid you come forward now and begin your journey of Lenten self-denial, repentance and renewal.

(As worshipers come forward, the minister marks the sign of the cross in ashes on the forehead.)

THE PROMISE OF FORGIVENESS

Accomplish, O God, the work of your salvation in our lives, **that we may show forth your glory in the world.** By the cross and passion of your Son, our Lord, **bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.**

In the mercy of Almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for you, and for his sake, God forgives you all your sins. In the power of the Holy Spirit, keep watch for his coming all the days of your life; **through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

WORD, PRAYER, OFFERING *(Please Sit)*

2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

Matthew 6: 1-6, 16-21

Meditation

HYMN O Lord, throughout These Forty Days LBW #99

PRAYERS *(Please Stand)*

Hear us, Lord, as we begin our Lenten journey to the cross.

Help me to open my heart and mind to your holy presence.

Hear us, Lord, as we turn from the habits of our sinful nature.

Help me to heed the power of your Word as it speaks to my heart. Prick my conscience with your divine rebuke when I blatantly and willfully sin against your holy will.

Hear us, Lord, as we try to slow down and give more time and attention to you.

Help me to recognize that my first duty in life is to love you with all my heart, soul, mind and strength and to seek your kingdom first.

Hear us, Lord, as we seek to discipline our souls with prayerful study of your Scriptures.

Help me to turn away from my entertainments and busywork that I may seek your divine presence in the solitude of fervent prayer and focused study.

Hear us, Lord, as we try to forgive others as you have forgiven us.

Help me to so value Christ's blood shed on my behalf, that I offer the same mercy and forgiveness to those seeking my pardon.

Hear us, Lord, as we try to be the heart and hands of Christ in a hurting world.

Help me to see others as your precious creatures, to feel their pain, to see their trouble, to hear their cry and to bring Christ into their lives by my gracious words and acts of loving service.

Hear us, Lord, as we take up the cross of Jesus and follow him as true disciples.

Help me, O God, in this my Lenten journey, to live out my baptismal covenant to be your royal child. Let these 40 days of Lenten self-denial keep me focused on the one who alone can bring me into your eternal kingdom, Jesus Christ, my Lord. Amen

*OFFERING HYMN Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow LBW #565

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise him, all creatures here below;

Praise him above, ye heav'n-ly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

OFFERING PRAYER

Receive, O God, the labor of our hands and sighs of our hearts, tokens of our submission to your holy will. Make us useful in your Kingdom as we await the renewal of all things in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen

HOLY COMMUNION

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

We thank you, heavenly Father, that you love your whole creation and have given your Son to redeem our fallen and sinful world. Help us, who keep the Lenten fast, to resist the ancient foe and our sinful desires, and to walk humble paths of righteousness and holiness as we follow our Lord to his enthronement on the cross; and seeing there the work of your salvation on our behalf, help us come with joy and faith to the celebration of the Easter feast.

*Now, with the Church on earth and all the hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name, singing:

***Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might: Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

Institution / Lord's Prayer

***Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of 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 peace.**

DISTRIBUTION OF SACRAMENT *(Please Sit)*

(Penitential Psalms for meditation during Holy Communion: 6, 32, 38, 51, 102, 130 and 143)

POST COMMUNION PRAYER *(Please Stand)*

*CLOSING HYMN Lord Jesus, Think on Me LBW #309

THE PREDICTION OF THE PASSION

The Prediction of the Passion (based on Mark 10:33-34) recalls the determination of Christ as he journeys to Jerusalem and the cross. A bell is tolled at the end of each phrase, as the minister speaks the words of Jesus.

Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem... *(Bell)*

And the Son of man will be delivered to the chief priests and
the scribes, who will condemn him to death... *(Bell)*

And they will hand him over to the Gentiles who will mock him and
scourge him, and finally, they will crucify him... *(Bell)*

But on the third day, he will rise.

Worshippers exit the sanctuary in silence, bearing the ashes of their mortality as a sign of their devotion to Christ. All are invited by the Church to the observance of Lent, a season for self-examination and repentance through prayer, fasting, and charitable deeds; and by reading and meditating on God's holy Word.

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