

ASHES TO ASHES, DUST TO DUST

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Imposition of Ashes

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Sign Us With Ashes

Words: Mary Louise Bringle Music: Tony Alonso
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Psalm 51: Be Merciful, O Lord

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Gospel Acclamation from Mass of Light

Music: David Haas
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information and announcements here

Daily Bible Reading - Lent

The following are intended to be possible portions of Scripture for personal meditation during Lent. They have been selected to match the themes of worship throughout the Lenten season.

Ash Wed. Feb. 17

Gen. 1:1-19
Mark 1:1-13

Th Gen. 1:20-2:3
Mark 1:14-28

F Gen. 2:4-25
Mark 1:29-45

S Gen. 3:1-24
Mark 2:1-17

Lent 1 February 21

Gen. 4:1-26
Mark 2:18-28

M Gen. 6:1-7:5
Mark 3:1-19

T Gen. 7:11-8:12
Mark 3:20-35

W Gen. 8:13-9:17
Mark 4:1-20

Th Gen. 11:27-12:20
Mark 4:21-41

F Gen. 13:1-18
Mark 5:1-20

S Gen. 15:1-21
Mark 5:21-43

Lent 2 February 28

Gen. 16:1-9, 15-17:22
Mark 6:1-13

M Gen. 18:1-15
Mark 6:14-34

T Gen. 21:1-21
Mark 6:35-56

W Gen. 22:1-19
Mark 7:1-23

Th Gen. 24:1-31
Mark 7:24-37

F Gen. 24:32-52, 61-67
Mark 8:1-21

S Gen. 27:1-29
Mark 8:22-38

Lent 3 March 7

Gen. 27:30-45
Mark 9:1-13

M Gen. 29:1-30
Mark 9:14-32

T Gen. 35:1-29
Mark 9:33-50

W Gen. 37:1-36
Mark 10:1-12

Th Gen. 39:1-23
Mark 10:13-31

F Gen. 40:1-23
Mark 10:32-52

S Gen. 41:1-27
Mark 11:1-19

Lent 4 March 14

Gen. 41:28-57
Mark 11:20-33

M Gen. 42:1-34, 38
Mark 12:1-12

T Gen. 43:1-28
Mark 12:13-27

W Gen. 44:1-18, 32-34
Mark 12:28-44

Th Gen. 45:1-20, 24-28
Mark 13:1-23

F Gen. 47:1-31
Mark 13:24-37

S Gen. 49:29-50
Mark 14:1-11

Lent 5 March 21

Ex. 1:1-22
Mark 14:12-31

M Ex. 2:1-22
Mark 14:32-52

T Ex. 2:23-3:22
Mark 14:53-72

W Ex. 4:1-18
Mark 15:1-15

Th Ex. 4:19-31
Mark 15:16-32

F Ex. 5:1-6:1
Mark 15:33-47

S Ex. 7:1-25
Mark 16:1-20

Holy Week

Palm Sun. March 28

Ex. 8:1-32
Heb. 1:1-14

M Ex. 9:1-28
Heb. 2:1-18

T Ex. 9:29-10:20
Heb. 3:1-19

W Ex. 10:21-11:10
Heb. 4:1-16

Holy Thurs. April 1

Ex. 12:1-28
Heb. 5:1-14

Good Fri. April 2

Ex. 12:29-13:16
Heb. 6:1-20

Holy Sat. April 3

Ex. 13:17-14:9
Heb. 7:1-22

CLOSING HYMN — 588

Final verses are sung a cappella

Abide with Me



1 A - bide with me; fast falls the e - ven - tide.
2 Swift to its close ebbs out life's lit - tle day;
3 I need thy pres - ence ev - 'ry pass - ing hour.



The dark - ness deep - ens; Lord, with me a - bide.
Earth's joys grow dim; its glo - ries pass a - way.
What but thy grace can foil the tempt - er's pow'r?



When oth - er help - ers fail and com - forts flee,
Change and de - cay in all a - round I see;
Who like thy - self my guide and stay can be?



Help of the help - less, oh, a - bide with me!
O thou who chang - est not, a - bide with me!
Through cloud and sun - shine, oh, a - bide with me!

- 4 I fear no foe with thee at hand to bless;
Ills have no weight and tears no bitterness.
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory?
I triumph still if thou abide with me.
- 5 Hold thou thy cross before my closing eyes;
Shine through the gloom and point me to the skies.
Heav'n's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee;
In life, in death, O Lord, abide with me!

The Season of Lent

Ash Wednesday is the beginning of the season in the Church Year known as Lent.

The word Lent comes from an Old English word for Spring ("lengten," the time of the year when the days grow longer). For the last 1700 years, the Church has set aside the 40 days between Ash Wednesday and Easter as a time of special preparation. It is a time of repentance and renewal.

During Lent, our rejoicing is muted as we remember our Lord's suffering and death. But it is with a purpose: we know that the Lord who died took up his life again on Easter Sunday morning. So our 40 days of Lent are ones lived in the certain hope of the resurrection.

The color of the season is purple. Purple is the ancient color of royalty. We have this kind of king: he wore a crown of thorns, and carried a cross for us. Thanks be to God!

For the precise counters in the congregation, the Church speaks of *40 days of Lent* because they did not count the Sundays, which retained their significance as "little Easters."

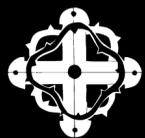


Lenten Art

The cover art, produced by liturgical artist Steven Erpsamer, makes use of common Lenten symbols within the Christian church:

- ✘ Bones — Bones and skeletons were used commonly on Ash Wednesday. It is meant to remind us that because of sin, death is inevitable.
- ✘ Fish and pretzel bread — This was a common Lenten meal. By the fifth century, many Christians would engage in a "Lenten fast," abstaining from all meats but fish. They would also shape their bread dough to look like crossed arms, the traditional posture of prayer before meals back then. The term for these little loaves of bread was *pretiola*, from where we get *pretzel*.
- ✘ Palm branches — Used in the celebratory processional of Palm Sunday, palm branches were a sign of rejoicing. In our cover art, they are on fire. That is because traditionally the ashes for Ash Wednesday are made from the burned crushed palms from the previous Lent.

Thus, our cover art pictures the cycle of Lent: Ash Wednesday, the 40 days, and Holy Week, which gives us the ashes for the following year.



A SERVICE OF REPENTANCE

This service offers the congregation a form of worship that focuses on the penitential nature of faith. Believers turn from their sin and turn to the salvation that is found only in Christ.

✠ The Gathering ✠

OPENING HYMN — 124

Savior When In Dust To You



1 Sav - ior, when in dust to you Low we bow in
2 By your help - less in - fant years, By your life of
3 By your hour of dire de - spair, By your ag - o -
4 By your deep ex - pir - ing groan, By the sad se -



hom - age due, When, re - pen - tant, to the skies
want and tears, By your days of deep dis - tress
ny of prayer, By the cross, the nail, the thorn,
pul - chral stone, By the vault whose dark a - bode



Scarce we lift our weep - ing eyes; Oh, by all your
In the sav - age wil - der - ness, By the dread, mys -
Pierc - ing spear, and tor - turing scorn, By the gloom that
Held in vain the ris - ing God, Oh, from earth to



pains and woe Suf - fered once for us be - low, Bend - ing
te - rious hour Of th' in - sult - ing tempt - er's pow'r, Turn, oh,
veiled the skies O'er the dread - ful sac - ri - fice, Lis - ten
heav'n re - stored, Might - y, re - as - cend - ed Lord, Bend - ing

✠ The Prayers ✠

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Prayers and petitions are offered on behalf of the Church

M: Finally, O Lord, we ask you to grant us newness of life in Jesus Christ, in whose name we bring these and all our petitions. It is he who taught us to pray.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**C: 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 the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.**

BLESSING

M: 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.

C: Amen.

M: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

C: In the name of Christ. Amen.

M: Go in the peace of Christ.

C: Thanks be to God.

LENTEN CONFESSION OF FAITH

This is what the Bible teaches and, therefore, what we believe.

We believe in Jesus Christ;

He is the true God from all eternity —
almighty, all-knowing, present in all places.

He is a man from Nazareth —
weak in the flesh, fearful of future sorrow, tortured by pain.

He was tempted like us, yet like we will never know.

But he triumphed over temptation;
he refrained from his full might and glory;
he submitted humbly to the Father's will;
he chose death, to give us life.

We believe that our sins anger God, each one of them:

big and small, public and private,
those that hurt others,
those that don't appear to hurt anyone,
those we don't even remember.

We believe that Jesus lived and died for the sins of the world.

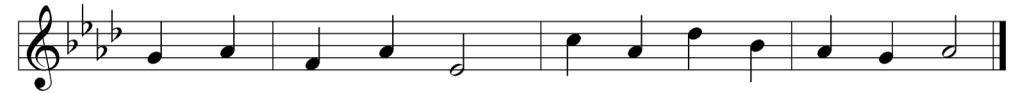
He resisted every temptation;
he reached out in love, to anyone in need;
he remained pure in every thought,
not just to be a good person,
not just to be a good example,
but to be mankind's perfect Savior and Substitute,
to live the Law in our place,
so that the Law will not condemn us.

He submitted to shame;
he suffered unjust punishment;
he sacrificed Himself,
not to prove a point,
not just to show us how to obey,
but to take mankind's sentence for sin,
as our perfect Savior and Substitute.

He is our sure hope and salvation.

This is what the Bible says;
therefore, this is what we believe.

THANK OFFERING



from your throne on high, Hear our pen - i - ten - tial cry!
turn a fav - 'ring eye, Hear our pen - i - ten - tial cry!
to our hum - ble sigh, Hear our pen - i - ten - tial cry!
from your throne on high, Hear our pen - i - ten - tial cry!

INSTRUCTION FOR THE BEGINNING OF LENT

M: Brothers and sisters in Christ, God created us to know joy in communion with him, to love all humanity, and to live in harmony with all creation. But sin separates us from God, our neighbors, and creation, and so we do not enjoy the life our Creator intended for us. By our sin we grieve our Father, who does not desire us to come under his judgment but to turn to him and live. Therefore, God in his mercy has sent our Lord Jesus Christ to take our place under the law, to suffer for us, and to die the death we deserve. God made Jesus, who had no sin, to be sin for us so that in him, we might become the righteousness of God.

During the 40 days of Lent, we fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of God. The time of Lent reminds us that to know Christ and the power of his resurrection, we must also know the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death. As disciples of the Lord Jesus, we are called to struggle against everything that leads us away from love of God and neighbor.

I invite you, therefore, to confess your sins, ask our Father for forgiveness, and commit yourselves to this struggle. Let us be silent. Let us be still. Let us pause now for a time of reflection and self-examination.

Silence for reflection and self-examination

CONFESSION OF SINS

M: Most holy and merciful Father,

C: We confess to you and to one another that we have sinned by our own fault, by our own grievous fault in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.

M: We have not loved you with our whole heart and mind and strength.
We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We have not forgiven others as we have been forgiven.

C: Have mercy on us, Lord.

M: We have been deaf to your call to serve as Christ served us.
We have not been true to the mind of Christ.
We have grieved the Holy Spirit.

C: Have mercy on us, Lord.

M: We confess to you, Lord, all our past unfaithfulness.
The pride, hypocrisy, and impatience in our lives

C: We confess to you, O Lord.

M: Our self-indulgent appetites and ways,
our manipulation of other people

C: We confess to you, O Lord.

M: Our anger when our selfish aims are denied
and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves

C: We confess to you, O Lord.

M: Our love of worldly goods and comforts
and our dishonesty in daily life and work

C: We confess to you, O Lord.

HYMN OF THE DAY — 396

In Adam We Have All Been One



1 In Ad - am we have all been one, One
2 We fled our God, and los - ing him, We
3 But your strong love, it sought us still And
4 O Sav - ior, when we loved you not, You
5 Send us your Spir - it; teach us truth To



huge re - bel - lious man; We all have fled that
lost our broth - er too. Each sin - gly sought and
sent your on - ly Son That we might hear his
loved and saved us all; O great good Shep - herd
purge our van - i - ty. From fan - cied wis - dom,



eve - ning voice That sought us as we ran.
claimed his own; Each man his broth - er slew.
shep - herd - voice And, hear - ing him, be one.
of man - kind, Oh, hear us when we call.
self - sought ways, O Sav - ior, set us free.

6 Then shall our song united rise
To your eternal throne,
Where with the Father evermore
And Spirit you are one.

SERMON

GOSPEL

Luke 18:9-14

⁹To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everybody else, Jesus told this parable: ¹⁰"Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. ¹¹The Pharisee stood up and prayed about himself: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other men—robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector. ¹²I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.'

¹³"But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, 'God, have mercy on me, a sinner.'

¹⁴"I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."

M: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

M: Our negligence in worship and prayer
and our failure to show the faith that is in us

C: We confess to you, O Lord.

M: Forgive us, Lord, for the wrongs we have done.
For our blindness to human need and suffering
and our indifference to injustice and cruelty,

C: Forgive us, O Lord.

M: For all false judgments,
for uncharitable thoughts toward others,
and for our prejudice and contempt for those who differ from us,

C: Forgive us, O Lord.

M: For what we think or say or do
that is at variance with your will,

C: Forgive us, O Lord.

M: Restore us, good Lord,
and let your anger depart from us.

C: Hear us, Lord, for your mercy is great.



IMPOSITION OF ASHES

At this time, the usher will direct anyone who desires to receive the imposition of ashes forward.
Baptized children may come forward at their parents' discretion.

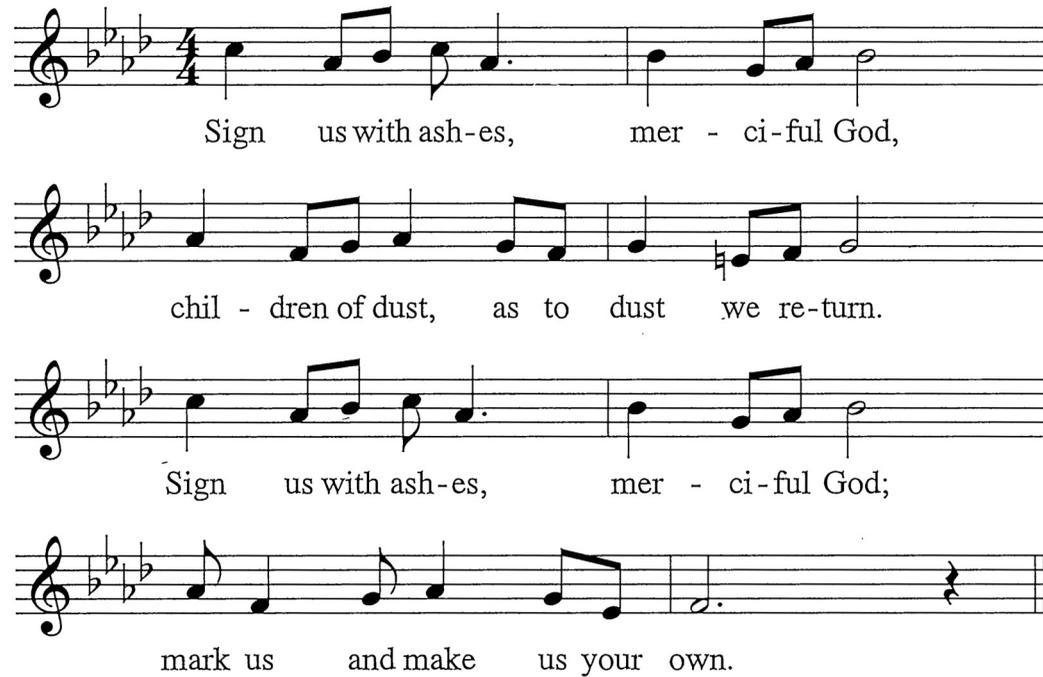
The minister applies ashes to the forehead in the form of a small cross, saying:

M: Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.

As the imposition of ashes takes place, the congregation joins in singing "Sign us with Ashes."

S(oloist): Refrain

C(ongregation): Refrain



Sign us with ash-es, mer - ci-ful God,
chil - dren of dust, as to dust we re-turn.
Sign us with ash-es, mer - ci-ful God;
mark us and make us your own.

S: Surely, you alone can save us. You pay our price with your precious blood.
Reaching through your great compassion, you lift up your people with love.

C: Refrain

VERSE OF THE DAY

Joel 2:13

M: Refrain

C: Refrain



Glo-ry to you, O Word of God, Lord Je - sus Christ!

M: Return to the Lord, your God, for he is
gracious, merciful, and abounding in love.

C: Refrain (sung twice)



SECOND LESSON

⁸Even if I caused you sorrow by my letter, I do not regret it. Though I did regret it—I see that my letter hurt you, but only for a little while—⁹yet now I am happy, not because you were made sorry, but because your sorrow led you to repentance. For you became sorrowful as God intended and so were not harmed in any way by us. ¹⁰Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death. ¹¹See what this godly sorrow has produced in you: what earnestness, what eagerness to clear yourselves, what indignation, what alarm, what longing, what concern, what readiness to see justice done. At every point you have proved yourselves to be innocent in this matter. ¹²So even though I wrote to you, it was not on account of the one who did the wrong or of the injured party, but rather that before God you could see for yourselves how devoted to us you are. ¹³By all this we are encouraged.

2 Corinthians 7:8-13

S: Surely, you alone uphold us. You give us strength for all our needs. Shielding with a father's favor, you bless us with pardon and peace.

C: Refrain

S: Surely, you alone can heal us. Yours is the will to make us whole. Soothing with a mother's kindness, the contrite of heart, you console.

C: Refrain

S: Surely, you alone can free us. You break the bonds of guilt and sin. Bracing, till we walk uprightly, you bolster our hope once again.

C: Refrain

S: Surely, you alone refine us. You give us grace for lives made new, Forging, through your fire and radiance, a sacrifice worthy of you.

C: Refrain

S: Surely, you alone redeem us. You fill our dust with holy breath. Bursting from the grave in glory, you rise from the ashes of death.

C: Refrain

After all who desire have received ashes, the minister says:

M: Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation

C: That we may show forth your glory in the world.

M: By the cross and suffering of your Son, O Lord,

C: Bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.

ABSOLUTION

M: Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, does not desire the death of sinners but rather that they turn from their wickedness and live. Therefore, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son \dagger and of the Holy Spirit. During these days of Lent, let us implore God to give us renewal and his Holy Spirit. May we continue to abide in the true faith and at the last be received by him through the merits of Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

✘ **The Word** ✘

M: Almighty and merciful God,
you never despise what you have made
and always forgive those who turn to you.
Create in us such new and contrite hearts
that we may truly repent of our sins
and obtain your full and gracious pardon;
through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

FIRST LESSON

⁴ They traveled from Mount Hor along the route to the Red Sea, to go around Edom. But the people grew impatient on the way; ⁵ they spoke against God and against Moses, and said, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the desert? There is no bread! There is no water! And we detest this miserable food!"

⁶ Then the LORD sent venomous snakes among them; they bit the people and many Israelites died. ⁷ The people came to Moses and said, "We sinned when we spoke against the LORD and against you. Pray that the LORD will take the snakes away from us." So Moses prayed for the people.

⁸ The LORD said to Moses, "Make a snake and put it up on a pole; anyone who is bitten can look at it and live." ⁹ So Moses made a bronze snake and put it up on a pole. Then when anyone was bitten by a snake and looked at the bronze snake, he lived.

Numbers 21:4-9

PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalm 51

M: Refrain

C: Refrain

Be mer-ci-ful, O Lord, for we have sinned; be
mer-ci-ful, O Lord, for we have sinned.

M: Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness,
in your compassion, blot out my offense.
Oh, wash me more and more from my guilt and my sorrow,
and cleanse me from all of my sin.

C: Refrain

M: My offenses, truly I know them,
and my sins are always before me;
Against you alone have I sinned, O Lord;
what is evil in your sight I have done.

C: Refrain

M: Create in me a clean heart, O God,
put your steadfast spirit within me.
Cast me not away from your presence, O Lord,
and take not your Spirit from me.

C: Refrain

M: Restore to me the joy of your salvation;
let your willing Spirit bear me up,
and I shall teach your way to the ones who have wandered,
and bring them all home to your side.

C: Refrain