

Fr.Jack  
Clare  
Janice

## Ash Wednesday Liturgy with Ashing



### 1. *The priest welcomes the people...*

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen**

Save your people, Lord, and bless your inheritance:  
**govern and uphold them now and always.**

Keep us this night, Lord, from all sin:  
**have mercy on us, Lord, have mercy.**

In you Lord is our hope :  
**Let us not be confounded at the last.**

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.

*We sing...*

**Father, hear the prayer we offer:  
not for ease that prayer shall be,  
but for strength that we may ever  
live our lives courageously.**

**Not for ever in green pastures  
do we ask our way to be;  
but the steep and rugged pathway  
may we tread rejoicingly.**

**Not for ever by still waters  
would we idly rest and stay;  
but would smite the living fountains  
from the rocks along our way.**

**Be our strength in hours of weakness,  
in our wonderings be our guide;  
through endeavour, failure, danger,  
Father, be thou at our side.**

Let us pray for grace to keep Lent faithfully.

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;  
We ask this through Christ, our liberator from sin,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
holy and mighty God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

*2 Please sit for the ministry of the Word.*

A reading from the prophet Joel.

**2:**<sup>1</sup> Blow the trumpet in Zion; sound the alarm on my holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble, for the day of the LORD is coming, it is near - <sup>2</sup> a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness! Like blackness spread upon the mountains a great and powerful army comes; their like has never been from of old, nor will be again after them in ages to come.

<sup>12</sup> Yet even now, says the LORD, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; <sup>13</sup> rend your hearts and not your clothing. Return to the LORD, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing.

<sup>14</sup> Who knows whether he will not turn and relent, and leave a blessing behind him, a grain-offering and a drink-offering for the LORD, your God?

<sup>15</sup> Blow the trumpet in Zion; sanctify a fast; call a solemn assembly; <sup>16</sup> gather the people. Sanctify the congregation; assemble the aged; gather the children, even infants at the breast. Let the bridegroom leave his room, and the bride her canopy. <sup>17</sup> Between the vestibule and the altar let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep. Let them say, Spare your people, O LORD, and do not make your heritage a mockery, a byword among the nations. Why should it be said among the peoples, "Where is their God?"

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Have mer-cy on us, Lord, for we have sinned.*

**Have mercy on us, O Lord, for we have sinned.**

Have mercy upon me, O God, in | your great love,  
in your compassion blot out | my offences:  
Wash me thoroughly | from my guilt,  
And cleanse me | from my sin. **R/**

To you I con- | fess my faults,  
For they ever stare me | in the face:  
Against you it is that | I have sinned,  
And done evil | in your sight. **R/**

Make me a clean | heart, O God,  
And renew a right spir- | it within me:  
Cast me not out | of your sight,  
Nor take your holy | spirit from me. **R/**

Uphold me | with your might,  
And strengthen me with | perseverance:  
Open my | lips, O Lord,  
And my mouth shall de- | clare your praise. **R/**

*We stand for the Gospel Acclamation :*

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

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

**6:**Jesus said to the disciples, <sup>1</sup> '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. <sup>2</sup> 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. <sup>3</sup> But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, <sup>4</sup> so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. <sup>5</sup> 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. <sup>6</sup> 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.

<sup>16</sup> 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. <sup>17</sup> But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, <sup>18</sup> 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. <sup>19</sup> Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; <sup>20</sup> but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. <sup>21</sup> For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*After the Gospel reading, please sit for the Sermon.*

*After the sermon we keep a moment of silence, before standing to sing*

**Change my heart, O God,**

**Make it ever true;**

**Change my heart, O God,**

**May I be like You.**

**You are the potter,**

**I am the clay;**

**Mould me and make me,**

**This is what I pray.**

Eddie Espinosa.

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*The Liturgy of Penitence*

### **3. SELF- EXAMINATION & CONFESSION**

*The priest now leads a corporate examination of conscience.*

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

God the Father,  
**have mercy upon us.**

God the Son,  
**us.**

God the Holy Spirit,  
**have mercy upon us.**

Holy, blessed and glorious Trinity,  
**have mercy upon us.**

From all evil and mischief;  
from pride, vanity, and hypocrisy;  
from envy, hatred, and malice;  
and from all evil intent,  
**good Lord, deliver us.**

From sloth, worldliness and love of money;  
from hardness of heart  
and contempt for your word and your laws,  
**good Lord, deliver us.**

From sins of body and mind;  
from the deceits of the world, the flesh and the devil,  
**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,  
**good Lord, deliver us.**

By the mystery of your holy incarnation;  
childhood and obedience;  
by your baptism, fasting and temptation,  
**good Lord, deliver us.**

By your ministry in word and work;  
by your mighty acts of power;  
and by your preaching of the kingdom,  
**good Lord, deliver us.**

By your agony and trial;  
by your cross and passion;  
and by your precious death and burial,  
**good Lord, deliver us.**

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

#### **4. THE IMPOSITION OF ASHES**

Dear friends in Christ, I invite you to receive these ashes  
as a sign of the spirit of penitence  
with which we shall keep this season of Lent.

God our Father,  
you create us from the dust of the earth:  
grant that these ashes may be for us a sign of our penitence  
and a symbol of our mortality;  
for it is by your grace alone that we receive eternal life  
in Jesus Christ our Saviour. **Amen.**

*The priest says:*

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

Turn away from sin and be faithful to Christ.

Repent and believe the Gospel.

Ash is sprinkled over the heads of those present

At the end of the Imposition we keep a moment of silence.

We sing...

**Adoramus te Christe benedicimus tibi  
quia per crucem tuam redemisti mundem,  
quia per crucem tuam redemisti mundem. Taize**

## Adoramus te Christe

♩ = 60

A - do - ra - mus te Chri - ste be - ne - di - ci - mus ti - bi,

qui - a per cru - cem tu - am re - de - mi - sti mun - dum,

qui - a per cru - cem tu - am re - de - mi - sti mun - dum.

♪ **We adore you, Je-sus Christ**, and we bless your Ho-ly Name; tru-ly your cross and pas-sion bring us life and hea-ling.

Music: J. Berthier  
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*The Priest then pronounces the Assurance of Forgiveness -  
The Absolution :*

Our Lord Jesus Christ,  
who has left power to his Church to absolve all sinners  
who truly repent and believe in him,  
of his great mercy forgive you your offenses  
and by his authority committed to me, I absolve you from all your sins,  
in the name of the Father, (+) and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

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

**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,**  
**the power and the glory,**  
**for ever and ever. Amen.**

God of compassion,  
through your Son Jesus Christ  
you have reconciled your people to yourself.  
As we follow his example of prayer and fasting,  
may we obey you with willing hearts  
and serve one another in holy love;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*Please stand to sing*

**Forty days and forty nights  
thou wast fasting in the wild;  
forty days and forty nights  
tempted, and yet undefiled:**

**Shall not we thy sorrows share,  
and from earthly joys abstain,  
unceasing prayer,  
glad with thee to suffer pain?**

**When any sore,  
flesh or spirit should assail,  
thou, his vanquisher before,  
may not faint nor fail.**

**Keep, O keep us, Saviour dear,  
stant by thy side;  
that with thee we may appear  
at the eternal Eastertide.**

## **8. THE BLESSING AND DISMISSAL.**

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.**

Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, "Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost." Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous people who need no repentance. *Luke 15: 4-7*

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

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,  
come down upon you, and remain with you,  
now and always. **Amen.**

May Christ, who bore our sins on the cross  
set us free to serve him with joy.

Go in his peace.  
**Thanks be to God.**

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