

All: **therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin,
all the Angels and Saints,
and you, my brothers and sisters,
to pray for me to the Lord our God.**

Leader: May almighty God have mercy on us,
forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

All: **Amen.**

OPENING PRAYER

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING: Joel 2:12-18 *Sit*

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Psalm 50

Response: **Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.**

SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 5:20- 6:2

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: *Stand*

All: **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, King of endless glory!
If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, King of endless glory!**

GOSPEL: Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18

SHARED REFLECTION *Sit*

BLESSING AND DISTRIBUTION OF ASHES

Leader: Dear friends in Christ, let us implore God our Father
to renew us in spirit as these ashes are placed on our heads
as a sign of repentance.

Lord, you do not wish sinners to die but to turn to you and live.
In your goodness hear our prayer:

Pour out your blessing on these ashes,
which we place on our heads to remind us
that we are dust and unto dust we shall return.

Grant that by our faithful observance of Lent
we may gain pardon for our sins
and newness of life in the image of your risen Son.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: **Amen.**

*The leader says the prayer for blessing the ashes. The ashes are
sprinkled with holy water, without saying anything. The leader
address all those present and only once says the formula, "Turn
away from sin and be faithful to the Gospel." The ashes are then
distributed.*

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

Stand

RITE OF THANKSGIVING

PRAYER OF PRAISE

Leader: Let us praise the Lord.
Praise to you, Father of mercies,
for in Christ's death and resurrection
you have set us free from sin
and offered us the promise of eternal life.
Your people give you glory:

All: **We praise your name, O God.**

Leader: Praise to you, Father of compassion,
you lift those who are bowed down
and give strength to those who suffer.
You sustain us on this Lenten pilgrimage.
Your people give you glory:

All: **We praise your name, O God.**

Leader: Praise to you, Father of love,
you sent your Son into the world
to be our Saviour and brother.
In him we are reconciled into your loving embrace.
Your people give you glory:

All: We praise your name, O God.

Leader: Praise to you, Father of all,
in Christ we hear the Word of truth,
the Gospel of salvation.
Christ's example of faithful service
is the pattern for Christian life.
Your people give you glory:

All: We praise your name, O God.

PRAYER FOR PEACE

CONCLUDING RITE

GREETING

Leader: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

BLESSING

Leader: May the Lord bless us and free us from evil ✠
so that we may be steadfast and serve him with all our hearts.

DISMISSAL

Leader: Let us go forth in peace, to spend this time of Lent worthily
that we might love and serve the Lord always.

All: Thanks be to God.

Acknowledgements

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ASSEMBLY OF THE WORD

ASH WEDNESDAY – YEAR B 2021

INTRODUCTORY RITES

GATHERING HYMN

Stand

Leader: Let us commence our prayer on this solemn day with the words of Scripture:

**All: Lord, you are merciful to all, and hate nothing you have created.
You overlook the sins of your people to call them to repentance.
You are the Lord our God.**

Wisdom 11:24-25,27

GREETING

Leader: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

Leader: Blessed be Jesus Christ, who in the greatness of his love
died for us while we were still sinners.
Bless the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.

All: Blessed be God forever.

WELCOME

PENITENTIAL RITE

Leader: As we prepare to listen to the Word of God, we confess that we are sinners. Let us ask the Lord for pardon and strength.

**All: I confess to almighty God and to you, my brothers and sisters,
that I have greatly sinned, in my thoughts and in my words,
in what I have done and in what I have failed to do,
through my fault, through my fault, *(striking the breast)*
through my most grievous fault;**