

Order for Ash Wednesday @ Home Devotions

Before starting your devotions, make sure you have the ashes already mixed. Please follow instructions provided inside your ash packet.

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

Prayer

Heavenly Father, Blessed One, have mercy on us. Lord, as we repent our sins to You. We have been deficient in Your glory and without your mercy and grace, we would be non-existent. Father, we repent now. Lord, as we embark onto this Lenten season, be close to us. Help us Lord, through Your Holy Spirit, to believe in what is right and in repentance for our sin. Help us, by your Spirit, to have the strength to defeat the enemy. Thank you, Father, that Easter is arriving! Death has no power, no victory, because of Jesus! Glory and honor and praise be to His Name! Lord, thank you for rescuing us. Help us appreciate both the importance and the joy of this season in our hearts and as we move through the next several weeks. Help us bear the good fruit of Your Spirit.

Father, thank you, for the ashes on our forehead do not symbolize our ultimate reality. We might have been formed from the dust, but our bodies, our spirits, ourselves, await beautiful redemption and the restoration of all things. Help us wait and look forward to that day, and let it come quickly, Lord Jesus. Amen.

Readings

Joel 2: 1-2, 12-17

Psalm 51: 1-17

2 Corinthians 5: 20b-6:10

Matthew 6: 1-6, 16-21



Hymn of the Day

ELW #606

“Our Father, We Have Wandered”

Our Father, we have wandered and hidden from your face; in foolishness have squandered your legacy of grace. But now, in exile dwelling, we rise with fear and shame, as, distant but compelling, we hear you call our name.

And now at length discerning the evil that we do, behold us, Lord, returning with hope and trust to you. In haste you come to meet us, and home rejoicing bring, in gladness there to greet us with calf and robe and ring.

O Lord of all the living, both banished and restored, compassionate, forgiving, and ever caring Lord, grant now that our transgressing, our faithlessness may cease. Stretch out your hand in blessing, in pardon, and in peace.

Confession of Sins

Most holy and merciful God, we (I) confess to you and to one another, and before the whole company of heaven, that we (I) have sinned by our (my) fault, by our (my) own fault, by our (my) own most grievous fault, in thought, word, and deed, by what we (I) have done and by what we (I) have left undone.

Imposition of Ashes

***Mark a cross on your forehead or on each other's foreheads. As you do this say the following words: "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return."**

***Having received the ashes, say the following prayer:**

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

Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life.

Closing Prayer

Merciful God, accompany our journey through these forty days. Renew us in the gift of baptism, that we may provide for those who are poor, pray for those in need, fast from self-indulgence, and above all that we may find our treasure in the life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.