



## ASH WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 17, 2021

### Entrance Antiphon

You are merciful to all, O Lord, and despise nothing that you have made. You overlook people's sins, to bring them to repentance, and you spare them, for you are the Lord our God.

### Opening Hymn

The glory of these forty days We celebrate with songs of praise; For Christ, by whom all things were made, Himself has fasted and has prayed.

Alone and fasting Moses saw The loving God who gave the law; And to Elijah, fasting, came The steeds and chariots of flame.

Then grant that we like them be true, Consumed in fast and pray'r with you; Our spirits strengthen with your grace, And give us joy to see your face.

O Father, Son, and Spirit blest, To you be ev'ry pray'r addressed; Who are in threefold Name adored, From age to age the only Lord.

### First Reading J1 2:12-18

Even now, says the LORD, return to me with your whole heart, with fasting, and weeping, and mourning; Rend your hearts, not your garments, and return to the LORD, your God. For gracious and merciful is he, slow to anger, rich in kindness, and relenting in punishment. Perhaps he will again relent and leave behind him a blessing, Offerings and libations for the LORD, your God.

Blow the trumpet in Zion! proclaim a fast, call an assembly; Gather the people, notify the congregation; Assemble the elders, gather the children and the infants at the breast; Let the bridegroom quit his room and the bride her chamber. Between the porch and the altar let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep, And say, "Spare, O LORD, your people, and make not

your heritage a reproach, with the nations ruling over them! Why should they say among the peoples, "Where is their God?"

Then the LORD was stirred to concern for his land and took pity on his people.

### Responsorial:

Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.

### Second Reading 2 Cor 5:20-6:2

Brothers and sisters: We are ambassadors for Christ, as if God were appealing through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who did not know sin, so that we might become the righteousness of God in him.

Working together, then, we appeal to you not to receive the grace of God in vain. For he says:

*In an acceptable time I heard you,  
and on the day of salvation I helped you.*

Behold, now is a very acceptable time; behold, now is the day of salvation.

### Gospel MT 6:1-6, 16-18

Jesus said to his disciples: "Take care not to perform righteous deeds in order that people may see them; otherwise, you will have no recompense from your heavenly Father. When you give alms, do not blow a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets to win the praise of others. Amen, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right is doing, so that your almsgiving may be secret. And your Father who sees in secret will repay you.

"When you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, who love to stand and pray in the synagogues and on street corners so that others may see them.

Amen, I say to you, they have received their reward.

But when you pray, go to your inner room, close the door, and pray to your Father in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will repay you.

“When you fast, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites. They neglect their appearance, so that they may appear to others to be fasting. Amen, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, so that you may not appear to be fasting, except to your Father who is hidden. And your Father who sees what is hidden will repay you.”

### **Blessing of Ashes**

After the homily, the Priest joins his hands and says:

Dear brethren (brothers and sister), let us humbly ask God our Father that he be pleased to bless with the abundance of his grace these ashes, which we will put on our heads in penitence.

Pause for silent prayer.

### **Distribution of Ashes**

After blessing the ashes and sprinkling them with holy water in silence, the priest addresses those present, reciting once the formula found in the Roman Missal: “**Repent, and believe in the Gospel**” or “**Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return**”. At that point, the note continues, the priest “cleanses his hands, puts on a face mask, and distributes ashes to those who come to him or, if appropriate, he goes to those who are standing in their places.” He then sprinkles the ashes on each person’s head “without saying anything”.

### **Offertory/Communion Hymn**

O Lord, I am not worthy That thou should'st come to me; But speak the word of comfort, My spirit healed shall be.

And humbly I'll receive thee, The Bridegroom of my soul, No more by sin to grieve thee Or fly thy sweet control.

Eternal Holy Spirit, Unworthy though I be, Prepare me to receive him And trust the Word to me.

Increase my faith, dear Jesus, In thy real presence here, And make me feel most deeply That thou to me art near.

### **Communion Antiphon**

He who ponders the law of the Lord day and night will yield fruit in due season.

### **Closing Hymn**

Forty days and forty nights You were fasting in the wild; Forty days and forty nights Tempted, and yet undefiled.

Shall not we your sorrow share And from worldly joys abstain, Fasting with unceasing prayer, Strong with you to suffer pain?

Then if Satan on us press, Flesh or spirit to assail, Victor in the wilderness, Grant we may not faint nor fail!



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