

ASH WEDNESDAY

Prayers and Readings

First Reading

Jl 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 Psalm Ps 95:1-2, 3-4, 5-6

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

1. Have mercy on my, O God, in your goodness; in the greatness of your compassion wipe out my offense. Thoroughly wash me from my guilt and of my sin cleanse me. **Response**
2. Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned. For I acknowledge my offense, and my sin is before me always: "Against you only have I sinned, and done what is evil in your sight." **Response**
3. A clean heart create for me, O God, and a steadfast spirit renew within me. Cast me not out from your presence, and your Holy Spirit take not from me. **Response**
4. Give me back the joy of your salvation, and a willing spirit sustain in me. O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Response

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

Mk 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."

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Music

ENTRANCE SONG

Again We Keep This Solemn Fast

1. Again we keep this solemn fast, A gift of faith from ages past, This Lent which binds us lovingly To faith and hope and charity
2. The law and prophets from of old In figured ways this Lent foretold; Which Christ, all ages' Lord and Guide, In these last days has sanctified.
3. More sparing, therefore, let us make The words we speak, the food we take, Our sleep, our laughter, ev'ry sense; Learn peace through holy penitence.

Chant for the Distribution of Ashes:

Ashes to Ashes

Refrain: Ashes to ashes, from dust unto dust. The cross on our forehead, your promise, O God.

Ready us to follow the way of your Son, to rise from these ashes, redeemed in the fire of your love.

1. Sound the trumpet in Zion, announce from the Lord that the day of God's favor is ever close at hand.
2. Rend your hearts, not your garments; return to the Lord, who delights when we offer a truly humble heart.
3. We have seen in the heavens and held in our arms what the hand of our Maker can fashion out of dust.
4. Let us fast from unkindness and turn from our greed, giving bread to the hungry and lifting up the poor.
5. Though this life that we treasure must fade like the grass, heaven's glory awaits those who put their trust in God.

OFFERTORY SONG

Attende Domine, Have Mercy on us Lord

Refrain: Have mercy on us, Lord, Jesus our Savior: Burdened with sin, we implore you!

1. O great Redeemer, King of all creation, As we are sinners, we deserve your judgement: Jesus, be gracious; hear our prayer of sorrow.
2. Exalted Savior, Cornerstone of heaven, Gate of salvation, Way to life immortal: Send forth your Spirit; heal your humbled people!

COMMUNION SONGS

Beyond the Days

Refrain: Beyond the days of hope and myst'ry we see a light of faith renewed, and in our longing we thirst for guidance to walk with you day by day.

1. Forty days and nights, you guide the steps of our journey. May your presence be felt in the whisper of your voice.
2. Not on bread alone are we to walk on this journey. Speak the words that give life to the yearnings of our hearts.
3. In your hands, O God, we feel the touch of your guidance. Keep us safe in your care: may your gentleness be there.
4. On our Lenten path we see the dawn of a new day. Be our vision of hope; be the promise of our lives.

Final Refrain: Beyond the days of hope and myst'ry we see a light of faith renewed, and in our longing we thirst for guidance to walk with you day by day, to walk with you day by day.

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

1. Let all mortal flesh keep silence, And with fear and trembling stand; Ponder nothing earthly-minded, For with blessing in his hand Christ our God to earth descendeth, Our full homage to demand.
2. King of kings, yet born of Mary, As of old on earth he stood, Lord of lords in human vesture; In the Body and the Blood He will give to all the faithful His own self for heav'nly food.
3. Rank on rank the host of heaven Spreads its vanguard on the way, As the Light of Light descendeth From the realms of endless day, That the pow'rs of hell may vanish As the darkness clears away.
4. At his feet the six-winged seraph; Cherubim with sleepless eye, Veil their faces to the Presence, As with ceaseless voice they cry, "Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, Lord Most High!"

CLOSING SONG

Blest Be the Lord

Refrain: Blest be the Lord; blest be the Lord, the God of mercy, the God who saves. I shall not fear the dark of night, nor the arrow that flies by day.

1. He will release me from the nets of all my foes. He will protect me from their wicked hands. Beneath the shadow of his wings I will rejoice To find a dwelling place secure.
2. I need not shrink before the terrors of the night, nor stand alone before the light of day. No harm shall come to me, no arrow strike me down, no evil settle in my soul.



PRAYER TO ST. JOSEPH

Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer,
Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.
To you God entrusted His only Son;
in you Mary placed her trust;
with you Christ became man. Blessed Joseph, to us
too, show yourself a father and guide us in the path
of life. Obtain for us grace, mercy, and courage,
and defend us from every evil. Amen.