

# 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."

# ASH WEDNESDAY

## Music

### ENTRANCE SONG

#### *Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days*

1. Lord, who throughout these forty days, For us did fast and pray, Teach us with you to mourn our sins, And close by you to stay.
2. As you with Satan did contend, And did the vict'ry win, O give us strength in you to fight, In you to conquer sin.
3. As you did hunger bear and thirst, So teach us, gracious Lord, To die to self, and always live By your most holy word.
4. And through these days of penitence, And through your Passiontide, Forevermore, in life and death, O Lord, with us abide.

### 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

#### *Hosea*

1. Come back to me with all your heart. Don't let fear keep us apart. Trees do bend, 'though straight and tall; so must we to others' call. Long have I waited for your coming home to me and living deeply our new life.
2. The wilderness will lead you to your heart where I will speak. Integrity and justice, with tenderness, you shall

### 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.

### CLOSING SONG

#### *In These Days of Lenten Journey*

Refrain: In these days of Lenten journey we have seen and we have heard the call to sow justice in the lives of those we serve.

1. We reach out to those who are homeless, to those who live without warmth. In the coolness of evening we'll shelter their dreams; we will clothe them in mercy and peace.
2. We open our eyes to the hungry, and see the faces of Christ. As we nourish all people who hunger for food, may their faith in our God be renewed.



### 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.