

**Singing Our Faith**  
**2nd Sunday of Lent – March 8, 2020**

## From Ashes to the Living Font



1. From ash - es to the liv - ing font Your
2. Through fast - ing, prayer, and char - i - ty Your
3. *Insert appropriate stanza*
4. From ash - es to the liv - ing font Your



Church must jour - ney, Lord, Bap - tized in grace, in  
voice speaks deep with - in, Re - turn - ing us to  
Church must jour - ney still, Through cross and tomb to



grace re - newed By your most ho - ly word.  
ways of truth And turn - ing us from sin.  
East - er joy, In Spir - it - fire ful - filled.

### **Year A**

#### **Sundays I & II**

3. From desert to the mountaintop  
In Christ our way we see,  
So, tempered by temptation's might  
We might transfigured be.

#### **Sunday III**

3. For thirsting hearts let waters flow,  
Our fainting souls revive;  
And at the well your waters give  
Our everlasting life.

#### **Sunday IV**

3. We sit beside the road and plead,  
"Come, save us, David's son!"  
Now with your vision heal our eyes,  
The world's true Light alone.

#### **Sunday V**

3. Our graves split open, bring us back,  
Your promise to proclaim;  
To darkened tombs call out, "Arise!"  
And glorify your name.

“Ritual” is a series of actions regularly performed—your morning routine, family dinner, Saturday morning chores, etc. Throughout the liturgical year, rituals help ground us in the sacred time we experience. In Lent, our Entrance Rite—derived from the word **Ritual**—has several components. While it may seem arduous, chanting the Confiteor (I confess to Almighty God...) forces us to use our ears more to sing at one pace as one body; we are focused intently on the words we are singing. This expresses the very nature of the confiteor: to be reconciled to God and with one another. The Kyrie we are singing during Lent is from the Requiem Mass (as is the Sanctus) which Mother Church prescribes as being proper to the season of Lent.

The hymn “From Ashes to the Living Font,” was commissioned by an RCIA director in the 90s who wanted a hymn that encompassed Lent, Easter, and Pentecost. Before diving into this text, a paraphrased quote from the Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy will help focus our thoughts about Lent: “The season of Lent has a twofold character: **recalling or preparing for baptism** and doing penance.”

In the first few words of the hymn “From ashes to the living font,” we are reminded that we are dust, but also that we are claimed by and for Christ in Baptism. This speaks to the baptized *and* those preparing for baptism. The second stanza mentions the three pillars of Lent: fasting, prayer, and almsgiving (Charity is an easier word to set to music!). These pillars “return us to ways of truth” and “turn us from sin,” realigning us with our baptismal promises. Stanza four is where the author slips in Easter and Pentecost language: “...through cross

and tomb to Easter joy, in Spirit-fire fulfilled.” We know that Easter is coming, and with that in mind, we should always be living in the hope of the resurrection.

Lent can seem dry, lifeless, stark, and bleak, but going through this annual **ritual** is necessary. Lent is a great gift! We are purified in mind, body, and spirit so we can fully experience the joys of Easter. Like purgatory, which also doesn’t sound very pleasant, we are made perfect for life in heaven—the ultimate “Easter experience.”

May we all have a blessed and fruitful Lent!

Stephen Eros

Director of Liturgy & Music