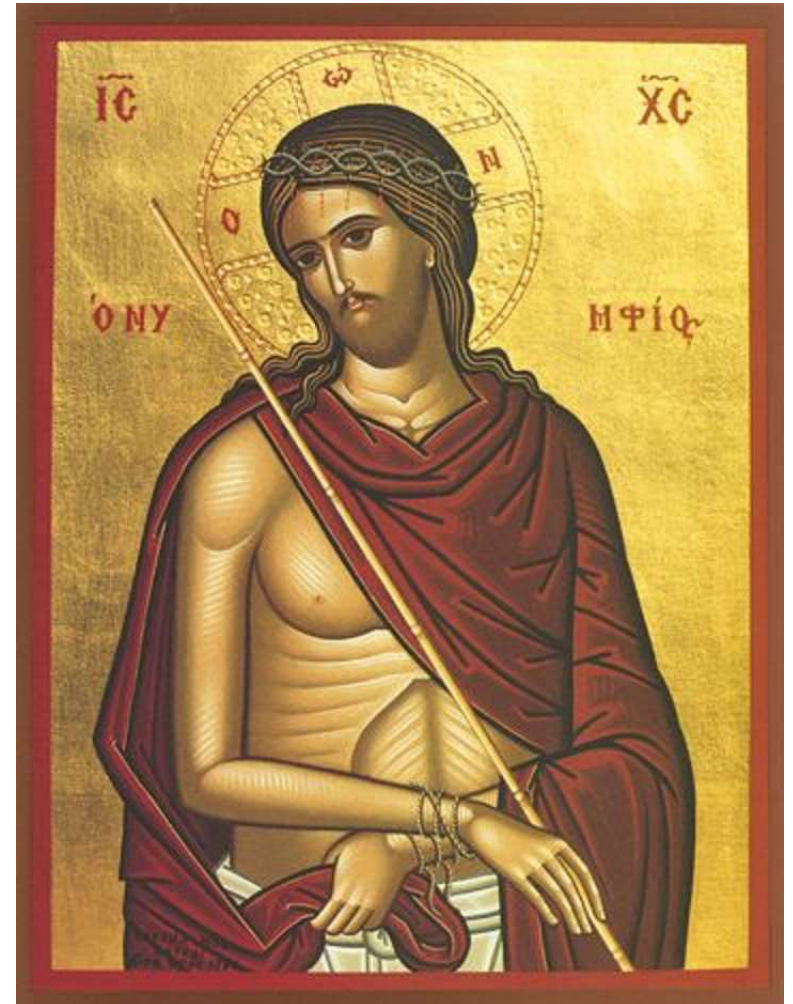


# Ash Wednesday



*"Take care not to perform righteous deeds  
in order that people may see them"*

(Cycle A, B, C)

## INTRODUCTORY RITES

### Opening Verse

**Lord, you are merciful to all,  
and hate nothing you have created.  
You overlook the sins of all  
to bring them to repentance.  
You are the Lord our God.**

### Greeting

Ÿ. In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Ŕ. Amen.**

Ÿ. The grace and peace of our Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the Love of God  
and the Fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you always.

**Ŕ. And also with you.**

## PENITENTIAL RITE

*Invitation to reflect on our faults and failings.*

Ÿ To prepare ourselves to celebrate these sacred mysteries,  
let us call to mind our faults and failings  
and ask our heavenly Father in his mercy  
for his healing and forgiveness.

*Pause for silent reflection.*

**I confess to almighty God  
and to you, my brothers and sisters  
that I have sinned  
in my thoughts and in my words  
in what I have done  
and in what I have failed to do;  
and I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin  
all the Angels and Saints,  
and you, my brothers and sisters,  
to pray for me to the Lord our God.**

Ÿ. This is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. Happy are those who are called to his supper.

**Ŕ. Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,  
but only say the word  
and I shall be healed.**

### Communion Verse

**Ŕ. The one who meditates day and night  
on the law of the Lord  
will yield fruit in due season.**

### Prayer after Communion

Ÿ. Let us pray.

*Pause for silent prayer.*

Lord,  
through this communion  
may our Lenten penance give you glory  
and bring us your protection.

We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord.

**Ŕ. Amen.**

## CONCLUDING RITES

### Blessing and Dismissal

Ÿ. The Lord be with you.

**Ŕ. And also with you.**

Ÿ. May almighty God bless you,  
the Father, and the Son, + and the Holy Spirit.

**Ŕ. Amen.**

Ÿ. The Mass is ended. Go in peace to love and serve the Lord..

**Ŕ. Thanks be to God.**

## COMMUNION LITURGY

### The Lord's Prayer

Ÿ. We pray confidently in the words our Savior taught us:

**Ŗ. Our Father who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come;  
thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses  
as we forgive those who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.**

Ÿ. Deliver us, Lord, from every evil, and grant us peace in our day. In your mercy keep us free from sin and protect us from all anxiety as we wait in joyful hope for the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

**Ŗ. For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. Amen.**

### Exchange of Peace

Ÿ. The Peace of the Lord be with you always.

**Ŗ. And also with you.**

Ÿ. Let us offer each other a sign of peace.

### Breaking of the Bread

*As the bread is broken, we say:*

**Ŗ. Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,  
have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,  
have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,  
grant us peace.**

Ÿ May almighty God have mercy on us,  
forgive us our sins,  
and bring us to everlasting life.

**Ŗ Amen.**

### Kyrie

Ÿ. Kyrie, eleison.

**Ŗ Kyrie, eleison.**

Ÿ. Christe, eleison.

**Ŗ Christe, eleison.**

Ÿ. Kyrie, eleison.

**Ŗ Kyrie, eleison.**

### Opening Prayer

Ÿ. Let us pray  
in quiet remembrance of our need for redemption.

*Pause for silent prayer.*

Father in heaven,  
the light of your truth bestows sight  
to the darkness of sinful eyes.  
May this season of repentance  
bring us the blessing of your forgiveness  
and the gift of your light.

Grant this through Christ our Lord.

**Ŗ Amen.**

## LITURGY OF THE WORD

### Reading 1 (*Jl 2:12-18*)

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Joel

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.

Ÿ. This is the Word of the Lord.

**℟. Thanks be to God.**

**Responsorial Psalm** (51:3-4, 5-6ab, 12-13, 14 and 17)

**℟. Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.**

Have mercy on me, 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.

**℟. Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.**

**℟. We lift them up to the Lord.**

Ÿ. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**℟. It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

Ÿ. Father, all-powerful and ever-living God,  
we do well always and everywhere to give you thanks.

Through our observance of Lent  
you correct our faults and raise our minds to you,  
you help us grow in holiness,  
and offer us the reward of everlasting life  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through him the angels and all the choirs of heaven  
worship in awe before your presence.  
May our voices be one with theirs  
as they sing with joy the hymn of your glory:

**℟. Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Eucharistic Prayer (II)**

*The celebrant prays the Eucharistic Prayer. After the  
consecration, the celebrant sings:*

Ÿ. Let us proclaim the mystery of faith.

**℟. Dying you destroyed our death,  
rising you restored our life.  
Lord Jesus come in glory.**

*The celebrant concludes the Eucharistic Prayer.*

Through him, with him and in him  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit  
all glory and honor are yours, Almighty Father  
Forever and ever.

**℟. Amen.**

## LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

### Offering of the Gifts

*If an Offertory Hymn is played or sung, omit the following.*

Ÿ. Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation. Through your goodness we have this bread to offer, which earth has given and human hands have made. It will become for us the bread of life.

**℟. Blessed be God for ever.**

Ÿ. Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation. Through your goodness we have this wine to offer, fruit of the vine and work of human hands. It will become our spiritual drink.

**℟. Blessed be God for ever.**

### Prayer over the Gifts

Ÿ. Pray, my brothers and sisters, that our sacrifice may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

**℟. May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands, for the praise and glory of his name, for our good, and the good of all his Church.**

Lord,  
help us to resist temptation  
by our Lenten works of charity and penance.  
By this sacrifice  
may we be prepared to celebrate  
the death and resurrection of Christ our Savior  
and be cleansed from sin and renewed in spirit.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**℟. Amen.**

### Preface and *Sanctus* (Lent IV)

Ÿ. The Lord be with you.

**℟. And also with you.**

Ÿ. Lift up your hearts.

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.”

**℟. Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.**

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.

**℟. Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.**

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.

**℟. Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.**

### Reading 2 (2 Cor 5:20—6:2)

A reading from the second letter of Paul to the Corinthians:

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.

Ÿ. This is the Word of the Lord.

**℟. Thanks be to God.**

### **Gospel Acclamation (Lk 7:16)**

Ÿ. Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

**Ṛ. Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

A great prophet has arisen in our midst,  
God has visited his people.

**Ṛ. Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

### **Gospel (Mt 6:1-6, 16-18)**

Ÿ. The Lord be with you.

**Ṛ. And also with you.**

Ÿ. A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

*The celebrant and the people trace the cross on their foreheads (mind), their lips (speech) and over their hearts, asking the Lord to open them to his Word.*

**Ṛ. Glory to you Lord.**

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.”

Ÿ. This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Ṛ. Praise to you, Lord, Jesus Christ.**

### **Homily**

#### **Blessing and Distribution of Ashes**

Ÿ. Dear friends in Christ,  
let us ask our Father  
to bless these ashes  
which we will use  
as the mark of our repentance.

*Pause for silent prayer.*

Lord,  
bless the sinner who asks for your forgiveness  
and these + all those who receive these ashes.  
May they keep this Lenten season  
in preparation for the joy of Easter.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**Ṛ Amen.**