

# ASH WEDNESDAY



### **Bless the Lord (Taize)**

Bless the Lord, my soul
And bless God's holy name
Bless the Lord, my soul
Who leads me into life

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### **Have Mercy**

Have mercy on me

Have mercy on me

O Lord, have mercy

O Lord, have mercy

Oh, help my unbelief

Oh, help my unbelief

O Lord, have mercy

O Lord, have mercy

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## THE INVITATION TO LENT

OFFICIANT: Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

PEOPLE: His mercy endures for ever.

OFFICIANT: Dear People of God: I invite you in the name of the Church, to the

observance of a holy Lent: by self-examination and repentance; by prayer,

fasting, and almsgiving; and by reading and meditating on God's holy

Word. And to make a right beginning, let us now pray for grace, that we

may faithfully keep this Lent.

A period of silent prayer follows.

OFFICIANT: Almighty and everlasting God, you hate nothing you have made, and

you forgive the sins of all who are penitent: Create and make in us new

and contrite hearts, that we, worthily lamenting our sins and

acknowledging our wretchedness, may obtain of you, the God of all mercy,

perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives

and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

ALL: Amen.

THE LESSONS

READER: The holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Matthew.

PEOPLE: Glory to You, Lord Christ.

Matthew 11:20-28

Then he began to denounce the cities where most of his mighty works had been done, because they did not repent. <sup>21</sup>"Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the mighty works done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. <sup>22</sup>But I tell you, it will be more bearable on the day of judgment for Tyre and Sidon than for you. <sup>23</sup>And you, Capernaum, will you be exalted to heaven? You will be brought down to Hades. For if the mighty works done in you had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day. <sup>24</sup>But I tell you that it will be more tolerable on the day of judgment for the land of Sodom than for you."

<sup>25</sup>At that time Jesus declared, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to little children; <sup>26</sup>yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. <sup>27</sup>All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. <sup>28</sup>Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. <sup>29</sup>Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. <sup>30</sup>For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

READER: *The Gospel of the Lord.* 

PEOPLE: Praise to You, Lord Christ.

## THE HOMILY

## "Discovering the Rest of Repentance" - Will Eastham

## THE IMPOSITION OF ASHES

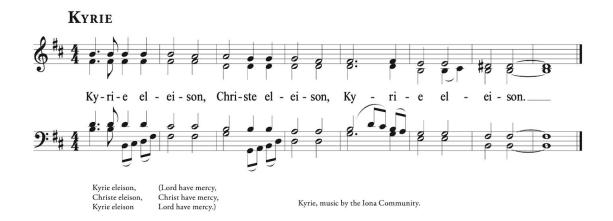
OFFICIANT: Almighty God, you have created us from the dust of the earth: Grant that these ashes may be for us a symbol of our mortality and a sign of our penitence, that we may remember that it is by your grace alone that we receive the gift of eternal life in Jesus Christ our Savior.

ALL: Amen.

Then ashes are imposed with the following words:

Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return. Repent and believe the Gospel.

Ushers will release you row by row.



## CONFESSION AND LITANY OF PENITENCE

OFFICIANT: Let us humbly confess our sins to Almighty God.

ALL: Most holy and merciful Father,

we confess to you, and to one another,

and to the whole communion of saints

in heaven and on earth,

that we have sinned, through our own fault

in thought, word, and deed;

by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.

We have not loved you with our whole heart, and mind, and strength.

We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

We have not forgiven others, as we have been forgiven.

We have been deaf to your call to serve, as Christ served us.

We have not been true to the mind of Christ.

We have grieved your Holy Spirit.

READER: Lord, have mercy upon us:

PEOPLE: For we have sinned against you.

READER: For all our unfaithfulness and disobedience; for the pride, vanity, and hypocrisy of

our lives; Lord, have mercy upon us:

PEOPLE: For we have sinned against you.

READER: For our unrighteous anger, bitterness, and resentment; for all lies, gossip, and slander against our neighbors; Lord, have mercy upon us:

PEOPLE: For we have sinned against you.

READER: For our sexual impurity, our exploitation of other people, and our failure to give of ourselves in love; Lord, have mercy upon us:

PEOPLE: For we have sinned against you.

READER: For our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our intemperate pursuit of worldly goods and comforts; Lord, have mercy upon us:

PEOPLE: For we have sinned against you.

READER: For our blindness to human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty; Lord, have mercy upon us:

PEOPLE: For we have sinned against you.

READER: For our wastefulness and misuse of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us; Lord, have mercy upon us:

PEOPLE: For we have sinned against you.

READER: For all false judgments, for prejudice and contempt of others, and for all uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors; Lord, have mercy upon us:

PEOPLE: For we have sinned against you.

READER: For our negligence in prayer and worship; for our presumption and abuse of your means of grace; Lord, have mercy upon us:

PEOPLE: For we have sinned against you.

READER: For our failure to commend the faith that is in us; Lord, have mercy upon us:

PEOPLE: For we have sinned against you.

ALL: Show favor to your people, O Lord, who turn to you in weeping, fasting, and prayer. For you are a merciful God, full of compassion, long-suffering, and abounding in steadfast love. You spare when we deserve punishment, and in your wrath you remember mercy. Spare your people, good Lord, spare us; in the multitude of your mercies, look upon us and forgive us; through the merits and mediation of your blessed Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## THE ABSOLUTION

PRIEST: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who in his great mercy has promised forgiveness of sins to all those who sincerely repent and with true faith turn to him, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

ALL: Amen.

### THE PEACE

OFFICIANT: The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

PEOPLE: And with your spirit.

OFFICIANT: Let us pray.

ALL: 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 deliver us from evil

For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory,

Forever and ever.

Amen.

O Lord our God, grant us grace to desire you with our whole heart:

that desiring you, we may seek you;

and that seeking you, we may find you;

and that finding you, we may love you;

and that loving you,

we may hate those sins from which you have delivered us;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.