

ASH WEDNESDAY AT HOME 2021

If it is not possible to return to Church by Ash Wednesday, we can say these prayers from the day at home as a personal beginning to the Season of Lent.



ENTRANCE ANTIPHON *Wis 11: 24, 25, 27*

You are merciful to all, O Lord,
and despise nothing that you have made.
You overlook people's sins, to bring them to repentance,
and you spare them, for you are the Lord our God.

COLLECT

Grant, O Lord, that we may begin with holy fasting
this campaign of Christian service,
so that, as we take up battle against spiritual evils,
we may be armed with weapons of self-restraint.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 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."

PRAYER OF REPENTANCE

O God, who are moved by acts of humility

and respond with forgiveness to works of penance,

lend your merciful ear to our prayers

and in your kindness pour out the grace of your blessing

on your servants who begin the Season of Lent today,

that, as they follow the Lenten observances,

they may be worthy to come with minds made pure

to celebrate the Paschal Mystery of your Son.

Through Christ our Lord R. Amen.

We make the Sign of the Cross slowly on our foreheads.

Repent, and believe in the Gospel.

Or:

Remember that you are dust, and into dust you shall return.

ANTIPHONS

Let us change our garments to sackcloth and ashes,

let us fast and weep before the Lord,

that our God, rich in mercy, might forgive us our sins.

Let the priests, the ministers of the Lord,

stand between the porch and the altar and weep and cry out:

Spare, O Lord, spare your people;

do not close the mouths of those who sing your praise, O Lord.

Hear us, O Lord, and show us your mercy, for we have sinned against you.

Help us, O God our Saviour;

for the sake of your name, O Lord, set us free.

Hear us, O Lord, and show us your mercy, for we have sinned against you.