



Guided to the Cross
Ash Wednesday
Guided to Forgiveness
February 14, A+D 2024



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Guided to the Cross

Ash Wednesday

Guided to Forgiveness

He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. Colossians 1:13-14

419 Savior, When in Dust to Thee

Invocation and Call to Repentance

P In the name of the Father and of the ✝ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P In ancient times, people might display their sorrow over sin by scattering dust and ashes on their heads, a reminder that in Eden, God decreed death as the penalty for sin: "You are dust, and to dust you shall return" (*Genesis 3:19*). Yet God also promised that a Savior would come to destroy the power of the tempting serpent who had brought sin and death into God's creation. In his suffering, the inspired prophet Job spoke of his trust in the Lord's promise: "I know that my Redeemer lives, and at the last he will stand upon the earth" (*Job 19:25*). Confident in his Redeemer's love, Job confessed his sins, "I despise myself, and repent in dust and ashes" (*Job 42:6*). Remembering that the promised Savior, Jesus our Redeemer, shed his blood on the cross for us, we take onto ourselves a mark of repentance. You are invited to come

forward at the direction of the ushers to receive the mark of ashes, a reminder that we, like Job, repent in dust and ashes.

Sit

The Imposition of Ashes

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

After receiving the ashes, each person returns to his place in silence.

The following hymn is sung during the imposition of ashes.

606 I Lay My Sins on Jesus

Confession and Forgiveness

- P** Having received the symbol of repentance, let us confess our sins to God our Savior, using the words of the Psalmist David.
- C** **“Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin!...Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.”**
- P** God has had mercy on us, and for the sake of Christ Jesus our Redeemer, he has forgiven our sins. I announce to you that your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.
- C** **“Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and up-hold me with a willing spirit!”**

Salutation and Collect of the Day

- P** The Lord be with you.



C And al - so with you.

- P** Almighty and everlasting God, You despise nothing You have made and forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create in us new and contrite hearts that lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness we may receive from You full pardon and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C A - men.

Old Testament Reading

Psalm 103:11–14

- A** The Old Testament Reading for Ash Wednesday is from the one hundred third chapter of the Book of Psalms.

¹¹For as high as the heavens are above the earth,
 so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him;
¹²as far as the east is from the west,
 so far does he remove our transgressions from us.
¹³As a father shows compassion to his children,
 so the LORD shows compassion to those who fear him.
¹⁴For he knows our frame;
 he remembers that we are dust.

- A** This is the Word of the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle Reading

Colossians 1:9–14

- A** The Second Reading is from the first chapter of the Epistle of St. Paul to the Colossians.

⁹And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all

spiritual wisdom and understanding, ¹⁰so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God. ¹¹May you be strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy, ¹²giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. ¹³He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, ¹⁴in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

610 Lord Jesus, Think on Me

Gospel Reading

Luke 23:33–34

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the twenty-third chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

³³And when they came to the place that is called The Skull, there they crucified him, and the criminals, one on his right and one on his left.

³⁴And Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." And they cast lots to divide his garments.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

421 Jesus, Grant That Balm and Healing

Sermon

**Guided to the Cross
Guided to Forgiveness**

Apostles' Creed

C **I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of**

God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Offering

Offertory

LSB 192

C Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -
 new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -
 way from Thy pres - ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it
 from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -
 tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir-it. A - men.

Prayers

P Lord and Savior, we begin this season of Lent marked with the ashes of repentance. As we remember your suffering and death for us, we trust in your steadfast love and look to you for mercy and forgiveness. Jesus, Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

C **Have mercy on us, and hear our prayer.**

P Lord and Savior, through your death and resurrection, we have been delivered from the domain of sin and death. By grace through faith in your holy name, we have been brought into your kingdom. Our sins are washed away in your blood, and we have

forgiveness and eternal life. Jesus, Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

C Have mercy on us, and hear our prayer.

P Lord and Savior, we pray for those who are suffering in ashes of grief and loss, of illness and sorrow. Bring help and healing to those we name in our hearts. Comfort them through the promises of your holy Word, and lead us to encourage them in love. Jesus, Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

C Have mercy on us, and hear our prayer.

P Lord and Savior, you prayed for forgiveness for those who nailed you to the cross. As you have forgiven us, lead us by your Spirit to forgive others as we have been forgiven and to walk in love as you did. Je-sus, Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

C Have mercy on us, and hear our prayer.

P Lord and Savior, through these 40 days, we will re-member your suffering and death for us. As we praise you for your saving love, we look forward with joy to the celebration of your resurrection on Easter morning. When you return on the Last Day, we too will be raised as you were raised, and we will receive the crown of life. Jesus, Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

C Have mercy on us, and hear our prayer. Amen.

Lord's Prayer

P Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

C 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. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen

The Blessing

P We give thanks to God the Father, "who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light.

- C** He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.”
- P** The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.
- C** Amen.

609 Jesus Sinners Doth Receive

Acknowledgments

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