



## **Morning Prayer for Ash Wednesday**

One: *(chanted)* Lord open our lips

**All: And our mouth shall proclaim your praise**

**Glory to you Source of all being, Eternal Word and Holy Spirit.  
As it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be,  
world without end, Amen.**

Almighty and everlasting God, you despise nothing you have made and 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 brokenness, 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. **Amen.**

**Sung: Create in me a clean heart, oh God  
And renew a right spirit within me  
Create in me a clean heart, oh God  
And renew a right spirit within me**

**Cast me not away from Thy presence, oh Lord  
And take not Thy holy spirit from me  
Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation  
And renew a right spirit within me**

**Reading: Isaiah 58.1–12**

**Psalm 103.8–18 (chanted)**

8 You are full of compassion and mercy, \*  
slow to anger and of great kindness.

9 You will not always accuse us, \*  
nor will you keep your anger for ever.

10 You have not dealt with us according to our sins, \*  
nor rewarded us according to our wickedness.

11 For as the heavens are high above the earth, \*  
so is your mercy great upon those who fear you.

12 As far as the east is from the west, \*  
so far have you removed our sins from us.

13 As parents care for their children, \*  
so do you, O Lord, care for those who fear you.

14 For you yourself know whereof we are made; \*  
you remember that we are but dust.

15 Our days are like the grass; \*  
we flourish like a flower of the field;

16 when the wind goes over it, it is gone, \*  
and its place shall know it no more.

17 But your merciful goodness endures for ever on those who fear you, \*  
and your righteousness on children's children;

18 on those who keep the covenant \*  
and remember the commandments and do them.

Glory to you Source of all being, eternal Word and Holy Spirit

As it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be, world without end, Amen.

One: Dear friends in Christ, every year at the time of the Christian Passover we celebrate our redemption through the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. Lent is a time to prepare for this celebration and to renew our life in the paschal mystery. We begin this holy season by remembering our need for repentance, and for the mercy and forgiveness proclaimed in the Gospel of Jesus Christ. I invite in the name of the Lord, to observe a holy Lent by self-examination, penitence, prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, and by reading and meditating on the word of God.

### **Trisagion**

**Holy God**

**Holy and Mighty**

**Holy Immortal One**

**Have mercy on us (x3)**

### **Litanies of Penitence** (sit or kneel)

Holy and Most Beautiful Lord,

**we are humbled by your compassion and mercy. We recognise that within us and the world is much that has hurt and offended you. We confess to you, to one another, and to the whole communion of saints in heaven and on earth, that we have sinned by 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 neighbours as ourselves. We have not forgiven others, as we have been forgiven.

**Have mercy on us.**

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.

**Have mercy on us.**

We confess to you, Lord, all our past unfaithfulness: the pride, hypocrisy, and impatience of our lives,

**We confess to you, Lord.**

Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people,

**We confess to you, Lord.**

Our anger at our own frustration, and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves,

**We confess to you, Lord.**

Our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts, and our dishonesty in daily life and work,

**We confess to you, Lord.**

Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to commend the faith that is in us,

**We confess to you, Lord.**

Accept our repentance, Lord, for the wrongs we have done: for our blindness to human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty,

**Accept our repentance, Lord.**

For all false judgements, for uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbours, and for our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us,

**Accept our repentance, Lord.**

For our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us,

**Accept our repentance, Lord.**

Restore us, good Lord, and let your anger depart from us;

**Hear us, Lord, for your mercy is great.**

We begin our journey to Easter with the sign of ashes, an ancient sign, speaking of the frailty and uncertainty of human life, and marking the penitence of the community as a whole.

Almighty God, from the dust of the earth you have created us. May these ashes be for us a sign of our mortality and penitence, and a reminder that only by your gracious gift are we given eternal life.

**We recognize, O Lord, that we are simply dust.**

**Remind us through these ashes of our dependence on you, and your devotion to us.**

**May we know the strength of your Spirit as we seek to follow you;**

**May we know the discipline of Your love as we seek to draw nearer to You;**

**May we know the insight of Your wisdom as we seek to learn of You.**

**As we receive the ashes upon our foreheads, may we know the joy of sharing with You in ministry, in suffering, in death and in life. For your glory and your kingdom's sake. Amen**

Let us be marked  
not for sorrow.  
And let us be marked  
not for shame.  
Let us be marked  
not for false humility  
or for thinking  
we are less  
than we are

but for claiming  
what God can do  
within the dust,  
within the dirt,  
within the stuff  
of which the world  
is made,  
and the stars that blaze  
in our bones,  
and the galaxies that spiral  
inside the smudge  
we bear. –Jan Richardson

+The God that calls this dust of our life beloved, forgive you, renew you, and enable you in grow in love. **Amen!**

### **The Imposition of Ashes**

God our Source,  
You create us from the dust of the earth: part of the soil of your creation. May these ashes be to us a sign of our mortality and penitence, and a reminder of your grace.  
**Amen.**

*A moment of silent reflection. Those who have ashes at home are invited to impose themselves or those in their homes. All take time for quiet recollection and silence.*

**Nada Te Turbe**- sung in Spanish.

Nada te turbe, Nada te espante; quien a Dios tienne nada le falta  
Nata te turbe, Nada te espante; solo Dios basta.  
(*Nothing can trouble, nothing can frighten, God alone fills us*)

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

One (chanted): Let us bless the Lord  
All: **Thanks be to God.**