Hymns for March 2, 2022
Ash Wednesday

Gradual Hymn: CP 614
Forgive Our Sins As We Forgive

Forgive our sins as we forgive,
you taught us, Lord, to pray,
but you alone can grant us grace
to live the words we say.

How can your pardon reach and bless
the unforgiving heart,
that broods on wrongs and will not let
old bitterness depart?

In blazing light your cross reveals
the truth we dimly knew:
what trivial debts are owed to us,
how great our debt to you!

Lord, cleanse the depths within our souls,
and bid resentment cease;
then, bound to all in bonds of love,
our lives will spread your peace.

Offertory Hymn: CP 610
Before I Take the Body of My Lord

Before I take the body of my Lord,
before I share His life in bread and wine,
I recognise the sorry things within —
these I lay down.

The words of hope I often failed to give,
the prayers of kindness buried by my pride,
the signs of care I argued out of sight,
these I lay down.

The narrowness of vision and of mind,
the need for other folk to serve my will,
and every word and silence meant to hurt,
these I lay down.

Of those around in whom I meet my Lord,
I ask their pardon and I grant them mine
that every contradiction to Christ's peace
might be laid down.

Lord Jesus Christ, companion at this feast,
I empty now my heart and stretch my hands,
and ask to meet you here in bread and wine —
which you lay down.

Closing Hymn: CP 175
Forty Days and Forty Nights

Forty days and forty nights
you were fasting in the wild,
forty days and forty nights
tempted, and yet undefiled:

burning heat throughout the day,
bitter cold when light had fled,
prowling beasts around your way,
stones your pillow, earth your bed.

Shall not we your trials share,
learn your discipline of will,
and with you by fast and prayer
wrestle with the powers of hell?

So if Satan, pressing hard,
soul and body would destroy,
Christ who conquered, be our guard;
give to us the victor's joy.

Saviour, may we hear your voice —
keep us constant at your side;
and with you we shall rejoice
at the eternal Eastertide.