

ASH WEDNESDAY LITURGY OF THE WORD AN OUTLINE FOR A MODIFIED VERSION

Introductory Rites

Processional hymn:

ASHES

G&P 261

Sign of the Cross

Greeting

Leader:

Ash Wednesday opens the liturgical season of Lent. In our ancient Christian tradition, it is a time of penance and fasting. We usually receive ashes on our foreheads at church or school. However, due to COVID-19, we will not gather for this celebration this year. Ashes symbolize the dust from which God made us. This year, we even fast from ashes.

Opening Prayer:

Loving God, you sent us Jesus to save us from our sins.
Have mercy on us and help us to fast, pray and give to those in need.
Forgive our sins and help us to see your love.
Amen.

Liturgy of the Word

Gospel Acclamation

Glory, praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus Christ

Gospel

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18

Reflection on the Gospel

Consider the following questions to help shape your conversation after the proclamation of the Gospel:

We are called to prayer, fasting and almsgiving to help us draw closer to Jesus in this season of preparation. *How will you draw closer to Jesus over these 40 days?*

Lent is meant to be a joyful time. Bishop Lobsinger has said, "Lent is not a time to be miserable, but merciful".

As a community, how can you help one another spread joy as disciples of Jesus?

Concluding Rites

The Universal Prayer

Leader:

As we begin the season of Lent, we raise our prayers and petitions to God who loves us and invites us into relationship.

Reader:

The response is: Lord, hear our prayer.

1. For the Church of God throughout the world, that the Lenten Season will be an opportunity for all members of the Church to be renewed by the loving mercy of God. We pray to the Lord.
2. For peace in our broken and fragile world, that all who seek security or advantage by means of violence be converted to seeking the peace of our God. We pray ...
3. For those on the margins of society, that the refugee, the homeless, the unemployed and all marginalized persons, find deliverance in the justice of our God. We pray ...
4. For those gathered here, that those weighed down by the yoke of sinfulness, may rejoice in the liberating power of our God. We pray ...
5. For an end to the COVID-19 pandemic. We pray ...
6. For our deceased relatives and friends, that all those who have died may live forever in the radiant glory of our God. We pray ...

Leader:

Loving God, you yourself are mercy and compassion. Hear these prayers we bring before you, as well as the ones we hold in the silence of our hearts, so that our prayer, fasting and abstinence may be pleasing to you.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Closing Prayer:

God, as we begin the discipline of Lent,
make this season holy by our self-denial.
We ask this through Christ, our Lord.
Amen.

Recessional hymn: **LORD. WHO THROUGHOUT THESE FORTY DAYS** CBW 367