

Compline : Night Prayer Ash Wednesday

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The Gathering ...

Welcome and introduction

An act of penitence and commitment for this day

From dust you were made,
to dust you shall return,
repent of your sins,
and turn back to Christ.

Accept our repentance, Lord

For the times where our hearts do not see our sisters and brothers in need, and are afraid to bring our own needs before our neighbours;

For where we are ignorant of our involvement and participation in all that hurts in your world;

For the times when we do not see others, or ourselves, with the eyes of your love;

For our prejudice, our hasty judgements, our entrenched beliefs and resistances;

For the small everyday acts and interactions that could be kinder, more hopeful, more generous;

For our inability to lay down pain, and hope anew;

For our lack of care for your creation;

For our apathy and fear of stepping out riskily into your freedom and love;

For our lack of trust and courage in believing in the truth of your salvation;

For all those times when we do not put you at our centre, for the pride, hypocrisy and impatience of our lives....

... turn our hearts back to you

From dust we were made,
to dust we shall return,
we repent of our sins,
and turn back to Christ.

Intercessions

As we begin this season of lent, we give thanks to God the Father for this time of grace. Let us ask him to cleanse our hearts and strengthen us in love through the Holy Spirit.

Lord, have mercy,
Lord, have mercy

Lord, your word is life; may our lives be nourished and sustained by every word you speak.

Lord, have mercy,
Lord, have mercy

In the life of Jesus you have shown us the way of love; teach us to follow this way in the great and small events of life

Lord, have mercy,
Lord, have mercy

Grant us a spirit of self-denial, that is comfortable in your love of us and each other, and doesn't need to feed the voice of ego. A spirit that puts love above ease, and life above pride or apathy. Enlarge our hearts to help our sisters and brothers in need, and give us grace and courage to accept help ourselves as we journey on.

**Lord, have mercy,
Lord, have mercy**

As we enter this time of fasting and penitence, let us bear witness as we deny ourselves, that we depend entirely on your love; that all good things come from you. Let us offer ourselves intentionally in times of prayer, and in re-orienting to what is truly our place of strength and comfort, life and hope.

**Lord, have mercy,
Lord, have mercy**

As we gaze on this cross, made of ash of blessed palm crosses burnt in a holy fire, with a little holy oil, and a little Christmas tree, from the starlight of the cradle, from Hosannas that came before the passion, from the dreams that seemed broken as the disciples fled the cross, but were to be renewed over breakfast on the beach and live and grow to bless two millennia...

Father, bless us anew with your love, and bless our journey.

See the love of your Lord,
who created you in love, from the same dust
as the stars;
who was himself born of flesh, frail and
human;
whose feet were dusty on the road as he
walked with his disciples;
whose walks with us now, all the way we
travel;
who fell into the dust, bled into it, on the way
to the Cross, who knows our falls, our hurts,
our pains;
who lifts us up from the dust, kisses us,
washes our feet, and shares his resurrection
with us;

as you cross yourself, in the name of God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit... bring all the
broken dreams, the lost hopes, the tattered
visions. Feel them held in love, lifted up, taken
to the cross, and redeemed.

This Lent... begin again... offer your hearts anew.

See the love of your Lord.

Preparation

The Lord Almighty grant us a quiet night and a perfect end. **Amen.**

Brethren be sober, be vigilant,
because your adversary the devil,
as a roaring lion, walketh about,
seeking whom he may devour:
whom resist, steadfast in the faith.

But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us.
Thanks be to God.

Hymn – the Lenten prose

*Hear us, O Lord, have mercy upon us:
for we have sinned against thee.*

To thee, Redeemer, on thy throne of glory:
lift we our weeping eyes in holy pleadings:
listen O Jesu, to our supplications.

Hear us, O Lord,

O thou chief cornerstone,
right hand of the Father:
Way of salvation,
Gate of life celestial:
Cleanse thou our sinful souls
from all defilement.

Hear us, O Lord,

God, we implore thee,
in thy glory seated:
bow down and hearken
to thy weeping children:
pity and pardon all our grievous trespasses.

Hear us, O Lord,

Sins oft committed now we lay before thee:
with true contrition
now no more we veil them:
grant us, Redeemer, loving absolution.

Hear us, O Lord, have mercy upon us:
for we have sinned against thee.

Innocent captive, taken unresisting:
falsely accused, for us sinners sentenc'd
save us, we pray thee, Jesus our Redeemer.

Hear us, O Lord,

(EH 736)

English language version of the original 10th Century Mozarabic hymn, *Attende Domine*

Psalmody

The Lord is merciful and *gra-cious*:
slow to anger, and *plent-eous* in mercy.

He will not always *chide*:
neither will he keep his anger for ever.

He hath not dealt with us after our sins;
nor rewarded us according to *our* iniquities.

For as the heaven is high above the earth,
so great is his mercy toward *them* that fear him.

As far as the east is from the west;
so far hath he removed our trans-gress-ions
from us.

Like as a father pitieith his *child-ren*;
so the Lord pitieith *them* that fear him.

For he knoweth our frame;
he remembereth that we are dust.

Bless the Lord, all his works in all places of his
do-minion:
bless the Lord, O my soul.

Psalm 103: 8-14, 22

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son:
and to the Ho-ly Ghost.
As it was in the beginning,
is now and ever shall be:
world without end. Amen.**

Scripture reading

And there came a voice from heaven, saying, Thou art my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. And immediately the spirit driveth him into the wilderness. And he was there in the wilderness forty days, tempted of Satan; and was with the wild beasts; and the angels ministered unto him.

Mark 1: 11- 13

Responsory

Into thy hands, O Lord,
I commend my spirit.
**Into your hands, O Lord,
I commend my spirit.**

For thou hast redeemed me,
O Lord, thou God of truth
I commend my spirit.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Ghost;
**Into thy hands, O Lord,
I commend my Spirit**

Keep me as the apple of an eye.
**Hide me under the shadow
of thy wings**

Nunc Dimittis (Gospel Canticle)

**Preserve us O Lord, while waking;
and guard us while sleeping;
that awake we may watch with Christ,
and asleep may rest in peace.**

**Lord, now lettest thou thy servant
depart in peace:
according to thy word.**

**For mine eyes have seen:
thy sal-vation**

**Which thou hast pre-par-ed:
before the face of *all* people.**

**To be a light to lighten the Gen-tiles:
and to be the glory of thy peo-ple Israel.**

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son:
and to the Holy Ghost.**

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

**Preserve us O Lord, while waking;
and guard us while sleeping;
that awake we may watch with Christ,
and asleep may rest in peace.**

Words of prayer, repentance and forgiveness....

Lord, have mercy upon us
Christ, have mercy upon us
Lord, have mercy upon us

The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father,
which 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 them
that trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil. Amen.**

Blessed art thou, Lord God of our fathers;
**To be praised and glorified
above all for ever.**

Let us bless the Father, the Son
and the Holy Ghost;
**Let us praise him
and magnify him for ever.**
Blessed art thou, O Lord,
in the firmament of heaven;
**to be praised and glorified
above all for ever.**

The almighty and most merciful Lord
guard us and give us his blessing.

Amen.

Spoken...

We confess to God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, that we have sinned in thought, word and deed, through our own grievous fault. Wherefore we pray God to have mercy upon us.

Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us all our sins and deliver us from all evil, confirm and strengthen us in all goodness, and bring us to life everlasting. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

May the Almighty and merciful Lord grant unto you pardon and remission of all your sins, time for amendment of life, and the grace and comfort of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

**Wilt thou not turn again and quicken us;
that thy people may rejoice in thee?**

**O Lord, shew thy mercy upon us;
and grant us thy salvation.**

Vouchsafe, O Lord,
to keep us this night without sin
**O Lord, have mercy upon us,
have mercy upon us.**

**O Lord, hear our prayer
and let our cry come unto thee.**

Collect

Let us pray

Almighty and everlasting God,
thou hatest nothing that thou hast made
and forgivest the sins of all
those who are penitent:
create and make in us
new and contrite hearts
that we, worthily lamenting our sins,
and acknowledging our wretchedness,
may receive from thee,
the God of all mercy,
perfect remission and forgiveness;
through Jesus Christ thy Son our Lord,
who livest and reignest with thee,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

Blessing and departure

We will lay us down in peace,
and take our rest;
**For it is thou, Lord, only
that makest us dwell in safety.**

The Lord be with you;
and with thy Spirit.

Let us bless the Lord;
Thanks be to God.

Amen

**May the Lord bless us, protect us from
all evil, and bring us to everlasting life.**

Amen

Goodnight