

Ash Wednesday Service

Call to Worship

Opening hymn: Ashes (Tom Conry)

We rise again from ashes, from the good we've failed to do.
We rise again from ashes, to create ourselves anew,
If all our world is ashes, then must our lives be true
An offering of ashes, an offering to you.

We offer you our failures, we offer you attempts
The gifts not fully given, the dreams not fully dreamt.
Give our stumblings direction, give our visions wider view,
An offering of ashes, an offering to you.

Leader:

Loving Father,
In love for us you sent Jesus to save us from our sins.
Have mercy on your people today
As we begin this time of renewal and hope.
Forgive our sins and help us to turn back to your love.

Father, we ask this grace through Jesus Christ your Son
In the love of your Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

All: Amen!

Scripture: Joel 2:12-18

Silent reflection on God's Word

Distribution of Ashes

Prayer over the Ashes:

All:

Blessed are you, Lord our God, creator of the universe
And Father of our Lord Jesus Christ:
In obedience to his command and his example,

We begin this time of penance and of prayer.

Let these ashes be a sign that we are turning away from sin
And that we are ready to live a new life with Jesus for you.
Destroy the power of sin in our lives,
And lead us to renew our faith, love and hope.

Leader: As a community of disciples, we sign each other with ashes saying:

All:

Turn away from your sins, and believe the Good News.
Mk 1:15

Signing with ashes.

General Intercessions

Closing Hymn: Ashes (Tom Conry)

Then rise again from ashes, let healing come to pain,
Though spring has turned to winter, and sunshine turned to rain.
The rain we'll use for growing, and create the world anew
From an offering of ashes, an offering to you.

Thanks be to the Father, who made us like himself.
Thanks be to his Son, who saved us by his death.
Thanks be to the Spirit who creates the world anew
From an offering of ashes, an offering to you.

Adapted from: A Book of Blessings. Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops,
1981.