

ASH WEDNESDAY 2021

Rite for Holy Communion with the Distribution of Ashes

(For use during the pandemic)

GREETING

Priest: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

R. Amen.

Priest: The Lord be with you.

R. And with you spirit.

Priest: Brothers and sisters, the pandemic has made it difficult for us to take part at the Mass of Ash Wednesday, yet the mercy of God is boundless. Now, let us confess our sins, receive the Body of Christ, and sprinkle ashes on us, so as to prepare ourselves for a fruitful Lenten Season:

(pause)

All: I confess to almighty God and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have greatly sinned, in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done and in what I have failed to do, through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault; therefore, I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin, all the Angels and Saints, and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord our God.

Priest: May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

R. Amen.



Priest: Dear brothers and sisters, thus says in the Book of Wisdom: You are merciful to all, O Lord, and despise nothing that you have made. You overlook people's sins, to bring them to repentance, and you spare them, for you are the Lord our God.

(Wis 11:24, 25, 27)

Let us count on the Word of God. and pray with confidence to the Father in the words our Savior gave us:

R. Our Father....

(While Our Father is being said or sung, the Priest goes to the tabernacle and takes the ciborium or pyx containing the body of the Lord, places it on the altar and genuflects.)

HOLY COMMUNION

(At the conclusion of Our Father, taking the host, the Priest raises it slightly over the vessel or pyx, and facing the people, says:)

Priest: Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

R. Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

(The faithful are to sanitize their hands before they proceed to receive Communion; Holy Communion should be received only 'in the hand' for the sake of minimizing risk of viral transmission.)

(A period of silence may now be observed. The Communion Antiphon of the day may be recited.)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

May the Sacrament we have received sustain us, O Lord, that our observances of the Lenten Season may be pleasing to you and be for us a healing remedy. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

BLESSING AND SPRINKLING OF ASHES

Priest: Dear brothers and sisters, let us humbly ask God our Father to bless these ashes, which we will put on our heads in penitence.

After a brief prayer in silence, and, with hands extended, he continues:

O God, who are moved by acts of humility and respond with forgiveness to works of penance, lend your merciful ear to our prayers and in your kindness pour out the grace of your ✠ blessing on your servants who are marked with these ashes, that, as they follow the Lenten observances, they may be worthy to come with minds made pure to celebrate the Paschal Mystery of your Son. Through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

He sprinkles the ashes with holy water, without saying anything. Then he addresses all those present and only once, applying it to all in general:

“Repent, and believe in the Gospel”, *or*

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

The Priest distributes the ashes to those who come to him. The Priest takes the ashes and sprinkles them on the head of each one without saying anything.

Then the faithful leave in silence.



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