

— ASH WEDNESDAY AT HOME 2021 —

Ash Wednesday is the beginning of the Christian season of Lent — a 40 day period to draw closer to God as we prepare for Easter (the day Jesus conquered sin and death by rising from the grave.) Use this simple meditation and the attached bag of ashes to experience a holy moment with God. Extra copies of this meditation can be found at <https://www.tlc-sherman.org/ministry/ashwed>.

Opening Psalm Psalm 103

Listen for the Word of God: Return to the Lord your God, for God is compassionate and merciful, slow to get angry and filled with unfailing love. For God knows how weak we are; he remembers we are only dust. Our days on earth are like grass; like wildflowers, we bloom and die. But the love of the Lord remains forever. Salvation extends to everyone who puts their trust in God.

Song by Travis Cottrell

Read these lyrics as a meditation, or sing to the lyric video at the Facebook group, “Trinity Lutheran Church, Sherman Texas.”

Just as I am, without one plea
but that Thy blood was shed for me
and that Thou bidst me come to Thee.
O Lamb of God, I come! I come!

CHORUS

I come broken to be mended.
I come wounded to be healed.
I come desperate to be rescued.
I come empty to be filled.
I come guilty to be pardoned
by the blood of Christ the Lamb,
and I'm welcomed with open arms.
Praise God, just as I am.

Just as I am, I would be lost
but mercy and grace my freedom bought,
and now to glory in Your cross.
O Lamb of God I come! I come!

REPEAT CHORUS



Scripture Reading 1 John 1:5-10

Listen for the Word of God: This is the message we heard from Jesus and now declare to you: God is light, and there is no darkness in him at all. So we are lying if we say we have fellowship with God but go on living in spiritual darkness; we are not practicing the truth. But if we are living in the light, as God is in the light, then we have fellowship with each other, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, cleanses us from all sin. If we claim we have no sin, we are only fooling ourselves and not living in the truth. But if we confess our sins to God, God is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness. If we claim we have not sinned, we are calling God a liar and showing that his Word has no place in our hearts. (over)

Confession

Let us confess our sin to God.

Silent is kept for reflection.

O God, we don't always put you first.
Often times we only think about ourselves.
We can be really mean to each other. We say unkind words, and do unkind things.
We have not forgiven others as graciously as you have forgiven us.
Have mercy on us, Lord.
Wash away our guilt, heal our brokenness, and draw us closer to you.

Silent is kept for reflection.

Almighty God, rich in mercy, abundant in love, forgives us all our sin
and grants us newness of life in Jesus Christ. Thanks be to God!

“Blessing the Dust” by Jan Richardson (excerpt)

For all those days you feel like dirty dust
do you not know what the Holy One can do with dust?
This is the day we freely say we are scorched.
This is the hour we are marked
by what has made it through the burning.
So let us be marked not for sorrow or shame
but to claim what God can do with the dust of our lives.

Christians apply ashes to our foreheads as a sign of our frailty and mortality. But we apply the ashes in the shape of the cross to remind us of the gift of salvation through Christ's death on the cross. Remove the charcoal from the attached bag and rub it between your thumb and forefinger until your finger pads are completely black. If there is more than one person participating, select one person to apply ashes to everyone's forehead. As the ashes are applied to each forehead in a small cross shape, the following words are said:

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

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever, Amen.

Benediction

God sent his Son into the world not to judge the world, but to save the world through him.
Center your life on God's Son — Jesus the Savior — sent to heal you and set you free.
Thanks be to God!