

semper, et in sæcula sæculórum.
Amen.

Atténde, Dómine, et miserére: quia
peccávimus tibi.

*(When the imposition of ashes is
complete, the priest says:)*

P: Orémus. Concéde nobis, Dómine,
præsídia milítiae cristiánæ sanctis
inchoáre jejúniis: ut, contra spiritáles
nequítias pugnatúri, continéntiæ
muniámur auxiliis. Per Christum,
Dóminum nostrum.

A: Amen.

*(The priest now vests in violet for the
Mass, which begins with the Introit.)*

beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen.

Attend, O Lord, and have mercy: for
we have sinned against Thee.

P: Let us pray. Grant us, O Lord, to
enter upon the duties of our Christian
warfare with holy fasts, that, being
about to fight against the spirits of
wickedness, we may be fortified by
the help of self-denial. Through Christ
our Lord.

A: Amen.

**BEFORE MASS PROPER: ASH WEDNESDAY -
Blessing and Imposition of Ashes (violet)**

(The choir begins the ritual:)

Antiphon (Psalms 68: 17, 2)

Exáudi nos, Dómine, quóniam
benígna est misericórdia tua:
secúndum multitudínem miseratiónum
tuárum réspice nos, Dómine. Salvum
me fac, Deus: quóniam intravérunt
aquæ usque ad ánimam meam.
Glória Patri et Filio et Spirítui Sancto,
sicut erat in principio, et nunc, et
semper, et in sæcula sæculórum.
Amen. Exáudi nos, Dómine, quóniam
benígna est misericórdia tua:
secúndum multitudínem miseratiónum
tuárum réspice nos, Dómine.

*(Facing the altar at the Epistle side,
with hands joined, the priest says:)*

Priest: Dóminus vobíscum.

(All respond:)

All: Et cum spiritu tuo.

P: Orémus. Omnípotens sempitérne
Deus, parce pæniténtibus, propitiáre
supplicántibus: et mittere dignéris
sanctum Angelum tuum de cœlis, qui
bene+dícat et sanctí+ficet hos
cíneres, ut sint remédium salúbre
óm nibus nomen sanctum tuum
humilíter implorántibus, ac
semetípsos pro consciéntia
delictórum suórum accusántibus, ante
conspéctum divínæ cleméntiæ tuæ
facínora sua deplorántibus, vel
sereníssimam pietátem tuam
supplíciter obnixéque flagitántibus: et
præsta per invocatiónem sanctíssimi
nóminis tui; ut, quicúmque per eos
aspérsi fuerint, pro redemptiône
peccatórum suórum, córporis
sanitátem et ánimæ tutelam
percípiant. Per Christum Dóminum
nostrum.

A: Amen.

Hear us O Lord, for Thy mercy is kind:
look upon us, O Lord, according to the
multitude of Thy tender mercies. Save
me, O God, for the waters have come
in even unto my soul. Glory be to the
Father, and to the Son, and to the
Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be, world
without end. Amen. Hear us O Lord,
for Thy mercy is kind: look upon us, O
Lord, according to the multitude of Thy
tender mercies.

Priest: The Lord be with you.

All: And with your spirit.

P: Let us pray. Almighty eternal God,
spare them that are penitent, be
merciful to Thy suppliants, and
vouchsafe to send Thy holy angel
from heaven to bless + and sanctify +
these ashes, that they may be a
wholesome remedy to all who humbly
call upon Thy holy name, and who,
accusing themselves of their sins as
their consciences accuse them,
deplore their crimes before the face of
Thy divine clemency or, eagerly and
humbly entreat Thy excellence and
goodness; and grant, by the
invocation of Thy most holy name, that
any who shall be sprinkled with these
ashes for the remission of their sins,
may receive health of body and
salvation of soul. Through Christ our
Lord.

A: Amen.

P: Orémus. Deus, qui non mortem, sed pæniténtiam desíderas peccatórum: fragilitátem condiciónis humánæ benigníssime réspice; et hos cíneres, quos, causa proferéndæ humilitátis atque promeréndæ véniaë, capítibus nostris impóni decérnimus, bene+dícere pro tua pietáte dignáre: ut, qui nos cínerem esse, et ob pravitátis nostræ deméritum in púlverem reversúros cognóscimus; peccatórum ómnium véniam, et præmia pæniténtibus repromíssa, misericórditer cónsequi mereámur. Per Christum Dóminum nostrum.

A: Amen.

P: Orémus. Deus, qui humiliatióne flécteris, et satisfactióne placáris: aurem tuæ pietátis inclína précibus nostris; et capítibus servórum tuórum, horum cínerum aspersione contactis, effúnde propítius grátiam tuæ benedictiόνis: ut eos et spírítu compunctiόνis répleas et, quæ juste postuláverint, effícaciter tríbuas; et concéssa perpétuo stabílita et intácta manére decérnas. Per Christum Dóminum nostrum.

A: Amen.

P: Orémus. Omnípotens sempitérne Deus, qui Ninivítis, in cíneres et cilício pæniténtibus, indulgéntiæ tuæ remédia præstitísti: concéde propítius; ut sic eos imitémur hábitu, quaténus véniaë prosequámur obténtu. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spírítus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

A: Amen.

P: Let us pray. O God, who desirest not the death of sinners, but their repentance, most graciously regard the frailty of human nature; and, of Thy loving kindness, deign to bless + these ashes, which we intend to put upon our heads to express our lowliness and win Thy pardon, that we, who know that we are but ashes and for the guilt of our fall shall return to dust, may be worthy to obtain, through Thy mercy, the forgiveness of all our sins and the rewards promised to the penitent. Through Christ our Lord.

A: Amen.

P: Let us pray. O God, Who art moved by humiliation and appeased by penance, incline the ear of Thy goodness to our prayers, and when the heads of Thy servants are touched with these ashes, graciously pour forth the grace of Thy blessing, that Thou mayest fill them with the spirit of compunction and mayest effectually grant what they righteously ask, and ordain that what Thou grantest may remain forever established and unmoved. Through Christ our Lord.

A: Amen.

P: Let us pray. Almighty eternal God, Who didst bestow the healing of Thy pardon upon the Ninivites when they repented in ashes and sackcloth, mercifully grant that we may so imitate them in behavior as to be like them in obtaining pardon. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.

A: Amen.

(The priest then sprinkles the ashes thrice with holy water saying:)

P: Aspérges me, Dómine, hyssópo et mundábor: lavábis me, et super nivem dealbábor.

(The priest then incenses the ashes thrice. The faithful have the ashes imposed on their foreheads by the priest, who says to each:)

P: Meménto homo, + quia pulvis es, et in púlverim revertéris.

(Meanwhile, the choir sings the following:)

Antiphon. Joel 2: 13

Immutémur hábitu, in cíneres et cilício: jejunémus, et plorémus ante Dóminum: quia multum miséricors est dimítttere peccáta nostra Deus noster.

Antiphon. Joel 2: 17, Esther 13: 17

Inter vestibulum et altáre plorábunt sacerdótes minístri Dómini, et dicent: Parce, Dómine, parce pópulo tuo: et ne claudas ora canéntium te, Dómine.

Response. Esther 13, Joel 2

Emendémus in mélius, quæ ignoránter peccávimus: ne, subito præoccupáti die mortis, quæramus spátium pæniténtiæ, et inveníre non póssimus.

Atténde, Dómine, et miserére: quia peccávimus tibi.

(Ps. 78:9) Adjuva nos, Deus, salutáris noster: et propter honórem nóminis tui, Dómine, líbera nos.

Atténde, Dómine, et miserére: quia peccávimus tibi.

Glória Patri et Fílio et Spírítui Sancto, sicut erat in princípío, et nunc, et

P: Thou shalt sprinkle me, O Lord, with hyssop, and I shall be cleansed. Thou shalt wash me and I shall become whiter than snow.

P: Remember, man, + that thou art dust, and unto dust thou shalt return.

Let us change our garments for ashes and sackcloth: let us fast and lament before the Lord: for our God is plenteous in mercy to forgive our sins.

Between the porch and the altar, the priests, the Lord's ministers, shall weep, and shall say: Spare, O Lord, spare Thy people; and shut not the mouths of them that sing to thee, O Lord.

Let us amend and do better for those things in which we have sinned through ignorance lest, suddenly prevented by the day of death, we seek time for penance, and be not able to find it.

Attend, O Lord, and have mercy: for we have sinned against Thee.

(Ps. 78:9) Help us, O God, our Saviour: and for the honor of Thy name, O Lord, deliver us.

Attend, O Lord, and have mercy: for we have sinned against Thee.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the