

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 princípío, 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  
ómibus 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 benedictiónis: ut eos et spírítu compunctiúnis 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 dimíttere peccáta nostra Deus noster.

**Antiphon.** Joel 2: 17, Esther 13: 17

Inter vestibulum et altáre plorábunt sacerdótes ministri 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