

The Order
Opening of the Mass

An Interpretation of Lent and Ash Wednesday

"The Call to Worship"

Come, young and old... Sincerely yourselves before the Lord,
We gather to hear the word of God,
Come, and listen daily... Remember God,
We gather to be in the presence of God,
Come, cry out to God... Trust in God's mercy,
We gather to renew our spirits, as we acknowledge our feelings
before God.

Open **"Take Time with Holy"** **1000-101**

"The Opening Prayer"

We turn to you, God of life, on this first day of Lent, as we recall our own mortality. With hearts here open by our actions, we need your guidance and your healing forgiveness. Ready as we receive your mercy and grace, and deliver us of the yoke of human failing, that we may embrace the words you speak—words that lead to eternal life. In Christ we Pray. Amen.

Prayer of Confession (With thoughts from the Psalms 51)

In preparation, grant yourselves before God. Come in your brokenness, acknowledging what you have taken short of God's expectations and of your own.

[Time of silent reflection]

Have mercy on me, O God according to your steadfast love.

The brokenness that blinds me, I lay before you.

Come in your pain, acknowledging your hurt and accepting how you have hurt others.

[Time of silent reflection]

Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your Holy Spirit from me.

All the pain I have in my life—the pain I have caused and the pain I feel I lay before you.

Come in your weakness, acknowledging your lack of confidence to do what is right.

[Time of silent reflection]

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love.

The weakness that binds me captive, I lay before you.

Come in your fear, acknowledging your failure to work justice.

[Time of silent reflection]

Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your Holy Spirit from me.

The fear that blinds me, I lay before you.

Come in your hesitancy, acknowledging your weakness to God's call.

[Time of silent reflection]

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love.

My hesitancy in doing your will, I lay before you.

Come in your feelings, acknowledging what you have done and left undone.

[Time of silent reflection]

Come in me a cheerleader, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me.

The cheerleader that eases my strength and leaves me blind, I lay before you.

All that we are, all that we have done all that we confess, we lay before you. O God.

Believe the weight of the burden, I lay before you. Amen.

Words of Assurance (With thoughts from Joel 2)

The prophet Joel reminds us that God is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. With great mercy, God rebukes those punishing and calls to the followers of life. In God's grace, know that you are forgiven.

In God's grace, I know that I am forgiven.

In God's mercy, know that you are made new.

In God's mercy, I know that I am made new.

In God's love, know that you are made whole.

In God's love, I know that I am made whole.