



# Liturgy of the Word

First Reading: Joel 2:12-18

Psalm 51:

Second Reading: 2 Cor 5:20-6:2

Gospel: Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18

## Prayer Over the Ashes

God of dirt and ashes, God of the burnt and the hurt, bless these ashes and all of us who receive them.

Hear our secret sins, the ones that really burn us. See our smoldering resentments, the ones we won't let go of.

Then, O God, Easter us this Lent. Come into our upper rooms and breathe into us your peace. May our observance of this season of Lent bring us your forgiveness so that we might rise from these ashes to New Life. Amen.

## Reception of Ashes

## Prayer of the Faithful

## Closing Prayer

### Rend Your Heart

A Blessing for Ash Wednesday by Jan Richardson

To receive this blessing,  
all you have to do  
is let your heart break.  
Let it crack open.  
Let it fall apart  
so that you can see  
its secret chambers,  
the hidden spaces  
where you have hesitated  
to go.  
Your entire life  
is here, inscribed whole  
upon your heart's walls:  
every path taken  
or left behind,  
every face you turned toward  
or turned away,  
every word spoken in love  
or in rage,  
every line of your life  
you would prefer to leave  
in shadow,  
every story that shimmers  
with treasures known  
and those you have yet  
to find.  
It could take you days  
to wander these rooms.  
Forty, at least.  
And so let this be  
a season for wandering,  
for trusting the breaking,  
for tracing the rupture  
that will return you  
to the One who waits,  
who watches,  
who works  
within the rending  
to make your heart  
whole. Amen

## PSALM 51: BE MERCIFUL, O LORD/CREATE A CLEAN HEART IN ME, O GOD/I WILL RISE AND GO TO MY FATHER

Ricky Manalo, CSP

Refrain  
Be mer-ci-ful, O Lord, for we have sinned. Be

mer-ci-ful, O Lord, for we have sinned.

Alternative Refrain 1  
Cre - ate a clean heart in me, O God. Cre -

ate a clean heart in me, O God.

Alternative Refrain 2  
I will rise and go to my fa - ther. I will

rise and go to my fa - ther.

1. Have mercy on me, O God, in your goodness; in the greatness of your compassion wipe out my offense. Thoroughly wash me from my guilt and of my sin cleanse me.
2. For I acknowledge my offense, and my sin is before me always: "Against you only have I sinned, and done what is evil in your sight."
3. A clean heart create for me, O God, and a steadfast spirit renew within me. Cast me not out from your presence, and your Holy Spirit take not from me.
4. Give me back the joy of your salvation, and a willing spirit sustain in me. O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Refrain texts © 1969, 1981, 1997, ICEL. All rights reserved. Used with permission. Verses text: Psalm 51:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 17; © 1970, 1997, 1998, CCD. All rights reserved. Used with permission. Music © 2006, Ricky Manalo, CSP. Published by OCP. All rights reserved.

## Closing Song

### I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say

1. I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Come
2. I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Be -
3. I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "I

un - to me and rest; Lay down, O wea - ry  
hold, I free - ly give The liv - ing wa - ter;  
am this dark world's light; Look un - to me, your

one, lay down Your head up - on my breast." I  
thirst - y one, Stoop down, and drink, and live." I  
morn shall rise, And all your day be bright." I

came to Je - sus as I was, So  
came to Je - sus, and I drank Of  
looked to Je - sus, and I found In

wea - ry, worn, and sad; I found in him a  
that life - giv - ing stream; My thirst was quenched, my  
him my star, my sun; And in that light of

rest - ing place, And he has made me glad.  
soul re - vived, And now I live in him.  
life I'll walk Till trav - 'ling days are done.