

18 FEBRUARY 2026
ASH WEDNESDAY

Introduction:

Repent and return to the Lord!

Ash Wednesday marks the start of the season of Lent – a season of grace and a season of returning to God. The Liturgy is filled with a description of how to pray, fast and give alms to the needy. The Lord is merciful, and He is inviting us to return to the Merciful Father.

As we participate in the liturgy today, let us resolve to bring about a change in the way we deal with others, as well as making time to repair and renew our relationship with God.

Kindly stand and join in the entrance hymn.

Prayer of the Faithful

CEL: God our Father, we come to you asking for your merciful love. In the company of our brothers and sisters, we plead for your grace on us all, as we say:

Response: Lord, hear our prayer.

1. That our Holy Father, bishops, priests and religious may bring the people of God to His fountain of mercy (pause) we pray to the Lord
2. That the season of Lent may truly be a season of grace, as we strive to keep our Lenten observances (pause) we pray to the Lord
3. That our Lenten devotions may help us repair our relationships with one another and with God our Father (pause) we pray to the Lord
4. That those in difficult situations across the world may experience grace and mercy in the season of Lent through our outreach and prayer (pause) we pray to the Lord
5. We pause to pray for our personal and local intentions (pause) we pray to the Lord

CEL: God our Father, we come to you, confident of your abundant mercy. May your peace fill the world, even as we begin the holy season of Lent. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.