

READINGS AND PROPERS FOR ASH WEDNESDAY • 2/17/21

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON *Misereris omnium*

cf. Wis 11:24-25,27; Ps 57

Misereris ómnium, Dómine, et nihil odisti eórum quæ fecisti, dissimulans peccáta hóminum propter pæniténtiam et parcens illis: quia tu es Dóminus, Deus noster. ✠ *Miserere mei, Deus, miserere mei: quóniam in te confidit ánima mea.*

You are merciful to all, O Lord, and despise nothing that You have made. You overlook people's sins, to bring them to repentance, and You spare them, for You are the Lord our God.

✠ *Be merciful to me, O God, be merciful to me, for my soul confides in You.*

FIRST READING

Joel 2:12-18

Even now, says the LORD, return to me with your whole heart, with fasting, and weeping, and mourning; Rend your hearts, not your garments, and return to the LORD, your God. For gracious and merciful is he, slow to anger, rich in kindness, and relenting in punishment. Perhaps he will again relent and leave behind him a blessing, Offerings and libations for the LORD, your God. Blow the trumpet in Zion! proclaim a fast, call an assembly; Gather the people, notify the congregation; Assemble the elders, gather the children and the infants at the breast; Let the bridegroom quit his room and the bride her chamber. Between the porch and the altar let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep, And say, "Spare, O LORD, your people, and make not your heritage a reproach, with the nations ruling over them! Why should they say among the peoples, "Where is their God?" Then the LORD was stirred to concern for his land and took pity on his people.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

From Psalm 51

Antiphon: Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.

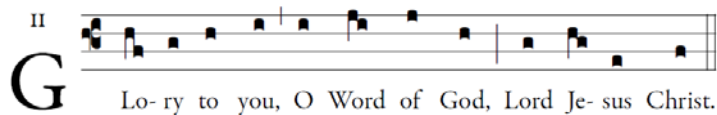
SECOND READING

2 Corinthians 5:20–6:2

Brothers and sisters: We are ambassadors for Christ, as if God were appealing through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who did not know sin, so that we might become the righteousness of God in him. Working together, then, we appeal to you not to receive the grace of God in vain. For he says: *In an acceptable time I heard you, and on the day of salvation I helped you.* Behold, now is a very acceptable time; behold, now is the day of salvation.

VERSE BEFORE THE GOSPEL

cf. Ps 95:8



GOSPEL

Matthew 6:1-6,16-18

Jesus said to his disciples: "Take care not to perform righteous deeds in order that people may see them; otherwise, you will have no recompense from your heavenly Father. When you give alms, do not blow a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets to win the praise of others. Amen, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right is doing, so that your almsgiving may be secret. And your Father who sees in secret will repay you. "When you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, who love to stand and pray in the synagogues and on street corners so that others may see them. Amen, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you pray, go to your inner room, close the door, and pray to your Father in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will repay you. "When you fast, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites. They neglect their appearance, so that they may appear to others to be fasting. Amen, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, so that you may not appear to be fasting, except to your Father who is hidden. And your Father who sees what is hidden will repay you."

BLESSING AND DISTRIBUTION OF ASHES

NB: This year, following the blessing of the ashes, the celebrant proclaims (over all present), "Repent, and believe in the Gospel." or "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return." Ashes will be sprinkled upon the heads of those who come forward to receive them.

BLESSING AND DISTRIBUTION OF ASHES

The choir sing the following antiphons and responsory assigned by the Church.

ANTIPHON I

cf. Joel 2:13

Let us change our garments to sackcloth and ashes, let us fast and weep before the Lord, that our God, rich in mercy, might forgive us our sins.

ANTIPHON II

cf. Joel 2:17; Esther 4:17

Let the priests, the ministers of the Lord, stand between the porch and the altar and weep and cry out: Spare, O Lord, spare your people; do not close the mouths of those who sing your praise, O Lord.

RESPONSORY

cf. Baruch 3:2; Psalm 79:9

Let us correct our faults which we have committed in ignorance, let us not be taken unawares by the day of our death, looking in vain for leisure to repent. *℟̄ Hear us, O Lord, and show us your mercy, for we have sinned against you. ℞ Help us, O God, our Savior; for the sake of your name, O Lord, set us free. ℟̄ Hear us, O Lord...*

OFFERTORY ANTIPHON *Exaltabo te, Domine*

Ps 30:2-3

Exaltábo te, Dómine, quóniam suscepísti me, nec delectásti inimícos meos super me: Dómine, clamávi ad te, et sanásti me. / *I will extol you, O Lord, for You drew me clear and did not let my enemies rejoice over me. O Lord, I cried out to You and You healed me.*

SANCTUS & AGNUS DEI XVIII

Sung by all

HOLY COMMUNION

We invite all Catholics who are properly disposed (i.e., in the state of grace and having fasted for one hour before communion) to come forward in the usual way to receive Holy Communion. All others, including our non-Catholic guests, may remain in their pews and join us in prayer.

Alternatively, to participate in the communion procession and receive a blessing, come forward in the line and cross your arms over your chest as you approach the minister. Thank you.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON *Qui meditabitur*

Ps 1:2-3

Qui meditabitur in lege Dómini die ac nocte, dabit fructum suum in témpore suo.
He who ponders the law of the Lord day and night will yield fruit in due season.

POSTCOMMUNION *Ne irascaris, Domine*

William Byrd

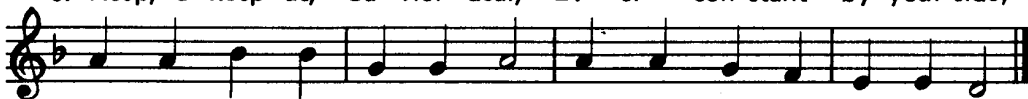
Ne irascaris Domine satis, et ne ultra memineris iniquitatis nostrae. Ecce respice populus tuus omnes nos.
Be not angry, O Lord, and remember our iniquity no more. Behold, we are all Your people.

CLOSING HYMN

HEINLEIN



1. For - ty days and for - ty nights You were fast - ing in the wild;
2. Shall not we your sor - row share And from world - ly joys ab - stain,
3. Then if Sa - tan on us press, Flesh or spir - it to as - sail,
4. So shall we have peace di - vine: Ho - lier glad - ness ours shall be;
5. Keep, O keep us, Sa - vior dear, Ev - er con - stant by your side;



1. For - ty days and for - ty nights Temp - ted, and yet un - de - filed.
2. Fast - ing with un - ceas - ing prayer, Strong with you to suf - fer pain?
3. Vic - tor in the wil - der - ness, Grant we may not faint nor fail!
4. Round us, too, shall an - gels shine, Such as served you faith - ful - ly.
5. That with you we may ap - pear At th'e - ter - nal Eas - ter - tide.