

FEBRUARY 10, 2016
ASH WEDNESDAY

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Turn your heart to God.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

Read and reflect on these readings as part of your personal or household devotional times in the coming days.

Ash Wednesday	Matthew 6:1-6,16-21	Giving, praying and fasting
Thursday	2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10	Messengers of Christ
Friday	Joel 2:1-2,12-17	A call to repentance
Saturday	Psalms 51:1-17	Have mercy on me, O God
Sunday	Luke 4:1-13	The temptation of Jesus

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

“Turn back to me with broken hearts. I am merciful, kind and caring. I don’t easily lose my temper, and I don’t like to punish.” **Joel 2:13 (CEV)**

SAY, PRAY, AND BLESS:

A Prayer for this Holy Day:

God, create pure hearts in us. Give us new spirits that are faithful to you. Amen. (Psalm 51:10)

Mealtime Prayer:

Lord God, as Lent begins today we turn to you for help. Nourish us with this food so that we may be strong to serve you and others with love and kindness. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God wash away all your sins. May God give you a clean heart and a new and faithful spirit. Amen. (Psalm 51:7,10)



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CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home or small group:

- Share about a time when you said “sorry” to someone. What happened?
- Why do we need to say “sorry” to God? Do you find it easy or hard to apologize to God?
- What does God promise to do when we confess our sins to him?

DEVOTIONS

Ash Wednesday is the first day of the church season of Lent. The association of this day with ashes goes back to the sixth century. For hundreds of years, Christians have received ashes on their heads as a reminder of their mortality and to symbolize their sorrow for sin. As a household, participate together in a home ashes ritual. Prepare in advance a small bowl of ashes to use.

Bible Readings: Genesis 3:19, Matthew 6:1-21

All Pray: **O God, as we enter the season of Lent today, we confess our need for a Savior. Prepare our hearts and minds throughout this season so that we may grow in serving others, showing thanks for how your Son has loved and served us. Amen.**

Leader: **Let us now mark one another with ashes as a sign of sorrow for our sin, and our trust in Jesus to save us.**

Take turns in making the sign of the cross with ashes on one another’s foreheads, saying these words: **“Dust you are, and to dust you shall return. Repent and look to Jesus your Savior.”**

Conclude: Read Psalm 103:13-18

SERVICE

Listening to others is an act of loving service. Make a point of listening carefully as you have conversations. Be mindful that you may be hearing the voice of God as you listen.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

To mark the beginning of Lent, set aside a period of time this week to “unplug” from technology and luxuries. Choose not to watch TV or use computers and other electronic devices for leisure purposes. Eat simple foods and drink only water. Have a time of silence in your household during which you reflect on the gifts of God and your relationship with God.



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: www.milestonesministry.org