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## HISTORICAL

**The practice of Ash Wednesday dates back to the 11th Century,**

**Lent (Latin: Quadragesima, 'Fortieth') beginning with Ash Wednesday is a solemn observance commemorating the 40 days Jesus spent fasting in the desert and enduring temptation by Satan, according to the Gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke, before beginning his public ministry.**

The tradition of receiving ashes has even earlier roots — to the ancient Hebrew custom of clothing oneself in sackcloth and dusting oneself with ashes as a sign of penance.

In the book Daniel Chapter 9: in the nine chapter there's a line about associating fasting with ashes, so ashes are associated with penance.

## Daniel's Prayer

<sup>4</sup> I prayed to the Lord my God and confessed: “Lord, the great and awesome God, who keeps his covenant of love with those who love him and keep his commandments, <sup>5</sup> we have sinned and done wrong. We have been wicked and have rebelled; we have turned away from your commands and laws. <sup>6</sup> We have not listened to your servants the prophets, who spoke in your name to our kings, our princes and our ancestors, and to all the people of the land.

<sup>7</sup> “Lord, you are righteous, but this day we are covered with shame—the people of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem and all Israel, both near and far, in all the countries where you have scattered us because of our unfaithfulness to you. <sup>8</sup> We and our kings, our princes and our ancestors are covered with shame, Lord, because we have sinned against you. <sup>9</sup> The Lord our God is merciful and forgiving, even though we have rebelled against him; <sup>10</sup> we have not obeyed the Lord our God or kept the laws he gave us through his servants the prophets. <sup>11</sup> All Israel has transgressed your law and turned away, refusing to obey you.

## Biblical Theology behind Liturgy

**The service will focus on repentance, grace, and forgiveness.**

The readings include warnings from Isaiah about fasts that God loves. That God wants us to free the oppressed and to walk in justice. They will include Christ commanding us not to do our fasting to be seen by others.

The service will remind us that we are mortal, and that we must repent. The service will be reverent and quiet. It is intended to be plain and simple. During the service, you will be called upon to join with the whole Church in a Holy Lent. To pray that God will open our eyes to see that we can be honest with him, and repent. To see that we can tell him of our pain, and sorrow, and that he understands. He knows because Christ, God himself in the flesh, walked through his own wilderness, and then walked beyond that to the cross.(Common Prayer 2016)

## INTRODUCTION TO ASH WEDNESDAY (Common Worship 2016)

Brother and sisters in Christ, since the early days, Christians have observed with great devotion the time of our Lord's passion and resurrection and prepared for this by a season of penitence and fasting.

By carefully keeping these days Christians take to heart the call to repentance and the assurance of forgiveness proclaimed in the gospel and so grow in faith and in devotion to our Lord.

I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church, to the observance of a holy Lent by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting and self-denial; and by the reading and meditating on God's holy Word.

## Where to get Ashes?

When then can the worshippers be informed to return the palms crosses given the previous year?

This can be done when the lectionary indicates Sundays before Lent.

**Septuagesima Sunday, Sexagesima Sunday, and Quinquagesima Sunday**

Announcements be made in Church to remind worshippers to return the old palm crosses

Ashes can also be purchased, but the very act of doing it in our respective churches becomes an act of preparations by involving people such as the Deacons, vergers and servers.



# SERMON THEMES PRE-LENT

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday before lent:

“justly punished”

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday before lent Sunday:

“put not our trust in anything that we do”

Sunday before Ash Wednesday

“all our doings without charity are nothing worth.”

(because you need to hear it). Take those things in mind,  
take them to heart, then take them into Lent with you.

You're being formed by the Liturgy.

# THINGS YOU NEED TO PREPARE ASHES

**Old Palms:** Traditionally, the ashes for the Ash Wednesday service are made by burning the palms from the previous year's Palms.

**Fine mesh sieve:**

**Bowl:** A appropriate container with a cover is needed to place the palm ashes.

**Pynx** should be appropriate so that it can be placed in one hand and wide enough or you might have difficulty reaching in with your thumb to get the ashes

Sourcing for something local will be cheaper that try to buy one from overseas.

**Olive oil**

**Teaspoon**

**Clean cloth**

**Lemon juice.**

# How to prepare Ashes?

## Step 1

Burn all the old palm leaves and branches.

Sift the ashes into a bowl using a fine mesh sieve using the back of a teaspoon to push the ashes through the mesh.

## Step 2

Add one or two drops of olive oil to the ashes in the bowl and mix with a teaspoon. Mix the ash and oil until the ash begins to stick together, the mix should have a paste like consistency. Add oil until the mixture is right. By adding the olive oil, you will find that the ashes are easy to apply and the worshipper will find it easy to wipe it off their foreheads without getting ashes all over their face, hands and clothing.

Do this night before the service begins.

## Step 3

Cover the ash and oil paste with plastic wrap until ready to use to prevent anything from falling in and contaminating the mixture.

## How to impose the ashes?

- Dip your right thumb into the container, just touching the surface of the ashes so that the edge of your thumb is black.
- Draw a cross on the person's forehead with your thumb. It will probably come out looking like a plus sign.
- Say **Remember that dust you are, and to dust you shall return, which comes from Genesis 3:19**, or words to that effect. Say the same thing for each person.
- The person does not need to respond, but if they say amen, it does not mean that their life will end.
- The person immediately returns to their seat, and it is the next person's turn.

#### Step 4

Remember to put a wet cloth around in a dish and place it on the credence table. Put a small hand towel or wet tissue next to it.

#### Tip

Wipes the ashes off using a clean dry cloth. Use a few drops of lemon juice to clean the skin, if the ashes doesn't wipe off completely

#### Warning.

Never mix palm ashes with water or use water to clean the ash mark off skin. Palm Ash mixed with water can burn the skin.

## HOW TO USE ASHES ON ASH WEDNESDAY?

The practice of marking with the sign of the cross to the forehead of palm ash and oil on Ash Wednesday provides a visible sign which marks the beginning of the season of Lent.

The mark is an outward sign of the believer's repentance and commitment to renewal of their faith. The actual act is referred to as the "imposition of ashes."

The priests mix palm ash with a drop of oil and apply a sign of a cross to the worshipper's forehead. The person is then to wear the mark until it naturally rubs off, although it is acceptable in most faith communities to remove the mark the next morning.

The purpose of this rite is to remind people that we will one day die and thus the need for **repentance**.

# Imposing the Ashes

When do you impose the ash on the Forehead in the service?

After the confession of sins, everyone stands in line in the aisle, and the first person is piously standing in front of you waiting to receive the ashes. In some churches they prefer to kneel and receive the ashes.

Collect



## **Collect (1) Ash Wednesday and lent**

Almighty and everlasting  
God, you hate nothing you  
have made and forgive the  
sins of all who are penitent:

## Collect (2)

Create and make in us new and contrite hearts,  
that we, worthily lamenting our sins and  
acknowledging our wretchedness, may obtain of you,  
the God of all mercy,  
perfect remission and forgiveness;

## Collect (3)

through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and  
reigns  
with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for  
ever and ever. Amen.

Litany of  
*Penitence*  
*(please kneel)*

## Litany (1)

Most holy and merciful Father:  
We confess to you and to one  
another,  
and to the whole communion of  
saints  
in heaven and on earth,

## Litany (2)

that we have sinned by our own  
fault

in thought, word, and deed;  
by what we have done, and by  
what we have left undone

## Litany (3)

We have not loved you with our whole heart, and mind, and strength. We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves. We have not forgiven others, as we have been forgiven.

**All: Have mercy on us, Lord.**

## Litany (4)

We have been deaf to your call to serve, as Christ served us.

We have not been true to the mind of Christ. We have grieved your Holy Spirit.

**All: Have mercy on us, Lord.**



## Litany (5)

We confess to you, Lord, all our past unfaithfulness: the pride, hypocrisy, and impatience of our lives,

**All: We confess to you, Lord.**

## Litany (6)

Our self-indulgent appetites and  
ways, and our exploitation  
of other people,

**All: We confess to you, Lord.**

## Litany (7)

Our anger at our own frustration,  
and our envy of those  
more fortunate than ourselves,

**All: We confess to you, Lord.**

## Litany (8)

Our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts, and our dishonesty in daily life and work,

**All: We confess to you, Lord.**

## Litany (9)

Our negligence in prayer and  
worship, and our failure to  
commend the faith that is in us,

**All: We confess to you, Lord.**

## Litany (10)

Accept our repentance, Lord, for the wrongs we have done:

for our blindness to human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty,

**All: Accept our repentance, Lord.**

## Litany (11)

For all false judgments, for uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbours, and for our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us,

**All: Accept our repentance, Lord.**

## Litany (12)

For our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us,

**All: Accept our repentance, Lord.**



## Litany (13)

Restore us, good Lord, and let your anger depart from us;

**All: Favorably hear us, for your mercy is great.**

## Litany (14)

Accomplish in us the work of your salvation,

**All: That we may show forth your glory in the world.**

- Priest: Make our Hearts clean O God.

- All: And renew a right spirit with us.

Father eternal, giver of light and grace, we have sinned against you and against our neighbour,

In what we have thought,  
In what we have said and done  
Through ignorance and through  
weakness,  
Through our deliberate fault.

We have wounded your love,  
And marred your image in us.  
We are sorry and ashamed  
And repent of all our sins.

For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ  
Who died for us,  
Forgive us all that is past: and lead us  
out from darkness to walk as children  
of Light.  
Amen

- Priest: May Almighty God pardon and absolves all those who truly repent, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Imposition of ashes



By the cross and passion of your Son our Lord,

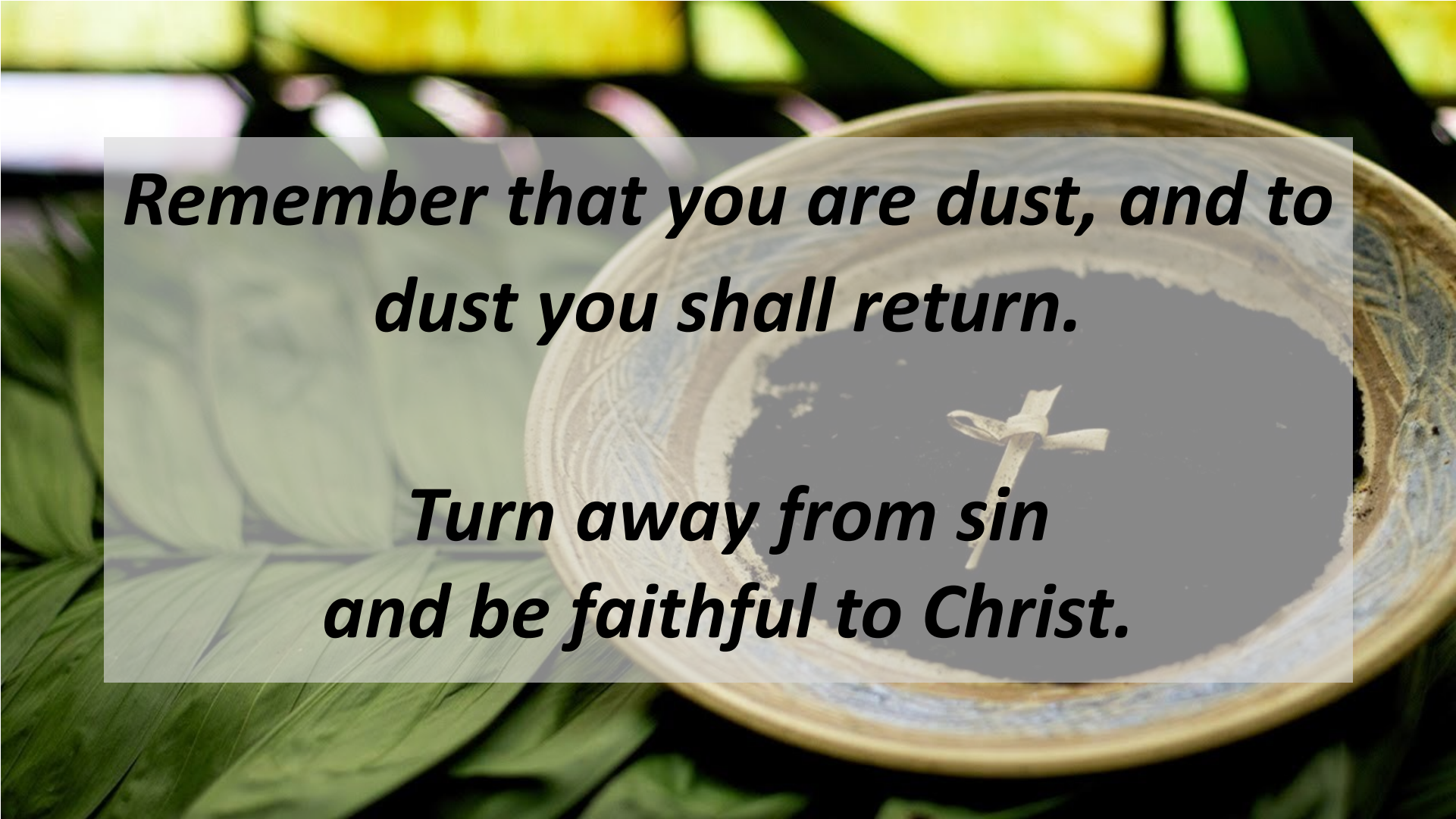
**All: Bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.**

# Invitation

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, I invite you to receive these ashes as sign of the spirit of penitence with which we shall keep this season of Lent.

*Silence is then kept for a time,  
all kneeling.*

Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth: Grant that these ashes may be to us a sign of our mortality and penitence, that we may remember that it is only by your gracious gift that we are given everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.



***Remember that you are dust, and to  
dust you shall return.***

***Turn away from sin  
and be faithful to Christ.***

After the imposition of ashes

Through the cross of Christ,  
God have mercy on you,  
pardon you and set you free.  
Know that you are forgiven  
and be at peace.

God strengthen you in all goodness  
and keep you in life eternal.

Amen.



## Offertory prayer

### Taking of Bread & Wine (1)

All: Merciful Father,

Turn us from sin to faithfulness

And from obedience to love

And prepare us to celebrate the death and resurrection of

Christ our Saviour Who is alive and reigns now and forever.

Amen

## Post Communion Prayer

May the Sacrament we have received sustain us,

O Lord, that our Lenten fast may be pleasing to you and be for us  
a healing remedy.

Through Christ our Lord. Amen



# Blessing for Ash Wednesday

# Blessing (1)

*ALL:*

O bless me now, my Savior,  
I come to thee.

Have mercy on me, O God, according to  
your steadfast love; according to your  
abundant mercy blot out my  
transgressions.

## Blessing (2)

Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,  
and cleanse me from my sin. For I know  
my transgressions, and my sin is ever  
before me.

Priest:

And the Blessing of God the Father,, God  
the Son and God the Holy Spirit bless,  
preserve and guide you. Amen

## Resources

Anglican Ash Wednesday service.

<https://www.google.com/search?client=safari&rls=en&q=anglican+liturgy+on+ash+wednesday&ie=UTF-8&oe=UTF-8>

For more information

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