

MARCH 2, 2022
ASH WEDNESDAY



God's grace is more powerful than sin.

ASH WEDNESDAY BIBLE READINGS

Take time to read and reflect on these Bible passages as part of your Ash Wednesday observance.

Wednesday	Joel 2:1-2, 12-17	Call to repentance
	Psalms 51:1-17	A prayer for forgiveness
	2 Corinthians 5:20b–6:10	Messengers of Christ
	Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21	The practice of faith

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR ASH WEDNESDAY

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. Psalm 51:1 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for Ash Wednesday:

Dear God, forgive us and renew us with your constant love and mercy through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

God gives us water. God gives us bread. Let us give thanks for now being fed. In Jesus name we pray, amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the God of steadfast love restore your soul through Christ Jesus our Lord.



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HYMN FOR
ASH WEDNESDAY



Return to God

ASH WEDNESDAY MILESTONES



Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

CARING CONVERSATIONS



Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- When is a time you were sorry for your actions and wanted to apologize?
- How does God's forgiveness free you to live your life for the care of others?

DEVOTIONS



Read: Psalm 51:1-17.

This psalm is referenced in hymns. Individual verses are used in Christian liturgy. Its beautiful poetry and powerful message of repentance and divine forgiveness have comforted the faithful for thousands of years. At the heart of the psalm is a recognition of human sin. More revealing than the various ways of describing human brokenness is the psalm's description of God's activity that forgives and renews lives: mercy, steadfast love, and abundant mercy (v. 1). These words can remind us of God's three essential characteristics: merciful, gracious, and steadfast love (see Exodus 34:6). God's ways are so powerful and loving that all our brokenness is overcome with divine mercy that creates in us a new heart, even though the new heart will break again and again.

Discuss: What does it mean to you that God's grace is more powerful than your sin?

Pray: **God of mercy, grace, and steadfast love, cleanse our hearts and renew our spirits to trust in you through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

SERVICE



Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Ash Wednesday Bible Readings and the theme for the day, who is someone you know that you could tell about God's mercy and steadfast love?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent. Lent is a time of repentance and confession. As a way to recognize this day, gather around a fire pit with friends and family. Invite everyone to think about something they feel bad about doing or saying to someone. Then give each person a piece of paper and a pen or pencil. Ask each person to write what they thought about on the paper. Small children can draw a picture with crayons. Next, tell each person to crumple up their paper and throw it into the fire. After the papers become ashes, say together: **Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me.** (Psalm 51:10)



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