

ASH WEDNESDAY

Year B

ENTRANCE HYMN

1. God of mercy and compassion,
Look with pity upon me,
Father, let me call Thee Father,
'Tis Thy child returns to Thee.

*Jesus, Lord, I ask for mercy;
Let me not implore in vain;
All my sins, I now detest them,
Never will I sin again.*
2. See our Saviour, bleeding, dying,
On the cross of Calvary;
To that cross my sins have nail'd Him,
Yet He bleeds and dies for me.
3. By my sins I have deserved
Death and endless misery,
Hell with all its pains and torments,
And for all eternity.
4. By my sins I have abandoned
Right and claim to heav'n above.
Where the saints rejoice forever
In a boundless sea of love.



FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Joel 2:12-18
Let your hearts be broken, not your garments torn.

'Now, now – it is the Lord who speaks –
come back to me with all your heart,
fasting, weeping, mourning.'
Let your hearts be broken not your garments torn,
turn to the Lord your God again,
for he is all tenderness and compassion,
slow to anger, rich in graciousness,
and ready to relent.
Who knows if he will not turn again, will not relent,
will not leave a blessing as he passes,
oblation and libation
for the Lord your God?
Sound the trumpet in Zion!
Order a fast,
proclaim a solemn assembly,
call the people together,
summon the community,
assemble the elders,
gather the children,
even the infants at the breast.
Let the bridegroom leave his bedroom
and the bride her alcove.
Between vestibule and altar let the priests,
the ministers of the Lord, lament.
Let them say,
'Spare your people, Lord!
Do not make your heritage a thing of shame,
a byword for the nations.
Why should it be said among the nations,
"Where is their God?"'
Then the Lord, jealous on behalf of his land,
took pity on his people.



The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 50:3-6. 12-14. 17. R] v. 3

R. Have mercy on us, O Lord, for we have sinned

1. Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness.
In your compassion blot out my offence.
O wash me more and more from my guilt
and cleanse me from my sin. (R.)
2. My offences truly I know them;
my sin is always before me.
Against you, you alone, have I sinned:
what is evil in your sight I have done. (R.)
3. A pure heart create for me, O God,
put a steadfast spirit within me.
Do not cast me away from your presence,
nor deprive me of your holy spirit. (R.)
4. Give me again the joy of your help;
with a spirit of fervour sustain me.
O Lord, open my lips
and my mouth shall declare your praise. (R.)

SECOND READING

A reading from the second letter of St. Paul to the
Corinthians 5:20 – 6:2
*Be reconciled to God.....now is the favourable
time.*

We are ambassadors for Christ; it is as though God
were appealing through us, and the appeal that we
make in Christ's name is: be reconciled to God. For
our sake God made the sinless one into sin, so that in
him we might become the goodness of God. As his
fellow workers, we beg you once again not to neglect
the grace of God that you have received. For he says:
At the favourable time, I have listened to you; on the
day of salvation I came to your help. Well, now is the
favourable time; this is the day of salvation.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Ps 50:12. 14

Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!
A pure heart create for me, O God,
and give me again the joy of your help.
Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!

or

Cf. Ps 94:8

Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!
Harden not your hearts today,
but listen to the voice of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!

