

ASH WEDNESDAY
CYCLE A
PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Celebrant: The sign of blessed ashes invites us to respond to the God who calls us to come back to him with all our heart. The penance of Lent has begun. Our prayers enrich the charity and faith of that penance.

Our response is: *Lord, hear our prayer.*

1. For all members of holy Church, especially her leaders Pope Francis and Bishop Paul, as they repent and do penance in this chosen time, let us pray to the Lord.

Response: *Lord, hear our prayer.*

2. For the will to discipline ourselves by fasting and self-denial, let us pray to the Lord.

Response: *Lord, hear our prayer.*

3. For generosity to the poor and the oppressed by practical almsgiving, let us pray to the Lord.

Response: *Lord, hear our prayer.*

4. For the dead who have entered a state of purification and mercy, let us pray to the Lord.

Response: *Lord, hear our prayer.*

5. For our own special intentions as we begin this period of reflection, penance, and purification, let us pray to the Lord.

Response: *Lord, hear our prayer.*

Celebrant: God of mercy and compassion, look upon the petitions of your penitent people. As we pray for grace at this time, let us not forget the needs of others. We ask this, through Christ our Lord.

Response: *Amen*