

Prepare for Ash Wednesday

Father, we worry and complain about so many things,
but we rarely give even a passing thought to
what is saddest and most destructive
in our entire world:
 our sin and
 our unrepentant hearts.

Today, Lord, make us conscious of our sin and
 its terrible price.

We have turned our back on You, our Creator,
 the only Source of all that is good.

We have dethroned You
 from our lives and
 from our race.

In Your place, we have enthroned our
 puny,
 perverted,
 ignorant,
 short-lived selves.

The results have been predictable:
 darkness,
 chaos,
 suffering, and
 death.

Father, we own our sin.
 It is the one thing in this entire world that is
 truly our own.

We face and accept our physical death
 as the inevitable result of our sin.

We bow to You, face down,
 excusing nothing,
 claiming nothing,
 clinging to nothing but Your mercy.

We confess and repent, Father.

Have mercy on us.

O God, have mercy!

Hymn: [Ash Wednesday Hymn](#)