

# Ash Wednesday

## Reflection

2.17.21

- 1 Take a moment to be still and quiet.
- 2 Take a deep breath, breathing in God's Spirit.
- 3 Read the scriptures to the right on this page.
- 4 Spend a moment in prayer, reflecting on your life and your relationship with God. Ask yourself the following questions:
  - What keeps you from right relationship with God?
  - For what do you need to repent?
  - What needs to change in your life for you to be more in line with who God created you and calls you to be?
  - What do you need to "die" to?
  - What sin, burden, or wound do you need to give to God?

## Joel 2:12-13

Yet even now, says the Lord, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; rend your hearts and not your clothing. Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing.

## Psalm 51:1-17

1 Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. 2 Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. 3 For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. 4 Against you, you alone, have I sinned, and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are justified in your sentence and blameless when you pass judgment. 5 Indeed, I was born guilty, a sinner when my mother conceived me. 6 You desire truth in the inward being; therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart. 7 Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. 8 Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have crushed rejoice. 9 Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities. 10 Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me. 11 Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your holy spirit from me. 12 Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit. 13 Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will return to you. 14 Deliver me from bloodshed, O God, O God of my salvation, and my tongue will sing aloud of your deliverance. 15 O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise. 16 For you have no delight in sacrifice; if I were to give a burnt offering, you would not be pleased. 17 The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

5

Pray the following prayer.

*O God, maker of every thing and judge of all that you have made, from the dust of the earth you have formed me and from the dust of death you would raise me up. By the redemptive power of the cross, create in me a clean heart and put within me a new spirit, that I may repent of my sins and lead a life worthy of your calling; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

6

As you consider what needs to change in your life to be more in line with who God created and calls you to be, apply this "temporary" cross to the back of your hand or to your forehead.

7

Spend time in prayer throughout this day as we begin this season of repentance and reflection.



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