

A person is walking across a vast, golden desert dune. The person is small in the distance, leaving a trail of footprints that leads towards a large cross standing on the peak of the dune. The sky is a soft, hazy orange, suggesting a sunrise or sunset. The overall mood is one of solitude and spiritual journey.

JOURNEY WITH OUR LORD IN THE DESERT



PARA LITURGY OF ASH WEDNESDAY @ HOME



(Family gathers at the sacred place; candle lighted in a little sand to remind us of Jesus being alone in the desert)

Leader : *This is the day when we gather, to begin the season of LENT, our 40 day spiritual preparation. It is an invitation into a deeper life of faith, to be truly sorry for our sins and receiving new life in Christ.*

GATHER - WE ARE CALLED TO WORSHIP

Leader : *In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.*

Response : ***Amen.***

Leader : *Bless the Lord who is merciful.*

Response : ***His mercy endures for ever.***

Leader : *Come and purify our hearts.*



OPENING HYMN : REFINER'S FIRE



**Purify my heart,
Let me be as gold and precious silver;
Purify my heart,
Let me be as gold, pure gold.**

CHORUS

**Refiner's fire, My heart's one desire,
Is to be holy; Set apart for You, Lord
I choose to be holy; Set apart for You, My Master
Ready to do Your will**

**Purify my heart,
Cleanse me from within
And make me holy
Purify my heart,
Cleanse me from my sin
Deep within**

CHORUS

LET US PRAY *(together)*

O God, maker of everything,
from the dust of the earth,
You formed us, and from the dust of death,
You would raise us up.
With Your redemptive power of the cross,
create in us, clean hearts and put within us a new spirit,
that we may repent of our sins
and lead lives worthy of Your calling;
through Christ our Lord;
Amen.





GOD'S WORD – WE ASK GOD FOR ILLUMINATION

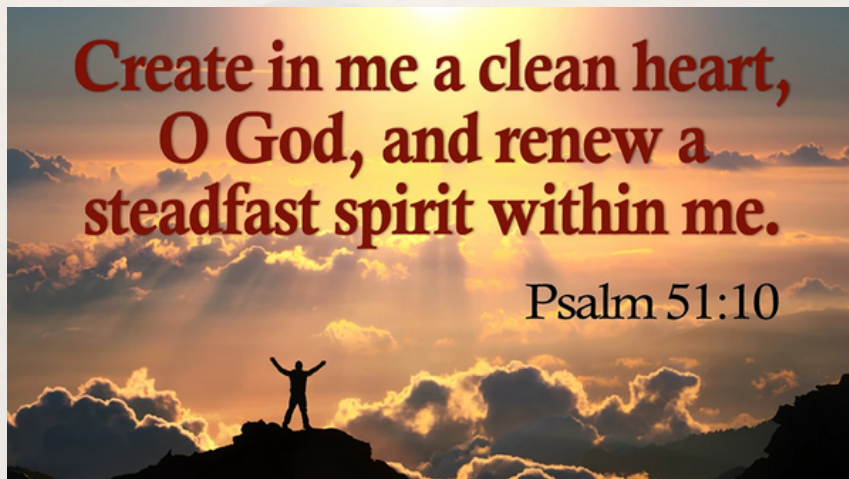
(Together)

Holy God, as we hear Your word, rescue us from the chaos of sin, and through the death of Your Son bring us healing and make us whole in Jesus Christ our Lord.

A READING FROM THE PROPHET JOEL (2 : 1, 12 – 13)

Blow the trumpet in Zion, sound the alarm on my holy mountain!
Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble,
for the day of the Lord is coming, it is near.....
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.

THE WORD OF THE LORD : **THANKS BE TO GOD.**



Let us enter into Holy Silence for a few moments - reflecting on the Call of the Word of God;

We now list our challenges and our confessions, offering them all to God from the silence of our hearts.



LITANY OF PENITENCE

Leader : Lord, we have not loved You with all our heart, all our soul and all our strength, we have not loved our neighbour as ourselves and we have not forgiven others as You have forgiven us;

Response: Have mercy on us, O Lord.

Leader : For being deaf to Your call, to serve, for not being true to You and having grieved Your Holy Spirit;

Response : Have mercy on us, O Lord.

Leader : For our anger in frustration, and our envy over those more fortunate, for our intemperate love of worldly goods and dishonesty in daily life and work;

Response : Have mercy on us, O Lord.

Leader : For our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to nurture the seed that has been planted in us;

Response : Have mercy on us, O Lord.

Leader : Lord, for the wrongs we have done: for our blindness to human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty;

Response : Have mercy on us, O Lord.

OUR RESPONSE

Leader : We invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church, to observe a holy Lent: by self examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's Holy Word



WE GIVE THANKS OVER THE ASHES

Almighty God, You have created us out of the dust of the earth. Grant that these ashes may be to us, a sign of our mortality and penitence, to remind us for it is only by Your GRACE, are we given everlasting life; in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

Father/Mother dips a thumb in the blessed ashes and sprinkles on the head of each family member with the sign of the cross; saying the following:



REPENT AND BELIEVE IN THE GOSPEL.

LET US OFFER ONE ANOTHER SIGNS OF RECONCILIATION AND LOVE

All exchange signs and words of God's peace.

THE LORD'S PRAYER (OUR FATHER)



WE ARE SENT OUT WITH A BLESSING

(Together)

*May the strength of God sustain us; the power of God preserve us; the hands of God protect us; the way of God direct us; and the love of God go with us, as we go forth to be a blessing.
AMEN.*

CLOSING HYMN : COME HOLY SPIRIT



**Come Holy Spirit and fill my heart
Come Holy Spirit, set me apart
Come Holy Spirit, to You I pray
Come Holy Spirit, show me the way**

**Come Holy Spirit and heal me now
Come Holy Spirit and melt me now
Come Holy Spirit and mould me now
Come Holy Spirit and use me now**

**Pour out Your grace upon this place
I feel Your healing touch
In Your warm embrace
Renew my life, Lord Jesus Christ
That I may bring Your love and peace to all the earth.**

GO FORTH

**YOUR CONTRIBUTION FOR A GREAT MISSION:
IN BRINGING THE POPE'S WORDS INTO EVERY HOME**

**RENEW OUR FAITH, DRAW FROM THE LIVING WATERS OF
HOPE AND RECEIVE WITH OPEN HEARTS, THE LOVE OF GOD
*(Lenten focus of Pope Francis 2021)***

