

# February 26, 2020: Ash Wednesday A,B,C

**Color:** Purple  
**Scriptures:** [Scripture linked to NRSV at Oremus Bible Browser]  
[Joel 2:1-2, 12-17](#) (*Return to the Lord, your God*)  
[Psalm 51:1-17](#) (*Have mercy on me, O God, according to your lovingkindness*)  
[2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10](#) (*Now is the day of salvation*)  
[Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21](#) (*The practice of faith*)

**Themes:** Repentance, Prayer, Mortality, Redemption

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## HYMN SUGGESTIONS

Hymn Suggestions link to [Hymnary.org](http://Hymnary.org), a searchable resource with a wealth of information regarding writers, composers, alternate and associated texts and tunes, corresponding hymn numbers, and more. The tunes listed here are the ones most commonly associated with the texts.

[Amazing Grace](#) (*NEW BRITAIN*)  
[Change My Heart, O God](#) (*CHANGE MY HEART*)  
[Just As I Am](#) (*WOODWORTH*)  
[Lift High the Cross](#) (*CRUCIFER*)  
[Lord, I Want to Be a Christian](#) (*LORD, I WANT TO BE A CHRISTIAN*)  
[Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days](#) (*ST. FLAVIAN*)  
[O For a Closer Walk With God](#) (*BEATITUDE, CAITHNESS*)  
[O For a Heart to Praise My God](#) (*AZMON; LAND OF REST*)  
[Purify My Heart \(Refiner's Fire\)](#) (*REFINER'S FIRE*)  
[Take Time to Be Holy](#) (*HOLINESS*)  
[Take Up Your Cross](#) (*O WALY WALY*)  
[What Wondrous Love is This](#) (*WONDRIOUS LOVE*)

### Before/During Prayer/Communion

[Create In Me](#) - Jane Marshall  
© 1988 Choristers Guild, CGA 750  
Unison (or Cantor) and Congregation, Keyboard  
[Deep Within](#) - David Haas  
© 1988 GIA Publications, G-3338  
Unison, 2-Part, Cantor, Congregation, Keyboard, Guitar  
[Take, O Take Me As I Am](#) - John L. Bell/adapted by Tony Alonso & Gabe Huck  
© 1995/2005 GIA Publications, G-6641  
SATB, Cantor, Congregation, Keyboard, Guitar, C-Instrument, Cello

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## ANTHEMS

*E = Easy, M = Moderate, MD = Moderately Difficult*

**Create In Me - M** ..... Psalm  
Terre Johnson  
© 2014, MorningStar Music, MSM- 50-3078  
SATB, Piano

**Create In Me a Clean Heart, O God - E** ..... Psalm  
Carl F. Mueller  
© 1941, G. Schirmer, No. 8682  
SATB, Organ

**Create In Me, O God - M** ..... Psalm  
Johannes Brahms  
© 1931, G. Schirmer, No. 2089  
SATBB, a cappella

**Dust and Ashes - E**..... Ash Wednesday  
David Haas  
© 1991, GIA Publications, G-3655  
2-Part, Keyboard, Guitar, C-Instrument,  
with opt. Congregation

**Lord, For Thy Tender Mercy's Sake - E** ..... Lent  
Richard Farrant/Michael Burkhardt, ed.  
Public Domain, cpdl.com #06234  
SATB, a cappella

**Lord, Have Mercy - M**.....Lent  
Cesar Franck (1822-1890)/Hal Hopson, arr.  
© 1991, GIA Publications, G-3424  
2-Part Mixed, Keyboard

**Search Me, O God - E** ..... Psalm  
*ELLERS*, Edward Hopkins/Ken Berg, arr.  
© 2011, Choristers Guild, CGA-1245  
Unison, Piano

**View Me, Lord - MD** ..... Ash Wednesday  
Jackson Berkey  
© 1996, SDG Press, SDG-112  
SSA, Solo, Piano

**Who is the One We Love the Most - M** .....Lent  
Carl Schalk  
© 1997, Concordia Publishing House, 98-3404  
SATB, Organ

-- youth/children --

**Prayer for Guidance - E** .....Lent  
Allen Pote  
© 1977, Hinshaw, HMC-244  
Unison/2-Part, Keyboard (HMC-2330, SAB)

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## ADDITIONAL MATERIAL (Prayers, Poems, Quotes & Liturgies)

*Sometimes with  
the bones of the black  
sticks left when the fire  
has gone out  
  
someone has written  
something new  
in the ashes  
  
of your life.*

-- DAVID WHYTE, from "The Journey"

*"There's nothing cleaner than ash."*

— MARILYNNE ROBINSON, "Gilead"

## CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Create in me a clean heart, O Gracious One.

**All: Put a new and right spirit within me.**

One: Put a new and right spirit within me.

**All: Restore to me the joy of your saving grace.**

One: Encourage me with your renewing spirit.

**All: O Gracious One, open my mouth and my tongue will announce your praise.**

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

One: Merciful God, whose ways are good and true, we confess that we have not lived as Christ has called us to live.

**All: We have shut our eyes to evils our world allows.**

One: We have sealed our ears from the cries of the suffering whose pain we abide.

**All: We have clung to the hostility we harbor against one another and hardened our hearts to the creative power of love.**

One: Therefore we pray: Open our eyes to see injustice in our world. Give us courage to resist the powers that oppress the poor.

**All: Open our ears to hear the cry of the needy. Teach us generosity for sharing the abundance of your creation.**

One: Open our minds to imagine an end to human strife.

**All: Grant us wisdom to pursue the ways of peace.**

One: Open our hearts to love our neighbors and our enemies near and far.

**All: Give us desire to embody the compassion of Christ.**

One: For the sake of the world, in the name of Christ we pray.

**All: Amen.**

## WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Listen, that you might live:

The steadfast love of the Lord never fails.

(Isaiah 55:3)

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

**Thanks be to God.**

## LENTEN PRAYER

Eternal God of love,  
you free us from our own imprisonment,  
you bring healing for our illnesses,  
you put our sin behind you,  
you are accustomed to dust,  
you show us it is not the end,  
you confirm and strengthen us,  
in goodness, you keep us in life eternal,  
in and through Jesus Christ  
who bore the cost of love  
and endured to the end.

## BENEDICTION

God of the Desert,  
we can journey confidently into Lent,  
following Christ, who leads into the unknown.  
We may resist the temptations that will come our way,  
knowing it is your bread that we eat,  
your world that we serve,  
and you alone whom we worship. Amen.

(Prayers adapted from Jim Cotter, *Unfolding the Living Word*)