

A RITUAL FOR THE BURNING OF BLESSED PALMS TO MAKE ASHES FOR ASH WEDNESDAY

Hear us, Lord;
For your mercy is great.

We will exalt you, O God our King;
And praise your Name for ever and ever.

Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;
Who put their trust in you.

God of Mercy, You fashioned us from the depths of the earth and bid us to follow your gospel call in the company of the Church. We bring you these palms today, brought from our homes the remnants of the past year. As they have dried and become brittle so they remind us of our own frailty. Look on us with kindness as we prepare the ashes which will mark the beginning of our Lenten Journey. Grant that we who make the desert pilgrimage might come to the fount of rebirth with a renewed passion for justice. May our alms serve your people and bring us peace, may the prayer sanctify all our deeds and may we come at least to the table you set in the place where you reign with Christ and the Holy Spirit forever and ever.
Amen.

A brief meditation may follow.

The Lord knows of what we are made, he remembers that we are dust. Let us ask him to forgive us and bind the wounds inflicted by our sin. Lord, in your mercy.
Hear our prayer.

Give us the grace of true repentance.

Hear our prayer.

Strengthen us with the power of your Holy Spirit

Hear our prayer.

Give us the courage to stand firm against all temptations.

Hear our prayer.

Help us to be aware of our dignity as human beings.

Hear our prayer.

Renew your love in our hearts, and make us bear witness to you in our daily lives.

Hear our prayer.

O God, who desirest not the death of a sinner, but rather he should turn from his sin and be saved: mercifully look upon the frailty of our mortal nature, and of thy goodness vouchsafe to bless these ashes now to be set upon our heads in token of humility and to obtain thy pardon; that we, knowing we are but dust, and that for our unworthiness unto dust shall we return, may through thy mercy be found meet to receive forgiveness of all our sins, and those good things which thou hast promised to the penitent. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Those gathered are dismissed with a blessing.