# ASH WEDNESDAY

**February 22nd, 2012**

## Tone 3

## Introit

I **WILL** - || cry out | to | God | **Most** - | High, \*

To God who performs | **all** - | **things** - | for | me.

|| And in the shadow of Your wings I will | make | my | **re**- - | fuge, \*

Until these calami- | **ties** - | **have** - | passed | by. *(Psalm 57:2, 1b)*

|| Be merciful to me, O God, be mer- | ci- | ful | **to** - | me! \*

For my | **soul -** | **trusts -** | in | You;

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To God who performs | **all** - | **things -** | for | me.

|| He shall send from heav- | en | and | **save** - | me; \*

God shall send forth His mer- | **cy** - | **and** - | His | truth. *(Psalm 57:1–3)*

**GLORIA PATRI (From Hymnal)**

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**Collect for Ash Wednesday**

Almighty and Everlasting God, our Father, Who hatest nothing that Thou hast made and dost forgive the sins of all those who are penitent, create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, may obtain of Thee, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ, Thy Son, our Lord, Who liveth and reigneth with the Thee and the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end.

**Collect for the Beginning of Lent**

O Gracious God, Who retainest not Thine anger forever, but delightest in mercy and pardonest iniquity, Who wouldst be gracious to Thy people rather than pour out Thy wrath upon sinners, we beseech Thee, forgive us all our sins, and enable us by Thy Holy Spirit to go and sin no more; for the sake of the bitter sufferings and death of Thy beloved Son Jesus Christ, our Lord, Who liveth and reigneth with Thee and the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end.

**Gradual**

|| Be merciful to me, O God, be mer- | ci- | ful | **to** - | me! \*

For my | **soul** - | **trusts -** | in | You;

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And save me; He reproaches the one who would | **swal**- - | **low -** | me | up. *(Psalm 57:1, 3a)*

**Tract** *(From Septuagesima to Holy Saturday, the Tract replaces the Verse)*

|| O Lord, do not deal with us accord- | ing | to | **our** - | sins, \*

Nor punish us according to our | **in**- - | **i**- - | qui- | ties.

|| O Lord, do not remember former iniqui- | ties | a- | **gainst** - | us! \*

Let Your tender mercies come speedily to meet us, for we have been |

**brought** - | **ve**- - | ry | low.

|| Help us, O God of | our | sal- | **va**- - | tion, \*

For the glo- | **ry** - | **of -** | Your | name. *(Psalm 103:10, 79:8–9a paraphrase)*

# Isaiah 59:12-21

12 “For our transgressions are multiplied before You, and our sins testify against us; For our transgressions are with us, and as for our iniquities, we know them: 13 In transgressing and lying against the LORD, and departing from our God, speaking oppression and revolt, conceiving and uttering from the heart words of falsehood. 14 Justice is turned back, and righteousness stands afar off; For truth is fallen in the street, and equity cannot enter. 15 So truth fails, and he who departs from evil makes himself a prey. Then the LORD saw it, and it displeased Him that there was no justice. 16 He saw that there was no man, and wondered that there was no intercessor; Therefore His own arm brought salvation for Him; And His own righteousness, it sustained Him. 17 For He put on righteousness as a breastplate, and a helmet of salvation on His head; He put on the garments of vengeance for clothing, and was clad with zeal as a cloak. 18 According to their deeds, accordingly He will repay, fury to His adversaries, recompense to His enemies; The coastlands He will fully repay. 19 So shall they fear the name of the LORD from the west, and His glory from the rising of the sun; When the enemy comes in like a flood, the Spirit of the LORD will lift up a standard against him. 20 The Redeemer will come to Zion, and to those who turn from transgression in Jacob,” Says the LORD. 21 “As for Me,” says the LORD, “this is My covenant with them: My Spirit who is upon you, and My words which I have put in your mouth, shall not depart from your mouth, nor from the mouth of your descendants, nor from the mouth of your descendants’ descendants,” says the LORD, “from this time and for-evermore.”

# Joel 2:12-19

12 “Now, therefore,” says the LORD, “Turn to Me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning.” 13 So rend your heart, and not your garments; Return to the LORD your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness; And He relents from doing harm. 14 Who knows if He will turn and relent, and leave a blessing be-hind Him—a grain offering and a drink offering for the LORD your God? 15 Blow the trumpet in Zion, consecrate a fast, call a sacred assembly; 16 Gather the people, sanctify the congregation, assemble the elders, gather the children and nursing babes; Let the bridegroom go out from his chamber, and the bride from her dressing room. 17 Let the priests, who minister to the LORD, weep between the porch and the altar; Let them say, “Spare Your people, O LORD, and do not give Your heritage to reproach, that the nations should rule over them. Why should they say among the peoples, ‘Where is their God?’” 18 Then the LORD will be zealous for His land, and pity His people. 19 The LORD will answer and say to His people, “Behold, I will send you grain and new wine and oil, and you will be satisfied by them; I will no longer make you a reproach among the nations.”

**St. Matthew 6:16-21**

16 “Moreover, when you fast, do not be like the hypocrites, with a sad countenance. For they disfigure their faces that they may appear to men to be fasting. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. 17 But you, when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, 18 so that you do not appear to men to be fasting, but to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly. 19 Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; 20 but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. 21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

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