***Ash Wednesday (Book of Common Prayer, p.264).***

Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, you hate nothing you have  
made and forgive the sins of all 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 you, the God of all mercy, perfect remission  
and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives  
and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever  
and ever. *Amen.*

*Old Testament*     Joel 2:1-2, 12-17; *Psalm* 103; *Epistle* 2 Corinthians 5:20b--6:10; *Gospel*     Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

*The ashes are imposed with the following words*  
Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.

*The following Psalm is then sung or said*

 P**salm 51** *Miserere mei, Deus*

  1     Have mercy on me, O God, according to your  
                                      loving-kindness; \*  
           in your great compassion blot out my offenses.

2     Wash me through and through from my wickedness \*  
           and cleanse me from my sin.  
  
  3     For I know my transgressions, \*  
           and my sin is ever before me.

  4     Against you only have I sinned \*  
           and done what is evil in your sight.

  5     And so you are justified when you speak \*  
           and upright in your judgment

  6     Indeed, I have been wicked from my birth, \*  
           a sinner from my mother's womb.

  7     For behold, you look for truth deep within me, \*  
           and will make me understand wisdom secretly.

  8     Purge me from my sin, and I shall be pure; \*  
           wash me, and I shall be clean indeed.

  9     Make me hear of joy and gladness, \*  
           that the body you have broken may rejoice.

10     Hide your face from my sins \*  
           and blot out all my iniquities.

11     Create in me a clean heart, O God, \*  
           and renew a right spirit within me.

12     Cast me not away from your presence \*  
           and take not your holy Spirit from me.

13     Give me the joy of your saving help again \*  
           and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.

14     I shall teach your ways to the wicked, \*  
           and sinners shall return to you.

15     Deliver me from death, O God, \*  
           and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness,  
           O God of my salvation.

16     Open my lips, O Lord, \*  
           and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.

17     Had you desired it, I would have offered sacrifice; \*  
           but you take no delight in burnt-offerings.

18     The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit; \*  
           a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

Closing Dismissal

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. *Amen.*