

A Poem for Ash Wednesday: "Return to Me"

"Even now," declares the LORD, "return to me with all your heart, with fasting and weeping and mourning." Rend your heart and not your garments. Joel 2: 12-13

On bended knee we come to God
In prayer and true contrition,
Admitting we are failed and flawed,
And stained by sin's condition.

Our world is fractured and divided,
Polluted and defiled.
Destroyed are blessings God provided;
We're each a wayward child.

The time is now long overdue
To fast and weep and mourn,
To rend our hearts in pieces two,
As pride and greed we scorn.

The ashes that we wear today
Will but some hours last,
But let our vows not fade away
As we remain steadfast.

The forty days that lie before us
Can offer sweet release.
Oh, let us now please join the chorus:
God's mercies never cease.

"Forgive us, Lord, we do repent,
And strive to follow Christ.
Do guide our paths on which we're sent:
Your will, your grace suffice."

These forty days of introspection
Can help us faith employ
So that our dear Lord's resurrection
Will culminate with joy!



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