

## **Ash Wednesday (Isaiah 58:6-7 – True Fasting and Justice)**

**Leader:** O God, who calls us to loose the bonds of injustice and share bread with the hungry,

**People:** Guide us to begin this Lent with hearts open to your justice and compassion.

**Leader:** For hearts that seek your truth,

**People:** Shape us in your image of mercy.

**Leader:** For courage to confront injustice in our world,

**People:** Strengthen us to act with boldness and humility.

**Leader:** For those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,

**People:** Satisfy them with your presence.

**Leader:** For all who are oppressed or forgotten,

**People:** Lift them up and restore their dignity.

**Leader:** For the wisdom to discern true fasting,

**People:** Teach us to share our bread and open our homes.

**Leader:** For communities divided by fear or prejudice,

**People:** Unite us in your love.

**Leader:** For leaders who shape policies and laws,

**People:** Inspire them with justice and compassion.

**Leader:** For all who have died, and those whose lives were marked by injustice or exclusion,

**People:** Grant them rest in your eternal peace.

**Leader:** For the Church, called to be a beacon of hope,

**People:** Empower us to serve with open hands and open hearts.

**Leader:** For ourselves, as we begin this holy season,

**People:** Transform us by your Spirit, O God.

**Leader:** O God of Exodus and Resurrection,

**People:** Lead us from fear to faith, from exclusion to embrace, from death to new life. Amen.

**Week 1: Welcoming the Stranger (Leviticus 19:33-34)**

**Leader:** For all who journey as strangers in unfamiliar lands,

**People:** May we welcome them as neighbors and love them as ourselves.

**Leader:** For refugees and migrants seeking safety,

**People:** Shelter them with your grace.

**Leader:** For families separated by borders and conflict,

**People:** Reunite them in hope and peace.

**Leader:** For children who travel alone,

**People:** Protect them with your loving care.

**Leader:** For those who face hostility or rejection,

**People:** Surround them with acceptance and kindness.

**Leader:** For communities called to hospitality,

**People:** Open our doors and hearts to all.

**Leader:** For those who work to support newcomers,

**People:** Bless their efforts and renew their strength.

**Leader:** For nations wrestling with immigration policies,

**People:** Guide them toward justice and mercy.

**Leader:** For the Church, that we may be a sanctuary for the vulnerable,

**People:** Make us instruments of your welcome.

**Leader:** For all who have died while seeking safety or home,

**People:** Receive them into the light of your presence.

**Leader:** For ourselves, that we may recognize Christ in every stranger,

**People:** Transform our vision and deepen our compassion.

**Leader:** O God of journey and homecoming,

**People:** Lead us to embrace all your children with love. Amen.

**Week 2: God's Love for the Sojourner (Deuteronomy 10:18-19)**

**Leader:** For those who are vulnerable and far from home,

**People:** May we reflect your love, O God, who defends and provides for all.

**Leader:** For the fatherless and the widow,

**People:** Uphold them in your mercy.

**Leader:** For those who feel unseen or unheard,

**People:** Let your light shine upon them.

**Leader:** For those who hunger for belonging,

**People:** Satisfy them with your presence.

**Leader:** For advocates and allies,

**People:** Strengthen their resolve for justice.

**Leader:** For those who offer food and clothing to the needy,

**People:** Bless their generosity.

**Leader:** For communities that welcome strangers and newcomers,

**People:** Fill them with joy and unity.

**Leader:** For those who remember their own journeys,

**People:** Inspire empathy and understanding.

**Leader:** For leaders who shape the future of immigrants,

**People:** Guide them with wisdom and compassion.

**Leader:** For ourselves, that we may love as you love,

**People:** Make us bearers of your grace.

**Leader:** For those who have died far from home or without refuge,

**People:** Grant them rest and peace in you.

**Leader:** O God of refuge and strength,

**People:** Draw all people into your embrace. Amen.

**Week 3: Hospitality and Human Dignity (Hebrews 13:2, Genesis 1:27)**

**Leader:** For the gift of hospitality and the dignity of every person,

**People:** May we see your image in all and welcome each one as Christ.

**Leader:** For those who offer shelter and welcome,

**People:** Bless their homes and hearts.

**Leader:** For those denied dignity or respect,

**People:** Restore their worth in your sight.

**Leader:** For communities that practice radical hospitality,

**People:** Fill them with your Spirit.

**Leader:** For those who feel invisible or excluded,

**People:** Let them know they are beloved.

**Leader:** For the stranger who becomes a friend,

**People:** Teach us to cherish new relationships.

**Leader:** For those who serve in ministries of welcome,

**People:** Renew their strength and joy.

**Leader:** For all who bear the image of God,

**People:** Help us honor their sacredness.

**Leader:** For the Church, called to be a home for all,

**People:** Make us faithful stewards of your love.

**Leader:** For ourselves, that we may welcome Christ in every guest,

**People:** Transform our hearts and lives.

**Leader:** For all who have died without dignity or care,

**People:** Hold them forever in your loving mercy.

**Leader:** O God of hospitality and grace,

**People:** Gather us into one family, united in love. Amen.

**Week 4: Justice and Mercy (Micah 6:8, Zechariah 7:10)**

**Leader:** For the courage to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with you,

**People:** May we never oppress the widow, orphan, stranger, or poor.

**Leader:** For those who suffer injustice or oppression,

**People:** Deliver them from harm.

**Leader:** For peacemakers and advocates,

**People:** Strengthen their voices for change.

**Leader:** For those who seek mercy and forgiveness,

**People:** Grant them your healing.

**Leader:** For communities divided by conflict,

**People:** Restore harmony and trust.

**Leader:** For leaders who pursue justice,

**People:** Guide them with wisdom and integrity.

**Leader:** For those who walk humbly with God,

**People:** Bless their journey.

**Leader:** For the Church, called to be a witness for justice,

**People:** Empower us to act with courage.

**Leader:** For those who are poor or marginalized,

**People:** Lift them up in love.

**Leader:** For ourselves, that we may love kindness and seek justice,

**People:** Transform our lives by your Spirit.

**Leader:** For all who have died as victims of injustice or violence,

**People:** Grant them eternal rest and let light perpetual shine upon them.

**Leader:** O God of justice and mercy,

**People:** Lead us in your ways of peace. Amen.

**Week 5: Relationships and Neighborliness (Luke 10:25-37, Romans 12:9-13)**

**Leader:** For the grace to be true neighbors, showing mercy and extending hospitality,

**People:** May our love be genuine, our actions good, and our welcome wide.

**Leader:** For those who cross boundaries to help others,

**People:** Bless their compassion.

**Leader:** For friendships that heal and restore,

**People:** Strengthen their bonds.

**Leader:** For those who struggle to forgive,

**People:** Grant them your peace.

**Leader:** For communities built on trust and respect,

**People:** Fill them with your Spirit.

**Leader:** For those who contribute to the needs of others,

**People:** Reward their generosity.

**Leader:** For those who extend hospitality to strangers,

**People:** Make their welcome a sign of your love.

**Leader:** For the Church, called to be a neighbor to all,

**People:** Inspire us to serve with joy.

**Leader:** For those who feel isolated or alone,

**People:** Surround them with caring hearts.

**Leader:** For ourselves, that we may love our neighbors as ourselves,

**People:** Transform us by your grace.

**Leader:** For those who have died separated from loved ones,

**People:** Unite them in your eternal communion.

**Leader:** O God of relationship and mercy,

**People:** Knit us together in love and service. Amen.

## **Week 6: Clothed in Love (Colossians 3:12-14)**

**Leader:** For hearts clothed in compassion, kindness, humility, and patience,

**People:** Above all, clothe us in love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.

**Leader:** For those who struggle with anger or resentment,

**People:** Cover them with your peace.

**Leader:** For communities seeking reconciliation,

**People:** Bind them together in unity.

**Leader:** For those who practice kindness and patience,

**People:** Bless their gentle spirits.

**Leader:** For families facing hardship or division,

**People:** Restore them in love.

**Leader:** For those who serve with humility,

**People:** Lift them up in honor.

**Leader:** For the Church, called to embody Christ's love,

**People:** Make us faithful witnesses.

**Leader:** For those who feel unloved or forgotten,

**People:** Embrace them with your care.

**Leader:** For ourselves, that we may grow in compassion and meekness,

**People:** Transform our hearts and minds.

**Leader:** For all who have died longing for healing or reconciliation,

**People:** Receive them into the fullness of your peace.

**Leader:** O God of perfect harmony,

**People:** Weave us together in your love. Amen.



## **Holy Week (Matthew 25:35 – The Stranger Welcomed)**

**Leader:** For when we see you, Lord, in the hungry, the thirsty, and the stranger,

**People:** May we serve you with open hands and open hearts.

**Leader:** For those who feed the hungry and give drink to the thirsty,

**People:** Bless their ministries.

**Leader:** For those who welcome the stranger,

**People:** Make their homes places of peace.

**Leader:** For those who visit the sick and imprisoned,

**People:** Strengthen their compassion.

**Leader:** For communities that serve the least among us,

**People:** Fill them with joy.

**Leader:** For those who are overlooked or ignored,

**People:** Let them know your love.

**Leader:** For leaders who champion the vulnerable,

**People:** Guide their decisions.

**Leader:** For the Church, called to serve Christ in all people,

**People:** Empower us to act with courage.

**Leader:** For those who long for justice and mercy,

**People:** Satisfy them with your grace.

**Leader:** For ourselves, that we may see Christ in every person,

**People:** Transform our vision and our lives.

**Leader:** For all who have died, whom we now commend to your mercy,

**People:** Rest them in the promise of resurrection.

**Leader:** O God of resurrection and hope,

**People:** Lead us from death to new life. Amen.