

A script from



“Ash Wednesday”

by
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- What** Ash Wednesday marks the first day of Lent, a time for prayer and fasting. This responsive reading is a thoughtful way for your congregation to join together to worship God and seek repentance. **Themes:** Easter, Lent, Salvation, Sins, Repentance, Worship, Fasting, Prayer
- Who** Reader 1
Reader 2
- When** Present
- Wear
(Props)** Two black binders
- Why** Psalm 51:17; 1 John 1:7
- How** An idea is to play soft music under the dialogue or let this responsive reading lead you into a time of worship.
- Time** Approximately 2-4 minutes

Readers 1 and 2 address the audience.

R1: Today I reflect on my merciful Savior.

R2: Giver of eternal grace.

R3: Conqueror of sin and death.

R1: Light of the world.

C: "I am the light of the world. The one who follows me will never live in darkness but will have the light of life." (*John 8:12*)

R2: You came so that I would no longer stumble in darkness.

R3: But so often temptation moves in front of Your light.

R1: Creating a shadow of sinfulness.

R2: A place to hide in compromised faith.

R3: And I have chosen to stand in the shadow.

C: Lord, forgive me. Return me to the light of Your truth.

R1: Return me to Your truth and reclaim my heart.

R2: My heart that has saddened You with its selfishness.

R3: My heart that has denied You first love.

R1: "Our hearts no longer have any joy; our dancing is turned to mourning...for we have sinned." (*Lamentations 5:15*)

C: Lord, forgive me. Return to me my first love.

R1: I have sinned and I have stumbled.

R2: Bring me back into the light of Your will.

R3: Lord, take my hands and guide me.

C: "Guide me into your truth and teach me. For you are the God who delivers me; on you I rely all day long." (*Psalms 25:5*)

R1: I will rely on You, Lord.

R2: Rely on You, because my flesh fails me.

R3: My flesh that places so much importance on the things of this world.

C: Lord, forgive me. My spirit is willing but my flesh is weak.

R2: Lord, you have told us to "put to death whatever in our nature belongs to the earth." (*Colossians 3:5*)

R1: So with a spirit of repentance I put to death the sins of my nature.

C: I repent in dust and ashes. (*Job 42:6*)

R3: For we are dust, and to dust we will return. (*Genesis 3:19*)

R1: Let me be mindful of this. And put my hope in things eternal.

R2: Hope that comes only through the blood of Christ.

R3: "In whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins." (*Colossians 1:14*)

C: Lord, redeem me.

R1: Redeem me as I come to you with a broken spirit.

R2: And reconcile my will to You with prayer and fasting.

R3: "I turned my attention to the Lord God to implore Him by prayer and requests, with fasting, sackcloth and ashes." (*Daniel 9:3*)

C: Lord, restore me.

R1: Heal my broken spirit.

R2: "The sacrifices God desires are a humble spirit - O God, a humble and repentant heart you will not reject." (*Psalms 51:17*)

R3: Only You can restore my soul.

C: "But if we walk in the light as He himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin." (*1 John 1:7*)

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Scripture references are included for Biblical foundation. They can be spoken throughout the script at your discretion.