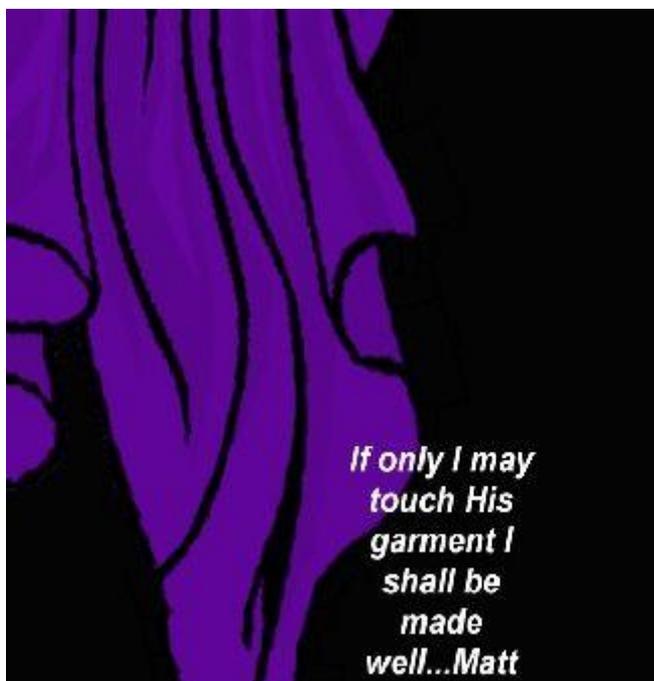


# *A Liturgy for Ash Wednesday*

*(Use all or part, add hymns, readings etc as you see fit)*



## **Opening Prayer**

Give thanks to the Lord, for God is good

**ALL: God's love endures forever**

Into your presence we come,  
Lord a few moments of  
quietness in a busy world  
that demands our attention  
Breathe on us now that we  
might know your presence and  
your power to see this day  
though

## **A Psalm**

(These verses from Psalm 51 are effective when read by three persons, but can equally be shared between two)

**A** - Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love;

**B** - According to your great compassion blot out my transgressions.

**C** - Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.

**A** - For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me.

**B** - Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight,

**C** - So that you are proved right when you speak and justified when you judge.

**A** - Create in me a pure heart, O God,

**B** - And renew a steadfast spirit within me.

**C** - O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise.

**A** - You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it;

**B** - The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit;

**C** - **A** broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

### ***Confession and Forgiveness***

In the blazing light of your love  
our failings are illuminated  
our failure to give  
our failure to love  
our failure to follow  
our failure to serve  
our failure to be the people  
you would have us be.  
Forgive us and renew us.  
You know our nature  
know our failings  
Enfold us in your arms  
that we might daily know  
your forgiveness and healing love.



The Lord is full of compassion and mercy, slow to anger and of great kindness. Psalm 103.8

### ***The Lord's Prayer***

We say together the words of the Lord's Prayer.

All: Our Father...

**Reading** - Matthew 6:1-21

Lord, grant us simplicity of faith  
And a generosity of service  
That gives without counting cost  
A life overflowing with Grace  
Poured out from the One  
Who gave everything  
That we might show  
The power of love  
To a broken world

And share the truth  
From a living Word  
Lord, grant us simplicity of faith  
And a yearning to share it

***Affirmation***

May we know the love of the heavenly Creator deep in our hearts  
May we understand our significance in the centre of God's family,  
and the bonds that hold us so close as brother and sister  
May we understand the lengths that God was prepared to go for all  
humanity and freely respond in the Today which he has given for us to  
cherish.

**All: Amen**

Let us bless the Lord.

**ALL: Thanks be to God.**

