# Order for the Imposition of Ashes

Introduction and Prayer of Blessing

L: Members of the household of faith, we come to this forty-day season focusing on the precious gift of God in the sacrifice of his Son, our Savior, on the cross. We spend Lent preparing our hearts for resurrection and rebirth. We are mindful of each step of the journey, spending time in prayer and reflection on God's word.

C: Tonight we mark the beginning of our walk with Jesus by remembering our human frailty and our dependence on God's mercy. Together we pray:

Holy God, we were created from dust; now we claim that humility as Christ did when he walked in the dust of humankind. Grant the presence of your Holy Spirit, that these ashes may remind us that you are God and that we are not; may we carry their mark through the days of Lent and into Easter light. In Christ's name,

Imposition of Ashes

Blessing (unison)

May God grant us wisdom as we walk the path of Lent, seeking forgiveness, truth and peace. Through the precious name of Jesus our Savior, we pray. AMEN

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**ROCK OF AGES** 

Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
Let me hide myself in thee;
Let the water and the blood,
From thy wounded side which flowed,
Be of sin the double cure,
Save from wrath and make me pure.

Not the labors of my hands
Can fulfill thy law's demands;
Could my zeal no respite know,
Could my tears forever flow,
All for sin could not atone;
Thou must save and thou alone.

Nothing in my hand I bring, Simply to thy cross I cling; Naked, come to thee for dress, Helpless, look to thee for grace; Foul, I to the fountain fly; Wash me, Savior, or I die!

While I draw this fleeting breath,
When my eyes shall close in death,
When I soar to worlds unknown,
See thee on thy judgment throne,
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## **Gather at the Welcome Table: Communion**

## Invitation

One: Come, as we embark on the dawn of this new season. Come, as we reflect upon the dusk of our lives. Come, as we set aside our distractions and the concerns of our minds. Come, as we focus on the heart of the matter.

One: God of light and dust be with you,

All: And also with you.

One: Open wide our hearts:

All: We open them up to our God.

One: Let us give thanks to God our creator.

All: Even in the midst of the wilderness, we give God

our praise.

**Prayer of Communion** 

One: Tonight we come together to recall the magnificent common memories we have of our Christ. We remember his servant leadership and the unconditional love he had for humankind.

Here and now, we give thanks for the steadfast love of God that we see reflected in Jesus the Christ....

In remembering him, we speak the words together in prayer, using the words closest to your hearts saying... *Our Father, who art in heaven...* 

(As we pray the Lord's Prayer in unity, please use the word closest to your hearts, whether it is sins, trespasses or debts.)

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The bread of life. The cup of the new covenant. Both given to us. Both we partake in together as we remember our servant-leader Jesus the Christ.

Sharing the Meal

Unison Prayer of Thanksgiving

All: Even as we come to the table tonight remembering our frailty with the dust on our heads, we also give God our thanks for this meal. We give our gratitude that we have come together as one Body of Christ. In these next 40 days and as we walk the road to the crucifixion, continue to keep us awake to the ways we can bring Jesus the Christ's servant-leadership to our world.

Amen.

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Liturgy from michelletorigian.com.

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