

ASH WEDNESDAY

ADULT: And yet, the LORD says, even now turn back to me with your whole heart, fast, and weep, and beat your breasts. Rend your hearts and not your garments; turn back to the LORD your God; for he is gracious and compassionate, long-suffering and ever constant.

Joel 2.12,13

ADULT: All flesh is grass,
and all its beauty is like the flower of the field.
The grass withers, the flower fades,
when the breath of the LORD blows upon it;
surely the people is grass.
The grass withers, the flower fades;
but the word of our God will stand forever.

Isaiah 40.6

Each person, in turn, dips a thumb into the bowl of ashes and makes the mark of the cross on the forehead of the next one, saying:

Remember, _____, that you are dust
and to dust you will return.

SING: Jesus walked this lonesome valley
He had to walk it by himself.
Oh, nobody else could walk it for him,
He had to walk it by himself.

ALL: The LORD is my shepherd;
I shall not be in want.
He makes me lie down in green pastures
and leads me beside still waters.
He revives my soul
and guides me along right pathways for his
Name's sake.
Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of
death,
I shall fear no evil;
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff, they comfort me.
You spread a table before me in the presence of
those who trouble me;
you have anointed my head with oil,
and my cup is running over.
Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all
the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for
ever.

Psalm 23

ADULT: We give thanks to you, gracious God, for mercy that reaches out, for patience that waits our returning, and for your love that is ever ready to welcome us when we stray. We thank you that in Jesus Christ you came to us with forgiveness, and that, by your Holy Spirit, you move us to repent and receive your love. Create in us a clean heart and renew a right spirit within us, O God. In the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.