

Hear us, O Lord, for thy mercy is kind; look upon us, O Lord, according to the multitude of thy tender mercies. *Ps. Ibid., 1.* Save me, O God; for the waters are come in, even unto my soul.

V. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.

R. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Hear us, O Lord, for thy mercy is kind; look upon us, O Lord, according to the multitude of thy tender mercies.

V. O Lord hear our prayer

R. And let our cry come to Thee

Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, we beseech thee to spare them that are penitent, and to be favourable to them that call upon thee. Vouchsafe, we pray thee, to send thy holy Angel from heaven to bless † and sanctify † these ashes, that they may be a wholesome medicine to all them that humbly call upon thy holy Name, who in their consciences by sin are accused, who in the sight of thy heavenly mercy bewail their sins, and earnestly and meekly implore thy gracious loving-kindness. And we beseech thee to grant to all them that call upon thy holy Name, that being sprinkled with these ashes for the remission of their sins, they may be preserved evermore both in body and soul.

Through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

Let us pray.

O God, who wouldest not the death of a sinner, but rather that he should turn from his wickedness and live: we beseech thee to have compassion on the frailty of our mortal nature, and of thy goodness to bless † these ashes now to be set upon our heads for a token of humility and for the remission of our sins: that we, acknowledging ourselves to be but dust and ashes, and that by reason of our vileness we must return unto the same, may of thy mercy be found worthy to obtain the pardon of our offences and the reward that thou dost promise to them that are penitent.

Through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

Let us pray.

O God, who turnest unto them that abase themselves and art favourable unto them that offer atonement: incline thy merciful ear unto our prayers; and of thy pity pour forth upon the heads of thy servants now sprinkled with these ashes the grace of thy heavenly benediction. that they being filled with the spirit of true repentance may effectually obtain those things that they have asked according to thy will. And we beseech thee to ordain that we, being stablished in these thy blessings, may cleave unto the same to life everlasting. Through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, who upon the people of Nineveh, repenting in dust and ashes, didst bestow the healing of thy loving-kindness: mercifully grant, that we, who now do imitate them in outward fashion, may be made like unto them in the obtaining of thy pardon. Through Jesus Christ, thy Son our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee, in the unity of the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end.

R. Amen.

When ashes are given say:

Remember, O man, that thou art dust, and unto dust shalt thou return.

† Cross yourself with the sign of the Cross