

The Following Collect, Epistle & Gospel will be read during the Eucharist today in the personal Chapel of the Presiding Archbishop of the Australian Church of Antioch, The Most Reverend Frank Bugge.

Ash Wednesday (The first day of Lent)

Violet.

Intent - Purification

Before the celebration of Holy Eucharist, the celebrant, or ranking clergy present, blesses the ashes of unused crosses from the previous Palm Sunday, with the following prayer and blessing:

P. May God be with You.

C. And Also with You.

P. O eternal and immortal God, who has deigned to ordain that thy children should purify themselves in preparation of the ineffable mystery of the passion and resurrection of The Logos, we pray Thee to (+) Bless and (+) Hallow these ashes, that they may serve as an outer symbol of our inward humility and repentance from our ways of imperfection and darkness, through The Christ our Lord. Amen.

The celebrant then shall call for the members of the congregation to receive the signing of the ashes in the following manner:

P. Let those who are about to receive the symbol of Lenten purification come forward.

The Priest signs the forehead of each person with the ashes in the form of a cross while saying to each one:

P. Remember O Soul, that thy body is dust, and to dust it shall return.

Ash Wednesday (The first day of Lent)

Violet.

Intent - Purification

The Eucharist is now commenced and is that ordained for the first Sunday in Lent.

The Collect.

Be with us Lord, in all our doings and further us with thy continual help, that in all our works, begun, continued and ended in thee, we may glorify thy Holy Name; through the Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Epistle and Gospel shall be those for the previous Sunday.

The Epistle for Ash Wednesday is from the Gospel of Emerson.

Nothing is more simple than greatness, indeed to be simple is to be great. The vision of genius comes by renouncing the too officious activity of the understanding, and giving leave to the spontaneous sentiment. Out of this must come all that is alive and genial. People grind and grind in the mill of truism, and nothing comes out but what was put in. When the moment comes that they desert the tradition for a spontaneous thought, then love inspires music, poetry, with hope, virtue, learning. What is genius but finer love, a love impersonal, a love of the flowering perfection of things. This love proceeds from within to flow outward to feed the desire for God.

Here Endeth The Epistle.

The Gospel for Ash Wednesday is from the Letters of St. Ignatius.

Nothing is hidden from you, for you are perfect in love towards the Christ, for this is the beginning and the end of life. Spiritual inspiration is the beginning, and love is the end, and the two being found in unity are God. No one having the spirit intentionally sins, and no one possessing love hates. The tree is a product of its fruit; they that profess to be with the Christ shall be seen through their actions. It is fine to be the teacher if the teacher practises the subject of the teaching; for then the subject is seen and found in the higher spiritual love.

Praise Be to Thee O Christ.