



One More Season of Mercy
Ash Wednesday – March 5, 2014

Invitation to Prayer

This is what Yahweh-God asks of you--- only this: to do justice, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God. (Micah 6:8)

Opening Prayer: “Lenten Psalm of Awakening” *

Side 1: Come, O Life-giving Creator
and rattle the door latch of my slumbering heart.
Awaken me, as you breathe upon a winter-wrapped earth,
gently calling to life virgin Spring.



Side 2: Awaken in these fortified days
of Lenten prayer and discipline
my youthful dream of holiness.
Call me forth from the prison camp
of my numerous past defeats
and my narrow patters of being
to make my ordinary life extra-ordinarily alive,
through the passion of my love.

Side 1: Show to me these Lenten days
how to take the daily things of life,
and by submerging them in the sacred,
to infuse them with a great love
for you, O God, and for others.

Side 2: Guide me to perform simple acts of love and prayer,
the real works of reform and renewal
of this overture to the spring of the Spirit.

All: O Father of Jesus, Mother of Christ,
help me not to waste these precious Lenten days
of my soul’s spiritual springtime.

Blessing and Distribution of Ashes

Remember, you come from Earth, and you are filled with the Breath of God's Spirit.

Reflection: "Loving Source of All Being"***

Refrain: Loving Source of all being, fruitful womb of all the living, show to us one more season of mercy.

- ❖ *Let us sense your compassion for the creatures you have fashioned, with tenderness and with love. Refrain.*
- ❖ *Let us feel your great anguish for the people who languish in poverty and despair. Refrain.*
- ❖ *Put our hands to your labor in the service of our neighbor whom you commit to our care. Refrain.*
- ❖ *Let us sense your deep wisdom in the beauty that has come from the depths of your mystic word. Refrain.*

Suggestions for Lenten Practice

Closing Prayer (all)

Merciful God, you are the Source of all being. You call us forth from the dust of Earth. You claim us for Christ in the waters of Baptism. Look upon us as we begin these forty days of Lent bearing the mark of ashes; be with us as we journey through this spiritual springtime. May our fasting, almsgiving, and prayer enable us to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with you, our God. All this we pray in this season of mercy. Amen.

* *Prayers for a Planetary Pilgrim, A Personal Manual for Prayer and Ritual, Edward Hays, page 136*

****A Garden Once Again; Songs in Celebration of Creation, Kathleen Deignan, CND, Schola Ministries*