

## Brief Form for the Burning of Palms

*This service is designed as an act of gathering outdoors before entry into the worship space. It may be offered immediately before a service for Ash Wednesday or at an earlier day and time. If it is offered immediately before the Ash Wednesday service, remember to plan so as to allow ample time for the ashes to cool before they are administered.*

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Pastor:  
We gather here to turn these palms  
from our celebration of the entry of Jesus into Jerusalem  
into ashes  
that we may be reminded of our mortality  
and our need of God.

Sing "Sunday's Palms Are Wednesday's Ashes" from *The Faith We Sing*, 2138, as the palms are lit and burned.

Gather the ashes into a pyx or other suitable container for later administration.

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Pastor: Let us pray. (UNISON)

**Living God, in their life these palms drew life from the earth  
and gave it back to our air  
and the animals they hosted and sheltered;  
in the worship of our community,  
they helped us offer festive joy:  
Grant now, O God, that these palms, reduced to ashes,  
may be for us a sign of your power  
to purify our hearts,  
that we may recognize death at work in us,  
and replant our lives  
in the sure and humble soil  
of your truth and grace.  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
One God, now and forever. Amen.**

The service continues with the Order for Ash Wednesday found in *The United Methodist Book of Worship* (pages 321-324). If the burning of the ashes is done apart from the Ash Wednesday Service, the pastor may then say:

Pastor: Go in peace.  
And may the grace of Jesus Christ,  
the love of God,  
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you and remain with you always.  
**People: Thanks be to God!**

From: <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/resources/brief-form-for-the-burning-of-palms>

### **Shrove Sunday Liturgy for Children**

**From the Open Files** Northwest Synod of Wisconsin Resource  
**of:** Center

**Contributed by:** Saron Lutheran Lutheran Church,  
Ashland, WI

**This file is available in:** Word .doc, .rtf

### **Shrove Sunday Liturgy for Children**

(Ideally, this should be used on Shrove Tuesday,  
but we want to do it when as many children as  
possible can be here.)

Needed for this service:

Alleluia Banner & stand to display as children enter  
Black box to put banner in  
Palms from last Palm Sunday  
Matches & "Smoky Joe" to burn ashes in  
Copies of Liturgy for participants  
Candle(s) to be lit during Invocation (Burning  
palms to be lit from candle)

Leaders:

Presiding Minister or Leader (P)  
Assisting Minister (A)  
Acolyte to light and extinguish candle  
Song Leaders (piano)  
Banner carriers to process Alleluia banner around  
room

Children to ask questions

Child(ren) to lead reading of Psalm 130 (read responsively by verse)

Child to read Psalm 51 (may be read responsively by verse)

## Shrove Sunday Liturgy for Children

**P:** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C:** Amen

**P:** When we prepare for winter we put away summer things and take out our mittens and boots. Today we prepare ourselves for Lent by putting away the Alleluia and taking out the palms to burn to ashes. Today, the shouts of Alleluia fade and are buried, the ashes are prepared and we begin our pilgrimage.

**Hymn of Celebration:** "Allelu, Allelu...Praise ye the Lord."

(banner is processed around room)

### **Prayer of Thanksgiving**

**P:** "Oh wonderful life!" We thank you God for blessing us with eyes for seeing, ears for hearing, voices for singing Alleluia, hands for touching and hearts for loving. We thank you for the earth that is our home, the sun that rises, the night for resting and food for eating. Our hearts sing for joy as the blessings of your hand flow into our lives. Amen.

### **REMOVAL OF ALLELUIA (place in box, do not close lid)**

**Child:** Why do you put the Alleluia in the box?

**A:** We put the Alleluia away because during Lent we think about how unhappy our world is and how much we need Jesus' love and joy in our lives.

**Child:** What do we do without the Alleluia of Praise?

**A:** What do you do when you feel sad? Do you hide for a while? Do you find a special person to talk to? Do you think about what it will be like when you're not sad anymore? That's what we do during Lent without Alleluias. We think about the sad things in our world, we talk to God and we hope for better times.

**Child:** Where will the Alleluia go?

**A:** You will keep it in your heart.

**Child:** Will we see the Alleluia again?

**A:** When Easter morning comes, the Alleluia will rise with the Son of God. Shouts of Alleluia will ring from the ends of the earth to the gates of heaven.

Child: What do we say if there are no Alleluias?

**A.** Let us read Psalm 130 responsively by verse

## **Psalm 130**

**Prayer of Reflection:** O Lord, your son Jesus rode into Jerusalem amid shouts of Alleluia! His journey took him from a manger in Bethlehem, to a cross on Calvary, to eternal life with you. Stay with us as we walk through our lives. Sweep away the evil that stands in our way, protect us. Keep our hearts and mind from wandering off the path you are leading us on. When our journey is over, may we find ourselves standing in your loving arms. Amen.

## **Alleluia Hymn: "Alleluia Song of Sweetness"**

### ***Close lid on Alleluia***

### **Preparation of Ashes**

On Ash Wednesday

- We are reminded that we owe our existence to God, but like Adam and Eve we prefer to make our own rules, be our own God.
- We are reminded that God wants what is best for us, but like Jonah we prefer to do what we want, thinking we can run and hide from God.
- We are reminded that God is our God and we are God's people, but like Abraham and Sarah we laugh at God's promises and prefer to trust ourselves.

Ashes are all that's left after a fire that destroys. God wants us to love and trust only in God. To sin, is to turn away from God's love, to not trust God. Sin will reduce us to ashes, but because of God's forgiveness and everlasting faithfulness to his wayward children, ashes, which are also used to make soap, will wash away our sin.

On Ash Wednesday we are reminded of what our sinfulness costs us, but also of the loving God that raises his children up from the dust and ashes to abundant life. Ash Wednesday is the departure date for a journey that leads us from exile from God to eternal life with God.

### **Scripture Reading: Psalm 51**

**P:** Father, the light that is Jesus shines in our world. Through him we stand in the glow of that light and share in your glory. Make this fire holy, burn away the old and sinful way we live, clean away the ashes, bring us back to loving and trusting you. Make our lives new, turn us toward the light of Easter, that one day we may live with Jesus who is alive and reigns forever and ever.

### ***Light the Fire***

**P:** Almighty God, show us the way to live this new life, help us to follow Jesus' example, give us the words and actions to share this joy with others. We can only live this new life with your help. We call upon you in the name of your son, Jesus Christ our Lord now and forever. Amen.

### **Benedicton:**

**P:** Our loving God has shown us unselfish love in the sufferings of his only Son, Jesus. Through your service of God and neighbor may you receive countless blessings. May Almighty God bless you in your Lenten journey.

**C:** Amen.

**A:** Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**C:** Thanks be to God

Submitted by Saron Lutheran Lutheran Church,  
Ashland, WI

[http://synodresourcecenter.org/wma/worship/church\\_seasons/lent/0020/index.html](http://synodresourcecenter.org/wma/worship/church_seasons/lent/0020/index.html)

## **Palms to Ashes: The Rite of Burning Palms**

Catholic churches in the Philippines prepare today (Tuesday, March 8) for the beginning of Lent with rites that will produce the ashes that will be put on the forehead of the faithful tomorrow, Ash Wednesday.

The ashes are produced by burning the palms which were blessed during the previous year's celebration of Palm Sunday. Parishes usually assign the afternoon mass for the burning of the ashes. Parishioners bring their palms to the church to be thrown into the fire. The priest begins the rites with a call for the faithful to do penance and show mercy. In his opening prayer he asks "*God of tender mercy ... to look on us with kindness as we prepare the ashes, which will mark the beginning of our Lenten journey...*"

After the opening prayer the congregation listens to the reading taken from Isaiah 58:5-10.

The priest blesses the palms while the choir sings Psalm 51.

After the palms have been burned, the priest then blesses the ashes.

On Ash Wednesday, a day of universal fast and abstinence in the Catholic Church, the ashes are imposed on the forehead of the faithful and begins 40 days of atonement of sins, doing penance and good works.

Following is the rite for the Burning of Ashes.

### ***Palms to Ashes In Preparation for Lent***

#### **Greeting and Sign of the Cross**

*The presider makes the sign of the cross and greets those assembled, hoping that God calls the faithful to do penance and show mercy. All remain silent for a brief period.*

#### **Opening Prayer**

God of tender mercy, you fashioned us from the dust of earth and bid us follow your Gospel call in the company of the Church. Look on us with kindness as we

prepare the ashes which will mark the beginning of our Lenten journey. Grant that we who make the desert pilgrimage might come to the font of rebirth with a renewed passion for justice. May our alms serve your people and bring us peace, may prayer sanctify all our deeds, and may we come at last to the table you set in the place where you reign with Christ and the Holy Spirit forever and ever. Amen.

## Reading

*The lector proclaims: Isaiah 58:5-10*

*After the reading, a homily may be given.*

## Psalms and burning of the ashes

*The lector or choir leads the assembly in Psalm 51 as the palms are burned.*

## Blessing

*The ritual concludes with the Blessing of the Ashes.*

Lord  
bless these ashes [ + ]  
by which we [ will ] show that we are dust.  
Pardon our sins  
and keep us faithful to the discipline of Lent,  
for you do not want sinners to die  
but to live with the risen Christ,  
who reigns with you forever and ever.

*After this blessing the Presider together with the people make a procession towards the Church. The people can sing an appropriate hymn. When the Presider has reached his place in the sanctuary, he faces the people and begins the opening prayer of the Mass. Then the Mass continues in the usual manner.*

FROM: <http://www.rcam.org>

Posted by Franciscus Carmelo at 3:05 AM

<http://prayerbookforreligious.blogspot.com/2011/03/palms-to-ashes-rite-of-burning-palms.html>