

**After the antiphon “Exaudi Nos, Domine” has been sung :**

*After the antiphon the priest stands at the epistle side with his hands joined (he keeps his hands joined during the prayers of all blessings). Without turning to the people, he says:*

℣. The Lord be with you.  
℟. And with your spirit.

*A single prayer may be chosen from among the following prayers.*

#### Prayer

Let us pray.

Almighty and eternal God, forgive the penitent sinner and be merciful to those who implore your help. Send your holy angel from heaven to bless ✠ and sanctify ✠ these ashes, so that they may bring spiritual health to all who humbly call upon your holy name and confess their conscious faults; to those who are sorry for their sins and earnestly implore your divine goodness and your gracious mercy. We call upon your holy name and accept these ashes in the hope of receiving forgiveness of our sins; keep us all safe and sound in body and soul. Through Christ our Lord. ℟. Amen.

Let us pray.

O God, you desire the repentance of the sinner and not his death. Take into consideration our frail human nature. Be merciful and bless ✠ these ashes that are about to be placed on our heads as a sign of our humility and of your pardon for our sins. We know that we are dust, and that we shall return to dust again because of our sinfulness. Mercifully forgive us and grant us the rewards you promised to sincere penitents. Through Christ our Lord. ℟. Amen.

Let us pray.

O God, you are merciful to the humble, and forgiving to the penitent. Graciously hear our prayers and in your mercy bless your servants who are about to be sprinkled with these ashes. Fill them with sorrow for their sins; hear the petitions which they justly make of you; and let the benefits which you may grant them remain with them forever unchanged. Through Christ our Lord. ℟. Amen.

Let us pray.

Almighty and eternal God, you pardoned the Ninivites when they did penance in sackcloth and ashes. May we imitate their penitence so that, like them, we may obtain your forgiveness. Through Christ our Lord. ℟. Amen.

**Now comes the Imposition of Ashes.**

*Afterwards the celebrant places incense in the thurible. He then sprinkles the ashes three times with holy water, saying the antiphon Sprinkle me, without chant and without the psalm. Then he incenses the ashes three times.*

*Deinde sacerdos ad latus epistolae, non vertens se ad populum, manibus iunctis (quod servatur etiam in orationibus omnium benedictionum quoad manus iunctas) dicit:*

℣. Dóminus vobíscum.  
℟. Et cum spírítu tuo.

*Ex sequentibus orationibus, una tantum dici potest.*

Orémus.

Omnípotens sempitérne Deus, parce pæniténtibus, propitiare supplicántibus: et mittere dignéris sanctum Angelum tuum de cælis, qui bene ✠ dicat, et sancti ✠ ficet hos cínere, ut sint remédium salúbre ómnibus nomen sanctum tuum humíliter implorántibus, ac semetípso pro consciéntia delictórum suórum accusántibus, ante conspéctum divínæ cleméntiæ tuæ facinora sua deplorántibus, vel sereníssimam pietátem tuam supplicíter obnixéque flagitántibus; et præsta per invocatiónem sanctíssimi nóminis tui; ut, quicúmque per eos aspérsi fúerint, pro redemptióne peccatórum suórum, córporis sanitátem, et ánimæ tutelam percípiant. Per Christum Dóminum nostrum. ℟. Amen.

Orémus.

Deus, qui non mortem, sed pæniténtiam desíderas peccatórum: fragilitátem conditiónis humánæ benigníssime respice; et hos cínere, quos causa proferéndæ humilitátis, atque promeréndæ véniæ, capítibus nostris impóni decérnimus, bene ✠ dicere pro tua pietáte dignáre: ut, qui nos cínere esse, et ob pravitatís nostræ deméritum in púlverem reversúros cognóscimus; peccatórum ómnium véniam, et præmia pæniténtibus repromissa, misericórditer cónsequi mereámur. Per Christum Dóminum nostrum. ℟. Amen.

Orémus.

Deus, qui humiliatióne flécteris, et satisfactióne placáris; aurem tuæ pietátis inclína précibus nostris; et capítibus servórum tuórum, horum cínere aspersione contáctis, effúnde propítius grátiam tuæ benedictiúnis: ut eos et spírítu compunctiúnis répleas, et quæ iuste postuláverint, effícaciter tríbuas; et concessa perpétuo stabílitá, et intácta manére decérnas. Per Christum Dóminum nostrum. ℟. Amen.

Orémus.

Omnípotens sempitérne Deus, qui Ninivitis in cínere et cilicio pæniténtibus, indulgéntiæ tuæ remédia præstitísti: concéde propítius; ut sic eos imitemur hábitu, quátenu véniæ prosequámur obténtu. Per Christum Dóminum nostrum. ℟. Amen.

*Postea celebrans, imposito incenso in thuribulo, ter aspergit cineres aqua benedicta, dicendo antiphonam Aspérge, sine cantu et sine psalmo, et ter adolet incenso.*