

Ash Wednesday
March 2, 2022



Westminster
Presbyterian
Church

Lord, Who throughout These Forty Days 166

About Hymn 166

Like many of this author's hymns, this text was written primarily for children but works equally well in reminding adults how Lent connects us with Christ's temptation in the wilderness and prepares us for Easter. The 16th-century English psalm tune provides sturdy support.
 TEXT: Claudia F.I. Hernaman, 1873;
 MUSIC: Day's Psalter, 1562.

1 Lord, who through-out these for - ty days for us did fast and
 2 As you with Sa - tan did con-tend and did the vic-tory
 3 And through these days of pen - i - tence, and through this Pas-sion-
 4 A - bide with us, till when this life of suf - fering shall be

pray, teach us with you to mourn our sins and close by you to stay.
 win, O give us strength to per - se - vere, in you to con-quer sin.
 tide, yes, ev - er - more, in life and death, O Lord, with us a - bide.
 past, an Eas - ter of un - end - ing joy we may at - tain at last.

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Hear the Word of God! **Our ears are open.**

2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

(New Testament, pages 181-182 in your pew Bible)

(Sung responsively after each scripture reading.)

Create in me a clean heart, O God.
Create in me a clean heart, O God.

Psalm 51: 10

Renew a right spirit within me.
Renew a right spirit within me.

Have mercy, Lord, according to the measure of Thy love;
Blot out my sin, and from my heart all wickedness remove.

The failings of my deeds and thoughts are ever in my sight;
Release me from the path of death, and set my course aright.

Into my secret heart send truth, let wisdom in me grow;
O wash the evil from my hands and make me pure as snow.

A clean and upright heart, O Lord, exchange for mine of
stone;
Thy Holy Spirit meld with mine, and leave me not alone.

Matthew 6: 1-6, 16-21

(New Testament, pages 5-6 in your pew Bible)

MEDITATION

Heidi Hudnut-Beumler

**INVITATION TO THE OBSERVANCE
OF THE LENTEN DISCIPLINE**

LITANY OF PENITENCE

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

**Holy and merciful God,
we confess to you and to one another,
and to the whole communion of saints
in heaven and on earth,
that we have sinned by our own fault
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.**

We have not loved you
with our whole heart, and mind, and strength.
We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We have not forgiven others as we have been forgiven.
Have mercy on us, O God.

We have not listened to your call to serve as Christ served us.
We have not been true to the mind of Christ.
We have grieved your Holy Spirit.
Have mercy on us, O God.

We confess to you, O God, all our past unfaithfulness.
The pride, hypocrisy, and impatience in our lives,
we confess to you, O God.

Our self-indulgent appetites and ways,
and our exploitation of other people,
we confess to you, O God.

Our anger at our own frustration,
and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves,
we confess to you, O God.

Our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts,
and our dishonesty in daily life and work,
we confess to you, O God.

Our negligence in prayer and worship,
and our failure to commend the faith that is in us,
we confess to you, O God.

Accept our repentance, O God,
for the wrongs we have done.
For our neglect of human need and suffering,
and our indifference to injustice and cruelty,
accept our repentance, O God.

For all false judgments,
for uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors,
and for our prejudice and contempt
toward those who differ from us,
accept our repentance, O God.

For our waste and pollution of your creation,
and our lack of concern for those who come after us,
accept our repentance, O God.

Restore us, O God,
and let your anger depart from us.
Favorably hear us, O God, for your mercy is great.

(Silence)

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

**Creator God,
out of your love and mercy
you have created us out of the dust of the earth,
and breathed into us the breath of life.
May these ashes be for us a sign of our mortality
and repentance, and remind us of your gifts of grace
and everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Redeemer
and Savior. Amen.**

*(The people will move forward as directed
by the ushers. Ashes in the sign of the cross
are placed on foreheads with the words,*

*“Remember that you are dust
and to dust you shall return.”*

*Once you have received the ashes, please
return to your seat, using the outside aisles.)*

Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation,
that we may show forth your glory in the world.

By the cross and passion of our Savior,
**bring us with all your saints
to the joy of Christ’s resurrection and eternal life.**

***THE LORD’S PRAYER**

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our debts,
as we forgive our debtors;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory, forever. Amen.**

SENDING

*HYMN 165

ERHALT UNS, HERR

The Glory of These Forty Days

About Hymn 165

Appropriate for singing at any time during Lent, this stately text connects Jesus' wilderness fast with the solitary testing of other prophetic souls: Moses, Elijah, Daniel, and John the Baptist. This sturdy 16th-century chorale melody formed the basis of Bach's *Cantata 126*. TEXT: Gregory the Great, 6th Cent; trans. Maurice F. Bell, 1906; MUSIC: Klug's *Geistliche Lieder*, 1543.

1 The glo - ry of these for - ty days we
2 A - lone and fast - ing Mo - ses saw the
3 So Dan - iel trained his mys - tic sight, de -
4 Then grant that we like them be true, con -

cel - e - brate with songs of praise; for Christ, by whom all
lov - ing God who gave the law; and to E - li - jah,
liv - ered from the li - ons' might; and John, the Bride-groom's
sumed in fast and prayer with you; our spir - its strength-en

things were made, him - self has fast - ed and has prayed.
fast - ing, came the steeds and char - i - ots of flame.
friend, be - came the her - ald of Mes - si - ah's name.
with your grace, and give us joy to see your face.

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***BLESSING AND CHARGE**

***RESPONSE**

Create in me a clean heart, O God.
Create in me a clean heart, O God.

Renew a right spirit within me.
Renew a right spirit within me.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God!

(All may depart in silence.)

**(Those who are able may stand.)*

SERVICE NOTES

LITURGIST: Guy D. Griffith, Assistant Pastor for Adult Education and Spiritual Nurture.

MUSICIANS: Westminster Choir; John Semington, Director of Music Ministries; Carol Tate, Organist.

LENT: The word “Lent” is derived from the Old English word *lecten*, meaning “Spring,” which in turn derives from the Old High German *lenzin*, referring to “the lengthening of days.” The season we know as Spring was originally called Lent. Lent gradually adhered strictly to church practice, and Spring came to designate the season following Winter.

Lent lasts for forty weekdays plus Sundays, a number richly grounded in Biblical tradition. In the Bible there are one hundred-twenty references to the number forty, among them: the days of Noah’s deluge; the days that Moses spent on the mountain; the years Israel wandered in the wilderness; the days of Elijah’s journey to the cave of the “still, small voice;” and Jesus’ forty-day wilderness sojourn in which he was tempted by Satan.

Lent has traditionally been a time in which Christians have engaged in self-reflection, fasting, prayer, confession and repentance in anticipation of the celebration of the Resurrection of Christ. At Westminster, in order to emphasize the meaning of Lent, we adopt a more penitential posture in worship. There are no flowers; no festive choir processional; no *Act of Praise*, following the *Confession and Pardon*; and at several points in the service we incorporate the ancient and plaintive supplication from Psalm 51: “Create in me a clean heart, O God.”

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