



ASH WEDNESDAY LITANY

LEADER: Shout out, do not hold back! Lift up your voice like a trumpet! Even now, says the Lord, return to me with all of your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning.

RESPONSE: **Create in us a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within us.**

LEADER: We enter *this* season of Lent and commit to not just rend our clothes, but to rend our hearts. We commit to *this* journey of Lent which beckons us to return to the Lord, who is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

RESPONSE: **Create in us a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within us.**

LEADER: We beseech you, O Lord, to not cast us away from your presence, to not take your Spirit from us. But in this season of fasting *and* praying, restore to us the joy of our salvation, and sustain in us a willing spirit for the fast to which You call us.

RESPONSE: **Create in us a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within us.**

LEADER: Let us not practice our piety before others; let us not fast to be seen. But inspire our hearts instead toward Your sweet presence.

ALL: **We lay down the material in order to lay hold of the spiritual. We resist the temporal in order to lean into the eternal. Grant to us, O Mighty Keeper, courage and strength for the journey. Amen.**