

Why “Ashes to Go”?

Ashes are an ancient sign of penitence. From the Middle Ages it became the custom to begin Lent by being marked in ash with the sign of the cross. The reminder that we are dust turns our attention to the creative power of God, and God's ability to heal the brokenness in our lives when we offer that brokenness to God. That turning to God is the work of Lent, preparation for the celebration of Easter.

We're offering ashes on the street corner today because that reminder of need, humility, and healing shouldn't be confined to a church building. We probably need it more when we are in the middle of our daily business! The ashes we receive here are to remind us throughout the day of our need for God, and of God's call to us.

There is much more to the beginning of Lent than ashes alone, and we encourage you to make time for worship with a community of faith, for the support of others and of the great traditions of faith in our work of repentance and renewal. But God meets us not just in worship, but in the midst of life, and we offer the opportunity to remember our faith to those whose schedules make it hard to stop and pray with others today.

www.calvarylombard.org

Prayers for keeping Lent

God our Creator, the strength of all who put their trust in you, mercifully accept our prayers; and because, in our weakness, we can do nothing good without you, grant us the help of your grace, that in keeping your commandments we may please you, both in will and deed; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Almighty God, you know that we have no power in ourselves to help ourselves: Keep us both outwardly in our bodies and inwardly in our souls, that we may be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

Adapted from the Book of Common Prayer of the Episcopal Church.

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Ashes to Go

The minister offers a prayer:

Almighty and merciful God, you hate nothing you have made, and forgive the sins of all who are penitent; create in us new and contrite hearts, so that when we turn to you and confess our sins and acknowledge our need, we may receive your full and perfect forgiveness, through Jesus Christ our Redeemer. **Amen.**

Ashes are marked on the forehead with the following words:

Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.

The minister then says,
Go in peace. Amen.



CALVARY EPISCOPAL
C H U R C H
Reach out. Receive. Rejoice.

Lenten Programs and Events

Weekday Faith, Wednesdays March 16 – April 20. 6:30 p.m.

Conversation and presentations about connecting Sunday morning with the business and busy-ness of our weekday lives.

A simple soup supper will be served.

Dinner Theater. Saturday March 19, 6 p.m.

Enjoy a spaghetti supper and the performance of "Capisce," an Italian mystery. \$6/adults, \$3/children under 12. Proceeds support the youth pilgrimage.

Bake Sale for Clean Water. Sunday March 20. Come buy sweets and treats to help our congregation's youth raise money for clean water wells throughout the developing world.

Each year, our congregation joins with other Episcopal churches in the Chicago area in a fundraising program to address issues of extreme poverty throughout the world. This year, we're working on clean water wells.

Well, Well, Well: A project for a thirsty world

Maybe you thirst for a spiritual connection, for love, or a refreshing drink. Around the world, hundreds of millions are simply thirsty for clean water. In Lent, Calvary Episcopal Church wants to do something about that thirst.

- 884 million people lack access to safe water supplies; approximately one in eight people.
- Someone dies of a water-related illness every 14 seconds.
- Investment in drinking water and sanitation would result in 272 million more school attendance days a year.
- Less than 1% of the world's fresh water (or about 0.007% of all water on earth) is readily accessible for direct human use.

**Each well costs \$5,000.
A "bucket" of water costs \$15.**

Want to make a difference in a thirsty world? Help us dig a well.

Stop by our bake sale March 20. Attend one of our Lenten worship services. Or learn more at www.calvarylombard.org

Worship at Calvary

Sundays 8 a.m. & 10:15 a.m.

Special Services

April 17: Palm Sunday
Blessing of the Palms and dramatic reading of the Passion Gospel.
8 and 10:15 a.m.

April 21: Maundy Thursday
Celebration of the first Communion.
7 p.m.

April 22: Good Friday
Prayers and Adoration of the Cross
12 noon
The Dark Hours: a powerful service of shadows, with scripture and music.
7:30 p.m.

April 23: The Vigil of Easter
Kindling of the new fire and first celebration of Easter.
8 p.m.

April 24: Easter Day
8 and 10:15 a.m.
Easter Bonnet Parade with prizes for children and adults after each service.