

Hymn of the Week

Ash Wednesday



Sunday's Palms Are Wednesday's Ashes

Text: Rae E. Whitney, 1982.

Text comes from the Ash Wednesday tradition of marking each person's forehead with the ashes from burnt Palm crosses; *Book of Common Prayer*, pp. 264–269. Since I first discovered this tradition, I've been intrigued with how two of the liturgical events of Palm Sunday and Ash Wednesday have become linked together. But, alas, I have been unable to find out when and where the custom began, even though, during my research, I consulted two of the best liturgical scholars in the Episcopal Church. Does anyone know the answer?

–Rae E. Whitney

Music: BEACH SPRING, *The Sacred Harp*, 1844. Public domain

EAST END, Betty Carr Pulkingham, 1993.

SUNDAY'S PALMS, Wilbur Held, 1993.

Topics: Ash Wednesday, Lent

Publications

The Faith We Sing (United Methodist Church, 2002)

Fear Not, Little Flock: Vol. I (Selah, 2006)

New Songs of Rejoicing (Selah, 1994)

A Panorama of Christian Hymnody (GIA, 2005)

Sing the Faith (Westminster/John Knox, 2003)

Voices United (United Church of Canada, 1996)

Sunday's Palms Are Wednesday's Ashes

1 Sun-day's palms are Wednes-day's ash - es as an - oth - er Lent be -
 2 We have failed to love our neigh - bors, their of - fenc - es to for -
 3 We are hast - y to judge oth - ers, blind to proof of hu - man

gins; thus we kneel be - fore our Mak - er in con -
 give, have not lis - tened to their trou - bles nor have
 need; and our lack of un - der - stand - ing dem - on -

tri - tion for our sins. We have marred bap - tis - mal
 cared just how they live; we are jeal - ous, proud, im -
 strates our in - ner greed; we have wast - ed earth's re -

plead - ges. in re - bel - lion, gone a - stray; now, re -
pa - tient, lov - ing (ov - er - much) our things; may the
sour - ces; want and suf - fering we've ig - nored; come and

turn - ing, seek for - give - ness; grant us par - don, Lord, this day!
yield - ing of our fail - ings be our Len - ten of - fer - ings.
cleanse us, then re - store us; make new hearts with - in us, Lord!

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Text: Rae E. Whitney, 1982.

Music: *The Sacred Harp*, 1844; attr. to Benjamin F. White; harm. Alfred V. Fedak, 1994.

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87 87D

BEACH SPRING

Sunday's Palms Are Wednesday's Ashes

Sunday's palms are Wednesday's ashes
as another Lent begins;
thus we kneel before our Maker
in contrition for our sins.
We have marred baptismal pledges,
in rebellion, gone astray;
now, returning, seek forgiveness;
grant us pardon, Lord, this day!

We have failed to love our neighbors,
their offences to forgive,
have not listened to their troubles
nor have cared just how they live;
we are jealous, proud, impatient,
loving (overmuch) our things;
may the yielding of our failings
be our Lenten offerings.

We are hasty to judge others,
blind to proof of human need;
and our lack of understanding
demonstrates our inner greed;
we have wasted earth's resources;
want and suffering we've ignored;
come and cleanse us, then restore us;
make new hearts within us, Lord!

Sunday's Palms Are Wednesday's Ashes

1 Sun-day's palms are Wednes-day's ash - es as an - oth - er Lent be - gins;
 2 We have failed to love our neigh - bors, their of - fenc - es to for - give,
 3 We are hast - y to judge oth - ers, blind to proof of hu - man need;

thus we kneel be - fore our Mak - er in con - tri - tion for our sins.
 have not lis - tened to their trou - bles, nor have cared just how they live;
 and our lack of un - der - stand - ing dem - on - strates our in - ner greed;

We have marred bap - tis - mal pledg - es, in re - bel - lion, gone a - stray;
 we are jeal - ous, proud, im - pa - tient, lov - ing ov - er - much our things;
 we have wast - ed earth's re - sourc - es; want and suf - fer - ing we've ig - nored;

now, re - turn - ing, seek for - give - ness; grant us par - don, Lord, this day!
 may the yield - ing of our fail - ings be our Lent - en of - fer - ings.
 come and cleanse us, then re - store us; make new hearts with - in us, Lord!

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3 We are hast - y to judge oth - ers, blind to proof of hu - man need;



thus we kneel be - fore our Mak - er in con - tri - tion for our sins.
have not lis - tened to their trou-bles, nor have cared just how they live;
and our lack of un - der - stand - ing dem-on - strates our in - ner greed;



We have marred bap - tis - mal pled-ges, in re - bel - lion gone a - stray;
we are jeal - ous, proud, im - pa - tient, lov - ing (ov - er - much) our things;
we have wast - ed earth's re - sour - ces; want and suf - fering we've ig - nored;



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may the yield - ing of our fail - ings be our Len - ten of - fer - ings.
come and cleanse us, then re - store us; make new hearts with - in us, Lord!

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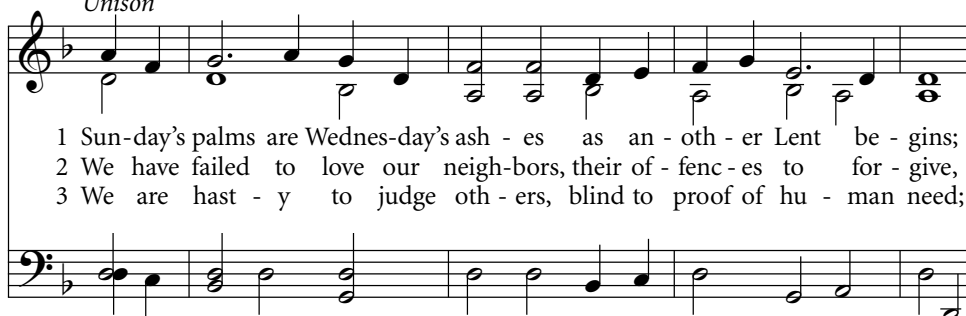
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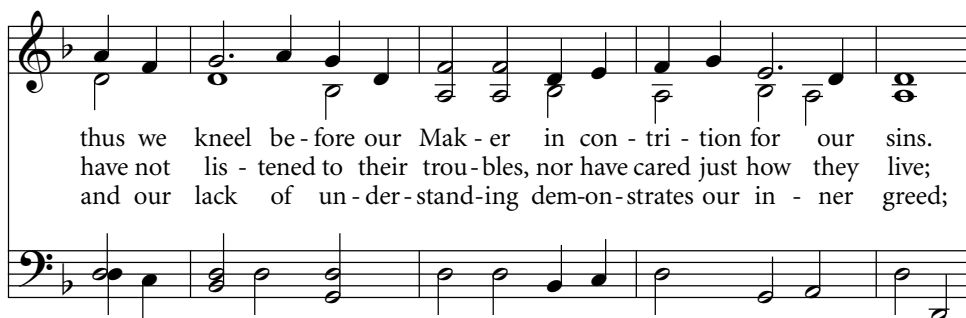
SUNDAY'S PALMS

Sunday's Palms Are Wednesday's Ashes

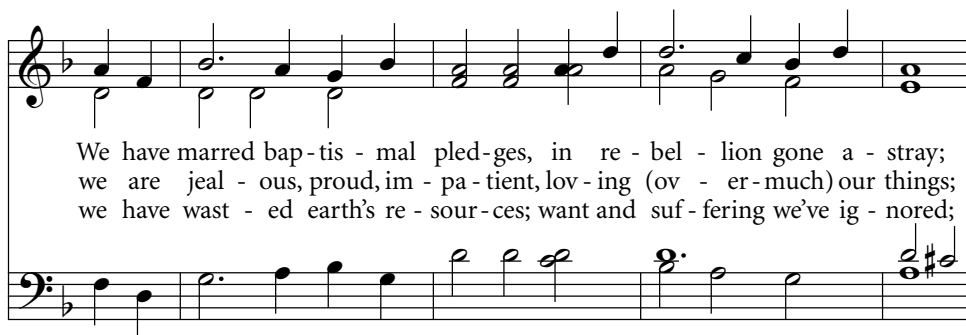
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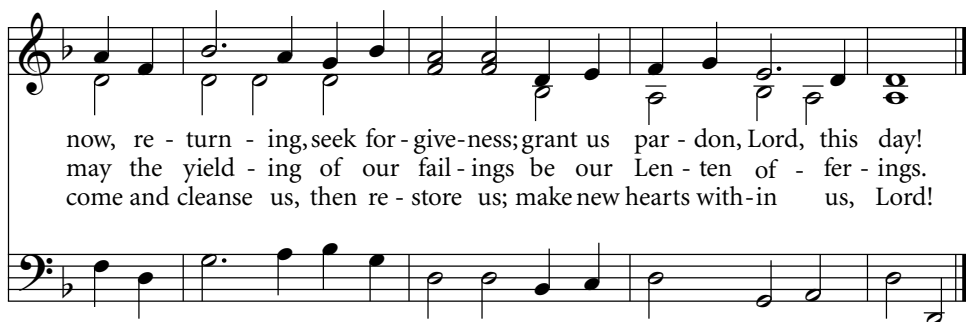
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