



# LWML CNH CHRISTIAN LIFE LINE

## FEBRUARY 2021

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## Searching, Purifying

Excerpt from Inspirational Ministries Daily Devotions

*For he knows our frame; he remembers that we are dust.* Psalm 103:14 ESV

Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent. Traditionally, this was the time each year when Christians set aside the 40 days (not including Sundays) that lead up to Easter for prayer, reflection, and spiritual renewal.

Ash Wednesday gets its name from the practice of putting ashes on the forehead to remind Christians of the importance of humility, that we are but dust.

Forty days symbolized the time Jesus spent fasting and seeking God in the wilderness. Following His example, Christians were to dedicate a time each year to search their hearts and lives, purify themselves from sin, and seek God in a fresh way.

But the world has turned this time of spiritual renewal into a celebration of carnality and sin. Now, in some places, more attention is paid to Mardi Gras, the time of revelry just before Lent begins. The streets of some cities become scenes of unbridled self-indulgence, pleasure-seeking, and sensuality.

How much more important it is to remember all that Jesus did for us and reflect on our lives. This is a time to be humble, but grateful as well. We can rejoice that God knows our nature. He remembers that “we are dust,” and He has told us that, *If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness* (1 John 1:9).

Today, spend time in prayer and quiet reflection. Allow God to search your heart, and reveal hidden sins, and habits that need to be changed. Then confess your sins. Be honest with God. Realize that you can trust Him and be intimate with Him.

If you have confessed your sins, you can be confident that you have been forgiven. Receive that forgiveness again this Sunday in the words of absolution and in the body and blood of Christ! How wonderful to have your heart right with God! To be freed from the burdens of sin!

*Dear Father, search my mind and heart. Reveal any sins in my life, or any thoughts, words, or deeds that displease You. Forgive my sins and help me to please You. In Jesus' name. Amen.*

O Christ, You walked the Road Our wand'ring feet must go  
You faced with us temptation's pow'r And fought our ancient foe.

No bread on earth alone Can fill our hung'ring hearts.  
Lord, help us seek Your living Word, The food Your grace imparts.

No blinding sign we ask, No wonder from above.  
Lord, help us place our trust alone In Your unswerving love.

When lures of easy gain With promise brightly shine.  
Lord, help us seek Your kingdom first; Our wills with Yours align.

O Christ You walked the road Our wand'ring feet must go.  
Stay with us through temptation's hour To fight our ancient foe.

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## **SAVE THE DATE**

**LWML CNH Retreat, ECCO - Aug 27-29, 2021**

*Look for Retreat Packet - March/April.*