

LENT LENT

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The ashes we wear are our patrimony, our heritage: it was out of dust that we were formed. The useless scruff left over after the creation of the universe was taken into the hands of God and formed and it was God who so chose to breathe into that dead dust the breath of life and so give us life. In our prayer, we are cast into turmoil by our failure to follow the precepts of God and our lives are shaken to their roots.

Lent is a time to remember that the one and only source of life, of sustenance, of grace, of peace, of love, of strength is God, the God who brought us out of the ashes and into His graces.

Moreover, Lent is a time of reassurance. For, though God took the dust of the earth and molded us from it, though God gave us life from His very own breath, we sinned and fell.

As we pass through the desert of Lent, we are reminded that as we pass through life's long and lonely exile – as dry and as arid, as lonely and empty as it may at times prove to be – we have at our side a Faithful Friend, a Constant Companion, a Good Shepherd who is one step ahead, one step behind, one step to the left, and one step to the right of us always. He consoles us in our sorrows, rejoices in our joys, and runs the race along with us.

By passing through these days of Lent, days clothed in somber and contrite purple, by passing through self-denial and repentance, we unite ourselves to the long parade of pilgrims on the journey home in the shadow of the Cross: the great gift and the great challenge of our faith.

Behold, now is the accepted time: behold, now is the season of repentance. Let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light, that having sailed across the great sea of the Fast, we may reach, on the third day, the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Savior of our souls.

Our Lenten Passage

MATTHEW GILES

