

# Ash Wednesday Prayer

Jesus, you place on my forehead  
the sign of my sister Death:  
"Remember you are dust,  
and to dust you shall return."

How not hear her wise advice?  
One day my life on earth will end;  
the limits on my years are set,  
though I know not the day or hour.  
Shall I be ready to go to meet you?  
Let this holy season be a time of grace  
for me and all this world.

"Teach us to number our days aright,  
that we may gain wisdom of heart."  
O Jesus, you place on my forehead  
the sign of your saving Cross:  
"Turn from sin and be faithful  
to the gospel."

How can I turn from sin  
unless I turn to you?

You speak, you raise your hand,  
you touch my mind and call my name,  
"Turn to the Lord your God again."

These days of your favor  
leave a blessing as you pass  
on me and all your people.  
Turn to us, Lord God,  
and we shall turn to you. Amen.