

# A Prayer of the Poor in Spirit

God of Grace,  
From dust we came and to dust we shall return.  
We come before you not as strong but as needy.  
Not self-sufficient, but dependent.  
Not saviors, but as people in need of saving.  
In this community  
where some lack housing  
and others lack humility.  
Remind us that we need one another.  
We come empty handed.  
Let us trust that in you, that is enough.  
Amen.



# Where Brokenness Meets Blessing

LENT WITH THE ROOM IN THE INN COMMUNITY



"As Time Flies" by R.D. Brown, Room In The Inn artist

## Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

MATTHEW 5:3

FEBRUARY 18, 2026 | ASH WEDNESDAY

# Let's Be Honest

A few times each day at Room In The Inn, 12-step meetings are held. These meetings are experiences of radical honesty. People share their struggles with a level of candor that is rarely encountered elsewhere. The first step – **“We admitted that we were powerless over our addiction—that our lives had become unmanageable”** – invites those in recovery to this vulnerability.

Honesty. That is the invitation of Ash Wednesday. The season of Lent begins with the sign of ashes that some of us will carry on our foreheads today, a reminder that each of us, without exception, will one day return to the dust from which we came. Ashes remind us of the frailty of our basic humanity, that we are dependent on God and one another.

That's a truth that often gets masked by the power, possessions, and privilege we accumulate and runs counter to our cultural obsession with independence and strength.

Pope Francis said in a 2023 homily: “Who are the “poor in spirit?” They are the ones who know they cannot rely on themselves, that they are not self-sufficient, and they live as “beggars before God.” They feel their need for God and recognize every good that comes from him as a gift, as a grace. Those who are poor in spirit treasure what they receive. Therefore, they desire that no gift should go to waste.”

The Beatitudes show us the upside down nature of God's vision. In brokenness, we find strength. In understanding our poverty, strength.

*“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of God.”*



## Question of the Week

# What is something everyone needs, no matter who they are?



“Who wants to think of himself or herself as poor? Or to see ourselves as blessed in poverty? Yet that is how we are created. When we forget this basic truth about ourselves, we end up fighting for our own survival rather than helping each other survive.”

Charles Strobel,  
Room In The Inn Founder

## Putting Love In Action

**This week, choose one person and remind them that they matter.** Write and send a note of encouragement – to someone who served faithfully during the ice storm, someone who has influenced your life, or an unsung hero whose quiet goodness has not gone unseen.

