

## **Sackcloth and Ashes**

**In the time of Jonah in the First Reading, the people repented in sackcloth and ashes.**

**In our era of Pandemic, the people need to repent by mask wearing.**

**Yesterday's events gave a good example of that.**

**The recent events of the riot and rebellion were replaced by a peaceful inauguration, praise God!**

**The Confederate flag which was flaunted in the capitol's halls was replaced by Old Glory.**

**Was this the last gasp of white supremacy? Probably not. But it may have been the zenith of its rise.**

**We have now experienced a mixed race president, and now have a mixed race Vice President. And our children and their's MAY issue in a more tolerant nation. It is long overdue.**

**Way back in 1963, Thomas Merton wrote:**

**"Unless this nation comes to grips with racism, the survival of America itself is in question."**

**Was the rebellion a "last gasp" of this poisonous air?**

**We need to go forward, praying that it was.**

**There is a new breeze blowing. May it push away the gagging, polluted air of both extremism, and racism, as well as of the Corona Virus.**

**And so we pray:**

**God bless and protect our new President and Vice President.**

**give them the wisdom to listen,**

**and the courage to act for the common good,**

**not for special interests.**

**Come Holy Spirit,**

**Stir us from inertia,**

**fear and cynicism.**

**Change us from "Ain't it awul!"**

## Third Sunday/Ordinary Time

Written by Fr. Fitz

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to "We can. We will."

**Amen**

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