

# Ash Wednesday: The morning after

by [Marjorie Maddox](#) in the [February 14, 2018](#) issue

All morning, I return  
to the poem, to the word's ash,  
the self smoldering, and the slow burn  
of mourning. I return  
with sacred words that turn  
night's bloody gash  
into morning. O, self, return  
to his poem: the ash  
of the world rising  
with returning words:  
mourning and morning.