

Christ Church *Episcopal*

Follow Jesus // Love People // Change The World

ASH WEDNESDAY

Wednesday, February 18, 2026 | 6:30 PM

We extend a special welcome to those who are single, married, divorced, gay, filthy rich, dirt poor, y los que no hablan inglés. We extend a special welcome to those who are crying newborns, skinny as a rail, or could afford to lose a few pounds.

We welcome you if you can sing like Andrea Bocelli or can't carry a note in a bucket. You're welcome here if you're "just browsing," just woke up, or just got out of jail. We don't care if you're more Catholic than the Pope, or haven't been in church since little Joey's Baptism.

We extend a special welcome to those who are over 60 but not grown up yet, and to teenagers who are growing up too fast. We welcome soccer moms, NASCAR dads, starving artists, tree-huggers, latte-sippers, vegetarians, junk-food eaters. We welcome those who are in recovery or still addicted. We welcome you if you're having problems or you're down in the dumps or if you don't like "organized religion." We've been there too.

If you blew all your offering money at the dog track, you're welcome here. We offer a special welcome to those who think the earth is flat, work too hard, don't work, can't spell, or because grandma is in town and wanted to go to church.

We welcome those who are inked, pierced, or both. We offer a special welcome to those who could use a prayer right now, had religion shoved down your throat as a kid, or got lost in traffic and wound up here by mistake. We welcome tourists, seekers and doubters, bleeding hearts, and you!

The Liturgy of the Word

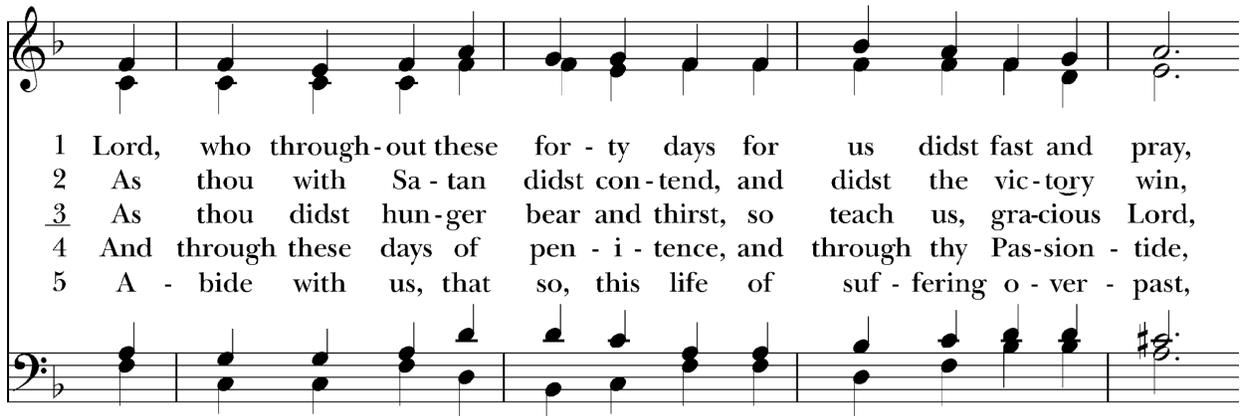
THE PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP

Celebrant Let us pray.

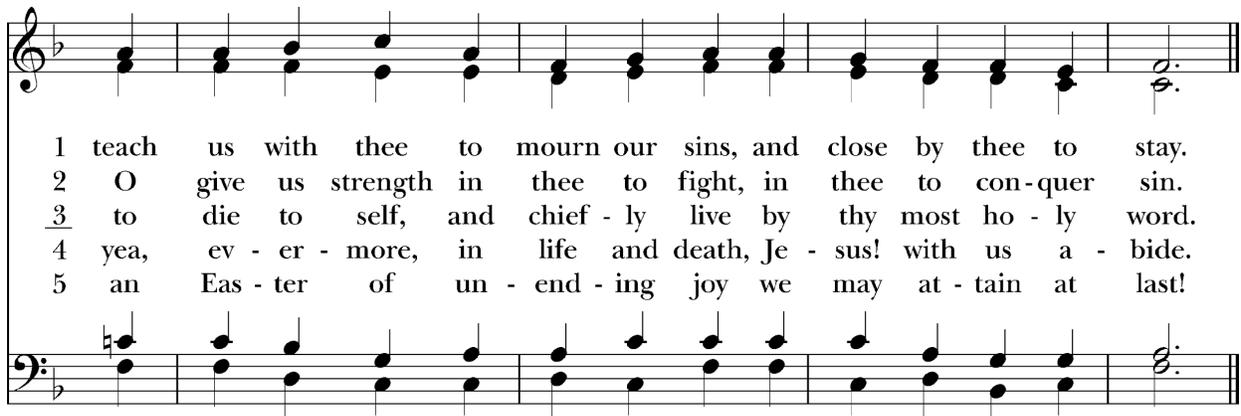
The Celebrant and People say together

God, your Son Jesus Christ promised to be with us whenever we gather together in His name. We thank you for Christ Church and the love that holds us together. Make us eager to gather for worship. Inspire us to learn and grow spiritually, as individuals and as a faith community. We seek knowledge of Your will for us. We pray for the strength and courage, the wit and wisdom, and the humor and creativity to follow Jesus, love people and change the world. Amen.

THE HYMN IN PROCESSION



1 Lord, who through-out these for - ty days for us didst fast and pray,
2 As thou with Sa - tan didst con - tend, and didst the vic - tory win,
3 As thou didst hun - ger bear and thirst, so teach us, gra - cious Lord,
4 And through these days of pen - i - tence, and through thy Pas - sion - tide,
5 A - bide with us, that so, this life of suf - fering o - ver - past,



1 teach us with thee to mourn our sins, and close by thee to stay.
2 O give us strength in thee to fight, in thee to con - quer sin.
3 to die to self, and chief - ly live by thy most ho - ly word.
4 yea, ev - er - more, in life and death, Je - sus! with us a - bide.
5 an Eas - ter of un - end - ing joy we may at - tain at last!

THE OPENING ACCLAMATION

Celebrant Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.
People God's mercy endures for ever.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Celebrant Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, you hate nothing you have made and forgive the sins of all who are penitent: Create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, may obtain of you, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

THE FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 58:1-12

Shout out, do not hold back!
Lift up your voice like a trumpet!
Announce to my people their rebellion,
to the house of Jacob their sins.
Yet day after day they seek me
and delight to know my ways,
as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness
and did not forsake the ordinance of their God;
they ask of me righteous judgments,
they delight to draw near to God.
"Why do we fast, but you do not see?
Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?"
Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day,
and oppress all your workers.
Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight
and to strike with a wicked fist.
Such fasting as you do today
will not make your voice heard on high.
Is such the fast that I choose,
a day to humble oneself?
Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush,
and to lie in sackcloth and ashes?
Will you call this a fast,
a day acceptable to the LORD?

Is not this the fast that I choose:
to loose the bonds of injustice,
to undo the thongs of the yoke,

to let the oppressed go free,
and to break every yoke?
Is it not to share your bread with the hungry,
and bring the homeless poor into your house;
when you see the naked, to cover them,
and not to hide yourself from your own kin?
Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,
and your healing shall spring up quickly;
your vindicator shall go before you,
the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard.
Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer;
you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am.

If you remove the yoke from among you,
the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,
if you offer your food to the hungry
and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,
then your light shall rise in the darkness
and your gloom be like the noonday.
The LORD will guide you continually,
and satisfy your needs in parched places,
and make your bones strong;
and you shall be like a watered garden,
like a spring of water,
whose waters never fail.
Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt;
you shall raise up the foundations of many generations;
you shall be called the repairer of the breach,
the restorer of streets to live in.

Lector The Word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

THE GRADUAL

Psalm 103:8-14

- 8 The Lord is full of compassion and mercy,
slow to anger and of great kindness.
9 **He will not always accuse us,
nor will he keep his anger forever.**
10 He has not dealt with us according to our sins,

- nor rewarded us according to our wickedness.
- 11 **For as the heavens are high above the earth,
so is his mercy great upon those who fear him.**
- 12 As far as the east is from the west,
so far has he removed our sins from us.
- 13 **As a father cares for his children,
so does the Lord care for those who fear him.**
- 14 For he himself knows whereof we are made;
he remembers that we are but dust.

THE SECOND LESSON

2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

We entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. For he says,

"At an acceptable time I have listened to you,
and on a day of salvation I have helped you."

See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation! We are putting no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see-- we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

Lector **The Word of the Lord.**
People **Thanks be to God.**

THE SEQUENCE HYMN

O Lord, Hear My Prayer

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of three systems of music. Each system has a vocal line in the treble clef and a piano accompaniment in the bass clef. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is common time (C). The lyrics are: "O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer: when I call an - swer me. O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer. Come and lis - ten to me. O".

Text: Psalm 102; Taizé Community, 1982
Tune: Jacques Berthier, 1923-1994
© 1982, Les Presses de Taizé, GIA Publications, Inc., agent

THE GOSPEL

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

Deacon The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.
People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus said, "Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven.

"So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

"And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

"And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.
People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

THE CHILDREN'S SERMON & THE SERMON

The Rev. Matthew Wise

THE LENTEN INVITATION

The Celebrant stands before the people and says

Dear People of God: The first Christians observed with great devotion the days of our Lord's passion and resurrection, and it became the custom of the Church to prepare for them by a season of penitence and fasting. This season of Lent provided a time in which converts to the faith were prepared for Holy Baptism. It was also a time when those who, because of notorious sins, had been separated from the body of the faithful were reconciled by penitence and forgiveness, and restored to the fellowship of the Church. Thereby, the whole congregation was put in mind of the message of pardon and absolution set forth in the Gospel of our Savior, and of the need which all Christians continually have to renew their repentance and faith.

I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church, to the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's holy Word. And, to make a right beginning of repentance, and as a mark of our mortal nature, let us now kneel before the Lord, our maker and redeemer.

All kneel as they are able and a period of silence is kept.

THE BLESSING OF THE ASHES

The Celebrant alone stands and says the following words

Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth: Grant that these ashes may be to us a sign of our mortality and penitence, that we may remember that it is only by your gracious gift that we are given everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

THE IMPOSITION OF ASHES

After the Clergy have imposed ashes on one another, the congregation may come forward, standing or kneeling at the railing. The ashes are imposed with the following words

Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.

During the Imposition of Ashes, a Lector reads Psalm 51 from the back of the church.

PSALM 51

Have mercy on me, O God, according to
your loving-kindness;
in your great compassion blot out my
offenses.

Wash me through and through from my
wickedness
and cleanse me from my sin.

For I know my transgressions,
and my sin is ever before me.

Against you only have I sinned
and done what is evil in your sight.

And so you are justified when you speak
and upright in your judgment.

Indeed, I have been wicked from my birth,
a sinner from my mother's womb.

For behold, you look for truth deep
within me,
and will make me understand wisdom
secretly.

Purge me from my sin, and I shall be pure;
wash me, and I shall be clean indeed.

Make me hear of joy and gladness,
that the body you have broken may
rejoice.

Hide your face from my sins
and blot out all my iniquities.

Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.

Cast me not away from your presence
and take not your holy Spirit from me.

Give me the joy of your saving help again
and sustain me with your bountiful
Spirit.

THE LITANY OF PENITENCE

The Celebrant and People together, all kneeling

**Most holy and merciful Father:
We confess to you and to one another,
and to the whole communion of saints
in heaven and on earth,
that we have sinned by our own fault
in thought, word, and deed;
by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.**

The Celebrant continues

We have not loved you with our whole heart, and mind, and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others, as we have been forgiven.
Have mercy on us, Lord.

We have been deaf to your call to serve, as Christ served us. We have not been true to the mind of Christ. We have grieved your Holy Spirit.
Have mercy on us, Lord.

We confess to you, Lord, all our past unfaithfulness: the pride, hypocrisy, and impatience of our lives,
We confess to you, Lord.

Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people,
We confess to you, Lord.

Our anger at our own frustration, and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves,
We confess to you, Lord.

Our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts, and our dishonesty in daily life and work,
We confess to you, Lord.

Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to commend the faith that is in us,
We confess to you, Lord.

Accept our repentance, Lord, for the wrongs we have done: for our blindness to human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty,
Accept our repentance, Lord.

For all false judgments, for uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and for our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us,
Accept our repentance, Lord.

For our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us,
Accept our repentance, Lord.

Restore us, good Lord, and let your anger depart from us;
Favorably hear us, for your mercy is great.

Accomplish in us the work of your salvation,
That we may show forth your glory in the world.

By the cross and passion of your Son our Lord,
Bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.

The Celebrant stands and, facing the people, says

Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who desires not the death of sinners, but rather that they may turn from their wickedness and live, has given power and commandment to his ministers to declare and pronounce to his people, being penitent, the absolution and remission of their sins. He pardons and absolves all those who truly repent, and with sincere hearts believe his holy Gospel.

Therefore we beseech him to grant us true repentance and his Holy Spirit, that those things may please him which we do on this day, and that the rest of our life hereafter may be pure and holy, so that at the last we may come to his eternal joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

All stand as they are able.

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People **And also with you.**

THE ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Liturgy of the Table

THE OFFERTORY SENTENCE

The Celebrant says

I appeal to you, siblings in Christ, by the mercies of God, to present yourselves as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual act of worship. *Romans 12:1*

THE OFFERTORY ANTHEM

What Wondrous Love is This
arr. John S. Dixon

THE OFFERTORY HYMN

Doxology
The Old 100th

Please stand as you are able.

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly host:
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Eucharistic Prayer A

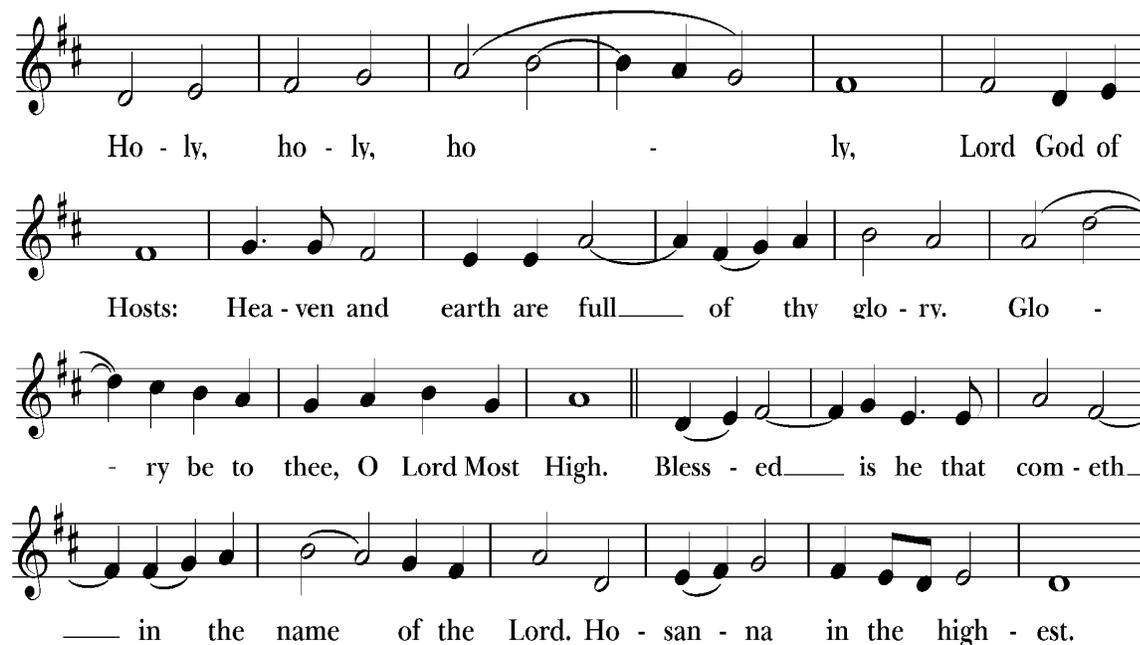
The People remain standing.

<i>Celebrant</i>	The Lord be with you.
<i>People</i>	And also with you.
<i>Celebrant</i>	Lift up your hearts.
<i>People</i>	We lift them to the Lord.
<i>Celebrant</i>	Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
<i>People</i>	It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, who was tempted in every way as we are, yet did not sin. By his grace we are able to triumph over every evil, and to live no longer for ourselves alone, but for him who died for us and rose again. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

THE SANCTUS

Celebrant and People



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord God of
Hosts: Hea - ven and earth are full of thy glo - ry. Glo -
ry be to thee, O Lord Most High. Bless - ed is he that com - eth
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

The people stand or kneel.

Then the Celebrant continues.

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all. He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

The Celebrant continues

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

People and Celebrant

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated bread. A period of silence is kept.

THE FRACTION ANTHEM

*Agnus Dei (O Lamb of God)
Healy Willan*

O Lamb of God, that ta - kest a -
way the sins of the world, have mer - cy up -
on us. O Lamb of God, that
ta - kest a - way the sins of the world, have

mer - cy up - on us. O Lamb of
 God, that ta - kest a - way the sins of the
 world, grant us thy peace.

The Celebrant invites the people to the Table with these or similar words

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

THE MINISTRATION OF COMMUNION

All are welcome to receive the consecrated bread and wine of the Eucharist. You may stand or kneel at the railing and receive the bread (a wafer) in the palm of your hand. Gluten-free wafers are available upon request. Receive the wine either by drinking from the cup (guiding it to your lips) or by touching the wafer lightly to the wine and then consuming it. If you prefer to receive a blessing, please indicate that by crossing your arms over your chest. If you would prefer to receive in your chair, please let an Usher know, and a clergy person and Eucharistic Minister will bring the consecrated bread and wine to you.

THE MUSIC DURING THE MINISTRATION

Stacey Lehwald

THE POST COMMUNION PRAYER

The people stand or kneel.

Celebrant Let us pray.

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE BLESSING

The Celebrant offers a seasonal blessing.

THE HYMN IN PROCESSION

Ashes



1. We rise a - gain from ash - es, from the
 2. We of - fer you our fail - ures, we
 3. Then rise a - gain from ash - es, let
 4. & Thanks be to the Fa - ther, who



good we've failed to do. We rise a - gain from
 of - fer you at - tempts, The gifts not ful - ly
 heal - ing come to pain, Though spring has turned to
 made us like him - self. Thanks be to the



ash - es, to cre - ate our - selves a - new. If
 giv - en, the dreams not ful - ly dreamt. Give our
 win - ter, and sun - shine turned to rain. The
 Son, who saved us by his death.



all our world is ash - es, then
 stum - bl - ings di - rec - tion, give our
 rain we'll use for grow - ing, and cre -
 Thanks be to the Spir - it, who cre -



must our lives be true, An of - fer - ing of
 vi - sions wid - er view, An of - fer - ing of
 ate the world a - new From an of - fer - ing of
 ates the world a - new From an of - fer - ing of



ash - es, an of - fer - ing to you.
 ash - es, an of - fer - ing to you.
 ash - es, an of - fer - ing to you.
 ash - es, an of - fer - ing to you.

THE DISMISSAL

Deacon Let us go forth in the name of Christ.
 People Thanks be to God.

The Announcements

If you are a guest with us today, please take a moment to fill out the “I’m New” card (located on the seatback in front of you) and place it in the offering basket. A member of our clergy or staff will be happy to connect with you this week.

40 LENTEN READINGS ON THE LIFE OF PRAYER

The Rev. Clyde Glandon, retired priest in our congregation, has teamed up with Jim Allen on behalf of The Fellowship of the Holy Name to prepare this daily reading resource that is now available in both digital and hard copy formats.

LENTEN FISH FRY

Friday, March 6th, 6:00–8:00pm. The Holy Smokers will fry up some delicious fish for this fellowship dinner. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share.

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE	
2026 Goal	165 pledges out of 317 households \$815,00 in pledges
2026 Current	101 pledges (61.2% of our Goal) \$508,565 in pledges (62.4% of our Goal)
<i>If you have not made an annual pledge yet, it's not too late! Pledging helps our Vestry and Vicar accurately plan for the year, and enables us to respond to God's ongoing call to ministry.</i>	

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Palm Sunday | March 29th at 9:00 & 11:00am

Stations of the Cross | Wednesday, April 1st at 6:30pm

Maundy Thursday Liturgy | April 2nd at 6:30pm

Gethsemane Vigil | April 2nd, 8:00pm - April 3rd, 8:00am

Good Friday Liturgy | April 3rd, 6:30pm

Holy Saturday Liturgy | April 4th, 10:00am

The Great Vigil of Easter with Baptisms | Saturday, April 4th at 8:00pm

Easter Day | Sunday, April 5th at 9:00am & 11:00am