

CHURCH OF THE GOOD SAMARITAN

Grow in Faith. Live in Hope. Share God's Love.

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Ash Wednesday

February 18, 2026 ✚ 7:00 p.m.

Please silence all cell phones and other electronic devices.

Please stand as you are able at the entrance of the Ministers.

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY *Remain standing.*

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Silence is kept.

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.*

FIRST LESSON *Seated.*

A reading from the Book of 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.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 103:8–14 *Said by all.*

- 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 for ever.
- 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.

SECOND LESSON

A reading from the Second Letter of Paul to the 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, kind-ness, 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.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

HYMN “Come, ye disconsolate” *Standing, all who are able; everyone sings.*



1 Come, ye dis - con - so - late, wher - e'er ye lan - guish,
 2 Joy of the des - o - late, light _____ of the stray - ing,
 3 Here see the bread of life; see _____ wa - ters flow - ing



come to the mer - cy - seat, fer - vent - ly kneel:
 hope of the pen - i - tent, fade - less and pure!
 forth from the throne of God, pure from a - bove:



Here bring your wound - ed hearts, here tell your an - guish;
 Here speaks the com - fort - er, ten - der - ly _____ say - ing,
 Come to the feast of love; come, ev - er _____ know - ing



earth _____ has no sor - row that heav'n can - not heal.
 "Earth _____ has no sor - row that heav'n can - not cure."
 earth _____ has no sor - row but heav'n can re - move.

—Words: Sts. 1–2, Thomas Moore (1779–1852); st. 3 Thomas Hasting (1784–1872)
 Music: *Consolation*, Samuel Webbe (1740–1816)

GOSPEL *Remain standing.*

Gospeler: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew (6:1–6, 16–21).
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.”

Gospeler: The Gospel of the Lord.
People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

SERMON

INVITATION TO A HOLY LENT *Standing, all who are able.*

Celebrant: 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 kneeling, as able. Silence is kept for a space.

BLESSING AND IMPOSITION OF ASHES

Celebrant: 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.*

*Those people desiring may then come and kneel
to receive the imposition of ashes.*

The ashes are imposed with the following words:

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

PSALM 51:1–18 *Kneeling, all who are able; said by all.*

- 1 Have mercy on me, O God, according to your loving-kindness; *
in your great compassion blot out my offenses.
- 2 Wash me through and through from my wickedness *
and cleanse me from my sin.
- 3 For I know my transgressions, *
and my sin is ever before me.
- 4 Against you only have I sinned *
and done what is evil in your sight.
- 5 And so you are justified when you speak *
and upright in your judgment.
- 6 Indeed, I have been wicked from my birth, *
a sinner from my mother's womb.
- 7 For behold, you look for truth deep within me, *
and will make me understand wisdom secretly.
- 8 Purge me from my sin, and I shall be pure; *
wash me, and I shall be clean indeed.
- 9 Make me hear of joy and gladness, *
that the body you have broken may rejoice.
- 10 Hide your face from my sins *
and blot out all my iniquities.

(continued)

Psalm 51:1–18, continued

- 11 Create in me a clean heart, O God, *
and renew a right spirit within me.
- 12 Cast me not away from your presence *
and take not your holy Spirit from me.
- 13 Give me the joy of your saving help again *
and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.
- 14 I shall teach your ways to the wicked, *
and sinners shall return to you.
- 15 Deliver me from death, O God, *
and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness,
O God of my salvation.
- 16 Open my lips, O Lord, *
and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.
- 17 Had you desired it, I would have offered sacrifice, *
but you take no delight in burnt-offerings.
- 18 The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit; *
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

LITANY OF PENITENCE *Remain kneeling.*

All: 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.

Celebrant: 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.

People: Have mercy on us, Lord.

Celebrant: 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.

People: Have mercy on us, Lord.

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

People: We confess to you, Lord.

Celebrant: Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people,

People: We confess to you, Lord.

Celebrant: Our anger at our own frustration, and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves,

People: We confess to you, Lord.

Celebrant: Our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts, and our dishonesty in daily life and work,

People: We confess to you, Lord.

Celebrant: Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to commend the faith that is in us,

People: We confess to you, Lord.

(continued)

Litany of Penitence, continued

Celebrant: 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,

People: Accept our repentance, Lord.

Celebrant: For all false judgments, for uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and for our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us,

People: Accept our repentance, Lord.

Celebrant: For our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us,

People: Accept our repentance, Lord.

Celebrant: Restore us, good Lord, and let your anger depart from us;

People: Favorably hear us, for your mercy is great.

Celebrant: Accomplish in us the work of your salvation,

People: That we may show forth your glory in the world.

Celebrant: By the cross and passion of your Son our Lord,

People: Bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.

The Celebrant stands and 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.*

PEACE *Standing, all who are able.*

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: And also with you.

Greet one another in the name of the Lord.

GREETINGS *Seated.*

Holy Communion

OFFERTORY

All that we are and all that we have comes from God. Let us offer our best to God in thanksgiving, remembering that God loves a cheerful giver. (*2 Corinthians 9:7*)

ANTHEM *Sung by the Choir.*

Dear Lord and Father of Mankind

Dear Lord and Father of mankind,
Forgive our foolish ways!
Reclothe us in our rightful mind,
In purer lives thy service find,
In deeper reverence, praise.

In simple trust like theirs who heard,
Beside the Syrian sea,
The gracious calling of the Lord,
Let us, like them, without a word,
Rise up and follow thee.

Drop thy still dews of quietness,
Till all our strivings cease;
Take from our souls the strain and stress,
And let our ordered lives confess
The beauty of thy peace.

Breathe through the heats of our desire
Thy coolness and thy balm;
Let sense be dumb, let flesh retire;
Speak through the earthquake, wind, and fire,
O still, small voice of calm.

—Words: John Greenleaf Whittier (1807–1892), alt.

Music: *Repton*, Charles Hubert Hastings Parry (1848–1918),
arr. H.A. Chambers (1880–1967)

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING *Standing, all who are able.*

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Celebrant: God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.

People: Glory to you for ever and ever.

Celebrant: At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.

People: By your will they were created and have their being.

Celebrant: From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the rulers of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.

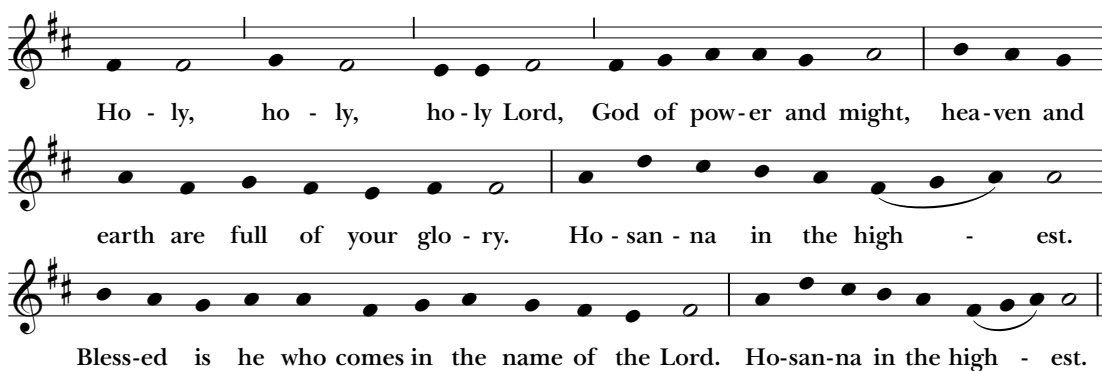
People: Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.

Celebrant: Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.

People: By his blood, he reconciled us. By his wounds, we are healed.

Celebrant: And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

Everyone sings:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might, hea - ven and
earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

—Setting: From *New Plainsong*, David Hurd (b. 1950)

The people stand or kneel.

Celebrant: And so, Father, we who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, 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, gave thanks, 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.”

Celebrant: Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,

People: We celebrate his death and resurrection,
as we await the day of his coming.

Celebrant: Lord God of our forebears: God of Abraham and Sarah, Isaac and Rebekah, and Jacob and Rachel and Leah; God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal. Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.

People: Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.

Celebrant: Accept these prayers and praises, Father, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation.

All: AMEN.

Silence is kept as the ministers bow in thanksgiving.

Celebrant: And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

All: 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. Everyone sings:

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world:
have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sins of the world: have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God,
you take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace.

—Setting: From *New Plainsong*, David Hurd

INVITATION

Celebrant: This is the table not of the righteous, but of the poor in spirit. It is the table of sharing with the poor of the world, with whom our Savior identified. It is the table of communion with the earth, in which our Lord became incarnate. This is the table of Jesus Christ. So come to this table, you who have much faith and you who would like to have more; you who have been here often, and you who have not been for a while or ever before; you who have tried to follow Jesus, and all of us who have failed. These are the gifts of God for the people of God. It is Christ who invites you to be known and loved and fed here.

DURING COMMUNION

HYMN “Bread of the world” *Everyone sings.*

Bread of the world, in mer - cy bro - ken, Wine of the
soul, in mer - cy shed, by whom the words of life were
spo - ken, and in whose death our sins are dead:
look on the heart by sor - row bro - ken, look on the
tears by sin - ners shed; and be thy feast to us the
to - ken that by thy grace our souls are fed.

The musical score is written on a single treble clef staff in the key of D major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of six lines of music. The first line contains two measures, the second line contains two measures, the third line contains two measures, the fourth line contains two measures, the fifth line contains two measures, and the sixth line contains two measures ending with a double bar line. The lyrics are placed below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across two notes.

—Words: Reginald Heber (1783–1826).

Music: *Rendez a Dieu*, melody attr. Louis Bourgeois (1510–1561)

HYMN "There is a balm in Gilead" *Everyone sings.*

There — is a balm in Gil - e - ad to make the wound - ed

whole; There — is a balm in Gil - e - ad to heal the sin - sick soul. **Fine**

1. Some - times I feel dis - cour - aged, And — think my work's in vain, — But —
 2. If you can - not preach like Pet - er, If you can - not preach like Paul, — You can
 3. Don't — ev - er be dis - cour - aged For — Je - sus is your friend, — And —

1. then the ho - ly spir - it Re - vives my soul a - gain. _____
 2. tell the love of Je - sus, And say He died for all. _____
 3. if you lack for know - ledge, He'll ne'er re - fuse to lend. _____ **D.C.**

—Words & Music: African American spiritual, arr. Carl Haywood.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND MISSION *Kneeling, all who are able.*

Celebrant: Let us pray.

All: 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.

SOLEMN PRAYER OVER THE PEOPLE *Remain kneeling.*

This ancient form of blessing is given during Lent:

Celebrant: Bow in prayer before the Lord.

Grant, most merciful Lord, to your faithful people pardon and peace, that they
may be cleansed from all their sins, and serve you with a quiet mind; through
Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

The blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be
upon you and remain with always. *Amen.*

HYMN “The glory of these forty days” *Standing, all who are able; everyone sings.*



1 The glo - ry of these for - ty days we
2 A - lone and fast - ing Mo - ses saw the
3 So Dan - iel trained his mys - tic sight, de -
4 Then grant us, Lord, like them to be full



1 ce - le - brate with songs of praise; for Christ, through whom all
2 lov - ing God who gave the law; and to E - li - jah,
3 liv - ered from the li - ons' might; and John, the Bride - groom's
4 oft in fast and prayer with thee; our spi - rits strength - en



1 things were made, him - self has fast - ed and has prayed.
2 fast - ing, came the steeds and char - i - ots of flame.
3 friend, be - came the her - ald of Mes - si - ah's name.
4 with thy grace, and give us joy to see thy face.

—Words: Latin, 6th cent.; tr. Maurice F. Bell (1862-1947), alt.
Music: *Erhalt uns, Herr*, melody from *Geistliche Leider*, 1543

DISMISSAL

Celebrant: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.



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