

Ash Wednesday

February 18, 2026

L On Ash Wednesday the Church begins a holy season of prayerful and penitential reflection. Our attention is especially directed to the holy sufferings and death of our Lord Jesus Christ. From ancient times the season of Lent has been kept as a time of special devotion, self-denial, and humble repentance born of a faithful heart that dwells confidently on His Word and draws from it life and hope. Please pray that our dear Father in heaven, for the sake of His beloved Son and in the power of His Holy Spirit, might richly bless this Lent season for us so that we may come to Easter with glad hearts and keep the feast in sincerity and truth.

L O Lord,
C **have mercy.**

L O Christ,
C **have mercy.**

L O Lord,
C **have mercy.**

L O Christ,
C **hear us.**

L God the Father in heaven,
C **have mercy.**

L God the Son, Redeemer of the world,
C **have mercy.**

L God the Holy Spirit,
C **have mercy.**

L Be gracious to us.
C **Spare us, good Lord.**

L Be gracious to us.
C **Help us, good Lord.**

L By the mystery of Your holy incarnation;
by Your holy nativity;
by Your baptism, fasting, and temptation;
by Your agony and bloody sweat;
by Your cross and passion;
by Your precious death and burial;
by Your glorious resurrection and ascension;
and by the coming of the Holy Spirit, the Comforter:

C **Help us, good Lord.**

L In all time of our tribulation;
in all time of our prosperity;
in the hour of death;
and in the day of judgment:

C **Help us, good Lord.**

L We poor sinners implore You

C **to hear us, O Lord.**

L To prosper the preaching of Your Word;
to bless our prayer and meditation;
to strengthen and preserve us in the true faith;
and to give heart to our sorrow and strength to our repentance:

C We implore You to hear us, good Lord.

L To draw all to Yourself;
to bless those who are instructed in the faith;
to watch over and console the poor, the sick, the distressed, the lonely, the
forsaken, the abandoned, and all who stand in need of our prayers;
to give abundant blessing to all works of mercy;
and to have mercy on us all:

C We implore You to hear us, good Lord.

L To turn our hearts to You;
to turn the hearts of our enemies, persecutors, and slanderers;
and graciously to hear our prayers:

C We implore You to hear us, good Lord.

L Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God,

C we implore You to hear us.

L Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

C have mercy.

L Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

C have mercy.

L Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

C grant us Your peace.

L O Christ,

C hear us.

L O Lord,

C have mercy.

L O Christ,

C have mercy.

L O Lord,

C have mercy. Amen.

Imposition of Ashes

L O God, You desire not the death of sinners, but rather that they turn from their wickedness and live. We implore You to have compassion on the frailty of our mortal nature, for we acknowledge that we are dust and to dust we shall return. Mercifully pardon our sins that we may obtain the promises You have laid up for those who are repentant; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

425 When I Survey the Wondrous Cross



1 When I sur - vey the won - drous cross On which the
 2 For - bid it, Lord, that I should boast Save in the
 3 See, from His head, His hands, His feet Sor - row and
 4 Were the whole realm of na - ture mine, That were a



Prince of Glo - ry died, My rich - est gain I
 death of Christ, my God; All the vain things that
 love flow min - gled down! Did e'er such love and
 trib - ute far too small; Love so a - maz - ing,



count but loss And pour con - tempt on all my pride.
 charm me most, I sac - ri - fice them to His blood.
 sor - row meet Or thorns com - pose so rich a crown?
 so di - vine, De - mands my soul, my life, my all!

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748; Tune: Lowell Mason, 1792–1872; Text and tune: Public domain

Service of the Word

Psalm

Psalm 51:1–13

- L** Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.
- C** **Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin!**
- L** For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.
- C** **Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you may be justified in your words and blameless in your judgment.**
- L** Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me.
- C** **Behold, you delight in truth in the inward being, and you teach me wisdom in the secret heart.**
- L** Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.
- C** **Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have broken rejoice.**
- L** Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.
- C** **Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.**
- L** Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.
- C** **Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit.**
- L** Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will return to you.
- C** **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Old Testament Reading

Joel 2:12–19

¹²“Yet even now,” declares the LORD, “return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; ¹³and rend your hearts and not your garments.” Return to the LORD, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love; and he relents over disaster. ¹⁴Who knows whether he will not turn and relent, and leave a blessing behind him, a grain offering and a drink offering for the LORD your God? ¹⁵Blow the trumpet in Zion; consecrate a fast; call a solemn assembly; ¹⁶gather the people. Consecrate the congregation; assemble the elders; gather the children, even nursing infants. Let the bridegroom leave his room, and the bride her chamber. ¹⁷Between the vestibule and the altar let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep and say, “Spare your people, O LORD, and make not your heritage a reproach, a byword among the nations. Why should they say among the peoples, ‘Where is their God?’” ¹⁸Then the LORD became jealous for his land and had pity on his people. ¹⁹The LORD answered and said to his people, “Behold, I am sending to you grain, wine, and oil, and you will be satisfied; and I will no more make you a reproach among the nations.”

L This is the word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God

New Testament Reading

2 Corinthians 5:20b—6:10

We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

¹Working together with him, then, we appeal to you not to receive the grace of God in vain. ²For he says,

“In a favorable time I listened to you, and in a day of salvation I have helped you.”

Behold, now is the favorable time; behold, now is the day of salvation. ³We put no obstacle in anyone’s way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, ⁴but as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: by great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, ⁵beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; ⁶by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, the Holy Spirit, genuine love; ⁷by truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; ⁸through honor and dishonor, through slander and praise. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; ⁹as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold, we live; as punished, and yet not killed; ¹⁰as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, yet possessing everything.

L This is the word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God

L The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the sixth chapter.

G Glory to You, O Lord.

¹[Jesus said:] “Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them, for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven.

²“Thus, when you give to the needy, sound no trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be praised by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. ³But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴so that your giving may be in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

⁵“And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. ⁶But when 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. . . .

¹⁶“And when you fast, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. ¹⁷But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, ¹⁸that your fasting may not be seen by others but by your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

¹⁹“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, ²⁰but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

L This is the Gospel of the Lord

G Praise to You, O Christ.

Apostles' Creed

G I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life ✠ everlasting. Amen.

By Grace Alone



Out of the depths I cry to You; Lord, hear my voice of
Your par-don is a gift of love; Your grace a-lone must
Though great our sins and sore our woes, His grace much more a -

plead-ing. Bend down Your gra-cious ear, I pray, Your hum-ble
save us. Our works will not re-move our guilt; the strict-est
bound-eth. His help-ing love no lim-it knows; our ut-most

ser-vant heed-ing. If You re-mem-ber each mis-
life would fail us. Let none in deeds or mer-its
need it sound-eth. Our kind and faith-ful Shep-herd

deed, and of each thought and word take heed, who can re-
boast, but let us own the Ho-ly Ghost, for He a-
He, who will set all His peo-ple free from all their

main be-fore You? On-ly by grace, by grace a-lone.
lone can change us: On-ly by grace, by grace a-lone.
sin and sor-row: On-ly by grace, by grace a-lone.

Text: Martin Luther

Tune: David Ward

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Sermon - Pastor Tony Boos

Offering

Please take a moment to sign and pass the "Record of Friendship" booklet or use the QR code located on the back of this bulletin.

Prayer of the Church

- ☐ Lord, in Your mercy,
- ☒ hear our prayer.

Lord's Prayer

- ☒ 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 forever and ever. Amen.

Benediction

L The grace of our Lord ✠ Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

G Amen.

Offertory



G Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -
way from Thy pres-ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -
tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir-it. A - men.

Please remember to join us through this Lent season for our midweek services on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 PM.

St. James Guiding Statement

Together we have found healing and hope in Jesus Christ and welcome others to experience these same Gospel promises.

St. James Mission Pillars



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