



# **ASH WEDNESDAY**

**February 18, 2026**

**6:30 P.M.**

## ASH WEDNESDAY EUCHARIST & IMPOSITION OF ASHES, 6:30PM

*Stand, as able, as the priest enters.*

### THE GREETING

Create in me a clean heart, O God

**Renew a right spirit in me.**

### THE COLLECT

God is with you.

**And also with you.**

Mystery of Goodness, by whose gaze we are called into being and held in life:  
Teach us the secrecy of prayer which seeks no reward; the generosity of love  
Which forgets itself; the gift of a treasure uncountable and unconsumed;  
Through Jesus Christ, the Son of Wilderness . **Amen.**

### THE READING

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

*The people respond, “Thanks be to God.”*

*Silence for two minutes. A bell will end the silence.*

### THE GOSPEL Matthew 6: 1 – 6, 16 – 21

*Response before the Gospel*

**Glory to you, O Christ.**

*Response following the Gospel*

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Silence follows.*

### THE HOMILY

#### THE INVITATION TO LENT

*The Officiant invites all to the observance of Lent as a time of reflection and of taking an inventory of our lives. A period of silence is kept.*

Dear People of God: The first Christians observed with great devotion the days of Jesus' passion and resurrection, and it became the custom of the churches to prepare for Holy Week 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 had become separated from the faithful were reconciled and restored to the body of Christ. Thereby, the whole congregation was put in mind of the message of forgiveness offered by Jesus, and of the need which all Christians continually have to renew and deepen their faith.

I invite you, therefore, to the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, reflection, and discipline, by engaging the questions with patience; and by reading and meditating on God's holy Word. To begin, I invite you to pray in silence as we prepare to receive these ashes.

God of life, God of death, you have created us out of the dust of the earth. Grant that these ashes may be a sign to us of our humanity and mortality. May they remind us that, though made in God's image, we are not God.

### **A LITANY OF PENITENCE**

Merciful God: We confess to you and to one another 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.

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.

**Forgive us, we pray.**

We have ignored your call to serve, as Jesus served us.

**Forgive us, we pray.**

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

**Forgive us, we pray.**

For our love of status and money, possessions and power, control and dominion, more than our love of you,

**Forgive us, we pray.**

For our desires that are self-centered and petty, corrupting and abusive, oppressive and deadly,

**Forgive us, we pray.**

For the choices that corrupt our souls, destroy our bodies, and violate our neighbors near and far,

**Forgive us we pray.**

For our passivity and apathy: for victims forgotten, for sanctioning poverty, for permitting war, for our normalizing of gun violence, for our willingness to tolerate unequal access to healthcare.

**Forgive us, we pray.**

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

**Forgive us, we pray.**

For our carelessness toward your creation: the pollution of the waters, the mutilation of the earth, the poisoning of the air, and our lack of concern for those who come after us,

**Forgive us, we pray.**

For our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to share the faith that is in us,

**Forgive us, we pray.**

Accept our repentance, God, for the wrongs we have done: for our failure to respond human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty,

**Hear our prayer.**

Most gracious God, turn us from repeating our offenses against you, our neighbors and ourselves, lest we destroy your creation.

**Hear our prayer.**

Make us a gentle and compassionate people; choosing love, not revenge; choosing peace, not war; choosing life, not death; choosing your wisdom as the center of our being.

**Hear our prayer.**

## **THE ABSOLUTION**

### **THE PEACE**

Shalom, the peace of God is always with you.

**And also with you.**

### **THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

God is with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to God.**

Let us give thanks to God.

**It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

It is right to praise you, God of all creation;

In your love you made us for yourself,

When we turned away

you did not reject us,

but came to meet us in your Son.

**You embraced us as your children**

**and welcomed us to sit and eat with you**

in Christ you shared our life

that we might live in him and he in us.

**Christ opened his arms in love.**

On the night he was betrayed,

at supper with his friends



he took bread and gave you thanks;  
he broke it and gave it to them saying:  
Take eat; this is my body which is given for you;  
do this in remembrance of me.

**God, we do this in remembrance of him:  
His body is the bread of life.**

At the end of supper, taking the cup of wine,  
He gave thanks, and said:  
Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant,  
do this in remembrance of me.

**God, we do this in remembrance of him:  
This is the cup of blessing.**

As we proclaim his death and celebrate his rising in glory,  
Send your Holy Spirit that this bread and this wine  
May be to us the body and blood of Jesus.

**As we eat and drink these holy gifts  
Make us one in Christ, our risen Lord.**

With your whole Church throughout the world  
We offer you this sacrifice of praise  
And lift our voice to join the eternal hymn of heaven:

**Holy, Holy, Holy my heart, my heart adores you!  
My heart is glad to say the words: you are holy God.**

**THE LORD'S PRAYER, (in the language that brings you closer to God)**

**Our Mother, our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your Name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those  
who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial,  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. Amen.**

### **THE FRACTION**

This is Christ's body, broken for you.

### **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

This is Christ's table where all are welcome, all are fed.

Come, all who hunger for a deeper faith, a better life, a fairer world.

### **CLOSING PRAYER**

Christ our companion, you came not to humiliate the sinner  
but to disturb the righteous. Welcome us when we are put to shame,  
but challenge our smugness, that we may truly turn from what is evil,  
and be freed even from our virtues, in your name. Amen.

### **BLESSING**

### **DISMISSAL**

Go, in Peace.

**Thanks be to God.**

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