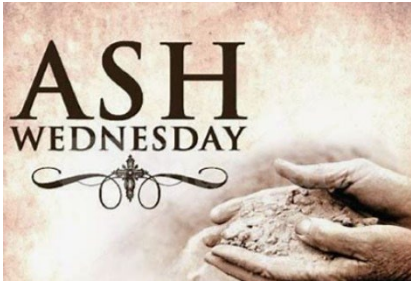


A Gathering for Worship on Ash Wednesday

February 18th, 2026 - 12:00 pm



CALL TO WORSHIP & CONFESSION

Please stand, if comfortably able.

God sent Christ into the world not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him.

God's love endures forever.

Let us pray.

Almighty and ever-living God, you hate nothing you have made, and you forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create in us new and honest hearts, so that, truly repenting of our sins, we may receive from you, the God of all mercy, full pardon and forgiveness through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

OPENING HYMN: ELW#806 – When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

READINGS FROM GOD'S HOLY WORD

Isaiah 58:1-12

¹Shout 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. ²Yet 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. ³"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. ⁴Look, 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. ⁵Is 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?

⁶Is 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? ⁷Is 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? ⁸Then 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. ⁹Then 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, ¹⁰if 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. ¹¹The 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. ¹²Your 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.

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



Psalm 51:1-17

¹ Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; 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 offenses, and my sin is ever before me.

⁴ **Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight; so you are justified when you speak and right in your judgment.**

⁵ Indeed, I was born steeped in wickedness, a sinner from my mother's womb.

⁶ **Indeed, you delight in truth deep within me, and would have me know wisdom deep within.**

⁷ Remove my sins with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be purer than snow.

⁸ **Let me hear joy and gladness; that the body you have broken may rejoice.**

⁹ Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my wickedness.

¹⁰ **Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.**

¹¹ Cast me not away from your presence and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

¹² **Restore to me the joy of your salvation and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.**

¹³ Let me teach your ways to offenders, and sinners shall be restored to you.

¹⁴ **Rescue me from bloodshed, O God of my salvation, and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness.**

¹⁵ O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.

¹⁶ **For you take no delight in sacrifice, or I would give it. You are not pleased with burnt offering.**

¹⁷ The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit;

a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.



GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Please stand, if comfortably able.

S 151b

Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and mer - ci - ful,
slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

HOLY GOSPEL

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹“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.

²“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. ³But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

⁵“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. ⁶But 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.

¹⁶“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.

¹⁷But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, ¹⁸so 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.

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

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

MEDITATION - The Rev. Diane Burkland

THE IMPOSITION OF THE ASHES

Let us pray. **Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth. May these ashes be for us a sign of our mortality and penitence, and a reminder that only by your gracious gift are we given everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

Please come forward as directed.

HYMN: ELW#636 – How Small Our Span of Life

Let us pray.

Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation,

that we may show forth your glory to the world.

By the cross and passion of our Savior,

bring us with all your saints to the joy of Christ's resurrection.

Blessing - Christ give you grace to grow in holiness, to deny yourselves, take up your cross, and follow him; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN: ELW#712 – Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service

Dismissal: Remember you are God's beloved. Go forth in Christ's peace. **Thanks be to God!**



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