

THE FIRST DAY OF LENT *Commonly Called*

ASH WEDNESDAY

THE HOLY EUCHARIST

with

The Imposition of Ashes



ST. GEORGE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

in the heart of the Historic Stockade District

The Reverend Thomas J. Pettigrew, *Rector*

The Reverend Deacon Abigail Bee, *Parish Deacon*

Dr. Brian J. Taylor, AAGO, *Director of Music*

ASH WEDNESDAY marks the beginning of the Season of Lent, a time of spiritual warfare, of fasting, penitence, and preparation for the Easter feast. Beginning in the tenth century ashes were imposed on this day upon penitent sinners in preparation for their restoration to full communion with the Church. Since the eleventh century, ashes have been imposed upon all the faithful as a reminder that the wages of sin is death. As God said to Adam, “dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.” (Genesis 3:19b) But as we are marked with ashes in the same manner that we were signed with the cross in our Baptisms, we are also reminded that we only have life in Christ, the second Adam.

THE FIRST DAY OF LENT

commonly called Ash Wednesday

FEBRUARY 18, 2026

HOLY EUCHARIST RITE I WITH IMPOSITION OF ASHES, 9AM & 7 PM

MASS SETTING

The First Communion Service

John Merbecke (1510-1585)

THE ENTRANCE

On this day, The Liturgy begins as follows:

THE INTROIT

Misereris omnium.

Chanted by the Cantor and the Choir

THOU HAST MERCY on all things, O Lord, and hatest nothing that thou hast created: and winkest at men's iniquities, because they should amend, and sparest all men; for they are thine, O Lord, thou lover of souls. (*Wisdom 11:24-25, 29*) Be merciful unto me, O God, be merciful unto me: for my soul trusteth in thee. (*Psalm 57:1*) Glory be...

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Ash Wednesday

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And with thy spirit.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

ALMIGHTY AND EVERLASTING GOD, who hatest nothing that thou hast made and dost forgive the sins of all those 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 thee, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

THE OLD TESTAMENT READING

Joel 2.1-2, 12-17

A READING from the Book of Joel

BLOW THE TRUMPET IN ZION; sound the alarm on my holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble, for the day of the Lord is coming, it is near; a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness! Like blackness spread upon the mountains a great and powerful army comes; their like has never been from of old, nor will be again after them in ages to come.

Yet even now," says the Lord, "return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; rend your hearts and not your clothing. Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing. Who 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?

Blow the trumpet in Zion; sanctify a fast; call a solemn assembly; gather the people. Sanctify the congregation; assemble the aged; gather the children, even infants at the breast. Let the bridegroom leave his room, and the bride her canopy.

Between the vestibule and the altar let the priests, the ministers of the Lord, weep. Let them say, "Spare your people, O Lord, and do not make your heritage a mockery, a byword among the nations. Why should it be said among the peoples, "Where is their God?"

V. The Word of the Lord

R. Thanks be to God

THE GRADUAL*Chanted by the Choir*

BE MERCIFUL UNTO ME, O God, be merciful unto me: for my soul trusteth in thee. He shall send from heaven; and save me from the reproof of him that would eat me up.

THE EPISTLE READING*II Corinthians 5.20b-6.10*

A READING from the Second Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians

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, then, 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 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.

V. The Word of the Lord

R. Thanks be to God.

THE TRACT

Domine, non secundum

Chanted by the Choir

OLORD, deal not with us after our sins: nor reward us according to our wickednesses. O Lord, remember not our old sins, but have mercy upon us, and that soon: for we are come to great misery. Help us, O God of our salvation, for the glory of thy Name, O Lord: O deliver us and be merciful unto our sins, for thy Name's sake. (*Psalm 103:10; Psalm 79:8,9*)

THE HOLY GOSPEL*Matthew 6.1-6, 16-21*

THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO SAINT MATTHEW

R. Glory be to thee, O Lord.

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 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 will your heart be also

V. The Gospel of the Lord.

R. Praise be to thee, O Christ.

The Celebrant now invites the people to the observance of a holy Lent, saying

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 upon 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.

Silence is kept for a space, all kneeling

THE BLESSING AND IMPOSITION OF ASHES

The Celebrant says the following

ALMIGHTY GOD, who hast created us out of the dust of the earth: Bless these ashes, and grant that they may be unto us a sign of our mortality and penitence, that we may remember that it is only by thy gracious gift that we are given everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

The Ashes are imposed with the following words

Remember that dust thou art dust, and unto dust shalt thou return.

Please note that you are not required to receive the imposition of Ashes and that this service is a reverent and full beginning of Lent even without Ashes.

The following psalm is then sung by the Cantor

PSALM 51

Miserere mei, Deus

Have mercy upon me, O God, after thy great goodness;*
according to the multitude of thy mercies do away mine offences.

Wash me throughly from my wickedness,*
and cleanse me from my sin.

For I acknowledge my faults,*
and my sin is ever before me.

Against thee only have I sinned, and done this evil in thy sight;*
that thou mightest be justified in thy saying, and clear when thou art judged.

Behold, I was shapen in wickedness,*
and in sin hath my mother conceived me.

But lo, thou requirest truth in the inward parts,*
and shalt make me to understand wisdom secretly.

Thou shalt purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;*
thou shalt wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

Thou shalt make me hear of joy and gladness,*
that the bones which thou hast broken may rejoice.

Turn thy face from my sins,*
and put out all my misdeeds.

Make me a clean heart, O God,*
and renew a right spirit within me.

Cast me not away from thy presence,*
and take not thy holy Spirit from me.

O give me the comfort of thy help again,*
and stablish me with thy free Spirit.

Then shall I teach thy ways unto the wicked,*
and sinners shall be converted unto thee.

Deliver me from blood-guiltiness, O God, thou that art the God of my health:*

and my tongue shall sing of thy righteousness.

Thou shalt open my lips, O Lord,*
and my mouth shall show forth thy praise.

For thou desirest no sacrifice, else would I give it thee;*
but thou delightest not in burnt-offerings.

The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit:*

a broken and contrite heart, O God, shalt thou not despise.

THE LITANY OF PENITENCE

The Celebrant and People together, all kneeling

Most holy and merciful Father:

**We confess to thee 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 thee 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 upon us, O Lord.

We have been deaf to thy call to serve, as Christ served us. We have not been true to the mind of Christ. We have grieved thy Holy Spirit.

Have mercy upon us, O Lord.

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

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

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

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

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

Accept our repentance, O 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, O 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, O Lord.

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

Accept our repentance, O Lord.

Restore us, good Lord, and let thine anger depart from us;

Favorably hear us, for thy mercy is great.

Accomplish in us the work of thy salvation,

That we may show forth thy glory in the world.

By the cross and passion of thy Son our Lord,

Bring us with all thy saints to the joy of his resurrection.

The Priest, stands and, facing the people, says

ALMIGHTY GOD, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who desireth not the death of sinners, but rather that they may turn from their wickedness and live, hath given power and commandment to his ministers, to declare and pronounce to his people, being penitent, the absolution and remission of their sins. He pardoneth and absolveth all those who truly repent, and unfeignedly believe his holy Gospel.

WHEREFORE let us 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 OFFERTORY SENTENCE

Chanted by the Cantor & Choir

I will magnify thee, O Lord, for thou hast set me up and not made my foes to triumph over me: O Lord my God, I cried unto thee and thou hast healed me.

THE OFFERTORY, HYMN 143

The glory of these forty days

Erhalt uns, Herr

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Celebrant sings the Proper Preface of Lent

THE SANCTUS & BENEDICTUS QUI VENIT, HYMNAL S-113

Sung by All

(people kneel)

**Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts:
Heaven and earth are full of thy Glory.
Glory be to thee, O Lord Most High.**

**¶ Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

(people kneel)

ALL GLORY BE TO THEE, Almighty God, our heavenly Father, for that thou, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption; who made there, by his one oblation of himself once offered, a full, perfect, and sufficient sacrifice, oblation, and satisfaction, for the sins of the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again.

For in the night in which he was betrayed, he took bread; and when he had given thanks, he brake it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat, this is my Body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." **¶**

Likewise, after supper, he took the cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink ye all of this; for this is my Blood of the New Testament, which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins. Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me." **¶**

Wherefore, O Lord and heavenly Father, according to the institution of thy dearly beloved Son our Savior Jesus Christ, we, thy humble servants, do celebrate and make here before thy divine Majesty, with these thy holy gifts, which we now offer unto thee, the memorial thy Son hath commanded us to make; having in remembrance his blessed passion and precious death, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; rendering unto thee most hearty thanks for the innumerable benefits procured unto us by the same.

And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us; and, of thy almighty goodness, vouchsafe to bless and sanctify, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, these thy gifts and creatures of bread and wine; that we, receiving them according to thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ's holy institution, in remembrance of his death and passion, may be partakers of his most blessed Body and Blood.

And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness mercifully to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving; most humbly beseeching thee to grant that, by the merits and death of thy Son Jesus Christ,

and through faith in his blood, we, and all thy whole Church, may obtain remission of our sins, and all other benefits of his passion.

And here we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, ourselves, our souls and bodies, to be a reasonable, holy, and living sacrifice unto thee; humbly beseeching thee that we, and all others who shall be partakers of this Holy Communion, may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, be filled with thy **X** grace and heavenly benediction, and made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him.

And although we are unworthy, through our manifold sins, to offer unto thee any sacrifice, yet we beseech thee to accept this our bounden duty and service, not weighing our merits, but pardoning our offenses, through Jesus Christ our Lord; By whom, and with whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost, all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end. **Amen.**

And now, as our Savior Christ hath taught us, we are bold to say,

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Sung by All

Our Fa - ther, who art in hea - ven, hal - low - ed
be thy Name, thy king - dom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in hea - ven. Give us this day our
dai - ly bread. And for - give us our tres - pas - ses,
as we for - give those who tres - pass a - gainst us. And lead
us not in - to temp - ta - tion, but de - liv - er us
from e - vil. For thine is the king - dom, and the power,
and the glo - ry, for ev - er and ev - er. A - men.

THE FRACTION

Celebrant Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
People **Therefore let us keep the feast.**

THE PEACE

Celebrant The Peace of the Lord be Always with you.
People **And with thy Spirit.**

THE AGNUS DEI, HMYNAL S-157

Sung by All

(people kneel)

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.
O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.
O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, grant us thy peace.

THE PRAYER OF HUMBLE ACCESS*Said by All**(people kneel)*

We do not presume to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table. But thou art the same Lord whose property is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

THE INVITATION

Celebrant ✕ Behold the Lamb of God: Behold him that taketh away the sins of the world.

People **Lord, I am not worthy that thou shouldest come under my roof, but speak the word only and my soul shall be healed.**

THE ADMINISTRATION OF COMMUNION

All baptized Christians may receive communion. If you wish to not receive, you are invited to come forward and cross your arms, indicating that you wish to receive a blessing. Gluten-free hosts are available.

THE COMMUNION SENTENCE*Sung by the Cantor & Choir*

He who doth meditate on the law of the Lord day and night: will bring forth his fruit in due season.

COMMUNION ANTHEM*Call to Remembrance**Richard Farrant (1530-1580)***THE POST COMMUNION PRAYER** *Said by All**(people kneel)*

Almighty and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee for that thou dost feed us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favor and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs, through hope, of thy everlasting kingdom. And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.

THE BLESSING*(people kneel)*

The peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, ✕ the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be upon you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

THE DISMISSAL

Celebrant: Let us bless the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

THE RETIRING PROCESSION, HYMN 142

Lord, who throughout these forty days

St. Flavian

Please depart the church in silence so that those who wish may remain in quiet prayer and reflection.

