

Ash Wednesday



February 18, 2026



Gathering

We gather in silence

*Gathering Hymn: Out of the Depths



- 1 Out of the depths I cry to you; O Lord God, hear me call - ing.
- 2 All things you send are full of grace; you crown our lives with fa - vor.
- 3 In you a - lone, O God, we hope, and not in our own mer - it.
- 4 My soul is wait - ing for you, Lord, as one who longs for morn - ing;



In - cline your ear to my dis - tress in spite of my re - bel - ling.
All our good works are done in vain with - out our Lord and Sav - ior.
We rest our fears in your good Word and trust your Ho - ly Spir - it.
no watch - er waits with great - er hope than I for your re - turn - ing.



Do not re - gard my sin - ful deeds. Send me the grace
We praise you for the gift of faith; you save us from
Your prom - ise keeps us strong and sure; we trust the cross,
I hope as Is - rael in the Lord, who sends re - demp -



my spir - it needs; with - out it I am noth - ing.
the grip of death; our lives are in your keep - ing.
your sig - na - ture, in - scribed up - on our tem - ples.
tion through the Word. Praise God for grace and mer - cy!

*Greeting & Prayer of the Day

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray. ... now and forever.

C: Amen.

Word

First Reading: Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

1 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—
2 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.

12 Yet even now, says the Lord,
 return to me with all your heart,
with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;
 13 rend your hearts and not your clothing.

Return to the Lord your God,
 for he is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love,
 and relenting from punishment.

14 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?

15 Blow the trumpet in Zion;
 consecrate a fast;

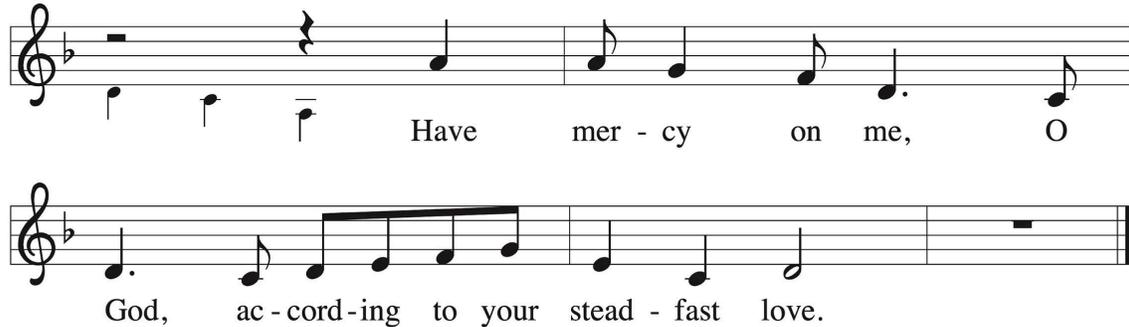
call a solemn assembly;
16 gather the people.
Consecrate the congregation;
assemble the aged;
gather the children,
even infants at the breast.
Let the bridegroom leave his room
and the bride her canopy.

17 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?' "

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 51:1-17



Have mer - cy on me, O
God, ac - cord - ing to your stead - fast love.

Psalm 51:1

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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 ev- | er 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. R**

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 pur- | er than snow.

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

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 spir- | it within me.**

11 Cast me not away | from your presence,
and take not your Holy Spir- | it from me.

**12 Restore to me the joy of | your salvation
and sustain me with your boun- | tiful Spirit. R**

13 Let me teach your ways | to offenders,
and sinners shall be re- | stored to you.

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

15 O Lord, o- | pen my lips,
and my mouth shall pro- | claim 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 of God is a | troubled spirit;
a troubled and broken heart, O God, you will | not
despise. R

Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:20b—6:10

20b We entreat you on behalf of Christ: be reconciled to God.

21 For our sake God made the one who knew no sin to be sin,
so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

6:1 As we work together with him, we entreat you also not
to accept the grace of God in vain. 2 For he says,

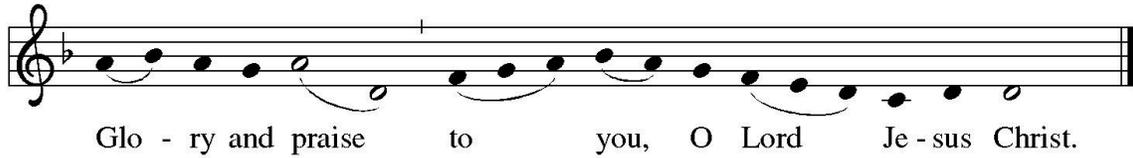
“At an acceptable time I have listened to you,
and on a day of salvation I have helped you.”

Look, now is the acceptable time; look, now is the day of salvation! 3 We are putting no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, 4 but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: in great endurance, afflictions, hardships, calamities, 5 beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; 6 in purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, 7 truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; 8 in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors and yet are true, 9 as unknown and yet are well known, as dying and look—we are alive, as punished and yet not killed, 10 as sorrowful yet always rejoicing, as poor yet making many rich, as having nothing and yet possessing everything.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation



Return to the | Lord, your God,*
who is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in
| steadfast love.

Gospel: **Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21**

[Jesus said to the disciples:] 1 "Beware of practicing your righteousness 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. 3 But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, 4 so 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. 6 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.

16 "And whenever you fast, do not look somber, like the hypocrites, for they mark their faces to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. 17 But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, 18 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.

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

Sermon

*Hymn of the Day: Lord, teach us how to pray



1 Lord, teach us how to pray a - right, with rev - 'rence and with fear.
2 We per - ish if we cease from prayer; oh, grant us pow'r to pray.
3 Give deep hu - mil - i - ty; the sense of god - ly sor - row give;
4 Faith in the on - ly sac - ri - fice that can for sin a - tone;
5 Give these, and then your will be done; thus strength-ened with all might,



Though dust and ash - es in your sight, we may, we must draw near.
And when to meet you we pre - pare, Lord, meet us on our way.
a strong de - sire, with con - fi - dence, to hear your voice and live;
to cast our hopes, to fix our eyes on Christ, on Christ a - lone.
we, through your Spir - it and your Son, shall pray, and pray a - right.



*Invitation to Lent

*Confession of Sin

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Most holy and merciful God,
we confess to you and to one another,
and before the whole company of heaven,
that we have sinned by our fault,

**by our own fault,
by our own most grievous 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.

Have mercy on us, O God.

We have shut our ears 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.

Have mercy on us, O God.

Our past unfaithfulness, the pride, envy, hypocrisy, and apathy that have infected our lives, we confess to you.

Have mercy on us, O God.

Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people, we confess to you.

Have mercy on us, O God.

Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to share the faith that is in us, we confess to you.

Have mercy on us, O God.

Our neglect of human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty, we confess to you.

Have mercy on us, O God.

Our false judgments, our uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us, we confess to you.

Have mercy on us, O God.

Our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us, we confess to you.

Have mercy on us, O God.

Restore us, O God, and let your anger depart from us.

Hear us, O God, for your mercy is great.

Imposition of Ashes

To You All Hearts Are Open

The musical score is written on a single treble clef staff in a 3/4 time signature. It consists of three lines of music. The first line begins with a repeat sign and contains the lyrics: "To you all hearts are o - pen, to". The second line continues with: "you all de - sires known. To you there are no". The third line features a triplet of eighth notes and concludes with the lyrics: "se - crets, al - might - y God; we come to you." The piece ends with a double bar line and a fermata over the final note. The instruction "Last time" is written above the final measure.

Text: John Tirro, b. 1966; based on an 11th cent. collect, tr. *Book of Common Prayer*

Music: ALL HEARTS ARE OPEN, John Tirro

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Musical Meditation

*Prayers

A: Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

Prayer

P: Let us pray.

Merciful God, accompany our journey through these forty days. Renew us in the gift of baptism, that we may provide for those who are poor, pray for those in need, fast from self-indulgence, and above all that we may find our treasure in the life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who

lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Sending

Blessing

P: Almighty God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

*Sending Hymn (see following page)

Dismissal

P: Go forth into the world to serve God with gladness;
be of good courage;
hold fast to that which is good;
render to no one evil for evil;
strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak;
help the afflicted; honor all people;
love and serve God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

C: Thanks be to God.

1 A - bide with me, fast falls the e - ven - tide.
 2 Swift to its close ebbs out life's lit - tle day;
 3 I need thy pres - ence ev - 'ry pass - ing hour;
 4 I fear no foe, with thee at hand to bless;
 5 Hold thou thy cross be - fore my clos - ing eyes,

The dark - ness deep - ens; Lord, with me a - bide.
 earth's joys grow dim, its glo - ries pass a - way;
 what but thy grace can foil the tempt - er's pow'r?
 ills have no weight, and tears no bit - ter - ness.
 shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies;

When oth - er help - ers fail and com - forts flee,
 change and de - cay in all a - round I see;
 Who like thy - self my guide and stay can be?
 Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy vic - to - ry?
 heav'n's morn - ing breaks, and earth's vain shad - ows flee;

help of the help - less, oh, a - bide with me.
 O thou who chang - est not, a - bide with me.
 Through cloud and sun - shine, oh, a - bide with me.
 I tri - umph still, if thou a - bide with me!
 in life, in death, O Lord, a - bide with me.