

Ash Wednesday

Order of Worship
February 18, 2026

PRELUDE *The Penitent Heart* Esther S. Higgins

GREETING AND INVITATION TO LENTEN DISCIPLINE

CALL TO WORSHIP- Joel 2:12-14 /INVOCATION

HYMN # 486 *Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy*

CONFESSION OF SIN (Based on PS 51)

Pastor: Have mercy upon me, O God, according to Your lovingkindness;

People: According to the multitude of Your tender mercies, blot out my transgressions.

Pastor: Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,

People: And cleanse me from my sin.

Pastor: For I acknowledge my transgressions,

People: And my sin is always before me.

Pastor: Against You, You only, have I sinned, and done this evil in Your sight—

People: That You may be justified when You speak, and blameless when You judge.

Pastor: Behold, You desire truth in the inward parts,

People: And in the hidden part You will make me to know wisdom.

Pastor: Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;

People: Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

Pastor: Create in me a clean heart, O God,

People: And renew a steadfast spirit within me.

Pastor: Do not cast me away from Your presence,

People: And do not take Your Holy Spirit from me.

Pastor: Restore to me the joy of Your salvation,

People: And uphold me with Your generous Spirit.

Pastor: Then I will teach transgressors Your ways,

People: And sinners shall be converted to You.

Pastor: O Lord, open my lips,

People: And my mouth shall show forth Your praise.

Pastor: For You do not desire sacrifice, or else I would give it;

People: You do not delight in burnt offering.

Pastor: The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit,

People: A broken and a contrite heart—these, O God, You will not despise.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON Ezekiel 36:25-27

PASTORAL PRAYER (LORD'S PRAYER)

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

HYMN #562

Be Thou My Vision

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SCRIPTURE

Psalm 103:8-12

HOMILY

Forgiveness

HYMN #450

Lift High the Cross

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Just A Closer Walk With Thee

What is Ash Wednesday?

Ash Wednesday is a church tradition marking the start of Lent, it is a forty-day period (excluding Sundays) leading up to Easter, understood as a time of repentance, self-examination, and preparation to remember Christ's death and resurrection. (It is similar to the Advent Season in preparing for Christmas.)

Scripture teaches the realities symbolized—sin, death, repentance, and the hope of resurrection—but it does not command Ash Wednesday itself, so no believer's conscience should be bound to observe it, nor should it overshadow the weekly Lord's Day and the ordinary means of grace.

On Ash Wednesday, the ashes mainly represent three things: repentance for sin, our human mortality, and our identity with Christ and his cross. We would encourage you to take one of the Lenten Devotionals in the lobby to use over the next forty days as you prepare for Holy Week.

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ASH WEDNESDAY



**A Clean Heart Create For Me, GOD;
Renew Within Me A Steadfast Spirit.**

Psalm 51:12

