



# ST. MATTHEW'S

## EPISCOPAL CHURCH

**Ash Wednesday**

February 18, 2026

**Holy Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes**

**12p**

**The Word of God**

*It is the tradition of the Episcopal Church to maintain silence in the worship area so that people may pray. Please help us preserve an atmosphere of quiet reverence before worship. Remember to turn off or silence all phones. Thank you.*

**The Liturgy begins in silence**

*Please stand as able.*

**Collect**

Presider      God be with you.  
People      **And also with you**  
Presider      Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, you hate nothing you have made and forgive the sins of all 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 you, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

**First Reading**

**Joel 2:1-2,12-17**

*The People are seated.*

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?'"

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

**Psalm**

**103:8-14**

8 You are full of compassion and mercy, \*  
slow to anger and of great kindness.  
9 You will not always accuse us, \*  
nor will you keep your anger for ever.  
10 You have not dealt with us according to our sins, \*  
nor rewarded us according to our wickedness.  
11 For as the heavens are high above the earth, \*  
so is your mercy great upon those who fear you.  
12 As far as the east is from the west, \*  
so far have you removed our sins from us.  
13 As a parent cares for a child, \*  
so do you care for those who fear you.  
14 For you yourself know whereof we are made; \*  
you remember that we are but dust.

*The Saint Helena Psalter Translation*

**Second Reading**

**2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10**

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, 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 commanded 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 are 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.

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

**Gospel Hymn: The glory of these forty days**

*The People stand as able.*

**Hymnal 143, stanzas 1-4**

*Erhalt uns, Herr*

**Holy Gospel**

*Remain Standing*

**Priest** The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to Matthew  
**People** **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

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 so 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 your heart will be also."

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

**Sermon**

**The Rev. Suzanne Barrow**

**Invitation to the Observance of a Holy Lent**

**BCP p. 264**

*The People stand as able.*

**Imposition of Ashes**

*If you desire to receive ashes, please remain seated until guided by the usher to the altar rail.  
Return to your seat by the side aisles.*

**Psalm 51**  
*Spoken Together*

**BCP p. 266**

**Litany of Penitence**  
*Please kneel as you are able*

**BCP p. 267**

**Peace**

*All Stand as able.*

Presider      The peace of Christ be always with you.  
People      **And also with you.**

*Then the Ministers and the People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.*

*The Presider says an Offertory Sentence*

**Holy Communion**

**Offertory: O Man, Bewail Thy Grievous Sins**

**J.S. Bach**

*During the offertory, please consider the gifts God has given you, and give generously. Your gift will help us continue vital ministries. Our online giving works well, as does our text to give option. Please use this link for online giving. <https://secure.subsplash.com/ui/access/5QFR9K/>*

*The people all stand as able and sing.*

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

## Presentation Verse

## Hymn 143, stanza 5

O Father, Son, and Spirit blest, to thee be every prayer addressed, who art in threefold Name adored, from age to age, the only Lord.

## Great Thanksgiving

### Eucharistic Prayer A

Presider The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

People Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

People Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

*The Presider continues*

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God, Creator of heaven and earth.

*The Presider says a proper preface*

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

### Sanctus

**S-130**

Schubert

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full, full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.

*The People stand or kneel as the prayer continues*

*The Presider continues*

Holy and gracious God: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and maker of all. Jesus stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Savior Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper Jesus took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

*Presider and People*

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

*The Presider then continues*

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, Almighty God, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling Christ's death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in Christ. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through Jesus Christ our Savior. By Christ, and with Christ, and in

Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

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

*People and Presider*

**Our Father, who art in heaven,**  
hallowed be thy Name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,

and the power, and the glory,

for ever and ever. Amen.

## Breaking of the Bread

*A period of silence is kept.*

## Fraction Anthem:

**S-161**

Hurd

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: grant us peace.

*The Presider says*

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

All who seek God and are drawn to God through Christ are welcome to receive communion. If for any reason you do not desire to receive communion, you may come to the altar rail and cross your arms over your chest to receive a blessing. If you need gluten-free bread, please ask the priest giving out bread. You are welcome to receive both bread and wine, or just bread. Christ is fully present in both or either the bread and wine.

**Music during Communion: Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy**  
Southern Harmony 1835

## Postcommunion Prayer

Eternal God, you have graciously accepted us as living members of our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Savior. Amen.

## Solemn Prayer over the People

**Closing Hymn: Forgive our sins as we forgive**

Hymnal 674

Detroit

## Dismissal

Deacon Let us go forth in the name of Christ.  
People **Thanks be to God.**