



**SAINT
PAUL'S
EPISCOPAL
DAYTON·OH**

ASH WEDNESDAY

FEBRUARY 18, 2026, 12:00PM & 7:00PM

As a courtesy to others, please silence your cell phone.

PRELUDE: Adagio from Organ Concerto IV

G. F. Handel

All rise as they are able as the ministers enter the church.

Celebrant Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

People **His mercy endures for ever.**

Celebrant 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.**

Please be seated.

FIRST READING: JOEL 2:1-2, 12-17

A Reading from 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?'"

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

THE RESPONSE: PSALM 103:8-14 (*spoken responsively*)

8. The Lord is full of compassion and mercy, *
slow to anger and of great kindness.
9. **He will not always accuse us, ***
nor will he keep his anger for ever.
10. He has 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 his mercy great upon those who fear him.
12. As far as the east is from the west, *
so far has he removed our sins from us.
13. **As a father cares for his children, ***
so does the Lord care for those who fear him.
14. For he himself knows whereof we are made; *
he remembers that we are but dust.

SECOND READING: 2 CORINTHIANS 5:20B—6:10

A READING FROM 2 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, 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 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.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

All rise as they are able.

GOSPEL PROCESSION: HYMN #674 Forgive our Sins as We Forgive

Detroit

HOLY GOSPEL: MATTHEW 6:1-6,16-21

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord 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.”

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

HOMILY

THE REV. JEAN VARGO

The people stand.

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 on 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.

The people kneel.

The Celebrant then says

Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth: Grant that these ashes may be to us a sign of our mortality and penitence, that we may remember that it is only by your gracious gift that we are given everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

Amen.

The people kneel at the altar rail to receive ashes.

The ashes are imposed with the following words:

Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.

*After receiving ashes, the people return to their seats where, kneeling,
Psalm 51 is spoken responsively,*

PSALM 51 (*spoken responsively*)

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your
loving-kindness; *
in your great compassion blot out my offenses.

**Wash me through and through from my wickedness *
and cleanse me from my sin.**

For I know my transgressions, *
and my sin is ever before me.

**Against you only have I sinned *
and done what is evil in your sight.**

And so you are justified when you speak *
and upright in your judgment.

**Indeed, I have been wicked from my birth, *
a sinner from my mother's womb.**

For behold, you look for truth deep within me, *
and will make me understand wisdom secretly.

**Purge me from my sin, and I shall be pure; *
wash me, and I shall be clean indeed.**

Make me hear of joy and gladness, *
that the body you have broken may rejoice.

**Hide your face from my sins *
and blot out all my iniquities.**

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

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

Give me the joy of your saving help again *
and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.

**I shall teach your ways to the wicked, *
and sinners shall return to you.**

Deliver me from death, O God, *
and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness,
O God of my salvation.

**Open my lips, O Lord, *
and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

Had you desired it, I would have offered sacrifice, *
but you take no delight in burnt-offerings.

**The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit; *
a broken and contrite heart,**

O God, you will not despise.
Be favorable and gracious to Zion, *
and rebuild the walls of Jerusalem.

**Then you will be pleased with the appointed sacrifices,
with burnt-offerings and oblations; *
then shall they offer young bullocks upon your altar.**

LITANY OF PENITENCE

The Celebrant and People together

**Most holy and merciful Father:
We confess to you 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 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.

People **Have mercy on us, Lord.**

Celebrant We have been deaf 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.

People **Have mercy on us, Lord.**

Celebrant We confess to you, Lord, all our past unfaithfulness: the pride, hypocrisy, and impatience of our lives,

People **We confess to you, Lord.**

Celebrant Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people,

People **We confess to you, Lord.**

Celebrant Our anger at our own frustration, and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves,

People **We confess to you, Lord.**

Celebrant Our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts, and our dishonesty in daily life and work,
People **We confess to you, Lord.**

Celebrant Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to commend the faith that is in us,
People **We confess to you, Lord.**

Celebrant Accept our repentance, Lord, for the wrongs we have done: for our blindness to human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty,
People **Accept our repentance, Lord.**

Celebrant For all false judgments, for uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and for our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us,
People **Accept our repentance, Lord.**

Celebrant For our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us,
People **Accept our repentance, Lord.**

Celebrant Restore us, good Lord, and let your anger depart from us;
People **Favorably hear us, for your mercy is great.**

Celebrant Accomplish in us the work of your salvation,
People **That we may show forth your glory in the world.**

Celebrant By the cross and passion of your Son our Lord,
People **Bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.**

The Celebrant stands and says

Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who desires not the death of sinners, but rather that they may turn from their wickedness and live, has given power and commandment to his ministers to declare and pronounce to his people, being penitent, the absolution and remission of their sins. He pardons and absolves all those who truly repent, and with sincere hearts believe his holy Gospel.

Therefore we 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.

All rise as they are able.

THE PEACE

All rise as they are able.

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

OFFERTORY MUSIC: HYMN #574 Before thy Throne, O God, We Kneel *St. Petersburg*

HYMN #149 from Enriching our Music 2: Ubi Caritas (Live in Charity)

Sung twice

U - bi ca - ri - tas et a - mor,
Live in char - i - ty and stead - fast love,

u - bi ca - ri - tas De - us i - bi est.
live in char - i - ty; God will dwell with you.

The image shows two systems of musical notation for a piano accompaniment. The first system is in 3/4 time, with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is in the right hand, and the bass line is in the left hand. The lyrics are written below the notes. The second system continues the melody and bass line, with a triplet of eighth notes in the right hand. The lyrics are also written below the notes.

Setting: Jacques Berthier, from *Songs and Prayers from Taizé* © 1991 GIA Publications, Inc.
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THE HOLY COMMUNION

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Eucharistic Prayer A, Book of Common Prayer, p. 361

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

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

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

The Celebrant proceeds

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

Through Jesus Christ our Lord, who was tempted in every way as we are, yet did not sin. By his grace we are able to triumph over every evil, and to live no longer for ourselves alone, but for him who died and rose again.

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:

Celebrant and People

SANCTUS: Hymnal #S130

**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 he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.**

All kneel as they are able.

The Celebrant continues

Holy and gracious Father: 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 Father of all.

He 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 Lord 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 he 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:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

The Celebrant continues

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his 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 him. 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 your Son Jesus Christ. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **Amen.**

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

THE LORD'S PRAYER, BCP p. 364

**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.**

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD, BCP pg. 364

LAMB OF GOD: Hymnal #S164

**Jesus, Lamb of God: have mercy on us.
Jesus, bearer of our sins: have mercy on us.
Jesus, redeemer, redeemer of the world:
Give us your peace, give us your peace.**

Celebrant The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

COMMUNION HYMN: #325 Let us Break Bread Together on our Knees *Let us Break Bread*

Please stand or kneel

POST COMMUNION PRAYER, BCP, pg. 366

Celebrant Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

**Almighty and everliving God,
we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food**

of the most precious Body and Blood
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ;
and for assuring us in these holy mysteries
that we are living members of the Body of your Son,
and heirs of your eternal kingdom.
And now, Father, send us out
to do the work you have given us to do,
to love and serve you
as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord.
to him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

SOLEMN LENTEN PRAYER

Celebrant Bow down before the Lord.

(the people kneel)

The Celebrant says the solemn Prayer over the People:

Look down in mercy, Lord, on your people who kneel before you: and grant that those whom you have nourished by your Word and Sacraments may bring forth fruit worthy of repentance; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

RECESSIONAL : HYMN #147 Now Let us All with One Accord

Bourbon

THE DISMISSAL

POSTLUDE: Verso in E Minor

Zipoli

LENTEN OPPORTUNITIES

Stations of the Cross - Every Saturday in Lent beginning February 21 though March 28 at 9:30am in the Sanctuary.

Drive through Prayer - Every Wednesday in Lent beginning February 25 from 4-6pm

The Chapel is open for daily prayer from 10am-12pm during Lent

Wednesday Mornings in Lent - Morning Prayer: Offered through Facebook

Devotional Book for the congregation - *Rediscover Jesus* by Matthew Kelly. We will have a Lenten Bible Study beginning Tuesday, February 24. Join Rev. Jean at 10:30am at Epic Coffee Shop, (22 W. Stroop Rd. in Kettering) or via zoom at 6pm on Tuesdays.

Maundy Thursday, April 2 - 7:00pm Worship Service at St. Paul's

Good Friday, April 3 - 12:00pm Worship Service at St. Paul's - Bishop Kristin Uffelman White will preside at this service.

7:00pm service at St. Mark's.

EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 5

9:30 am - St. Paul's

11:30 am - St. Mark's

ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

33 W. DIXON AVE.

DAYTON, OH 45419

937-293-1154

www.stpauls-dayton.org

WELCOME!

We're glad you're here today! Your presence with us is a blessing. We invite you to participate in worship, say the prayers, sing the songs, and introduce yourself. You'll find a visitor card in the pew back in front of you. We're so excited to meet you.

WORSHIP TIMES

9:30 am - Worship Service with Hymns

Office hours: 9:00 am - 4:00 pm Monday – Thursday

9:00 am - 12:00 pm on Friday

ST. PAUL'S STAFF

The Rev. Jean Vargo—Interim Pastor jean@stpauls-dayton.org

Cara Whitby—Director of Music cara@stpauls-dayton.org

Lois Smith—Parish Administrator lois@stpauls-dayton.org

Sue Starner—Finance & Properties Administrator sue@stpauls-dayton.org

ST. PAUL'S VESTRY

Class of 2027 - Cheryl Strine, Kathleen Walters

Class of 2028 - Jill Davis

Class of 2029- Cathy Fain, Diane Labrie, Steve Ireland

Senior Warden (*term expires 2027*) - Chris Brandt

Junior Warden (*term expires 2027*) - Joe Cairo

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