



# Ash Wednesday

February 18, 2026

\* *Please stand if you are able*

Prelude: "Lamb of God, Pure and Holy"

arr. Kenneth T. Kosche

## Gathering

WELCOME & LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

Minister: Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith. For he didn't consider equality with God something to be grasped, but he emptied himself, even unto death on a cross. As we wait for the day of resurrection let us look to Jesus.

Choral Introit: "Be Thou My Vision"

arr. Carlton Young

Be thou my vision O lord of my heart  
Naught be all else to me save that thou art  
Thou my best thought by day or by night  
Waking or sleeping my presence my light.

Be Thou my wisdom and thou my True word  
I ever with thee and thou with me Lord  
Thou my Great Father and I Thy true son  
O Thou in me dwelling and I with Thee one.

High King of heaven my victory won  
May I reach heaven's joys O bright heaven's sun  
Heart of my own heart what ever befall  
O still be my vision Thou ruler of all.

\* CALL TO WORSHIP

Liturgist: God is our refuge and strength, a present help in trouble.

**All: Therefore, we will not fear.**

Liturgist: Though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea, though the waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

**All: We will not fear. The Lord Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.**

Liturgist: Come and see the works of the Lord. He makes wars to cease, He breaks the bow and shatters the spear, He burns the shields with fire.

**All: God so loved the world that he gave his only Son. God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.** *John 3:16-17 adapted*

Liturgist: Be still and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations. I will be exalted in the earth. *Psalms 46 adapted*

**All Singing: 132 “Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days”**

ASH WEDNESDAY COLLECT

**All Singing: 838 “Now Behold the Lamb”**

## Proclamation

SCRIPTURE Old Testament: Joel 2:1-2, 12-17  
Gospel: Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

MEDITATION

\* **All Singing: 423 “Give Me Jesus”**

## Invitation

Liturgist: Friends in Christ, every year at the time of the Christian Passover we celebrate our redemption through the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. Lent is a time to prepare for this celebration and to renew our life in the paschal mystery. We begin this holy season by acknowledging our need for repentance, and for mercy and forgiveness proclaimed in the gospel of Jesus Christ.

**All: We begin our journey to Easter with the sign of the ashes. This ancient sign speaks of the frailty and uncertainty of human life, and marks the penitence of this community.**

Minister: I invite you, therefore, in the name of Christ, to observe a holy Lent by self-examination and penitence, by prayer and fasting, by works of love, and by reading and meditating on the Word of God.

Let us bow before God, our Creator and Redeemer, and confess our sin.

*Silent Reflection and Confession*

Liturgist: We join our hearts in prayer.

**All: God of love and faithfulness, forgive our sins, our failures, and our shortcomings. Make our hearts clean and our paths straight.**

Choir: “Just As I Am” arr. Martin

Just as I am, without one plea, but that thy blood was shed for me,  
And that thou didst bid me come to thee, O Lamb of God I come, I come!

Just as I am, and waiting not to rid my soul of one dark blot,  
To thee whose blood can cleanse each spot, O Lamb of God I come, I come!

Just as I am, 'tho tossed about with many'a conflict many'a doubt,  
Fighting fears within, without, O Lamb of God I come, I come!

Just as I am, thou wilt receive, wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve; because thy  
promise I believe, O Lamb of God I come, I come!

Just as I am, thy love unknown hath broken every barrier down;  
Now to be thine, yea, thine alone, O lamb of God I come, I come!

## Imposition

Elder: Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return.

**All: Jesus is the resurrection and the life.**

*During the Imposition*  
Piano Improvisation

\* **All Singing: 682 "Before the Throne of God Above"**

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING & INTERCESSION

## Sending

\* BENEDICTION

\* **All Singing: 933 "Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing"**

*Please exit the sanctuary in silence*

### Worship Leaders

Organist:	Dora Diephouse	Acolyte:	Colette Van Marion
Pianist / Organist:	Anna Triezenberg-Sims	Liturgist:	Lisa Dykstra
Choir Director:	David Baar	Elders:	Clay Carlson
Minister:	Roger Nelson		Kara Van Marion

### Worship Note

Ash Wednesday is an ancient holy day in the Christian church calendar. It marks the beginning of the season of Lent—a time of penitence, discipline, and renewal. In the Ash Wednesday service, we are reminded of our mortality, we confess our sins, and we experience forgiveness through Christ's death and resurrection. The "imposition of ashes" is a central part of the service. During this time, you are invited to come forward to receive the ashes on your forehead.

In Scripture, ashes serve both as symbol of mortality and as a sign of mourning and repentance. But neither sin nor death is the final word. We leave the service in confidence and gratitude: Christ has conquered death, and nothing can separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus, our Lord.

Hymns are from *Lift Up Your Hearts* (Faith Alive Christian Resources, 2013)  
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