

ASH WEDNESDAY

February 18, 2026

7:00 p.m.

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

CHURCH BELL

GOD CALLS US TO WORSHIP (responsively)

Out of the depths of our struggles, we cry to you, O Lord.

Come now here Lord God and renew us.

Out of the depths of our sins and failures, we cry to you, O Lord.

Come now here Lord God and redeem us.

Out of the depths of our pains and hurts, we cry to you, O Lord.

Come now here Lord God and forgive us.

***HYMN OF PRAISE** *Savior, When in Tears and Dust* (v.1 & 2)
(melody: *Come Christians, Join to Sing*)

***WE CONFESS OUR SINS** (unison)

Great and merciful God: You created us in your own divine image, but we would rather make you over in our image, expecting and demanding far less of ourselves. At the opening of this season of penitence, we pray for courage and honesty, that our self-examination may be searching and specific rather than safely general. May these ashes, symbol of penitence, remind us of the cost of true penitence. In the name of Jesus Christ, our compassionate Lord. Amen.

***GOD FORGIVES US** (responsively)

Take courage: God's Spirit empowers us to move from the ways of death to the ways of new life.

In Jesus Christ our sins are forgiven and hope is renewed.

***RESPONSE** *Lord, Jesus, Who through Forty Days* (v. 3) #180
*And thro' these days of penitence, and thro' your passiontide,
Forevermore in life and death, O Christ with us abide.*

WE GATHER IN PRAYER

Pastoral Prayer – The Lord's Prayer

Congregational Response: *Go to Dark Gethsemane* #196
*In the steps our Savior trod / Let us follow faithfully,
Where the sinless Son of God / Went to set us sinners free.
Mark each footstep in the strife / Of the Way, the Truth, the Life*

SCRIPTURE Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

SERMON *The Day of the Lord*

IMPOSITION OF ASHES & HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation

Communion Prayer

God be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to God.**

Let us give thanks to God Most High.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Words of Institution, Consecration of the Elements

Prayer for the Imposition of Ashes

Sharing of the Elements and Imposition of Ashes

(When indicated, please come forward by the center aisle to receive ashes on your forehead; then take the communion elements with you as you return to your seat. We will partake of the elements together).

Thanksgiving Prayer (unison)

We thank you, God, for inviting us to this table where we have known best the presence of Christ and have received all Christ's gifts. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another and let us show forth your praise in our lives through Jesus Christ our Savior.

***CLOSING HYMN** *Again We Keep This Solemn Fast* (v.1 & 2)
(melody: *Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow*)

***BLESSING**

Go forth bearing the sign of Jesus' cross on your brow, the power of Jesus' cross
in your everyday life, and the hope of Jesus' cross in your heart.

**We go forth now, always in confidence and hope, always filled with the good
news of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

POSTLUDE

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