



Wednesday, February 18, 2026
Ash Wednesday



THE SEASON OF

LENT

THE SEASON OF LENT is a time of repentance, renewal, and return. Rooted in the ancient practices of the Church, Lent invites us into forty days of intentional self-examination and prayer as we prepare to walk with Christ toward the cross and the promise of resurrection. In the Episcopal Church, Lent is marked not by despair but by honesty; a season that tells the truth about our lives, our world, and our deep need for God's mercy and grace.

Throughout Lent, the Church calls us to self-examination and repentance; prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and reading and meditating on God's holy Word. The Gospel readings trace Jesus' journey toward Jerusalem, confronting temptation, injustice, suffering, and the cost of faithful love. These stories invite us to look inward and outward, to notice where we have turned away from God and neighbor, and to open ourselves again to the transforming power of grace. At St. Francis, we engage this work through the Way of Love, seven practices for living a Jesus-centered life.

Lent is also a season of hope and reorientation. Through confession and forgiveness, we are not weighed down but set free; freed to be reconciled, restored, and renewed in Christ. You can find the sacramental rite of Reconciliation at the back of this bulletin. Please contact Laurie+ to set a time for this sacrament. In this holy season, the Church invites us to return to the Lord with our whole hearts, trusting that God's mercy is steadfast, and that beyond the wilderness lies new life.

PICTURES AND VIDEO

We love pictures and videos, and we love sharing what we do on social media. When attending our events or services, you agree to our using pictures of you and any children in your charge on social media and elsewhere. If you prefer not to be included in photos or video, please inform a staff member or usher.

PRELUDE

The Ministers enter in silence. A period of silent prayer is kept, after which all stand, and the Presider invites the people to the observance of a holy Lent, saying

Presider 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.

Presider 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.

Before the ashes are imposed, the Presider says the following prayer

Presider 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 congregation remains in silence. The ashes are imposed with the following words

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

Following the distribution of ashes, the congregation joins in singing Psalm 51.

PSALM 51

Refrain:

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

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

Verse:

Cast me not away from Thy presence, O Lord,

And take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.

Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation,

And renew a right spirit within me.

Repeat Refrain

All standing the Presider facing the community says

Presider Blessed be the God of our salvation.

People **Who bears our burdens and forgives our sins.**

Presider Let us pray.

Silence is kept for a time.

Presider 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.

People **Amen.**

All are seated.

WE HEAR THE SACRED STORIES *Sit*

THE FIRST LESSON

Reader A reading from the book of Joel.

2:1-2, 12-17

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?'"

The Word of the Lord.

People

Thanks be to God.

PSALM OF THE DAY

PSALM 103

The cantor sings the antiphon one time through before the spoken verses.

The Lord is kind and mer - ci-ful, the
 Lord is kind and mer-ci-ful; slow to an-ger, rich in
 kind-ness, the Lord is kind and mer-ci-ful.

THE SECOND LESSON

Reader

A reading from the second letter of Paul to the 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 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.

The Word of the Lord.

People

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ANTIPHON

TURN OUR HEARTS AROUND

Sing refrain, verse, and refrain before Gospel Reading.

Turn our hearts a - round. Turn our hearts a - round.

Flood our souls com-plete - ly, wash us in your love.

Turn our hearts a - round. Turn our hearts a - round.

Hold us in your mer - cy, change us with your love.

Cantor:

6. You have prom - ised and yet we doubt your

faith - ful word. Bring us back, Turn our hearts a - round. **D.C.**

THE GOSPEL *Stand*

Presider The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew. 6:1-6,16-21

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus said, "Beware of practicing your righteousness 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."

The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

GOSPEL ANTIPHON *Sing the refrain on previous page one time through.*

SERMON *Sit*

THE REV. LAURIE ANZILOTTI

After the Sermon, the service continues with the Litany of Penitence.

LITANY OF PENITENCE

The Presider and People together, all kneeling or standing.

Deacon Most holy and merciful God: 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 Deacon continues

Deacon 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.**

Deacon 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.**

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

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

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

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

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

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

Deacon Our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts, and our dishonesty in daily life and work,

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

Deacon Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to commend the faith that is in us,

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

Deacon 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.**

Deacon 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.**

Deacon For our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us,

People **Accept our repentance, Lord.**

Deacon Restore us, good Lord, and let your anger depart from us;

People **Favorably hear us, for your mercy is great.**

Deacon Accomplish in us the work of your salvation,

People **That we may show forth your glory in the world.**

Deacon By the cross and passion of your Son our Lord,

People **Bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.**

The Priest, stands and, facing the people, says

Presider Almighty God, the Abba 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. The Almighty pardons and absolves all those who truly repent, and with sincere hearts believe Christ's holy Gospel.

Presider Therefore, we beseech Almighty God to grant us true repentance and the grace of the Holy Spirit, that those things may be pleasing 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.

THE PEACE

Presider The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

We invite you to extend the peace of God to those in the congregation.

ANNOUNCEMENTS *Sit*

St. Francis' Episcopal Church is grateful for the generosity of all visitors and parishioners who contribute as part of the weekly offertory. If you wish, please place your contribution in the collection plate or use the QR code to give online. These gifts are used to support our parish in addition to parishioners' annual commitments.



GATHERING AT CHRIST'S TABLE

We return with thanksgiving the gifts God has given us. This includes bread and wine of the earth and financial offerings from our labor. Representatives of the congregation bring these to the common Eucharistic table.

OFFERTORY

MERCIFUL GOD



Sign us with ash - es, mer - ci - ful God,



Chil - dren of dust, as to dust we re - turn. Sign us with



ash - es, mer - ci - ful God; Mark us and make us your



own. own, mark us and make us your own.

Verses



1. Sure - ly, you a - lone can save us. You pay our price with
 2. Sure - ly, you a - lone up - hold us. You give us strength for
 3. Sure - ly, you a - lone can heal us. Yours is the will to



pre - cious blood. Reach - ing through your great com -
 all our needs. Shield - ing with a fa - ther's
 make us whole. Sooth - ing with a moth - er's



pas - sion, You lift up your peo - ple with love.
 fa - vor, You bless us with par - don and peace.
 kind - ness, The con - trite of heart you con - sole.

EUCCHARIST *Stand*

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Lift up your hearts.

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

Presider Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

Presider God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.

People **Glory to you for ever and ever.**

Presider At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.

People **By your will they were created and have their being.**

Presider From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the rulers of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.

People **Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.**

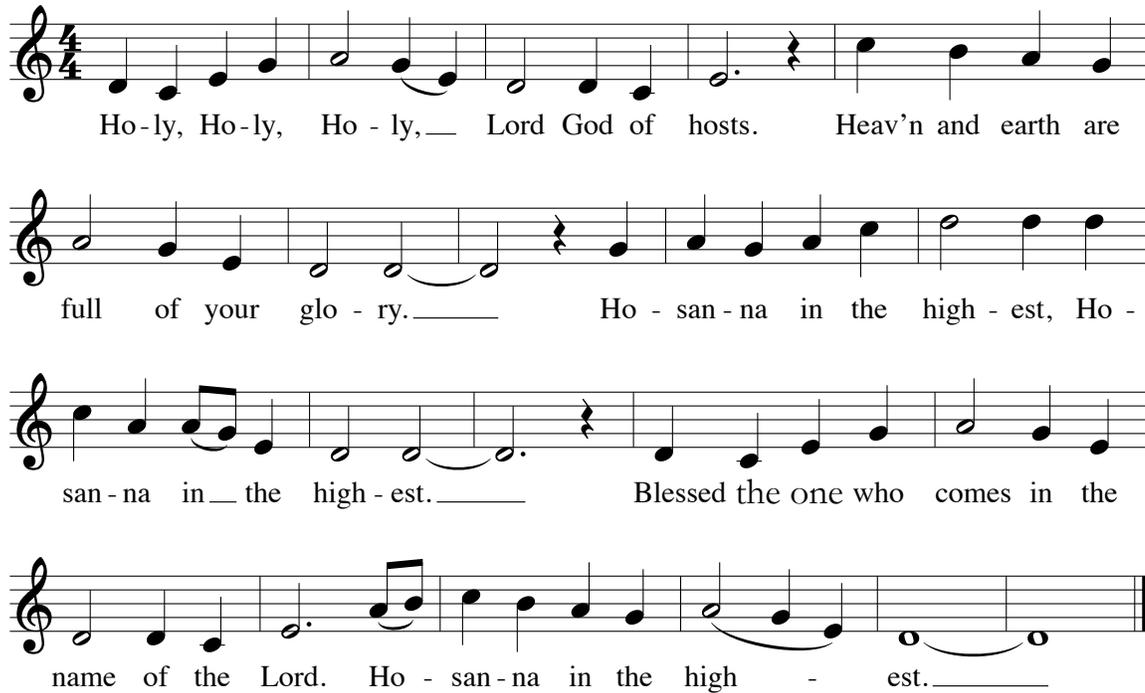
Presider Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.

People **By his blood, he reconciled us.**

By his wounds, we are healed.

Presider And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

All sing



Ho-ly, Ho-ly, Ho - ly, — Lord God of hosts. Heav'n and earth are
full of your glo - ry. — Ho - san - na in the high - est, Ho -
san - na in — the high - est. — Blessed the one who comes in the
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est. —

Presider

And so, God, we who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, 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, gave thanks, 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."

Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,

People

We celebrate his death and resurrection, as we await the day of his coming.

Presider

Lord God of our Ancestors: God of Abraham and Sarah, of Isaac and Rebekah, and of Jacob, Leah and Rachel; God of our Lord Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal. Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.

People

Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.

Presider Accept these prayers and praises, Father, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation.

People **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

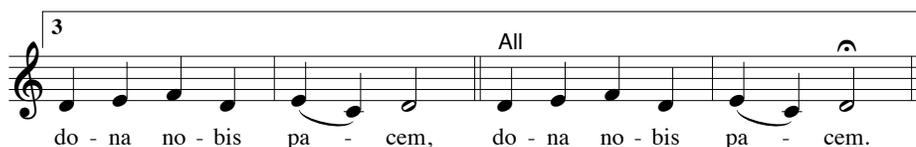
Presider And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,
People **Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against 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

The Presider breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.

Presider Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
People **Therefore let us keep the feast.**

FRACTION ANTHEM



Presider The Gifts of God for the People of God.

Our bread is gluten-, dairy-, and nut-friendly. This Eucharistic table does not belong to the Episcopal Church or to St. Francis'. This is God's table, and all are welcome. In the Episcopal Church, we receive both the bread and wine, the Body and Blood of Jesus. If you choose not to receive communion, please come forward and cross your arms over your heart to receive a blessing.

COMMUNION HYMN

INSTRUMENTAL

POST COMMUNION PRAYER *Stand*

Silence is kept. Then,

Presider God is with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Let us pray.

People **Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son 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 Lord. Amen.**

Amen.

SOLEMN PRAYERS OVER THE PEOPLE

The Presider prays over the people as a reminder of God's extravagant love and invites us to go into the world to be God's blessing.

Deacon Bow down your hearts before the Lord our God.

The Presider offers the prayer over the people.

People **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

FROM ASHES TO THE LIVING FONT



From ash - es to the liv - ing font Your
Through fast - ing, prayer, and char - i - ty Your
From ash - es to the liv - ing font Your



Church must jour - ney, Lord, Bap - tized in grace, in
voice speaks deep with - in, Re - turn - ing us to
Church must jour - ney still, Through cross and tomb to



grace re - newed By your most ho - ly word.
ways of truth And turn - ing us from sin.
East - er joy, In Spir - it - fire ful - filled.

DISMISSAL

Presider Renewed in our commitment to return to the Ageless God of mercy, let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

THE RECONCILIATION OF A PENITENT

In this holy season, the Church invites us to return to the Lord with our whole hearts, trusting that God's mercy is steadfast. The sacrament of reconciliation, found on page 447 of the Book of Common Prayer, can be a powerful outward symbol of our desire to turn to God and of God's boundless grace. If you would like to receive the sacrament of reconciliation during this holy season, please contact Laurie+

The Penitent begins

Bless me, for I have sinned.

The Priest says

The Lord be in your heart and upon your lips that you may truly and humbly confess your sins: In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Penitent

I confess to Almighty God, to his Church, and to you, that I have sinned by my own fault in thought, word, and deed, in things done and left undone; especially _____. For these and all other sins which I cannot now remember, I am truly sorry. I pray God to have mercy on me. I firmly intend amendment of life, and I humbly beg forgiveness of God and his Church, and ask you for counsel, direction, and absolution.

Here the Priest may offer counsel, direction, and comfort.

The Priest then pronounces this absolution

Our Lord Jesus Christ, who has left power to his Church to absolve all sinners who truly repent and believe in him, of his great mercy forgive you all your offenses; and by his authority committed to me, I absolve you from all your sins: In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

The Priest adds

The Lord has put away all your sins.

Penitent

Thanks be to God.

The Priest concludes

Go in peace, and pray for me, a sinner.

