

# Ash Wednesday

*Holy Eucharist and  
Imposition of Ashes*



Wednesday, February 18, 2026  
8:00 AM & 7:00 PM

## THE QUIET CHURCH

*The liturgical ministers enter in silence.*

*(Please stand)*

### COLLECT FOR ASH WEDNESDAY

*Presider* The Lord 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.**

*(Please be seated)*

### THE WORD OF GOD

#### OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 58:1-12

*Lector* A Reading from the Prophet Isaiah

Shout out, do not hold back! Lift up your voice like a trumpet! Announce to my people their rebellion, to the house of Jacob their sins. Yet day after day they seek me and delight to know my ways, as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness and did not forsake the ordinance of their God; they ask of me righteous judgments, they delight to draw near to God. "Why do we fast, but you do not see? Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?" Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day, and oppress all your workers. Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight and to strike with a wicked fist. Such fasting as you do today will not make your voice heard on high. Is such the fast that I choose, a day to humble oneself? Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush, and to lie in sackcloth and ashes? Will you call this a fast, a day acceptable to the Lord? Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin? Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you, the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard. Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am. If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil, if you offer your food to the hungry and

satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday. The Lord will guide you continually, and satisfy your needs in parched places, and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters never fail. Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in.

*Lector* The Word of the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

### PSALM 103.8-14

Setting: David York

The Lord re-mem-bers that we are but dust.

The Lord is full of compassion and mercy,  
slow to anger and of great kindness.

He will not always accuse us,  
nor will he keep his anger for ever. **Antiphon**

He has not dealt with us according to our sins,  
nor rewarded us according to our wickedness.

For as the heavens are high above the earth,  
so is his mercy great upon those who fear him. **Antiphon**

As far as the east is from the west,  
so far has he removed our sins from us.

As a father cares for his children,  
so does the Lord care for those who fear him. **Antiphon**

### NEW TESTAMENT READING

2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

*Lector* A Reading from the Second Letter to the 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.

*Lector* The Word of the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

*(Please stand)*

### SEQUENCE HYMN

Kind Maker of the World, O Hear

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*(Congregation sings vv. 1-3, the Gospel is read, then vv. 4 & 5 are sung)*

### THE HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

*Presider* 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.”

*Presider* The Gospel of the Lord.

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

*(Please be seated)*

*(Silent reflection)*

### **INVITATION TO AN OBSERVANCE OF A HOLY LENT**

*(Please stand)*

*The Presider says*

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.

*Silence is then kept for a time, all kneeling.*

### **IMPOSITION OF ASHES**

*The Presider says the following prayer*

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 ashes are imposed with the following words*

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

*During the Imposition of Ashes, Psalm 51 is sung by the Choir*

## PSALM 51

Have mercy on me, O God, in your enduring goodness;  
according to the fulness of your compassion blot out my offenses.

Wash me thoroughly from my wickedness:  
and cleanse me from my sin.

For I acknowledge my rebellion:  
and my sin is ever before me.

Against you only I have sinned,  
and done what is evil in your eyes:

so you will be just in your sentence  
and blameless in your judging.

Surely in wickedness I was brought to birth:  
and in sin my mother conceived me.

You that desire truth in the inward parts:  
O teach me wisdom in the secret places of the heart.

Purge me with hyssop and I shall be clean:  
wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

Make me hear of joy and gladness:  
let the bones which you have broken 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.

Do not cast me out from your presence:  
do not take your holy Spirit from me.

O give me the gladness of your help again:  
and support me with a willing Spirit.

Then will I teach transgressors your ways:  
and sinners shall turn to you again.

O Lord God of my salvation deliver me from blood-shed:  
and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness.

O Lord, open my lips:  
and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.

You take no pleasure in sacrifice or I would give it:  
burnt offerings you do not want.

The sacrifice of God is a broken spirit:  
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

## LITANY OF PENITENCE

*The Presider and People together, all kneeling*

**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 Presider 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.

**Have mercy on us, Lord.**

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.

**Have mercy on us, Lord.**

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

**We confess to you, Lord.**

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

**We confess to you, Lord.**

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

**We confess to you, Lord.**

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

**We confess to you, Lord.**

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

**We confess to you, Lord.**

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,

**Accept our repentance, Lord.**

For all false judgments, for uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and for our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us,

**Accept our repentance, Lord.**

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

**Accept our repentance, Lord.**

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

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

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

*The Priest stands and, facing the people, 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.**

## THE PEACE

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

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

## THE HOLY COMMUNION

### OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Lord Jesus, Think on Me

Georgeann H. Toole

Lord Jesus, think on me,  
and purge away my sin.  
From earth-born passions set me free,  
and make me pure within.

Lord Jesus, think on me,  
amid the battle's strife.  
In all my pain and misery  
be thou my health and life.

Lord Jesus, think on me,  
nor let me go astray.  
Through darkness and perplexity  
point thou the heavenly way.

Lord Jesus, think on me,  
that, when this life is past,  
I may eternal brightness see,  
and share thy joy at last.

### PRESENTATION HYMN

I Want Jesus to Walk with Me

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### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The musical notation consists of four staves of music. The first staff shows the Celebrant singing "The Lord be with you. And al - so with you." The second staff shows the People singing "Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord." The third staff shows the Celebrant singing "Let us give thanks to the Lord our God." The fourth staff shows the People singing "It is right to give him thanks and praise."

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 for us 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:

*At the 8:00 AM Service:*

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

*At the 7:00 PM Service:*

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and  
might, Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,  
God of power and might, hea - ven and earth are  
full, full of your glo - ry. Ho -

san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na  
 in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes  
 in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na  
 in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

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.**

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 pray:

Our Fa - ther, who art in hea - ven, hal - low - ed  
be thy Name, thy king - dom come, thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in hea - ven. Give us this day our  
dai - ly bread. And for - give us our tres - pas - ses,  
as we for - give those who tres - pass a - gainst us. And lead  
us not in - to temp - ta - tion, but de - liv - er us  
from e - vil. For thine is the king - dom, and the power,  
and the glo - ry, for ev - er and ev - er. A - men.

## THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

*(A period of silence is kept after the Presider breaks the host)*

Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One  
**Have mercy upon us.**

Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One  
**Have mercy upon us.**

Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One  
**Grant us your peace.**

## AGNUS DEI

O Lamb of God

*Communion Service in F, Harold Darke*

Jordan Tickner, soloist

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, Have mercy upon us.  
O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, Have mercy upon us.  
O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, Grant us Thy peace.

*The Presider says the following or a similar invitation*

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 OF THE PEOPLE

*All are welcome to receive Holy Communion at this Altar. Holy Communion will be distributed from a single Communion Station at the foot of the chancel steps. The Ushers will release people by row to receive Communion. **Gluten free wafers are available upon request.***

### PRAYER FOR SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

*Those participating in the live streamed service and therefore not able to receive communion may wish to say the following prayer in recognition that the desire to receive communion carries the same spiritual benefits as actually consuming the consecrated elements.*

Lord Jesus Christ, you have instituted for us a great sacrament in your promise of life and love, which we remember now as we hear your words again: "This is my body; this is my blood — given for you." Feed us in our hearts with faith and trust, draw us closer to you and to each other, and strengthen us for service to our neighbor. We come before you now, with hearts you have fed all our lives with the promise that you have given yourself for us. Keep us strong in that faith until we can meet at your table again. Amen.

## COMMUNION MUSIC

Wilt Thou Forgive?

John Hilton

Andrea Hilliard, soloist

Wilt thou forgive that sin where I begun,  
Which was my sin, though it were done before?  
Wilt Thou forgive that sin through which I run,  
And do run still, though still I do deplore?  
When Thou hast done, Thou hast not done;  
For I have more.

Wilt Thou forgive that sin which I have won  
Others to sin, and made my sins their door?  
Wilt Thou forgive that sin which I did shun  
A year or two, but wallow'd in a score?  
When Thou hast done, Thou hast not done;  
For I have more.

I have a sin of fear, that when I've spun  
My last thread, I shall perish on the shore;  
But swear by Thyself that at my death Thy Son  
Shall shine as He shines now and heretofore:  
And having done that, Thou hast done;  
I fear no more.

(John Donne)

Call to Remembrance

Richard Farrant

Call to remembrance, O Lord,  
Thy tender mercies  
and Thy loving kindness,  
which hath been ever of old,  
O remember not the sins and offences of my youth:  
but according to Thy mercy  
think Thou on me, O Lord,  
for Thy goodness.

(Psalm 25: 5,6)

## POST COMMUNION PRAYER

*Presider* Let us pray.

**Compassionate God,  
you have fed us with the bread of heaven.  
Sustain us in our Lenten pilgrimage:  
may our fasting be hunger for justice,  
our alms, a making of peace,  
and our prayer, the song of grateful hearts;  
through Christ our Lord.**

**Amen.**

## SOLEMN PRAYER OVER THE PEOPLE

*Presider* Bow down before the Lord.

*The people kneel or bow their heads and the Presider says the following prayer*

Grant, most merciful Lord, to your faithful people pardon and peace, that they may be cleansed from all their sins, and serve you with a quiet mind; through Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## RECESSATIONAL HYMN

Again, We Keep this Solemn Fast

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## THE DISMISSAL

*Presider* Marked with the cross of Christ, go forth to love and serve the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

## THE CONGREGATION WILL PLEASE DEPART IN SILENCE

**To make secure, online donations to St. Gregory's, simply scan:**



SEQUENCE HYMN

Kind Maker of the World, O Hear

*A la venue de Noël*

(Congregation sings vv. 1-3, the Gospel is read, then vv. 4 & 5 are sung)

1 Kind Ma - ker of the world, O hear the fer - vent.  
 2 Each heart is man - i - fest to thee; thou know - est.  
 3 Spare us, O Lord, who now con - fess our sins and.  
 4 Give us the dis - ci - pline that springs from ab - sti - .  
 5 Grant, O thou bless - ed Trin - i - ty; grant, O un - .

1 prayer, with man - y a tear poured forth by all the.  
 2 our in - fir - mi - ty; now we re - pent, and.  
 3 all our wick - ed - ness, and, for the glo - ry.  
 4 nence in out - ward things with in - ward fast - ing,  
 5 chang - ing Un - i - ty; that this our fast of.

1 pen - i - tent who keep this ho - ly fast of Lent!  
 2 seek thy face; grant un - to us thy par - doning grace.  
 3 of thy Name, our weak - ened souls to health re - claim.  
 4 so that we in heart and soul may dwell with thee.  
 5 for - ty days may work our pro - fit and thy praise!

### PRESENTATION HYMN

I Want Jesus to Walk with Me



1      I    want    Je   -   sus              to    walk    with    me;  
2      In    my    tri   -   als,              Lord,    walk    with    me;



I    want    Je   -   sus              to    walk    with    me;  
in    my    tri   -   als,              Lord,    walk    with    me;



all    a - long    my              pil   -   grim    jour - ney,  
when    my    heart    is              al   -   most    break - ing,

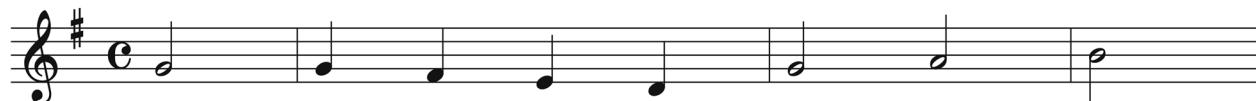


Lord,    I    want    Je   -   sus              to    walk    with    me.  
Lord,    I    want    Je   -   sus              to    walk    with    me.

## RECESSATIONAL HYMN

Again We Keep this Solemn Fast

*Old Hundredth*



1. A - gain we keep this sol - emn fast,  
 2. The law and proph - ets from of old  
 3. More spar - ing, there - fore, let us make  
 4. Let us a - void each harm ful way  
 5. We pray, O bless - ed Three in One,



A gift of faith from this Lent a ges past,  
 In fig - ured ways this fore told,  
 The words we speak, the we take,  
 That lures the care - less a stray;  
 Our God while end - less a ges run,



This Lent which binds us lov - ing - ly Guide,  
 Which Christ, all a - ges' Lord and  
 Our sleep, our laugh - ter, ev 'ry sense;  
 By watch - ful prayer our spir - its free  
 That this, our Lent of for - ty days,



To faith and hope and char - i - ty.  
 In these last days has sanc - ti - fied.  
 Learn peace through ho - ly pen - i - tence.  
 From schem - ing of the En - e - my.  
 May bring us growth and give you praise.

Text: *Ex more docti mystico*; ascr. to St. Gregory the Great, c.540–604; tr. by Peter J. Scagnelli, b.1949, after John M. Neale, 1818–1866,  
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Tune: OLD HUNDREDTH, LM; Louis Bourgeois, c.1510–1561

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# ST. GREGORY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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562-420-1311 [WWW.STGREGORYSCHURCH.COM](http://WWW.STGREGORYSCHURCH.COM)

## **WELCOME TO ST. GREGORY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH!**

St. Gregory's is a warm and caring community of families and singles, young and old, committed to sharing the good news that Jesus is the Lord of all life. We are an Episcopal Church, having members from all backgrounds and religious traditions. Many of us had no church involvement before coming here. We want to offer to you the same welcome and friendship that were extended to us when we came to St. Gregory's.

## **ST. GREGORY'S MISSION STATEMENT**

God has called us into Christian community and gifted us for ministry:

To worship and glorify God  
To transform faith into action  
To share the love of Jesus Christ

The Right Reverend John H. Taylor  
Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles

The Reverend Michael K. Fincher, Rector  
[rector@stgregoryschurch.com](mailto:rector@stgregoryschurch.com)

David York, Music Director & Organist  
[york1635@aol.com](mailto:york1635@aol.com)

Parish Office Hours: 9:00am-12:00pm, Tuesday – Thursday