



Ash Wednesday

Imposition of Ashes and Holy Eucharist

February 18, 2026 • 12 noon & 6 pm

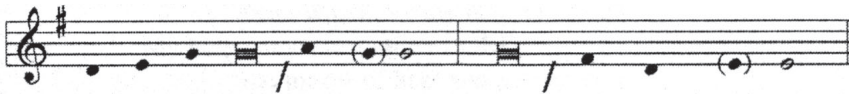
Return to the Lord, your God,
for he is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love,
and relents from punishing.
Who knows whether he will not turn and relent,
and leave a blessing behind him,
a grain offering and a drink offering
for the Lord, your God?

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?'"

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm 103: 8-14 • *noon: spoken* • *6 pm: sung by all*



The LORD is full of compassion and / mercy, *
slow to anger and of / great kindness.
He will not always ac / cuse us, *
nor will he keep his anger / for ever.
He has not dealt with us according to our / sins, *
nor rewarded us according to / our wickedness.
For as the heavens are high a / bove the earth, *
so is his mercy great upon those / who fear him.
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.
For he himself knows whereof / we are made; *
he remembers that / we are but dust.

Second Lesson 2 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.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.

Thanks be to God.



Hymn 145 *Now quit your care and anxious fear*

1 Now quit your care and anx-ious fear and wor - ry; for
 2 To bow the head in sack-cloth and in ash - es, or
 3 For is not this the fast that I have cho - sen? (The
 4 For right - eous - ness and peace will show their fa - ces to
 5 Then shall your light break forth as doth the morn - ing; your

1 schemes are vain and fret - ting brings no gain. Lent calls to
 2 rend the soul, such grief is not Lent's goal; but to be
 3 pro - phet spoke) To shat - ter ev - ery yoke, of wick - ed -
 4 those who feed the hun - gry in their need, and wrongs re -
 5 health shall spring, the friends you make shall bring God's glo - ry

1 prayer, to trust and ded - i - ca - tion; God brings new beau - ty
 2 led to where God's glo - ry flash - es, his beau - ty to come
 3 ness the griev - ous bands to loos - en, op - pres - sion put to
 4 dress, who build the old waste pla - ces, and in the dark-ness
 5 bright, your way through life a - dorn - ing; and love shall be the

Unison *Harmony*

1 nigh; re - ply, re - ply, re - ply with love to love most high;
 2 near. Make clear, make clear, make clear where truth and light ap - pear;
 3 flight, to fight, to fight, to fight till ev - ery wrong's set right.
 4 shine. Di - vine, di - vine, di - vine it is when all com - bine!
 5 prize. A - rise, a - rise, a - rise! and make a par - a - dise!

Unison *Harmony*

1 re - ply, re - ply, re - ply with love to love most high.
 2 Make clear, make clear, make clear where truth and light ap - pear.
 3 to fight, to fight, to fight till ev - ery wrong's set right.
 4 Di - vine, di - vine, di - vine it is when all com - bine!
 5 A - rise, a - rise, a - rise! and make a par - a - dise!

Words: Percy Dearmer (1867-1936), alt.

Music: *Quittez, Pasteurs*, French carol; harm. Martin Fallas Shaw (1875-1958)

Irr.

Gospel Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

The Holy Gospel of our Savior, Jesus Christ, according to Matthew.

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."

The Gospel of our Savior.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

- *all be seated*

Sermon The Reverend Canon Brian Ponder

- *all stand*

An Invitation to the Observance of a Holy Lent • BCP 264

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 kept for a time, all kneeling*

Blessing and Imposition of Ashes

- *all who wish to receive the imposition of ashes come forward after the blessing*

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.

- *after the imposition of ashes, the following psalm is said*

Psalm 51:1-18 • *spoken responsively by whole verse*

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.

• *all kneel*

Litany of Penitence • BCP 267

• *celebrant and people*

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.

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: them 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 bishop, if present, or 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 • *all greet one another in the name of the Lord*

The peace of Christ be always with you.

And also with you.

LITURGY OF THE ALTAR

Offertory Hymn 697 • noon *My God, accept my heart this day*

1 My God, ac - cept my heart this day, and make it al - ways thine,
2 Be - fore the cross of him who died, be - hold, I pros-trate fall;
3 A - noint me with thy heaven-ly grace, and seal me for thine own,
4 Let ev - ery thought and work and word, to thee be ev - er given;

that I from thee no more may stray, no more from thee de - cline.
let ev - ery sin be cru - ci - fied, and Christ be all in all.
that I may see thy glo - rious face, and wor - ship near thy throne.
then life shall be thy ser - vice, Lord, and death the gate of heaven.

Words: Matthew Bridges (1800-1894), alt.

Music: *Song 67*, from *Llyfr y Psalmiau*, 1621; adapt. Orlando Gibbons (1583-1625), alt.;

harm. Mary Monica Waterhouse Bridges (1863-1949); alt. Charles Winfred Douglas (1867-1944)

CM

Offertory Anthem • 6 pm *Lord for thy tender mercy's sake* Richard Farrant

Lord, for thy tender mercy's sake, lay not our sins to our charge,
but forgive that is past, and give us grace to amend our sinful lives:
to decline from sin and incline to virtue, that we may walk in a
perfect heart before thee now and evermore. Amen

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Eucharistic Prayer A • Expansive Language

- *noon: spoken*

God be with you

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

- *6 pm: sung by all*

The musical notation consists of five staves, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff is for the celebrant, with the lyrics "God be with you. And al - so with you." The second staff is for the celebrant, with the lyrics "Lift up your hearts." The third staff is for the people, with the lyrics "We lift them to the Lord." The fourth staff is for the celebrant, with the lyrics "Let us give thanks to the Lord our God." The fifth staff is for the people, with the lyrics "It is right to give our thanks and praise." The notes are primarily quarter and eighth notes, with some rests and phrasing slurs.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God, 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:

Sanctus

- *noon: spoken by all*

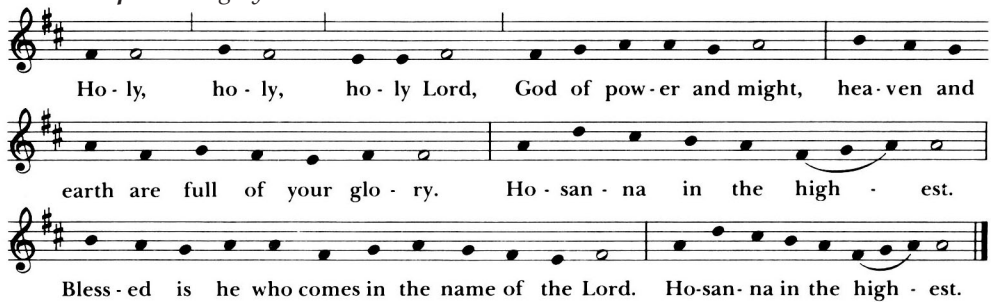
**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

S 124 • 6 pm: *sung by all*



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

Holy and gracious God: 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 maker of all.

Jesus 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 Savior 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 Jesus 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, Almighty God, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling Christ's death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

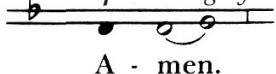
Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in Christ. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through Jesus Christ our Savior. By Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and for ever.

The Great Amen

• *noon: spoken*

• *6 pm: sung by all*



A - men.

The Lord's Prayer • contemporary version

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Fraction Anthem • noon

Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.
Therefore let us keep the feast.

Fraction Anthem S 156 • 6 pm: sung by all

Christ our Pass - o - ver is
sac - ri - ficed for us; there - fore let us keep the feast.

Setting: Gerald R. Near (b. 1942)

Invitation to Communion

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.

- any baptized person from any Christian tradition who wishes to encounter the Real Presence of the Risen Christ in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood is welcome to receive Holy Communion. If you wish to learn more about the Sacrament of Holy Baptism, please speak with a priest or deacon following the liturgy.
- gluten free wafers are available; as you prepare to receive bread indicate your preference to the priest
- if you would like to receive a blessing instead of Communion, please indicate this by crossing your arms over your chest

- for those attending virtually

An Act of Spiritual Communion

Jesus, my Savior, I ask you to come into my heart and fill me with your love. Although I cannot physically join with others to celebrate the Eucharist today, I desire to offer my thanksgivings and prayers in union with all who worship you, wherever they may be. And although I cannot receive you now sacramentally in the bread and wine of Holy Communion, still I desire to receive your body and blood spiritually and feed on your love, that I may be united with you and with all your people in one communion and fellowship, your mystical body the church, now and ever more. Amen.

Communion Hymn 143 *The Glory of these forty days*



1 The glo - ry of these for - ty days we
 2 A - lone and fast - ing Mo - ses saw the
 3 So Dan - iel trained his mys - tic sight, de -
 4 Then grant us, Lord, like them to be full
 * 5 O Fa - ther, Son, and Spi - rit blest, to



1 cel - e - brate with songs of praise; for Christ, through whom all
 2 lov - ing God who gave the law; and to E - li - jah,
 3 liv - ered from the li - ons' might; and John, the Bride - groom's
 4 oft in fast and prayer with thee; our spi - rits strength-en
 5 thee be ev - ery prayer ad-dressed, who art in three - fold



1 things were made, him - self has fast - ed and has prayed.
 2 fast - ing, came the steeds and char - i - ots of flame.
 3 friend, be - came the her - ald of Mes - si - ah's name.
 4 with thy grace, and give us joy to see thy face.
 5 Name a - dored, from age to age, the on - ly Lord.

Words: Latin, 6th cent.; tr. Maurice F. Bell (1862-1947), alt.
 Music: *Erhalt uns, Herr*, melody from *Geistliche Lieder*, 1543

LM

• *all kneel*

Prayer after Communion • *spoken by all*

Eternal God, you have graciously accepted us as living members of 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 Savior. Amen.

Solemn Prayer over the People

Bow down before the Lord.

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.

Concluding Hymn 149 *Eternal Lord of love*

Unison or harmony

1 E - ter - nal Lord of love, be - hold your Church
2 So dai - ly dy - ing to the way of self,
3 If dead in you, so in you we a - rise,

walk - ing once more the pil - grim way of Lent,
so dai - ly liv - ing to your way of love,
you the first - born of all the faith - ful dead;

led by your cloud by day, by night your fire,
 we walk the road, Lord Je - sus, that you trod,
 and as through ston - y ground the green shoots break,

moved by your love and toward your pres - ence bent:
 know - ing our - selves bap - tized in - to your death:
 glo - rious in spring - time dress of leaf and flower,

far off yet here— the goal of all de - sire.
 so we are dead and live with you in God.
 so in the Fa - ther's glo - ry shall we wake.

Words: Thomas H. Cain (b. 1931)
 Music: *Old 124th*, melody *Pseaumes octante trois de David*, 1551;
 harm. Charles Winfred Douglas (1867-1944)

10 10. 10 10 10

Dismissal

Let us bless the Lord.
 Thanks be to God.

noon

The Right Rev. Terry White, *celebrant*
The Rev. Charles Myers, *associate dean*
The Rev. Canon Brian Ponder, *preacher*
The Rev. Dr. Eva Markham, *deacon*
Austin Echols, *organist & choir director*
, lectors
, intercessor

Blossom Marshall, Louise Isaacs, Graham Whatley, *acolytes*
Mike DaRif, *eucharistic minister*
Tom Thill, *altar guild*
Mike DaRif, Lea Ann Garbrough, Dorothy Converse, *greeters/ushers*
Rob Guillen, *bell ringer*
Tim Tice, *live stream*

6 pm

The Very Rev. Matthew Bradley, *celebrant*
The Rev. Charles Myers, *associate dean*
The Rev. Canon Brian Ponder, *preacher*
The Rev. Dr. Eva Markham, *deacon*
Austin Echols, *organist & choir director*
Bryan Platt, Bill Smith, *lectors*
Jan Margerum, *intercessor*
Jan Margerum, Susan Shockey, Randy Peters, *eucharistic ministers*
Blossom Marshall, Carolyn VanZant, Hunter Lumbatis, *acolytes*
Bill Shelton, *altar guild*
Susan Torok, Bobbie Fritton, Jim Monin, *greeters/ushers*
John Kiesel, *bell ringer*



*... as for
me and my
household,
we will
serve the
Lord*

Joshua 24:15

Christ Church Cathedral Land Acknowledgement

Christ Church Cathedral of the Episcopal Diocese of Kentucky gathers and stands on land which has been home, for over 11,000 years, to primarily Shawnee, Cherokee, Osage, Haudenosaunee Seneca, Hopewell and Adena peoples.

Today we acknowledge the role our Church has played in colonialism's devastating legacy of death, stolen lands, dehumanizing removals, and forced assimilation of native people.

We repent of our complicity in perpetuating the dominance of white European culture, even to the present day.

We seek forgiveness.

We honor the original peoples of this land and the presence of native people still living in Kentucky.

We honor with respect their Elders, past, present, and future, their traditions, and the land itself.

We commit to listen, learn, and walk in love.





Christ Church Cathedral

→ a church in the heart of the city with a heart for the city ←

Episcopal Diocese of Kentucky

The Rt. Rev. Terry Allen White, Bishop Austin Echols, Music Director & Organist
The Very Rev. Matthew Bradley, Dean Susan Shockey, Parish Coordinator
The Rev. Charles Myers, Associate Dean Thomas Thill, Sacristan
The Rev. Dr. Eva Markham, Deacon

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