



# Ash Wednesday COMMUNION SERVICE

**February 18, 2026**

## A Note Concerning Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the season of Lent: a time of repentance, fasting, and prayer, in preparation for the great feast of the resurrection.

The season of Lent began in the early days of the Church as a time of preparation for those seeking to be baptized at the Easter Vigil. The forty days refer to our Lord's time of fasting in the wilderness; and since Sundays are never fast days, Ash Wednesday is the historic beginning of the Lenten fast.

Throughout the Old Testament, ashes are used as a sign of sorrow and repentance, and Christians have traditionally used ash-

es to indicate sorrow for our own sin, and as a reminder that the wages of sin is death (Romans 6:23). Like Adam and Eve, we have disobeyed and rebelled against God, and we are under the same judgment: "You are dust, and to dust you shall return" (Genesis 3:19).

But as we are marked with ashes in a similar way that we were marked in the waters of Baptism, we are also reminded of the life we share in Jesus Christ, the Last Adam (Romans 5:17, 6:4). It is in this certain hope that we begin the journey of these forty days, that by hearing and answering our Savior's call to repent, we may enter fully into the joyful celebration of his resurrection.

**Celebrant:** Tim Valentino  
**Lector:** Tim Valentino  
**Responder:** Shelley Miller  
**Organist:** Pat Shroff  
**Pianist:** Shelley Miller

**Flutist:** Shirley Long  
**Violin:** Rebecca Sorg  
**Hymn Leader:** Maureen Logan  
**Narthex Greeters:** Kaye & Dave Focht  
**Sound & Video Technician:** Bob Long  
**Ashes:** Tim Valentino

**Bread:** Tim Valentino  
**Cup (Organ Side):** Kirby Keller  
**Cup (Piano Side):** Pat Strain  
**Table Formation:** Gene Bugg  
**Table Formation:** Mike Oswald

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**Organ Voluntary Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross**

-Doane / L. Smith

Pat Shroff

**Call to Worship**

Pastor Tim Valentino

**Pastor:** Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

**People: His mercy endures forever.**

**Pastor:** Give thanks to the Lord, who forgives all our sins.

**People: His mercy endures forever.**

**Invitation to the Season of Lent**

Pastor Tim Valentino

**Pastor:** 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 those days by a season of repentance 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 the whole Congregation was reminded of the message of pardon and forgiveness set forth in the Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ, and of the need that all Christians continually have to renew our repentance and faith.

I invite you, therefore, in this tradition of the Church around the world, to the observance of a holy Lent: by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and alms-giving; and by reading and meditating on God's holy Word. And to make a right beginning, let us now pray for grace, that we might faithfully keep this Lent.

**Silence (Sitting or Kneeling)**

**Prayer Led by Pastor**

Pastor Tim Valentino

**Pastor:** Almighty and everlasting God, you hate nothing you have made, and you forgive the sins of all who are repentant: Create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we, lamenting our sins and acknowledging our failures, might 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.**

## 359 Be Thou My Vision

Unison

1. Be Thou my Vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;  
 2. Be Thou my Wis - dom, and Thou my true Word;  
 3. Rich - es I heed not, nor man's emp - ty praise,  
 4. High King of heav - en, my vic - to - ry won,

Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art—  
 I ev - er with Thee and Thou with me, Lord;  
 Thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways;  
 May I reach heav - en's joys, O bright heav'n's Sun!

Thou my best thought, by day or by night,  
 Thou my great Fa - ther, I Thy true son;  
 Thou and Thou on - ly, first in my heart,  
 Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,

Wak - ing or sleep - ing, Thy pres - ence my light.  
 Thou in me dwell - ing, and I with Thee one.  
 High King of heav - en, my Treas - ure Thou art.  
 Still be my Vi - sion, O Rul - er of all. A - men.

WORDS: Irish hymn, c. 8th century; tr. Mary E. Byrne, 1905; versified Eleanor H. Hull, 1912  
 MUSIC: Traditional Irish melody; arr. Donald P. Hustad, 1973

SLANE  
 10.10.10.10

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## Joel 2:1–2, 12–17

- <sup>1</sup> Blow the trumpet in Zion;  
 sound the alarm on my holy hill.  
 Let all who live in the land tremble,  
 for the day of the LORD is coming.  
 It is close at hand—
- <sup>2</sup> a day of darkness and gloom,  
 a day of clouds and blackness.  
 Like dawn spreading across the mountains  
 a large and mighty army comes,  
 such as never was in ancient times  
 nor ever will be in ages to come.
- <sup>12</sup> “Even now,” declares the LORD,  
 “return to me with all your heart,  
 with fasting and weeping and mourning.”
- <sup>13</sup> Rend your heart  
 and not your garments.  
 Return to the LORD your God,  
 for he is gracious and compassionate,  
 slow to anger and abounding in love,  
 and he relents from sending calamity.
- <sup>14</sup> Who knows? He may turn and relent  
 and leave behind a blessing—  
 grain offerings and drink offerings  
 for the LORD your God.
- <sup>15</sup> Blow the trumpet in Zion,  
 declare a holy fast,  
 call a sacred assembly.
- <sup>16</sup> Gather the people,  
 consecrate the assembly;  
 bring together the elders,  
 gather the children,  
 those nursing at the breast.  
 Let the bridegroom leave his room  
 and the bride her chamber.
- <sup>17</sup> Let the priests, who minister before the LORD,  
 weep between the portico and the altar.  
 Let them say, “Spare your people, LORD.  
 Do not make your inheritance an object of scorn,  
 a byword among the nations.  
 Why should they say among the peoples,  
 ‘Where is their God?’ ”

**Psalm 103:7-14 (Responsive)**

<sup>7</sup>[God] made known his ways to Moses,  
his deeds to the people of Israel:  
<sup>8</sup>**The LORD is compassionate and gracious,  
slow to anger, abounding in love.**  
<sup>9</sup>He will not always accuse,  
nor will he harbor his anger forever;  
<sup>10</sup>**he does not treat us as our sins deserve  
or repay us according to our iniquities.**  
<sup>11</sup>For as high as the heavens are above the earth,  
so great is his love for those who fear him;  
<sup>12</sup>**as far as the east is from the west,  
so far has he removed our transgressions from us.**  
<sup>13</sup>As a father has compassion on his children,  
so the LORD has compassion on those who fear him;  
<sup>14</sup>**for he knows how we are formed,  
he remembers that we are dust.**

**Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21**

<sup>1</sup>“Be careful not to practice your righteousness in front of others to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven.  
<sup>2</sup>“So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. <sup>3</sup> But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, <sup>4</sup> so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.  
<sup>5</sup>“And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. <sup>6</sup> But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.  
<sup>16</sup>“When you fast, do not look somber as the hypocrites do, for they disfigure their faces to show others they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. <sup>17</sup> But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, <sup>18</sup> so that it will not be obvious to others that you are fasting, but only to your Father, who is unseen; and your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.  
<sup>19</sup>“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. <sup>20</sup> But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. <sup>21</sup> For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Lector: The Word of the Lord.  
People: Thanks be to God.

Hymn 397: Search Me, O God Congregation

**397 Search Me, O God**

1. Search me, O God, and know my heart to - day; Try me, O  
 2. I praise Thee, Lord, for cleans - ing me from sin; Ful - fill Thy  
 3. Lord, take my life and make it whol - ly Thine; Fill my poor  
 4. O Ho - ly Spir - it, re - viv - al comes from Thee; Send a re -

Sav - ior, know my thoughts, I pray. See if there be some wick - ed  
 Word and make me pure with - in. Fill me with fire where once I  
 heart with Thy great love di - vine. Take all my will, my pas - sion,  
 viv - al - start the work in me. Thy Word de - clares Thou wilt sup -

way in me; Cleanse me from ev - ery sin and set me free.  
 burned with shame; Grant my de - sire to mag - ni - fy Thy name.  
 self and pride; I now sur - ren - der, Lord - in me a - bide.  
 ply our need; For bless - ings now, O Lord, I hum - bly plead.

WORDS: J. Edwin Orr, 1936  
 MUSIC: Traditional Maori melody  
 MAORI 10.1010.10

Devotional: Ashes, Ashes, We All Fall Up Pastor Tim Valentino

**Worship Songs: Create in Me a Clean Heart/ Sanctuary**      Congregation

Create in me a clean heart, oh God And renew a right spirit within me Create in me a clean heart, oh God And renew a right spirit within me	Cast me not away From thy presence oh Lord And take not thine holy Spirit from me Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation And renew a right spirit within me And renew a right spirit within me
Cast me not away From thy presence oh Lord And take not thine holy Spirit from me Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation And renew a right spirit within me	<b>Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary Pure and holy, tried and true With thanksgiving, I'll be a living Sanctuary for You</b>
Create in me a clean heart, oh God And renew a right spirit within me Create in me a clean heart, oh God And renew a right spirit within me	<b>Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary Pure and holy, tried and true With thanksgiving, I'll be a living Sanctuary for You</b>

**IMPOSITION OF ASHES**

Pastor: God created us from the dust of the earth. These ashes—made from last year's Palm Sunday branches—are a symbol to us of our mortality and a sign of our repentance. By them we remember it is by God's grace alone that we receive the gift of eternal life in Jesus Christ, our Savior. Those who desire to receive this sign of the ashes may now step forward to have them imposed.

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

**Confession and Litany of Repentance**

Pastor: Let us humbly confess our sins to Almighty God.

**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,  
in thought, word, and deed; by what we have done,  
and by what we have left undone.  
We have not loved you with our whole heart,  
We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.  
We have not forgiven others, as we have been forgiven.  
We have been deaf to your call to serve, as Christ served us.**

Pastor: Lord, have mercy upon us:  
**People: For we have sinned against you.**

Pastor: For all our unfaithfulness and disobedience;  
for the pride, vanity, and hypocrisy of our lives;  
Lord, have mercy upon us:  
**People: For we have sinned against you.**

Pastor: For our self-pity and impatience, and our envy of those  
we think more fortunate than ourselves;  
Lord, have mercy upon us:  
**People: For we have sinned against you.**

Pastor: For our unrighteous anger, bitterness, and resentment;  
for all lies, gossip, and slander against our neighbors;  
Lord, have mercy upon us:  
**People: For we have sinned against you.**

Pastor: For our sexual impurity, our exploitation of other people,  
and our failure to give of ourselves in love;  
Lord, have mercy upon us:  
**People: For we have sinned against you.**

Pastor: For our self-indulgent appetites and ways,  
and our intemperate pursuit of worldly goods and comforts;  
Lord, have mercy upon us:  
**People: For we have sinned against you.**

Pastor: For our dishonesty in daily life and work,  
our ingratitude for your gifts, and our failure to heed your call.  
Lord, have mercy upon us:  
**People: For we have sinned against you.**

Pastor: For our blindness to human need and suffering,  
and our indifference to injustice and cruelty;  
Lord, have mercy upon us:  
**People: For we have sinned against you.**

Pastor: For our wastefulness and misuse of your creation,  
and our lack of concern for those who come after us;  
Lord, have mercy upon us:  
**People: For we have sinned against you.**

Pastor: For all false judgments, for prejudice and contempt of others,  
and for all uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors;  
Lord, have mercy upon us:

**People: For we have sinned against you.**

Pastor: For our negligence in prayer and worship;  
for our presumption and abuse of your means of grace;  
Lord, have mercy upon us:

**People: For we have sinned against you.**

Pastor: For seeking the praise of others rather than the approval of God;  
and our failure to share the faith that is in us with others;  
Lord, have mercy upon us:

**People: For we have sinned against you.**

**All: Show favor to your people, O Lord, who turn to you in weeping, fasting, and prayer. For you are a merciful God, full of compassion, long-suffering, and abounding in steadfast love. You spare when we deserve punishment, and in your wrath, you remember mercy. Look upon us and forgive us; through the merits of your blessed Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**Words of Assurance**

Pastor Tim Valentino

**Worship Song: 556: Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow** Congregation

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

**HOLY COMMUNION**

*The Sursum Corda*

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

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

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People: It is right and good to give him thanks and praise.**

Pastor: For he has given us his Son.

Pastor: It is our joy to give thanks to you in all places and at all times, Almighty Father. You are the source of all truth, life, and love. You made us in your image and breathed into us the breath of life. When in our sinfulness we turned away from you and our love failed, your love remained steadfast. You delivered us from captivity, made covenant to be our sovereign God, and called us to new life in Jesus Christ our Lord. Therefore, we praise you with the angels, and archangels, and all the company of heaven, forever singing this hymn to the glory of your name:

*The Sanctus (Sung)*

**All: Holy, holy holy, Lord,  
God of power and might,  
Heaven and earth are filled with your glory.**

**Holy, holy holy, Lord,  
God of power and might,  
Heaven and earth are filled with your glory.**

**Hosanna! Hosanna! In the highest!  
Hosanna! Hosanna! In the highest!**

Pastor: All praise and glory are yours, O God our Father, for in your tender mercy you gave your only Son, Jesus Christ, to the world. Your Spirit anointed him to bring good news to the poor, to bind up the broken-hearted, to comfort those who mourn, to proclaim freedom for captives, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, and to announce the year of the Lord's favor. In obedience to your will, he stretched out his arms upon the wood of the cross and offered himself once for all, that by his suffering and death, we might be saved. By his resurrection, he broke the bonds of death, trampling hell and Satan under his feet. As our great high priest, he ascended to your right hand in glory, that we might come with confidence before the throne of grace. Amen.

*The Words of Institution, Fraction, and Pouring*

Pastor: On the night that Jesus was betrayed, he took the bread, and he gave thanks. “Blessed are you, Lord our God, king of the universe, who brings forth bread from the earth.”

And when Jesus had given thanks, he broke it, and he gave it to his disciples, saying, “Take and eat. This is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

**People: Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.**

Pastor: Likewise after the supper, Jesus took the cup, and he gave thanks. “Blessed are you, Lord our God, king of the universe, who brings forth fruit from the vine.”

And when Jesus had given thanks, he poured the cup and gave it to his disciples, saying, “Take and drink. This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for the remission of sin: Do this in remembrance of me.”

**People: To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood, to him be glory and power for ever and ever! Amen.**

Pastor: Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.

*The Memorial Acclamation*

Pastor: Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

**All: Christ has died,  
Christ is risen,  
Christ will come again.**

*The Euclogia and Lord’s Prayer*

Pastor: We celebrate this memorial of our redemption, O Father, receiving these gifts of bread and cup with thanksgiving for the death and resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ. Sanctify them by your Word and Holy Spirit to be for us the body and blood of Christ. Sanctify us also, that we might worthily receive this holy sacrament and partake of his most blessed body and blood.

In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under Christ and gather us together with all your saints in the joy of your heavenly kingdom, where we will see our Lord face to face. We ask this through your Son, who taught us to pray:

**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 debts,  
as we forgive our debtors.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen.**

*The Prayer of Humble Access*

Pastor: Lord, have mercy upon us.

**People: Christ, have mercy upon us.**

Pastor: Lord, have mercy upon us.

**People: Christ our Passover Lamb has been sacrificed for us.**

Pastor: Therefore, let us keep the feast.

Pastor: Let us pray. We do not presume to come to this your table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness but in your abundant and great mercies. Grant us, therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body, and our souls washed through his most precious blood, and that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

### The Reception

Pastor: The gifts of God for the people of God. Receive them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving. Come, for all things are now ready.

- The **Bread** of Holy Communion
- The **Cup** of Holy Communion

### The Post-Communion Prayer

Pastor: Let us pray. Almighty and ever-living God, we thank you for feeding us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious body and blood of your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us, through this sacrament, of your favor and goodness towards us: that we are true members of the mystical body of your Son, the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs, through hope, of your everlasting kingdom.

And we humbly ask you, heavenly Father, to assist us with your grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all the good works that you have prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever. Amen.

**Hymn**                      **386: Take My Life and Let It Be**                      Congregation

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**Words of Peace**                      Pastor Tim Valentino & Congregation

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Pastor: May the peace of the Lord be with you always.

**People: And with your spirit.**

Pastor: Let us pray.

**All: O Lord our God, grant us grace to desire you with our whole heart; that desiring you, we may seek you; and that seeking you, we may find you; and that finding you, we may love you; and that loving you, we may hate those sins from which you have delivered us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Pastor: Go in peace.

## 386 Take My Life and Let It Be

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (Bb). It features a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The lyrics are as follows:

1. Take my life and let it be Con-se - crat - ed, Lord, to Thee; Take my hands and  
2. Take my feet and let them be Swift and beau-ti - ful for Thee; Take my voice and  
3. Take my lips and let them be Filled with mes-sa - ges for Thee; Take my sil - ver  
4. Take my love, my God, I pour At Thy feet its treas-ure store; Take my-self and  
let them move At the im-pulse of Thy love, At the im - pulse of Thy love.  
let me sing Al-ways, on - ly, for my King, Al-ways, on - ly, for my King.  
and my gold, Not a mite would I with-hold, Not a mite would I with-hold.  
I will be Ev - er, on - ly, all for Thee, Ev - er, on - ly, all for Thee.

WORDS: Frances R. Havergal, 1874  
MUSIC: Henri A. César Malan, 1827

HENDON  
7.7.7.7