

**February 18, 2026**

**Ash Wednesday**



**Invitation to Lent**

As disciples of Jesus, we are called to a discipline that contends against evil and resists whatever leads us away from love of God and neighbor. I invite you, therefore, to the discipline of Lent—self-examination and repentance, prayer and fasting, sacrificial giving and works of love—strengthened by the gifts of word and sacrament. Let us continue our journey through these forty days to the great Three Days of Jesus’ death and resurrection.

## **Prelude**

*I Come with Joy*

UMH #617 vs. 1-4

1. I come with joy to meet my Lord,  
    forgiven, loved and free,  
    in awe and wonder to recall  
his life laid down for me, his life laid down for me.
  
2. I come with Christians far and near  
    to find, as all are fed,  
    the new community of love  
in Christ's communion bread, in Christ's communion bread.
  
3. As Christ breaks bread and bids us share,  
    each proud division ends.  
    The love that made us makes us one,  
and strangers now are friends, and strangers now are friends.
  
4. And thus with joy we meet our Lord.  
    His presence, always near,  
    is in such friendship better known;  
we see and praise him here, we see and praise him here.

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## **Announcements**

### **Passing of the peace**

### **Call to Worship**

(from the prophet Joel & Psalm 51)

Blow the trumpet in Zion; sound the alarm on my holy mountain!

Yet even now, says the LORD, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; <sup>13</sup>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.

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; in your great compassion blot out my offenses. <sup>3</sup>For I know my offenses, and my sin is ever before me. <sup>4</sup>Against you only have I

sinned and done what is evil in your sight; so you are justified when you speak and right in your judgment.

Blow the trumpet in Zion; sanctify a fast; call a solemn assembly; <sup>16</sup>gather the people. Sanctify the congregation; assemble the aged; gather the children,

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. <sup>15</sup>O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.

### **Greeting & Confession**

\*Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who is present, who gives life, who calls into existence the things that do not exist. **Amen.**

If you were to keep watch over sins, O Lord, who could stand? Yet with you is forgiveness, and so we confess.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Gracious God,

**have mercy on us.**

**We confess that we have turned away from you,  
knowingly and unknowingly.**

**We have wandered from your resurrection life.**

**We have strayed from your love for all people.**

**Turn us back to you, O God.**

**Give us new hearts and right spirits,**

**that we may find what is pleasing to you  
and dwell in your house forever. Amen.**

### **Imposition of Ashes**

Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth. May these ashes be a sign of our mortality and penitence, reminding us that only by the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ are we given eternal life; through the same Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

You are invited to come forward and be marked with ashes.

While ashes are distributed, we will sing:

1. Sunday's palms are Wednesday's ashes as another Lent begins;  
thus we kneel before our Maker in contrition for our sins.

We have marred baptismal pledges, in rebellion gone astray;  
now, returning, seek forgiveness; grant us pardon, God, this day!

2. We have failed to love our neighbors, their offenses to forgive,  
have not listened to their troubles nor have cared just how they live,  
we are jealous, proud, impatient, loving overmuch our things; may  
the yielding of our failings be our Lenten offerings.

3. We are hasty to judge others, blind to proof of human need; and  
our lack of understanding demonstrates our inner greed; we have  
wasted earth's resources; want and suffering we've ignored; come  
and cleanse us, then restore us; make new hearts within us, Lord!

*Just As I Am, Without One Plea*

UMH #357

1. Just as I am, without one plea,  
but that thy blood was shed for me,  
and that thou bidst me come to thee,

*Refrain*

O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

2. Just as I am, and waiting not  
to rid my soul of one dark blot,  
to thee whose blood can cleanse each spot, [*Refrain*]

3. Just as I am, though tossed about  
with many a conflict, many a doubt,  
fightings and fears within, without, [*Refrain*]

4. Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind;  
sight, riches, healing of the mind,  
yea, all I need in thee to find, [*Refrain*]

5. Just as I am, thou wilt receive,  
wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;  
because thy promise I believe, [*Refrain*]

6. Just as I am, thy love unknown  
hath broken every barrier down;  
now, to be thine, yea, thine alone, [*Refrain*]

Receive good news: God turns to you in love. “I will put my spirit in you, and you shall live,” says our God. Jesus Christ is the free and abounding gift of grace for us; and God’s spirit breathes life to our dry bones. This is the Good News: All your sin is forgiven in the name of † the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

Let us pray: Gracious God, out of your love and mercy you breathed into dust the breath of life, creating us to serve you and our neighbors. Call forth our prayers and acts of kindness, and strengthen us to face our mortality with confidence in the mercy of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## **2 Corinthians 5:20b--6:2**

<sup>20b</sup>We entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. <sup>21</sup>For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. <sup>6:1</sup>As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. <sup>2</sup>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!

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Change My Heart O God (2X)*

TFWS #2152

Change my heart, O God, make it ever true.  
Change my heart, O God, may I be like you.

You are the Potter, I am the clay.  
Mold me and make me, this is what I pray.

Change my heart, O God, make it ever true.  
Change my heart, O God, may I be like you.

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## **Matthew 6:1, 19-21**

[Jesus said to the disciples:]

<sup>1</sup>“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.

<sup>19</sup>“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal;

<sup>20</sup>but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. <sup>21</sup>For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

The gospel of the LORD.

## Reflection

## Pastoral Prayer

### \*Offertory

*Holy, Holy, Holy (2X)*

TFWS #2007

Holy, holy, holy.

My heart, my heart adores you!

My heart knows how to say to you:

You are holy, Lord!

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## Words of Institution

### 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, “This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me.” In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.” For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.

## The Lord’s Prayer

### Prayer after Communion

Let us pray. Life giving God, through the gift of your Body and Blood, strengthen us to serve you. Create in us clean hearts and put within us a new spirit, that as we journey through these forty days, we might be more faithful disciples and find our treasure in the life of your Son, Jesus in whose name we pray. **Amen.**

### Closing Hymn

*Be Thou My Vision*

UMH #451

1. Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;  
naught be all else to me, save that thou art.

Thou my best thought, by day or by night,  
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

2. Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word;  
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;  
thou and thou only, first in my heart,  
great God of heaven, my treasure thou art.

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## **Blessing & Dismissal**

Now is the acceptable time. Now is the day of salvation.  
Holy God, +Father, Son and Holy Spirit bless you, unbind you,  
and send you in love and in peace. **Amen.**

## **Postlude**

Prayers and readings from Sundays and Seasons. License # SAS 24892

## **Worship assistants & readers, ushers & greeters: Christian Education students**

### **Lent and Holy Week Schedule**

Wednesdays: February 25 through March 25  
Supper & Service 5:30 -7:00 PM

Fridays: February 20 – March 27

Ecumenical Men's Lenten breakfasts @Grace 6:30 – 7ish.

Breakfast and a brief devotion; a free will offering is  
accepted for the Ministerial Association Scholarship  
fund.

Holy Week: Maundy Thursday, April 2 - 7 PM @Trinity.  
Good Friday, April 3 - 7 PM @Grace.

Easter: April 5

Coffee and rolls & an egg hunt for the children  
Outside after each service

6:15 AM Sunrise Service @Trinity – Outside east side of the church.

9 AM Easter service @Grace.

# 4 Ways to Observe Lent

Lent is a season of focus and preparation. It aligns our hearts with God's heart as we approach Easter.

The following are just a few ways to focus and prepare.



## Give It Up

Consider giving up something that distracts from your important relationships: like too much time on Twitter or Clash of Clans.

Maybe cut out screen usage for several hours a day.

Take a day of true rest: let go of toil for 24 hours.



## Plug In

Consider adding in something that helps you connect to God.

Read a book of the Bible, a devotional, or practice Lectio Divina on a daily basis.



## Serve

Start a new routine of service.

Volunteer regularly as an academic mentor, step up to volunteer in a local church, or visit a nursing home.



## Share It

Make it a communal event.

Share your Lent practices with others via a small group and/or attending worship.

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