



**Spiritual Exercise for the Soul...**

# Season of Lent

## ASH WEDNESDAY

*February 18, 2026 at Six Thirty O'Clock*

### *A Blessing for Ash Wednesday*

All those days you felt like dust, like dirt,  
as if all you had to do was turn your face toward the wind  
and be scattered to the four corners

or swept away by the smallest breath as insubstantial—  
Did you not know what the Holy One can do with dust?

This is the day we freely say we are scorched

This is the hour we are marked  
by what has made it through the burning.

This is the moment we ask for the blessing  
that lives within the ancient ashes,  
that makes its home inside the soil of this sacred earth.

So let us be marked not for sorrow.  
And let us be marked not for shame.  
Let us be marked not for false humility  
or for thinking we are less than we are

but for claiming what God can do  
within the dust, within the dirt,  
within the stuff of which the world is made,  
and the stars that blaze in our bones,  
and the galaxies that spiral  
inside the smudge we bear.

~ Jan L. Richardson, *The Painted Prayerbook*

## THE WORSHIP OF GOD

*The worship of God begins with the music of the organ. Use this time for meditation and reflection and please refrain from conversation which would disturb others. Please turn off or silence all electronic devices.*

PRELUDE Mr. Ross

WORDS OF WELCOME Dr. Grammer

CHORAL INTROIT: From, "Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days" ST. FLAVIAN

Lord, who throughout these forty days for us did fast and pray, teach us with you to morn out sins  
and close by you to stay.

*Claudia F. Hernaman, alt.*

\* PROCESSIONAL HYMN (*see insert*): "Search Me, O God" ELLERS

\* CALL TO WORSHIP Ms. Meadows

Leader: This is a night for contemplation.

**People: There is little rejoicing in this night.**

Leader: The time of learning and testing is at hand.

**People: Strengthen us and give us courage, O Lord.**

Leader: This is the first step of the journey.

**People: We move forward with purpose and reflection.**

Leader: May God grace us with fortitude.

**People: And may we commit to spiritual growth this Lenten season.** Nancy C. Townley, adapt.

\* GLORIA PATRI GRETOREX

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.**

\* INVOCATION AND LORD'S PRAYER Dr. Grammer

**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 forever. Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 Dr. Edwards

The word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM: "Nolo Mortem Peccatoris" Thomas Morley

*Nolo mortem peccatoris; Haec sunt verba Salvatoris*<sup>\*</sup>. Father, I am thine only Son, sent down from heaven mankind to save. Father, all things fulfilled and done according to thy will, I have. Father, my will now all is this: *Nolo mortem peccatoris*. Father, behold my painsul smart, taken for man on ev'ry side; ev'n from my birth to death most tart, no kind of pain I have denied, but suffer'd all, and all for this: *Nolo mortem peccatoris*. (\**I desire not the death of a sinner; these are the Savior's words.*)

GOSSETT-BIGGS CHORAL SCHOLARS

GOSPEL LESSON: Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21 Mr. Mauk

The word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

CONFESSON OF SIN Dr. Edwards

Leader: On this first day of Lent we pause, look within and examine our consciousness.

**People: Have mercy on us, O God, according to your steadfast love.**

Leader: Where we have neglected prayer, been apathetic in worship, found reasons to avoid generosity, or lacked compassion:

**People: Have mercy on us, O God, according to your steadfast love.**

\* Please stand as you are able.

Leader: Where we have colluded in the oppression of those who become invisible in their suffering, and ignored on the streets:

**People: Have mercy on us, O God, according to your steadfast love.**

Leader: Where anxiety has eroded the gift of your peace, and where we have cared too much about what others think:

**People: Have mercy on us, O God, according to your steadfast love.**

*Ann Siddall*

*(Pause for silent confession.)*

ANTHEM: "Confession of Sins"

Katie Kring

Almighty God, our heavenly Father: we have sinned against you, through our own fault, in thought, and word, and deed, and in what we have left undone. For the sake of your Son our Lord Jesus Christ, forgive us all our offenses; and grant that we may serve you in newness of life, to the glory of your name. Amen.

*Book of Common Prayer*

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Dr. Edwards

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

Dr. Grammer

*At the invitation of the minister, you are invited to come forward for the imposition of the ashes. Following the choir, please use the center aisle as you approach the altar and the side aisles as you return to your seat.*

MEDITATION

Dr. Grammer

HYMN 387:

"Bread of the World, in Mercy Broken"

*(Please remain seated for the singing of this hymn.)*

EUCARISTIC HYMN

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

Dr. Edwards

SHARING OF BREAD AND CUP

Dr. Grammer & Dr. Edwards

*You are invited to come forward to receive communion. Following the choir, form two lines, using the center aisle as you approach the altar and the side aisles as you return to your seat. If you prefer to remain seated, a Deacon will serve you. This evening we will receive communion by intinction. Please break a piece of bread from the loaf, dip it into the cup, and receive the two together. A common response when taking communion is to say, "Thanks be to God," or a simple, "Amen."*

\* RECESSIONAL HYMN 197: "Beneath the Cross of Jesus"

ST. CHRISTOPHER

BENEDICTION

Dr. Grammer

Leader: Marked by a cross, cherished and forgiving,

**People: We are traveling home.**

Leader: Called to be holy, called to be happy,

**People: We are traveling home.**

Leader: Across deserts, over mountains,

**People: We are traveling home.**

Leader: God in our hearts, God in our lives,

**People: We are traveling home.**

*Ruth Burgess*

DEPART IN SILENCE

*At this time, you may depart the sanctuary in silence or remain seated for meditation.*

#### THE MINISTRY OF WORSHIP

Libby Grammer

Elizabeth Edwards

James Mauk

*Senior Minister*

*Associate Minister*

*Minister of Music*

Lisa Meadows

Zack Ross

Barnes Haley

*Minister to Children*

*Organist*

*Acolyte*

The Lakeside Chancel Choir

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Lakeside Website: [lakesidechurchrmt.org](http://lakesidechurchrmt.org)

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*Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent, the season of spiritual renewal leading up to Easter. The focus in Lent is upon repentance for sin and preparation for sharing in the death and resurrection of Christ.*

**Lenten Series: Spiritual Exercise for the Soul** – Just as we care for our physical bodies through exercise or our minds through training, so too should we care for our souls through spiritual exercise. During Lent this year, let us push ourselves to reach beyond our own schedules and to-do lists and embrace this season of introspection to discern what God has in store for us as we allow God to renew us in preparation for the celebration of Easter Resurrection.

**Restrooms**, including a wheelchair-accessible family restroom, are located in the hallway behind the sanctuary. Please ask an usher if you need directions.

**Childcare** is available in the preschool building. If you have a young child who becomes restless during worship, you are welcome to utilize our **Kids' Corner** in the back of the sanctuary by the audio booth. **Children's worship bags** are available in the narthex and have a variety of items that will help to make worship more meaningful for our children. Please return them to the narthex following worship.

**Bibles and several large print hymnals** are available for your convenience and are located in the Prayer Room off the Narthex. Please ask an usher as you enter the sanctuary. **Wireless hearing aides** are available in the Prayer Room off the narthex. Please ask an usher to assist you with a set. You may return the hearing aid to the Prayer Room following worship.

**We are grateful for our choral scholars**, Jackson Baldwin, Allison Benoit, Rebecca Blackwell, Esther Keller, and Jacob McCain, who enrich our music ministry in many ways. Choral Scholars and guest singers are supported by the **Gossett-Biggs Music Fund**. Anyone interested in supporting the fund is invited to designate a contribution.

**Want to know more about Lakeside?** Discover what else is going on through our website! Watch past worship services, read current news, register for events, discover who we are, and contribute to Lakeside. **Scan the QR Code with your smart phone:**



**Our Lenten Bible study** is guided by Will Willimon's new book *The Last Supper: Conversations That Led to the Cross*. This six-week discussion group will meet on Tuesdays by Zoom at 7:00 p.m. There will not be an in-person option for this study. Participants may order their own book in print or digital format. Please contact Elizabeth or the church office to sign up.

## 2026 Ecumenical Lenten Services

*Join us each Wednesday at noon for worship and lunch as our churches come together to journey toward the cross.*

February 25 - First United Methodist Church  
Proclaimer - Becky Zartman Carpenter, Good Shepherd

March 4 - Englewood United Methodist Church  
Proclaimer - Libby Grammer, Lakeside Church

March 11 - Lakeside Church  
Proclaimer - Jacob Kennedy, First Presbyterian

March 18 - First Presbyterian Church  
Proclaimer - Les Carpenter, St. Andrew's

March 25 - Church of the Good Shepherd  
Proclaimer - Nathan Wittman, Englewood Methodist

April 1 - St. Andrew's Episcopal Church  
Proclaimer - David Joyner, First Methodist

