

ASH WEDNESDAY

FEBRUARY 18, 2026

6:30 P.M.

PRELUDE

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: In these forty days, you lead us into the desert of repentance

People: **that in this pilgrimage of prayer, we might learn to be your people once more.**

Leader: In fasting and service, you bring us back to your heart.

 You open our eyes to your presence in the world.

People: **Be with us in these journey days, for without you we are lost and will perish.**

 To you alone be all glory, honor and praise.

*HYMN OF PRAYER #165

“The Glory of These Forty Days”

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READINGS ~ Isaiah 58:1-14

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-17

HOMILY ~ Dr. Brad Walker

INVITATION TO THE OBSERVANCE OF THE LENTEN DISCIPLINE

Responsive Scripture Reading of Confession

Psalm 51:1-17

Have mercy on me, God, according to your faithful love!

 Wipe away my wrongdoings according to your great compassion!

Wash me completely clean of my guilt; purify me from my sin!

Because I know my wrongdoings, my sin is always right in front of me.

I've sinned against you—you alone. I've committed evil in your sight.

That's why you are justified when you render your verdict,

 completely correct when you issue your judgment.

Yes, I was born in guilt, in sin, from the moment my mother conceived me.

And yes, you want truth in the most hidden places;

 you teach me wisdom in the most secret space.[¶]

Purify me with hyssop and I will be clean; wash me and I will be whiter than snow.

Let me hear joy and celebration again; let the bones you crushed rejoice once more.

Hide your face from my sins; wipe away all my guilty deeds!

Create a clean heart for me, God; put a new, faithful spirit deep inside me!

Please don't throw me out of your presence;

please don't take your holy spirit away from me.

Return the joy of your salvation to me and sustain me with a willing spirit.

Then I will teach wrongdoers your ways, and sinners will come back to you.

Deliver me from violence, God, God of my salvation,

 so that my tongue can sing of your righteousness.

Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will proclaim your praise.

You don't want sacrifices. If I gave an entirely burned offering, you wouldn't be pleased.

A broken spirit is my sacrifice, God.

You won't despise a heart, God, that is broken and crushed.

O Lord, hear this, our prayer of confession. Amen.

(OVER)

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

Those who desire may come forward to receive an imposition of ashes as a sign of penitence.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Prompt: Lord, in your mercy,

Congregational Response: hear our prayer.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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. Amen.

*HYMN #166

“Lord, Who throughout These Forty Days”

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

***Those who are able please stand**