



St. Paul's on-the-Hill

ASH WEDNESDAY

Wednesday February 18th, 2026
7:00pm

Welcome

Hymn - Praise My Soul the King of Heaven CP 381

Priest: The Lord be with you

All: And also with you

Priest: Let us pray for grace to keep Lent faithfully.

Collect of the Day (*together*)

Almighty and everlasting God, you despise nothing you have made and forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our brokenness, may 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. Amen.

The Ten Commandments:

Minister: And God spoke all these words:

I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. You shall have no other gods before me.

All: **Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.**

Minister: You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything in heaven above or the earth beneath or in the waters below. You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments.

All: **Lord, have mercy upon us...**

Minister: You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name.

All: **Lord, have mercy upon us...**

Minister: Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. Six days you shall labour and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your manservant or maidservant, nor your animals, nor the alien within your gates. For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all things that are in them, but he rested

on the seventh day. Therefore, the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.

All: **Lord, have mercy upon us...**

Minister: Honour your father and your mother; so that you may live long in the land the Lord your God is giving you.

All: **Lord, have mercy upon us...**

Minister: You shall not murder.

All: **Lord, have mercy upon us...**

Minister: You shall not commit adultery.

All: **Lord, have mercy upon us...**

Minister: You shall not steal.

All: **Lord, have mercy upon us...**

Minister: You shall not give false testimony against your neighbour.

All: **Lord, have mercy upon us...**

Minister: You shall not covet your neighbour's house. You shall not covet your neighbour's wife, or his manservant, or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbour.

All: **Lord, have mercy upon us, and write all these your laws in our hearts, we pray**

Readings from God's Word

God invites us to hear Him.

First Reading:

Isaiah 58:1-12

Reader:

Denise Boland

Gradual – How Deep the Father's Love for Us

Gospel Reading

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

Reader:

Dan Reynolds

Sermon:

Canon Stephanie

Ash Wednesday Exhortation – Canon Stephanie

Choral Anthem – Holy, Holy, Holy

Psalm 51:1-18 – (*said together*)

Create in me a clean heart, O God.

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your loving kindness; *

in your great compassion blot out my offences.

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 judgement.

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.

Litany of Penitence:

All: Most holy and merciful Father, we confess to
you, 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.

Priest: We have not loved you with our whole heart,
and mind and strength. We have not loved our
neighbours as ourselves. We have not forgiven
others, as we have been forgiven.

All: *Have mercy on us, Lord.*

Priest: 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.

All: *Have mercy on us, Lord.*

Priest: We confess to you, Lord, all our past
unfaithfulness: the pride, hypocrisy, and
impatience of our lives,

All: *Have mercy on us, Lord.*

Priest: Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our
exploitation of other people,

All: *Have mercy on us, Lord.*

Priest: Our anger at our own frustration, and our envy
of those more fortunate than ourselves,

All: *We confess to you, Lord.*

Priest: Our intemperate love of worldly goods and
comforts, and our dishonesty in daily life and
work,

All: *We confess to you, Lord.*

Priest: Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our
failure to commend the faith that is in us.

All: *We confess to you, Lord.*

Priest: 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.

All: *Accept our repentance, Lord.*

Priest: For all false judgements, for uncharitable
thoughts toward our neighbours, and for our
prejudice and contempt toward those who differ
from us,

All: *Accept our repentance, Lord.*

Priest: For our waste and pollution of your creation,
and our lack of concern for those who come
after us,

All: *Accept our repentance, Lord.*

Priest: Restore us, good Lord, and let your anger
depart from us;

All: *Hear us, Lord, for your mercy is great.*

Hymn – Just as I am

Blessing of the Ashes:

Priest: Almighty God, from the dust of the earth you
have created us. May these ashes be for us a
sign of our mortality and penitence, and a
reminder that only by your gracious gift are we
given eternal life; through Jesus Christ our
Saviour. **AMEN.**

The Imposition of Ashes

*We invite you to come forward for the imposition of
ashes. We will be coming forward in silence. If you wish
to simply receive a blessing, please cross your arms.*

Hymn – Giver of the Perfect Gift CP 180

Blessings and dismissal

Priest: Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your
salvation,

All: *That we may show forth your glory in the
world.*

Priest: By the cross and passion of your Son, our Lord,
All: *Bring us with all your saints to the joy of
his resurrection.*

Priest: Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you
all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ,
strengthen you in all goodness, and by the
power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.
AMEN.