



**ASH WEDNESDAY  
HOLY EUCHARIST AND  
IMPOSITION OF ASHES  
1 2:00 P.M. (SAID) AND 7:00 P.M.  
FEBRUARY 18, 2026 YEAR A**

**Prelude “Elegy”**

**William Walton (1902-1983)**© Oxford University Press

*As the ministers enter, all stand as able.*

**Invitation to a Holy Lent**

*Presider* 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 them by a season of penitence 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 those who, because of notorious sins, had been separated from the body of the faithful were reconciled by penitence and forgiveness, and restored to the fellowship of the Church. Thereby, the whole congregation was put in mind of the message of pardon and absolution set forth in the Gospel of our Savior, and of the need which all Christians continually have to renew their repentance and faith.

*Presider* I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church, to the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God’s holy Word. And, to make a right beginning of repentance, and as a mark of our mortal nature, let us now kneel before the Lord, our maker and redeemer.

*Silence is then kept for a time, all kneeling.*

*If ashes are to be imposed, the Celebrant says the following prayer*

*Presider* Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth: Grant that these ashes may be to us a sign of our mortality and penitence, that

we may remember that it is only by your gracious gift that we are given everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

*The ashes are imposed with the following words*

*Presider* Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.

**Psalm 51 *Miserere mei, Deus***

1 Have mercy on me, O God, according to your loving-kindness; \*  
in your great compassion blot out my offenses.

**2 *Wash me through and through from my wickedness \*  
and cleanse me from my sin.***

3 For I know my transgressions, \*  
and my sin is ever before me.

**4 *Against you only have I sinned \*  
and done what is evil in your sight.***

5 And so you are justified when you speak \*  
and upright in your judgment.

**6 *Indeed, I have been wicked from my birth, \*  
a sinner from my mother's womb.***

7 For behold, you look for truth deep within me, \*  
and will make me understand wisdom secretly.

**8 *Purge me from my sin, and I shall be pure; \*  
wash me, and I shall be clean indeed.***

9 Make me hear of joy and gladness, \*  
that the body you have broken may rejoice.

**10 *Hide your face from my sins \*  
and blot out all my iniquities.***

11 Create in me a clean heart, O God, \*  
and renew a right spirit within me.

**12 *Cast me not away from your presence \*  
and take not your holy Spirit from me.***

13 Give me the joy of your saving help again \*  
and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.

**14 *I shall teach your ways to the wicked, \****

***and sinners shall return to you.***

15 Deliver me from death, O God, \*  
and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness,  
O God of my salvation.

***16 Open my lips, O Lord, \*  
and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.***

17 Had you desired it, I would have offered sacrifice; \*  
but you take no delight in burnt-offerings.

***18 The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit; \*  
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.***

*Silence is kept for a time.*

*All standing the Presider facing the community says*

Blessed be the God of our salvation.

Who bears our burdens and forgives our sins.

Let us pray.

*Silence is kept for a time.*

Almighty and everlasting God, you hate 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 wretchedness, 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.

**First Reading: Joel 2:1-2,12-17**

*Please be seated.*

Blow the trumpet in Zion; sound the alarm on my holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble, for the day of the Lord is coming, it is near-- a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness! Like blackness spread upon the mountains a great and powerful army comes; their like has never been from of old, nor will be again after them in ages to come. Yet even now, says the Lord, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; 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. Who knows whether he will not turn and relent, and leave a blessing behind him, a grain offering and a drink offering for the Lord, your God? Blow the trumpet in Zion; sanctify a fast; call a solemn assembly; gather the people. Sanctify the congregation; assemble the aged; gather the children, even infants at the breast. Let the bridegroom leave his room, and the bride her canopy. Between the vestibule and the altar let the priests, the ministers of the Lord, weep. Let them say, "Spare your people, O Lord, and do not make your heritage a mockery, a byword among the nations. Why should it be said among the peoples, 'Where is their God?'"

*Reader* Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

*People* ***Thanks be to God.***

**Psalm 103:8-14** *Benedic, anima mea*

- 8 You are full of compassion and mercy, \*  
slow to anger and of great kindness.
- 9 You will not always accuse us, \*  
nor will you keep your anger for ever.
- 10 You have not dealt with us according to our sins, \*  
nor rewarded us according to our wickedness.
- 11 For as the heavens are high above the earth, \*  
so is your mercy great upon those who fear you.
- 12 As far as the east is from the west, \*  
so far have you removed our sins from us.
- 13 As parents care for their children, \*  
so do you, O Lord, care for those who fear you.
- 14 For you yourself know whereof we are made; \*  
you remember that we are but dust.

**Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:20b—6:10**

We entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. 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! We are putting no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see—we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

*Reader* Hear what the Spirit is saying to the churches.

*People* ***Thanks be to God.***

### 7:00PM Sequence Hymn WLP 825 "Bless the Lord, my soul"



Bless the Lord my soul and bless God's ho - ly name.



Bless the Lord my soul, Who leads me in - to life.

Words: Psalm 103 Music: Jacques Berthier (1923–1994) Copyright: Music: © 1984 Taizé, admin. GIA Publications, Inc.

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

*All stand as able.*

*Deacon* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

*People* ***Glory to you, Lord Christ.***

Jesus said, "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. So whenever

you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

*Deacon*                      The Gospel of the Lord.  
*People*                      ***Praise to you, Lord Christ.***

**Homily 12:00pm & 7:00pm**

**The Rev. Delaney Schlake-Kruse**

### **Litany of Penitence**

*The Presider and People together, all kneeling or standing.*

*Deacon*            Most holy and merciful God: We confess to you and 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.

*Deacon*            We have not loved you with our whole heart, and mind, and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others, as we have been forgiven.

*People*            ***Have mercy on us, Lord.***

*Deacon* 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.

*People* ***Have mercy on us, Lord.***

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

*People* ***We confess to you, Lord.***

*Deacon* Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people,

*People* ***We confess to you, Lord.***

*Deacon* Our anger at our own frustration, and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves,

*People* ***We confess to you, Lord.***

*Deacon* Our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts, and our dishonesty in daily life and work,

*People* ***We confess to you, Lord.***

*Deacon* Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to commend the faith that is in us,

*People* ***We confess to you, Lord.***

*Deacon* 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,

*People* ***Accept our repentance, Lord.***

*Deacon* For all false judgments, for uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and for our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us,

*People* ***Accept our repentance, Lord.***

*Deacon* For our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of  
concern for those who come after us,  
*People* ***Accept our repentance, Lord.***

*Deacon* Restore us, good Lord, and let your anger depart from us;  
*People* ***Favorably hear us, for your mercy is great.***

*Deacon* Accomplish in us the work of your salvation,  
*People* ***That we may show forth your glory in the world.***

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

*Presider stands and, facing the people, says*

*Presider* Almighty God, the Abba of our Lord Jesus Christ, who desires not  
the death of sinners, but rather that they may turn from their wickedness and  
live, has given power and commandment to his ministers to declare and  
pronounce to his people, being penitent, the absolution and remission of their  
sins. Pardons and absolves all those who truly repent, and with sincere hearts  
believe Christ's holy Gospel.

*Presider* Therefore, we beseech Almighty God to grant us true repentance  
and the grace of the Holy Spirit, that those things may be pleasing which we do  
on this day, and that the rest of our life hereafter may be pure and holy, so that at  
the last we may come to his eternal joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

## THE HOLY COMMUNION

**7:00PM Offertory Hymn 149 "Eternal Lord of Love" (Blue 1982 Hymnal)**

*Presider* The Lord be with you.  
*People* ***And also with you.***  
*Presider* Lift up your hearts.  
*People* ***We lift them to the Lord.***



*Presider* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*People* ***It is right to give thanks and praise.***

*Then, facing the Holy Table, the Presider proceeds.*

*Presider* Blessed are you, God of everlasting covenant, for your promises are steadfast and your provision is sure. Through the forty years of your people's desert wanderings you were constant in fire and cloud; with manna and mercy you sustained every step. You made Jesus' temptation of forty days a theater of truth where your Word stood strong.

*Presider* In every age you have shaped your people through times of wilderness and wandering, of temptation and trial, and brought them into the land of promise and the life of covenant. And so we give you humble thanks for your forgiveness and our new life, with angels and archangels and the company of heaven, singing your unending praise.

**Sanctus and Benedictus S124** *Hurd (Blue 1982 Hymnal)*

***Holy, holy, holy Lord***

***God of power and might***

***Heaven and earth are full of your glory.***

***Hosanna in the highest.***

***Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.***

***Hosanna in the highest.***

Enduring God, as you sustained Jesus in hunger and thirst, through this meal strengthen us to keep our Lenten fast. Send your Holy Spirit upon us as we remember Jesus' saving passion; transform our insatiable desires into hunger for the feast of this table. Send your Holy Spirit upon this bread and wine that they may be for us the body and blood of Christ;

*Presider* Who at supper with his disciples, took bread, gave you thanks, broke the bread, and gave it to them, saying "Take, eat: this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me."

*Presider* After supper he took the cup of wine. Again he gave you thanks, and gave it to this disciples, saying, “Drink this, all of you: this is my blood of the new covenant which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

*Presider* Great is the mystery of faith.

*People* ***Christ has died;  
Christ is risen;  
Christ will come again.***

*Presider* Forgiving God, in this season of repentance, make your mercy sufficient for every need. Come to your children who are in their own wilderness and make their wanderings holy paths of learning your truth. Strengthen all who face the threshold of temptation or the tumult of trial. Seek those whose hearts are contrite and meet them with grace.

*Presider* Come alongside your children who suffer under the sin of another and give them the power to live as your beloved sons and daughters. Renew your church from the depths of your heart, where justice and mercy meet. Bring us, with blessed Mary, blessed Paul and all your saints to the day when all who watch and pray for your kingdom behold your salvation and meet you in your resurrection.

*Presider* Infuse your church with Spirit and truth, walk with your beloved people as they seek security, companionship and freedom in your world, and fill your saints with the hope of eternal life, that all may come to praise your name, and every grain of sand and star in the sky be stirred with the wonders of your grace.

*Presider* Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are yours, almighty God, now and forever. **AMEN.**

## Fraction Anthem 12:00 p.m.

*Presider:* We break this bread to share in the body of Christ

*People:* ***We who are many are one body, for we all share in the one bread.***

## Fraction Anthem 7:00 p.m.

**"Lamb of God" (From *Enriching our Music*)** *Hurd*

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world:  
have \_\_\_\_\_ mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the  
sin of the world: have \_\_\_\_\_ mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you  
take a-way the sin of the world: grant \_\_\_\_\_ us \_\_\_\_\_ peace.

Setting: David Hurd, from **Music for the Eucharist**, © 1995 Augsburg Fortress.  
Used by permission. All rights reserved.

## Invitation to Communion

*Presider* Draw near with hope and with wonder. Receive the life of Christ, the Bread of Heaven, and the Cup of Salvation poured out in love for you.

## Post Communion Prayer

*After the Silence the Presider invites the congregation to stand and pray saying:*

*Presider* God is with you.

*People* ***And also with you.***

*Presider* Together, let us pray.

*Silence is kept.*

*People        Eternal God, you have renewed us with the living bread from heaven; by it you nourish our faith, increase our hope, and strengthen our love: teach us always to hunger for him who is the true and living bread, and enable us to live lives grounded in service to you and to one another; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

**7:00 PM Closing Hymn 662 “Abide with me: fast falls the eventide”**  
*(Blue 1982 Hymnal)*

**Prayer over the People**

*Deacon:* Bow down before the Lord.

*Presider:* Grant, most merciful Lord, to your faithful people pardon and peace, that they may be cleansed from all their sins, and serve you with a quiet mind; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Dismissal**

*Deacon* Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude “Fantasia in G Minor”**

**Johann Pachelbel (1653-1706)**

All Music reproduced and broadcast under OneLicense #A-704954

**ASSISTING IN OUR WORSHIP**  
**NOON**

*Lector:* Margaret Hvatum

*Greeter:* Marti Robards

*Usher:* Kittie Golomski

*Chalice:* Roger Robards

*Livestream:* Vicki Stegmann

**ASSISTING IN OUR WORSHIP**  
**7:00p.m.**

*Lector:* Amanda Cashen

*Greeter:* Ellen Jeffery

*Usher:* Diane Nienkemper

*Chalice:* Scott Thompson

**SAINT MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH**  
**4714 Clifton Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63109**

314/832-3588

[revdelaney@saintmarks-stl.org](mailto:revdelaney@saintmarks-stl.org)

[www.saintmarks-stl.org](http://www.saintmarks-stl.org)

[parishoffice@saintmarks-stl.org](mailto:parishoffice@saintmarks-stl.org)