



O Divine One, as we enter this solemn and holy season,
we pray that you would send your Holy Spirit upon us
that we might prepare ourselves
for these coming 40 days of Lent.

Though we no longer wear sackcloth and ashes,
we seek to humble ourselves to understand
the magnificence of your love for us
as you humbled yourself
and gave your life on the cross
that we might receive the gift of Eternal Life.
Amen.

Ash Wednesday | February 18, 2026 | 7:00 PM



OPENING HYMN

ELW Red Book #319

O Lord, throughout These Forty Days

GREETING

Presider: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. Let us confess our sin to God who is faithful and just, and who has promised to forgive our sin and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for Reflection and Examination of Conscience

Presider: Most merciful God,

Congregation: **have mercy on us.**

All: **We confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart: we have not loved one another in deed and in truth. In your compassion, forgive our sin and so uphold us by your Spirit that we may live and serve you in newness of life, through Jesus Christ our light and our truth. Amen.**

Presider: With joy, I proclaim to you that Almighty God, rich in mercy, abundant in love, forgives you all your sin and grants you newness of life in Jesus Christ.

Congregation: **Thanks be to God!**

KYRIE

Assistant: In peace, in peace...

Assistant: *Congregation:*

Let us pray — to the Lord, have mer - cy,
Christ, have mer - cy, Lord, have
mer - cy. —————

Assistant: For the Reign of God, and for peace throughout the world, for the unity of all... (*Congregation sings refrain*)

Assistant: For our people here, who have come to give you praise, for the strength to live your Word... (*Congregation sings refrain*)

Assistant: *Congregation:*

Help, save and de - fend us, ——— O God.
A - - - - men.

INTRODUCTION OF RITUAL

BLESSING AND DISTRIBUTION OF THE ASHES



READING

Joel 2:1-2, 12-13

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 God is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from punishment.

Reader: Word of God, word of Life.

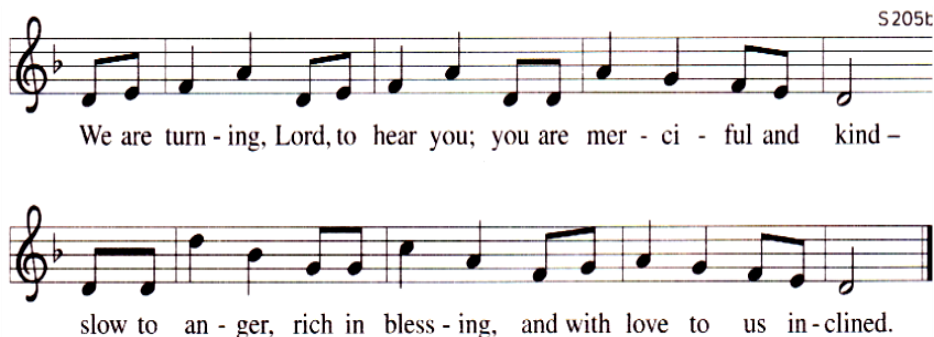
Congregation: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 146

Lord Come and Save Us



GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

Jesus said to the disciples: "Beware of practicing your righteousness 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 somber, like the hypocrites, for they mark their faces 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."

Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord.

Congregation: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

MUSIC FROM ST. PAUL AME MUSICIANS

✠ REFLECTION ✠

PASTOR GREG ARMSTRONG
ST. PAUL AME CHURCH

SIGN OF PEACE *Greet one another with: **Peace be with you.***

BERAKAH (Ancient Hebrew Blessing)

Bread: Pastor: Blessed are you Lord God of all creation...

Congregation: **Blessed be God forever.**

Wine: Pastor: Blessed are you Lord God of all creation...

Congregation: **Blessed be God forever.**

GRATITUDE OF THE OFFERING

Pastor: Let us pray. Merciful God...

Congregation: **We offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us - our selves, our time, our life and our breath, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

Congregation: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

Congregation: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

Congregation: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Sung by All

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil, for the kingdom, the pow'r and the glory are yours, now and forever.

HOLY COMMUNION

Here at Messiah, we believe that Christ is the host of this meal.

Regardless of your background or tradition, we believe that all are welcome at the Lord's Table.

If you are unable to come forward for communion, please let an usher know and communion will be brought to you.

Grape juice is available on the trays in the central cups.

Gluten-free wafers are available in the gold container on the stand between the bread distributors.

COMMUNION HYMN

ELW Red Book #712

Lord, Whose Love in Humble service

COMMUNION MEDITATION

Senior Choir
Jonathan Thornton - Pianist

Create in Me

BLESSING *Congregation: Amen.*

Please stay as long as you choose, for prayer and reflection.

*As we begin our 40 days of Lent,
please leave our sacred space in silence.*

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 Richardson



Worship Assistants

Altar MinistryKathy Lukens
Communion Cups Mary Reines
Greeter..... Grace Kylo, Susan Ashley
Reader..... Tara Von Dollen
Communion.....Dave Lindorff, Ray Robinson
.....Elaine McNeil, Sharon Ryan
..... Grace Kylo, Susan Ashley
Ushers Michaelle Eeg, Jill & Eli Tecalero
Musician.....Dean Gardner
Vocalists Senior Choir
Streaming..... Mary Reines

Lent & Easter Schedule

Wednesdays in Lent

March 11- Messiah

6:00 pm Soup Supper - 7:00 Worship

March 25 - Messiah

6:00 pm Soup Supper - 7:00 Worship

March 29 Palm Sunday

5:00PM Worship

8:15 AM, 10:30 AM Worship Services

April 2 Maundy Thursday

7:00 PM Worship

April 3 Good Friday

1:00 PM Worship

April 4 Vigil of Easter

5:00 pm Worship

April 5 Easter Sunday

8:15 AM, 10:30 AM Worship Services