



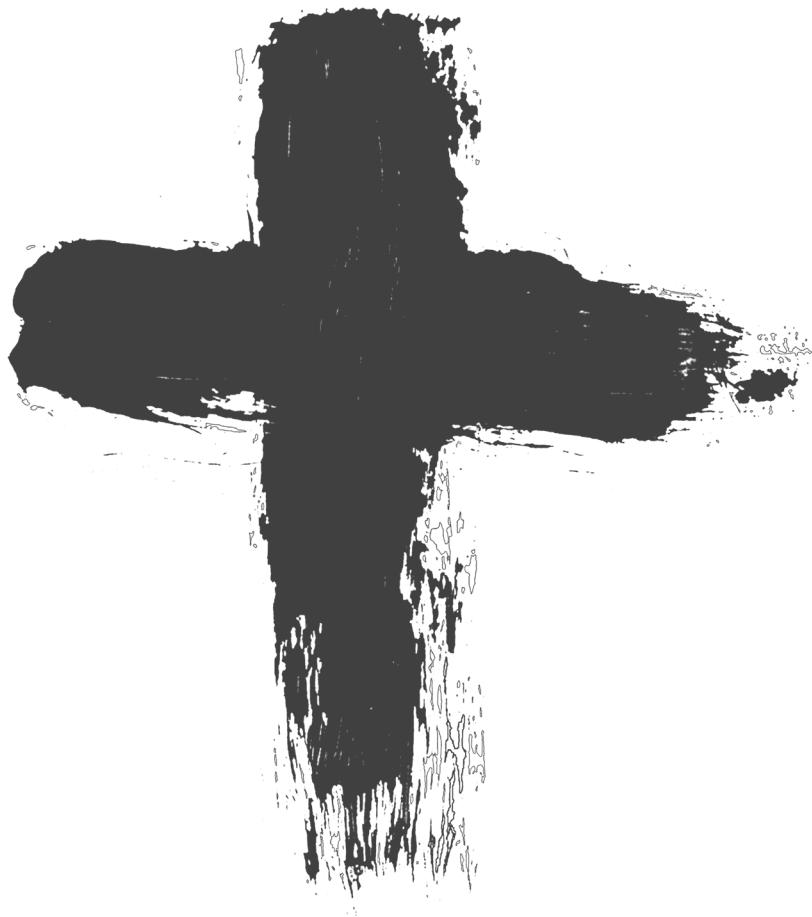
SAINT MARK'S
EPISCOPAL CATHEDRAL
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

ASH WEDNESDAY

HOLY EUCHARIST with IMPOSITION OF ASHES

February 18, 2026

7:00 AM



LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT & WELCOME

Saint Mark's Cathedral acknowledges that we gather on the traditional land of the first people of Seattle, the Duwamish People, who are still here, and we honor with gratitude the land itself and the life of all the Coast Salish tribes.

QUESTIONS?

Please ask one of the liturgical ministers. Restrooms are available in the narthex; all-gender restrooms are available in the northwest stairwell of the nave and on level 5 of Cathedral House, accessible by the elevator or southwest stairwell.

NEW TO SAINT MARK'S?

Welcome to Saint Mark's Cathedral. Wherever you are on your spiritual journey, you are welcome here! We invite you to complete a newcomer form, visit saintmarks.org/newcomers or connect with one of the clergy.

ABOUT THE LITURGY

Worship lies at the heart of the Christian life. It is in worship that we express our theology and define our identity. We encounter God within worship and are formed and transformed as the people of God. One of the hallmarks of the Episcopal Church is its liturgical worship. Liturgy literally is "the work of the people," and refers to the patterns, forms, words, and actions through which public worship is conducted.



THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

A bell bids all to stand, as able, as the ministers of the liturgy enter in silence.

COLLECT OF THE DAY Ash Wednesday

The Book of Common Prayer (1979), p. 264

Presider The Lord be with you.

Assembly **And also with you.**

Presider Let us pray.

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.

All **Amen.**

Please be seated for the readings.

READING*Joel 2:1-2, 12-17*

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.

Assembly **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM

Psalm 103:8-14 ♦ read by all in unison

Benedic, anima mea

THE LORD is full of compassion and mercy, *
slow to anger and of great kindness.

He will not always accuse us, *
nor will he keep his anger for ever.

He has not dealt with us according to our sins, *
nor rewarded us according to our wickedness.

For as the heavens are high above the earth, *
so is his mercy great upon those who fear him.

As far as the east is from the west, *
so far has he removed our sins from us.

As a father cares for his children, *
so does the LORD care for those who fear him.

For he himself knows whereof we are made; *
he remembers that we are but dust. ♦

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 God’s people.

Assembly **Thanks be to God.**

After a brief silence the Presider stands; all stand, as able, for the proclamation of the Gospel.

THE HOLY GOSPEL *Matthew 6:1-6,16-21*

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

Assembly **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.”

Presider The Gospel of the Lord.

Assembly **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

HOMILY

The Very Reverend Steven L. Thomason

All stand, as able.

INVITATION TO THE OBSERVANCE OF A HOLY LENT

The Book of Common Prayer (1979), p. 264

Presider **D**EAR 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.

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 or bow before the Lord, our maker and redeemer.

All kneel, as able, for a period of silence, and remain kneeling while the Presider prays over the ashes. For those unable to kneel, a profound bow is an appropriate posture.

PRAYER OVER THE ASHES

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.

All **Amen.**

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

Everyone is invited to come forward to receive ashes, a sign of our repentance and mortality.

If you need ashes brought to you at your seat, please let a minister of the liturgy know.

Please be seated when you return to your pew.

PSALM DURING THE IMPOSITION OF ASHES *Psalm 51 ♦ chanted by cantor*

Miserere mei, Deus

HAVE mercy on me, O God, according to your loving-kindness; *
in your great compassion blot out my offenses.
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 judgment.
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. ♦

All kneel, as able.

LITANY OF PENITENCE

The Book of Common Prayer (1979), p. 267

Presider Most holy and merciful Father:

All 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.

Presider 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.

Assembly Have mercy on us, Lord.

Presider 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.

Assembly Have mercy on us, Lord.

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

Assembly We confess to you, Lord.

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

Assembly We confess to you, Lord.

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

Assembly We confess to you, Lord.

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

Assembly We confess to you, Lord.

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

Assembly We confess to you, Lord.

Presider 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,

Assembly Accept our repentance, Lord.

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

Assembly Accept our repentance, Lord.

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

Assembly Accept our repentance, Lord.

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

Assembly Favorably hear us, for your mercy is great.

Presider Accomplish in us the work of your salvation,

Assembly That we may show forth your glory in the world.

Presider By the cross and passion of your Son our Lord,

Assembly Bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.

Presider Almighty God, the Father 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 the church's ministers to declare and pronounce to God's people, being penitent, the absolution and remission of their sins. God pardons and absolves all those who truly repent, and with sincere hearts believe the holy Gospel.

Therefore we beseech God to grant us true repentance and the Holy Spirit, that those things may please God 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 God's eternal joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

All stand, as able.

THE PEACE

Presider The peace of the Lord be always with you.

Assembly **And also with you.**

All greet one another in the name of the Lord.



THE LITURGY OF THE TABLE

OFFERTORY

An offering of money is received. All worshipping in person are invited to place their offering in the plates as they are passed through through the rows.

*For electronic giving options, visit saintmarks.org/give, or use the Venmo mobile app (@SaintMarksCathedralSeattle, or scan the code at right), or visit this link on your mobile device: <https://venmo.com/saintmarkscathedralseattle>. If Venmo asks you for a four-digit code, enter **2076**.*



All stand, as able.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING *Eucharistic Prayer C, adapt.*

Approved for trial use by General Convention 2024

Presider The Lord be with you.

Assembly **And also with you.**

Presider Lift up your hearts.

Assembly **We lift them to the Lord.**

Presider Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

Assembly **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

Presider It is right to give you thanks and praise, O Lord, our God, Sustainer of the Universe. At your command all things came to be: shining light and enfolding dark; the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home; by your will they were created and have their being.

Assembly **Glory to you for ever and ever.**

Presider From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with the capacity for memory, reason, and skill; you made us the stewards of your creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another. Again and again you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous law. In the fullness of time you sent your Son, born of a woman, to be our Savior. He was wounded for our transgressions, and bruised for our iniquities. By his death he opened to us the way of freedom and peace.

Assembly **Glory to you for ever and ever.**

Presider Therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

**All Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Presider Blessed are you, Lord our God, for sending us Jesus, the Christ, who on the night he was handed over to suffering and death, took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, gave it to his friends, and said, “Take, eat: this is my body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.”

In the same way, after supper, he took the cup of wine; he gave thanks, and said, “Drink this, all of you: this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.”

Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving, we celebrate his death and resurrection, as we await the day of his coming.

Assembly **Glory to you for ever and ever.**

Presider Therefore, we who have been redeemed by Jesus Christ, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Savior. Sanctify us also, and let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.

Assembly **Glory to you for ever and ever.**

Presider Pour out your Spirit upon the whole earth and make it your new creation. Gather your Church together from the ends of the earth into your kingdom, where peace and justice are revealed, that we, with all your people, of every language, race, and nation, may share the banquet you have promised. Through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ, all honor and glory are yours, creator of all.

All **AMEN.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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 power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.**

In silence, the Presider breaks the consecrated bread.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Presider Christ our passover is sacrificed for us.

Assembly **Therefore let us keep the feast.**

Presider Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,

All **have mercy on us.**

Presider Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,

All **have mercy on us.**

Presider Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,

All **grant us peace.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Presider The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

All seeking God are welcome at Christ's Table.

If you need communion brought to your seat, please let any of the liturgical ministers know.

Rice wafers for those who do not eat wheat are available; simply ask for one at the time of communion.

- ◆ *You are welcome to stand or kneel to receive communion.*
- ◆ *Hold out your hand to receive the bread and then eat. Guide the chalice of wine to your mouth and then drink.*
- ◆ *Intinction (dipping the bread in the wine) is not available at this time.*
- ◆ *To receive a blessing instead of the bread or wine, simply cross your arms over your chest.*

All stand, as able.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

The Book of Common Prayer (1979), p. 366

Presider Almighty and everliving God,
All we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food
of the most precious Body and Blood
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ;
and for assuring us in these holy mysteries
that we are living members of the Body of your Son,
and heirs of your eternal kingdom.
And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do,
to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord.
To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

BLESSING

The Presider asks God's blessing upon the Assembly. All respond: Amen.
The ministers depart in silent procession. All remain standing until the dismissal.

DISMISSAL

Presider Let us bless the Lord.
Assembly Thanks be to God.

MINISTERS OF THE LITURGY

PRESIDER

The Rev. Adam Conley

PREACHER

The Very Rev. Steven L. Thomason

ASSISTING LAY MINISTER

Karen Petersen

USHER

John Weintraub

LECTOR

Phyllis MacCameron

SACRISTAN

David Poortinga

CANTOR

Canon Michael Kleinschmidt

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SAINT MARK'S
EPISCOPAL CATHEDRAL

1245 Tenth Avenue East
Seattle, WA 98102
206-323-0300

WWW.SAINTMARKS.ORG