

*THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE
ASCENSION*



*We believe in sharing love and grace
with God and one another.*

ASH WEDNESDAY

February 18, 2026

The Rt. Rev. Dr. Glenda Curry, Bishop of the Diocese of Alabama
The Reverend Candice B. Frazer, Rector
The Reverend David Hall, Interim Associate Rector

The Holy Eucharist for Ash Wednesday

7:00 in the Morning and 12:05 in the Afternoon

All Stand as the Ministers Enter.

THE WORD OF GOD

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The Lessons and Responses

Psalm 103:8-14 (insert)

The Holy Gospel - Matthew 6:1-6,16-21

The Sermon - *The Rev. Candice B. Frazer*

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THE HOLY COMMUNION

Offertory

At the Presentation, Join in Saying

All things come of thee, O Lord

And of thine own have we given thee. Amen.

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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. and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost be upon you and remain with you always. Amen.

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ASH WEDNESDAY

THE COLLECT

Traditional: Almighty and everlasting God, who hatest nothing that thou hast made and dost forgive the sins of all those 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 thee, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen.*

THE FIRST READING ISAIAH 58:1-12

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

When Shout out, do not hold back!

Lift up your voice like a trumpet!

Announce to my people their rebellion,
to the house of Jacob their sins.

Yet day after day they seek me
and delight to know my ways,
as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness
and did not forsake the ordinance of their God;

they ask of me righteous judgments,
they delight to draw near to God.

"Why do we fast, but you do not see?
Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?"
Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day,
and oppress all your workers.

Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight
and to strike with a wicked fist.
Such fasting as you do today
will not make your voice heard on high.

Is such the fast that I choose,
a day to humble oneself?
Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush,
and to lie in sackcloth and ashes?

Will you call this a fast,
a day acceptable to the Lord?

Is not this the fast that I choose:
 to loose the bonds of injustice,
 to undo the thongs of the yoke,

to let the oppressed go free,
 and to break every yoke?
Is it not to share your bread with the hungry,
 and bring the homeless poor into your house;

when you see the naked, to cover them,
 and not to hide yourself from your own kin?
Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,
 and your healing shall spring up quickly;

your vindicator shall go before you,
 the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard.
Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer;
 you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am.

If you remove the yoke from among you,
 the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,
if you offer your food to the hungry
 and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,

then your light shall rise in the darkness
 and your gloom be like the noonday.
The Lord will guide you continually,
 and satisfy your needs in parched places,
 and make your bones strong;

and you shall be like a watered garden,
 like a spring of water,
 whose waters never fail.
Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt;
 you shall raise up the foundations of many generations;
you shall be called the repairer of the breach,
 the restorer of streets to live in.

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People Thanks be to God.

PSALM 103:8-14 *Benedic, anima mea*Thomas Dupuis
(1733-1796)

8 The Lord is full of com- / passion • and / mercy, *
slow to / anger and • of / **great** / kindness.

9 He will not / always • ac- / cuse us, *
nor will he / keep his / anger • for / ever.

10 He has not dealt with us ac- / cording to • our / sins, *
nor rewarded us ac- / cord - ing / to our / wickedness.

11 For as the heavens are high a- / bove the / earth, *
so is his mercy great upon / those who / **fear** / him.

12 As far as the east is / from the / west, *
so far has he re- / moved our / sins from / us.

13 As a father / cares for • his / children, *
so does the Lord / care for / those who / fear / him.

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

SECOND READING 2 CORINTHIANS 5:20B-6:10*A reading from Paul's second letter to the Corinthians.*

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 The Word of the Lord.
People Thanks be to God.

THE GOSPEL MATTHEW 6:1-6, 16-21

Celebrant: The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.
People: Glory be to thee, O Lord.

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."

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord.
People: Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

The Holy Eucharist for Ash Wednesday

5:30 in the Evening

All Stand as the Ministers Enter the Chancel

THE WORD OF GOD

Salutation and Collect of the Day	264
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The Lessons and Responses

The First Lesson - Isaiah 58:1-12	
Psalm 103:8-14 (<i>See insert</i>)	
The Second Lesson - 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10	
Sequence Hymn 142 <i>Lord, who through out these forty days (St. Flavain)</i>	
The Holy Gospel - Matthew 6:1-6,16-21	
The Sermon - <i>The Rev. Candice B. Frazer</i>	

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Imposition of Ashes	265
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Psalm 51 (<i>kneeling</i>)	266
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Litany of Penitence	267
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The Peace	
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THE HOLY COMMUNION

Offertory Anthem: <i>Drop, drop, slow tears</i> (S. B. Owens)	
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At the Presentation, Join in Saying	
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*All things come of thee, O Lord
And of thine own have we given thee. Amen.*

The Great Thanksgiving (Prayer I)	333
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Sanctus (Hymnal S 114)	
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Lord's Prayer	336
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The Breaking of the Bread	337
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Agnus Dei (S158) (Willan)	
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Prayer of Humble Access	337
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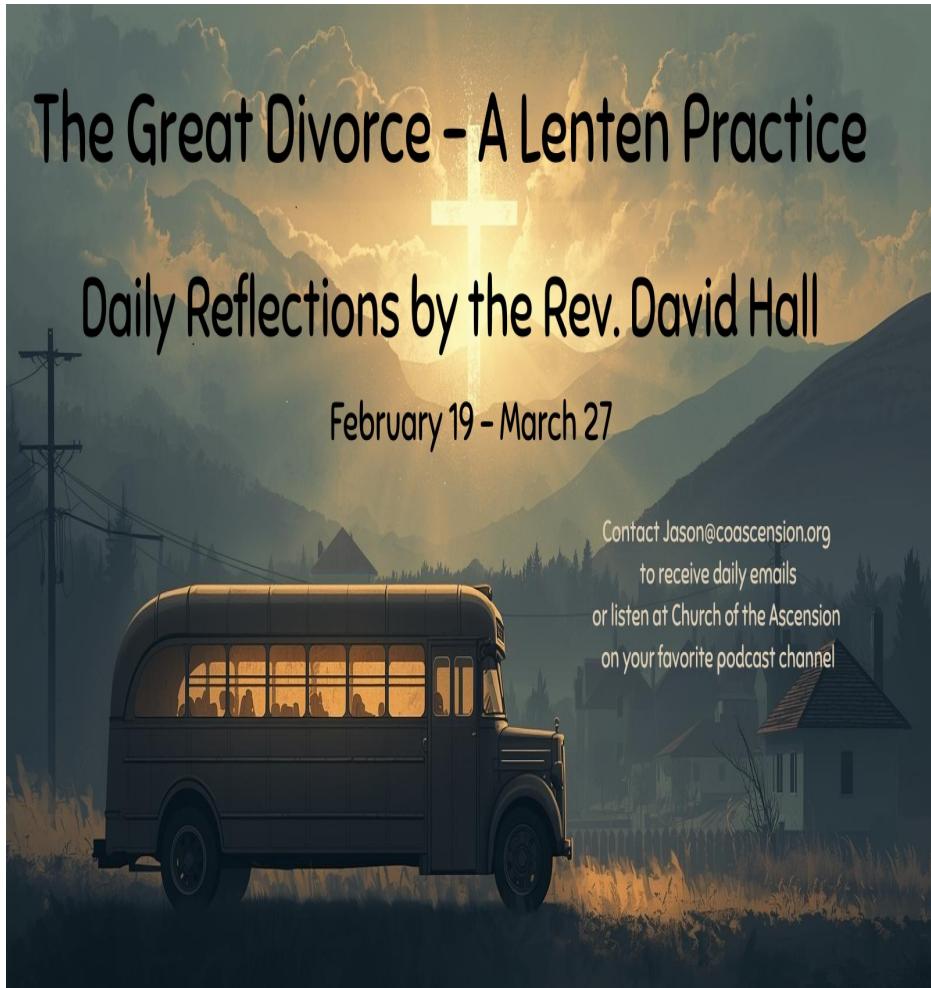
Communion Anthem	
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<i>Bless the Lord, O my soul</i> (A. Crouch)	
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Postcommunion Prayer and Blessing	339
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Hymn 143 <i>The glory of these forty days</i>	(<i>Erhalt uns Herr</i>)
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Dismissal	
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