

St. Andrews Presbyterian Church

God is at home, it's we who
have gone out for a walk.

Meister Eckhart

“ quotefoncy

February 18, 2026

Ash Wednesday

February 18, 2026

12:00 PM

ORDER OF WORSHIP

THE GATHERING

The congregation gathers in silence, helping to create an atmosphere of reverence and awe in anticipation of the worship of God.

CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive)

Liturgist

Let us worship God.

God sent Christ into the world not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him.

God's love endures forever.

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea; though the waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

God's love bears all things, believes all things,

hopes all things, endures all things.

In the distance we hear a cheering crowd.

Beyond, we see the dark shadow of the cross.

Grant us courage, O God,

Send your Spirit to walk beside us.

PRAYER OF THE DAY (Responsive)

In quiet trust, in simple words, we enter a space of prayer. The door to God's heart is open as we open ourselves to God's grace and mercy. Let us pray, first in silence and then together:

(silence)

Almighty God, you despise nothing you have made and you forgive the sins of all who trust in you. Create in us new and contrite hearts, that truly repenting of our sins, and acknowledging our brokenness, we may receive from you, the God of all mercy, full pardon and forgiveness; through your Son, Jesus Christ our redeemer, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

*HYMN 470

"There Is a Longing in Our Hearts"

LONGING

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Liturgist

prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us,

accept our repentance, O God.

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

accept our repentance, O God.

Restore us, O God, and let your anger depart from us.

Favorably hear us, O God, for your mercy is great.

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

(You are invited to come to the chancel so that ashes may be imposed on your forehead, symbolizing an awareness of our humanity and the need for God's grace. After receiving the ashes, please gather around the communion table in a circle where we will partake of a common loaf and cup through the ancient practice of intinction: the dipping of a generous portion of bread into the cup.)

THE EUCHARIST

The Invitation to the Table

The Prayer of Great Thanksgiving and the Lord's Prayer

The Words of Institution

The Sharing of the Meal

Communion Hymn 227 "Jesus, Remember Me" Berthier

Jesus, remember me when You come into Your kingdom.

Jesus, remember me when You come into Your kingdom.

The Prayer after Communion

THE SENDING

*BENEDICTION

(The Congregation departs in silence.)

The Meaning and Symbols of Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday begins the season of Lent with a public act of confession.

Acknowledging that we have all sinned and fallen short of God's glory, we repent and return to our loving Creator. Acutely aware of our failure and frailty, we express our utter reliance on God's saving grace.

Ash Wednesday developed in the medieval period as a time when penitent sinners were presented for church discipline during the season of Lent, to be reconciled with the community of faith on Maundy Thursday. Ash Wednesday also became the occasion for new believers to enroll in the catechumenate for a period of preparation before baptism at Easter. For those who undertake spiritual disciplines, Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the Lenten fast.

Ashes are an ancient symbol of repentance, sorrow and sacrifice. The ashes for this service are made from the palm branches of the previous year; thus, the ashes and palms together frame the season of Lent.

PARTICIPANTS IN WORSHIP

The Rev. Dr. Anne Hébert, Pastor
Bonnie Garbrecht, Liturgist
Michael Beery, Director of Music Ministry
Melissa Havlin, Communion Preparer
Barb Newman, Usher
Polly Mauer, Pianist
The Chancel Choir