



CHRIST'S CHURCH  
CATHEDRAL  
HAMILTON ONTARIO

HOLY EUCHARIST  
ASH WEDNESDAY  
FEBRUARY 18, 2026  
11:30AM



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

*The people's responses are in **bold**.*

**Territorial Acknowledgement**

We acknowledge that we gather today on the lands occupied by the Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe nations at the time of the creation of the "Dish with One Spoon" wampum agreement. We honour and respect these nations and commit ourselves to walk together gently upon this land.



## The Gathering of the Community

*When the service is accompanied by music, it often begins with an instrumental or vocal piece of music during which the congregation can prepare for worship.*

GATHERING MUSIC                      Chorale Prelude 'The One Who Lets God Rule'                      JS Bach

### WORDS OF WELCOME

PROCESSIONAL HYMN                      Dear God, Compassionate and Kind                      CP#455

*We begin our worship together in community by praising God in song.*

1 Dear God, compassionate and kind,  
forgive our foolish ways.  
Re-clothe us in our rightful mind,  
in purer lives thy service find,  
in deeper reverence, praise,  
in deeper reverence, praise.

2 In simple trust like theirs who heard,  
beside the Syrian sea,  
the gracious calling of the Lord,  
let us, like them, without a word,  
rise up and follow thee,  
rise up and follow thee!

3 O Sabbath rest by Galilee!  
O calm of hills above,  
where Jesus knelt to share with thee  
the silence of eternity  
interpreted by love,  
interpreted by love!

4 Drop thy still dews of quietness,  
till all our strivings cease;  
take from our souls the strain and stress,  
and let our ordered lives confess  
the beauty of thy peace,  
the beauty of thy peace.

5 Breathe through the heats of our desire  
thy coolness and thy balm;  
let sense be dumb, let flesh retire;  
speak through the earthquake, wind, and fire,  
O still, small voice of calm,  
O still, small voice of calm.

### THE OPENING ACCLAMATION

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**

## THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

*The collect is the prayer appointed for each day that "collects" or brings out the theme of the day or season of the Church year. It summarizes God's attributes as shown in the scriptures for the day.*

Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, you despise 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 brokenness, 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.**

## The Proclamation of the Word

### THE FIRST READING

Isaiah 58.1-12

*This reading is typically from the Hebrew Scriptures which Jesus knew and from which he often referred or quoted.*

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah.

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 want God on their side.

"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.

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 straps 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.

Holy Wisdom, Holy Word.

**Thanks be to God.**

THE PSALM

Psalm 103.8-18

*The psalms are prayers Jesus used which explore humanity's relationship with God and one another.*

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.**

15 Our days are like the grass; \*  
**we flourish like a flower of the field;**

16 when the wind goes over it, it is gone, \*  
**and its place shall know it no more.**

17 But your merciful goodness endures for ever on those who fear you, \*  
**and your righteousness on children's children;**

18 on those who keep the covenant \*  
**and remember the commandments and do them.**

THE SECOND READING

2 Corinthians 5.20b – 6.10

*This reading, taken from the New Testament, is typically from a letter (epistle) to the early Church, the Acts of the Apostles, or the Revelation of John.*

A reading from Paul's Second Letter to the Corinthians.

We entreat you on behalf of Christ: be reconciled to God. For our sake God made the one who knew no sin to be sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. As we work together with him, we entreat 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.”

Look, now is the acceptable time; look, 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: in great endurance, afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, riots, labours, sleepless nights, hunger; in 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 honour and dishonour, 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 look—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.

Holy Wisdom, Holy Word.

**Thanks be to God.**

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 6.1-6,16-21

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

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

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

Jesus said to his 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.”

The Gospel of Christ.

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

#### THE SERMON

The Reverend Monica Romig Green

*The sermon directly follows the Gospel because it is to be grounded in the scriptures. It illuminates the scriptural readings and relates them to daily life. The Sermon is followed by a period of silence for reflection.*

#### THE IMPOSITION OF ASHES

Dear friends in Christ, every year at the time of the Christian Passover we celebrate our redemption through the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. Lent is a time to prepare for this celebration and to renew our life in the paschal mystery.

We begin this holy season by remembering our need for repentance, and for the mercy and forgiveness proclaimed in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

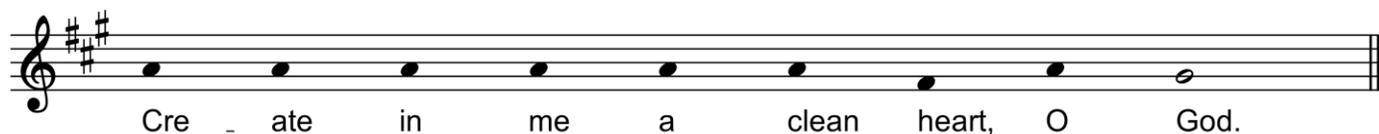
We begin our journey to Easter with the sign of ashes, an ancient sign, speaking of the frailty and uncertainty of human life, and marking the penitence of the community as a whole.

I invite you therefore in the name of the Lord, to observe a holy Lent by self examination, penitence, prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, and by reading and meditating on the word of God.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

## PSALM 51.1-18

*Please repeat the response after the cantor and after each verse.*



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.

**Create in me a clean heart, O God.**

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.

**Create in me a clean heart, O God.**

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

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

**Create in me a clean heart, O God.**

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.

**Create in me a clean heart, O God.**

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.**

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.

**Create in me a clean heart, O God.**

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.

**Create in me a clean heart, O God.**

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.

**Create in me a clean heart, O God.**

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.

**Create in me a clean heart, O God.**

## THE LITANY OF PENITENCE

**Most holy and merciful Father, we confess to you, 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.**

*The presider continues,*

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

**Have mercy on us, Lord.**

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.

**Have mercy on us, Lord.**

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

**We confess to you, Lord.**

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

**We confess to you, Lord.**

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

**We confess to you, Lord.**

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

**We confess to you, Lord.**

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

**We confess to you, Lord.**

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,

**Accept our repentance, Lord.**

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

**Accept our repentance, Lord.**

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

**Accept our repentance, Lord.**

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

**Hear us, Lord, for your mercy is great.**

Almighty God, from the dust of the earth you have created us. May these ashes be for us a sign of our mortality and penitence, and a reminder that only by your gracious gift are we given eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*Those who desire to receive ashes come forward, and the ashes are applied to the forehead of each person with the following words.*

Remember you are dust, and to dust you shall return.

*After all who desire ashes have received them, the celebrant continues,*

Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation, that we may show forth your glory in the world. By the cross and passion of your Son, our Lord, bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.

**Amen.**

## THE PEACE

*The community stands for the Peace.*

Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given us access to his grace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**And also with you.**

## The Celebration of the Eucharist

### THE OFFERTORY

*At the offertory we gratefully offer back some of what God has given us, symbolically in the elements, and in our contributions towards the work of the church. Donations to the mission of the Cathedral can be made via PayPal, using the QR code here.*



### OFFERTORY HYMN

Lord Jesus, Think on Me

CP#511

1 Lord Jesus, think on me  
and purge away my sin:  
from earth-born passions set me free  
and make me pure within.

2 Lord Jesus, think on me,  
with many a care oppressed;  
let me thy loving servant be  
and taste thy promised rest.

3 Lord Jesus, think on me,  
nor let me go astray;  
through darkness and perplexity  
point thou the heavenly way.

4 Lord Jesus, think on me,  
that, when the flood is past,  
I may the eternal brightness see  
and share thy joy at last.

5 Lord Jesus, think on me,  
that I may sing above  
to Father, Holy Ghost, and thee  
the songs of praise and love.

## PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Let us pray.

Merciful God, turn us from sin to faithfulness. Accept our offering, and prepare us to celebrate the death and resurrection of Christ our Saviour, who is alive and reigns with you now and for ever. **Amen.**

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

*In the Great Thanksgiving, we do what Jesus himself asked us to do: thank God and recall all that God has done for us in the life, death, and resurrection of Christ. The Great Thanksgiving, or Eucharistic Prayer, is a long prayer with four parts. Each of these four parts corresponds to a different action of Jesus at the Last Supper, where he took, blessed, broke, and gave bread and wine as sacraments of his body and blood. We begin the Great Thanksgiving with the Sursum corda, meaning "Lift up your hearts."*

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of heaven and earth, because you bid your faithful people to cleanse their hearts and to prepare with joy for the paschal feast; that reborn through the waters of baptism and renewed in the eucharistic mystery, we may be more fervent in prayer and more generous in the works of love. Therefore we raise our voices to you in praise to proclaim the glory of your name.

**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.**

We give thanks to you, Lord our God, for the goodness and love you have made known to us in creation in calling Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh Jesus your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Saviour and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, a death he freely accepted, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it and gave it to his disciples and said, "Take eat: this is my body which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them and said, "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. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, Father, according to his command,  
**we remember his death, we proclaim his resurrection, we await his coming in glory;**

and we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts, that they may be the sacrament of the body of Christ and his blood of the new covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we, made acceptable in him, may be sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

In the fullness of time, reconcile all things, in Christ, and make them new, and bring us to that city of light, where you dwell with all your children, through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and author of our salvation; by whom and with whom and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour, and glory are yours, Almighty Father, now and forever. **Amen.**

#### THE LORD'S PRAYER

*We pray together the prayer that Jesus taught his disciples to pray. The link between our daily bread and the spiritual food we receive in the Eucharist is an ancient connection.*

As our Saviour taught us, let us pray,

**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 forever. Amen.**

#### THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

We break this bread,

**Communion in Christ's body once broken.**

Let your Church be the wheat which bears its fruit in dying.

**If we have died with him, we shall live with him; if we hold firm, we shall reign with him.**

#### THE COMMUNION

The gifts of God for the People of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

## The Sending Forth of the Community

#### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

God of compassion, through your Son Jesus Christ you reconciled your people to yourself. Following his example of prayer and fasting, may we obey you with willing hearts and serve one another in holy love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Glory to God,

**whose power working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine. Glory to God from generation to generation, in the Church and in Christ Jesus, for ever and ever. Amen.**

#### THE BLESSING

Christ give you grace to grow in holiness, to deny yourselves, take up your cross, and follow him; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN

Lead Us, Heavenly Father, Lead Us

CP#564

1 Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us  
o'er the world's tempestuous sea;  
guard us, guide us, keep us, feed us, for we  
have no help but thee;  
yet possessing every blessing  
if our God our Father be.

2 Saviour, breathe forgiveness o'er us;  
all our weakness thou dost know;  
thou didst tread this earth before us,  
thou didst feel its keenest woe;  
lone and dreary, faint and weary,  
through the desert thou didst go.

3 Spirit of our God, descending,  
fill our hearts with heavenly joy,  
love with every passion blending,  
pleasure that can never cloy;  
thus provided, pardoned, guided,  
nothing can our peace destroy.

THE DISMISSAL

Go in peace, to love and serve the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

Pavana

William Byrd

**PERMISSIONS**

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The Reverend Monica Romig Green, Priest Associate

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