



CHRIST'S CHURCH  
CATHEDRAL  
HAMILTON ONTARIO

CHORAL EUCHARIST  
ASH WEDNESDAY  
FEBRUARY 18, 2026  
7:00PM



*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

Lullaby

Louis Vierne

WORDS OF WELCOME

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Come, Let Us to the Lord Our God

CP#607

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

1 Come, let us to the Lord our God  
with contrite hearts return.  
Our God is gracious, nor will leave  
the desolate to mourn.

4 Our hearts, if God we seek to know,  
shall know him, and rejoice;  
his coming like the morn shall be,  
like morning songs his voice.

2 His voice commands the tempest forth  
and stills the stormy wave;  
and though his arm be strong to smite,  
'tis also strong to save.

5 As dew upon the tender herb,  
diffusing fragrance round;  
as showers that usher in the spring,  
and cheer the thirsty ground,

3 Long hath the night of sorrow reigned;  
the dawn shall bring us light.  
God shall appear, and we shall rise  
with gladness in his sight.

6 so shall his presence bless our souls  
and shed a joyful light.  
That hallowed morn shall chase away  
the sorrows of the night.

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 holy God, your Son, in obedience to the Spirit, fasted forty days in the desert: give us grace to discipline ourselves, so that we may press on towards Easter with eager faith and love; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

# The Proclamation of the Word

## THE FIRST READING

Isaiah 58.1-12

*This reading is typically from the Old Testament (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 Lord are full of com/passion · and / mercy, \*  
slow to / anger · and / of great / kindness.
- 9 You will not / always · ac/cuse us, \*  
nor will you / keep your / anger · for / ever.
- 10 You have not dealt with us ac/cording · to our / sins, \*  
nor rewarded us ac/cording / to our / wickedness.
- 11 For as the heavens are / high a·bove the / earth, \*  
so is your mercy / great up·on / those who / fear you.

- 12 As far as the east is / from the / west, \*  
so far have you re/moved our / sin 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 re/member · that / we are · but / dust.
- 15 Our days are / like the / grass; \*  
we flourish like a / flower / of the / field;
- 16 (2<sup>nd</sup> part) 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 re/member · the com/mandments · 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.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Repeat after the Choir and after the verse.*

Praise to you, O Lord, King of e \_ ter \_ nal glo \_ ry.

If today you hear his voice, \* harden not your hearts.

## 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 Dean

*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.

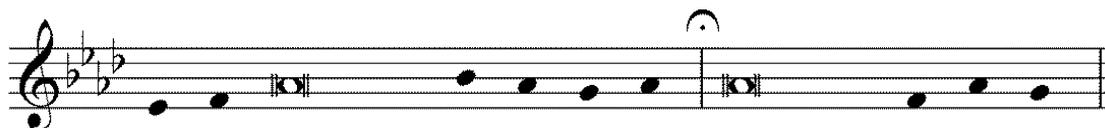
We begin this holy season by remembering our need for repentance, and for the mercy and forgiveness proclaimed in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

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



Cantor      *Have mer-cy on me, O God, according to your **loving-kindness**; \*  
in your great compassion blot out **my of-fenses**.*

People Wash me through and **through** from my wickedness \*  
and cleanse me **from** my sin.

Choir For I **know** my trans-gressions, \*  
and my sin is **ever** be-fore me.

People Against you **on-ly** have I sinned \*  
and done what is evil **in** your sight.

Cantor And so you are **justi**-fied when you speak \*  
and upright **in** your judgement.

People Indeed, I have been **wick**-ed from my birth, \*  
a sinner from my **moth**-er's womb.

Choir For behold, you look for truth **deep** within me, \*  
and will make me understand **wis**-dom secretly.

People Purge me from my sin and I shall be pure; \*  
wash me and I shall be **clean** indeed.

Cantor Make me hear of **joy** and gladness, \*  
that the body you have broken **may** rejoice.

People Hide your **face** from my sins, \*  
and blot out all **my** in-iquities.

Choir Create in me a **clean** heart O God, \*  
and renew a right **spirit** with-in me.

People Cast me not a-**way** from your presence \*  
and take not your holy **Spir**-it from me.

Cantor Give me the joy of your **sav**-ing help a-gain \*  
and sustain me with your **bounti**-ful Spirit.

People I shall teach your **ways** to the wicked, \*  
and sinners shall re-**turn** to you.

Choir Deliver me **from** death O God, \*  
and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness, O God of **my** sal-vation.

People Open **my** lips O Lord, \*  
and my mouth shall pro-**claim** your praise.

Cantor Had you desired it, I would **have** of-fer'd sacrifice,\*  
but you take no delight **in** burnt-offerings.

People The sacrifice of God is a trou-bled spirit;\*  
a broken and contrite heart O God you will **not** despise.

## 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

O for a Closer Walk with God

CP#556

1 O for a closer walk with God,  
a calm and heavenly frame,  
a light to shine upon the road  
that leads me to the Lamb.

3 Return, O holy Dove, return,  
sweet messenger of rest:  
I hate the sins that made thee mourn  
and drove thee from my breast.

2 What peaceful hours I once enjoyed!  
How sweet their memory still!  
But they have left an aching void  
the world can never fill.

4 The dearest idol I have known,  
whate'er that idol be,  
help me to tear it from thy throne  
and worship only thee.

5 So shall my walk be close with God,  
calm and serene my frame;  
so purer light shall mark the road  
that leads me to the Lamb.

## 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.

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,  
hea - ven and earth are full of your glo - ry.  
Ho - san - na in the high - est.  
Blest is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Ho - san - na in the high - est.

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.**

## LAMB OF GOD

Lamb of God, you take a way the sin of the world: have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take a way the sin of the world: have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take a way the sin of the world: grant us peace.

MUSIC AT COMMUNION      Agnus Dei

Thomas Morley

Lamb of God, who take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.

## 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

Giver of the Perfect Gift

CP#180

1 Giver of the perfect gift,  
only hope of human race,  
hear the prayer our hearts uplift,  
trembling at thy throne of grace.

3 Who can save us, Lord, but thou?  
Let thy mercy show thy power.  
Lo, we plead thy promise now,  
Now, in this the accepted hour.

2 Though the accusing voice within  
speaks of many a wrong to thee,  
thou canst cleanse from every sin;  
thou canst set the conscience free.

4 Oh! May these our Lenten days,  
blest by thee, with thee be passed,  
that with purer, nobler praise  
we may keep they feast at last.

5 God the holy Trinity,  
grant the mercy we implore;  
God the One, all praise to thee  
Through the ages evermore.

THE DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE

Canzona (2<sup>nd</sup> part)

JS Bach

**PERMISSIONS**

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## **PARTICIPANTS**

### **PRESIDER**

The Very Reverend Tim Dobbin

### **PREACHER**

The Reverend Monica Romig Green

## **THE CHOIR OF CHRIST'S CHURCH CATHEDRAL**

### **DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRIES**

Bruce Burbidge

### **GREETERS**

Nancy Corman and David Savage

### **LECTORS**

Susanne Prue and Sue Crowe Connolly

### **COMMUNION MINISTERS**

Rena Woods, David Savage and Louise van Woelderen

### **VERGER**

Jim Ferguson

### **SOUND & LIVESTREAM**

Turner Shaw

### **HEAD SERVER**

Randy Woods