

# Ash Wednesday

February 18, 2026

11:30am



**St. Peter's Episcopal Church**

1317 Queen Emma Street

Honolulu, HI 96813

Tel: (808)533-1943

[www.stpetershonolulu.org](http://www.stpetershonolulu.org)

*The service begins in silence. Please stand.*

*Presider:* Blessed be the God of our salvation:  
*People:* **Who bears our burdens and forgives our sins.**  
*Presider:* God be with you  
*People:* **And also with you**

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. **Amen.**

## **The First Reading**

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

1 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—  
2 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.  
12 Yet even now, says the Lord,  
    return to me with all your heart,  
with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;  
    13 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.  
14 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?  
15 Blow the trumpet in Zion;  
    sanctify a fast;  
call a solemn assembly;  
    16 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.  
17 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?' "  
Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm 103:8-14** *(The Congregation is invited to respond with the verses in bold.)*

- 8 The Lord is full of compassion and mercy,  
slow to anger and of great kindness.
- 9 He will not always accuse us,  
nor will he keep his anger for ever.**
- 10 He has 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 his mercy great upon those who fear him.**
- 12 As far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed 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.

### **The Second 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,

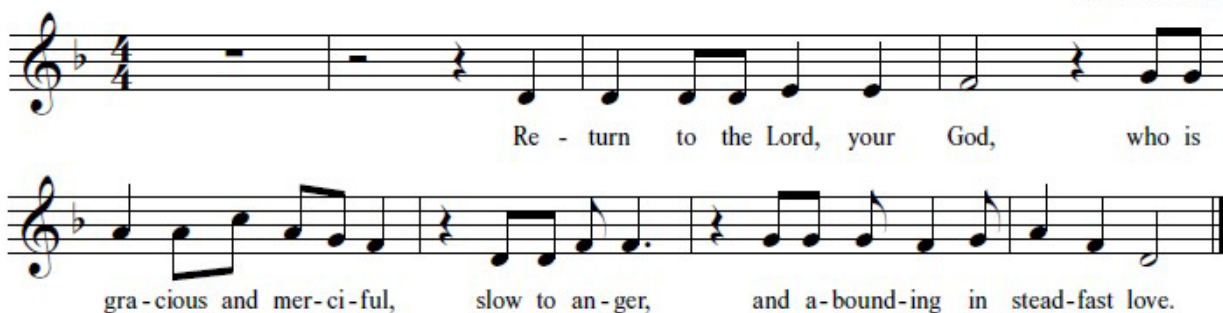
sleepless nights, hunger; by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet 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.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

**Thanks be to God.**

Sung before the Gospel:

David Schack



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, who is  
gra-cious and mer-ci-ful, slow to an-ger, and a-bound-ing in stead-fast love.

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## The Holy Gospel

**Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21**

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

### 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.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Sung after the Gospel:

David Schack

Re - turn to the Lord, your God, who is  
gra - cious and mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

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## The Homily

Pastor Ruth

### The Invitation

*All stand. The people are invited to the observance of a holy Lent:*

Dear 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 (*as we are able*) before the Lord, our maker and redeemer.

*All may kneel or be seated.  
Silence is kept.*

## **The Imposition of Ashes**

### **Prayer**

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.  
**Amen.**

*The people are invited to come forward to receive the ashes. The ashes are imposed with the following words:*

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

**Psalm 51** *Presider and People:*

**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.**

**Litany of Penitence**

*The Presider and People together: (You may kneel.)*

**Most holy and merciful Father:**

**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.**

*The Presider continues:*

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.

*People: **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.

*People: **Have mercy on us, Lord.***

We confess to you, Lord, all our past unfaithfulness:

the pride, hypocrisy, and impatience of our lives,

*People: **We confess to you, Lord.***

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

*People: **We confess to you, Lord.***

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

*People: **We confess to you, Lord.***

Our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts,

and our dishonesty in daily life and work,

*People: **We confess to you, Lord.***

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

*People: **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,

*People: **Accept our repentance, Lord.***

For all false judgments, for uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors,

and for our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us,

*People: Accept our repentance, Lord.*

For our waste and pollution of your creation,

and our lack of concern for those who come after us,

*People: Accept our repentance, Lord.*

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

*People: Favorably hear us, for your mercy is great.*

Accomplish in us the work of your salvation,

*People: That we may show forth your glory in the world.*

By the cross and passion of your Son our Lord,

*People: Bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.*

*The Presider speaks to the congregation:*

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 his 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 his holy Gospel.

Therefore we beseech God to grant us true repentance and the Holy Spirit, that we may do those things that are pleasing to God this day, and that the rest of our life hereafter may be pure and holy, so that at the last we may come to his eternal joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### **The Peace**

*Presider:* The peace of Christ be always with you.

*People:* **And also with you.**

### **Offertory Hymn**

*Forgive our sins as we forgive*

**Hymnal 1982, #674**

## **The Liturgy of the Eucharist**

*Celebrant:* The Lord be with you.

*People:* **And also with you.**

*Celebrant:* Lift up your hearts.

*People:* **We lift them to the Lord.**

*Celebrant:* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

*Celebrant:* It is truly right, and good and joyful, to give you thanks, all-holy God, source of life and fountain of mercy. You have filled us and all creation with your blessing and fed us with your constant love; you have redeemed us in Jesus Christ and knit us into one body. Through your Spirit you replenish us and call us to fullness of life. In place of the preceding, Therefore, joining with Angels and Archangels and with the faithful of every generation, we lift our voices with all creation as we say:

*Presider and People*

**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.**

*The people stand or kneel. The Presider continues*

Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of the universe and giver of life.....Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

Remembering his death and resurrection, we now present to you from your creation this bread and this wine. By your Holy Spirit may they be for us the Body and Blood of our Savior Jesus Christ. Grant that we who share these gifts may be filled with the Holy Spirit and live as Christ's Body in the world. Bring us into the everlasting heritage of your daughters and sons, that with all your saints, past, present, and yet to come, we may praise your Name for ever. Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever.  
**Amen.**

Teach us to pray as our Lord taught:

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name,  
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread.**

**And forgive us our trespasses,**

**as we forgive those who trespass against us.**

**And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen**

**The Breaking of the Bread**

We break this bread  
to share in the Body of Christ.

**We who are many are one body,  
for we all share in the one bread.**

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.

**Post Communion Prayer** (*Standing or kneeling*)

*Presider* Let us pray.

**Loving God, we give you thanks for restoring us in your image and nourishing us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood. Now send us forth a people, forgiven, healed, renewed; that we may proclaim your love to the world and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen**

### **The Benediction**

Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity:  
God, who calls all things into existence,  
Jesus Christ, who redeems us,  
and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation,  
✠ bless you now and always. Amen.

### **Recessional Hymn**

*Abide with me*

**Hymnal 1982, #662**

*Leave in silence when you are ready.*

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### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Lenten "Mite" Offerings** - During this season of Lent, we invite you to collect coins and bills for deposit in the large Lenten jar that will be in the sanctuary each Sunday or to collect your offerings at home and return it by Easter Sunday. These Lenten offerings will be sent to Pacific Health Ministry. Through your support, hospital chaplains provide compassionate spiritual care to patients, families, and healthcare staff in moments of crisis, uncertainty, illness, and suffering. Chaplains inspire hope in hospitals and care settings on Oahu, Kauai, and Maui. Mahalo for embodying Aloha through your faithful giving and partnership in this healing ministry.

**Special service every Tuesday in Lent, Holden Evening Prayer followed by  
Contemplative Prayer, 6:00pm in the Sanctuary**

## **WORSHIP ON THE SQUARE FOR LENT**

During the Season of Lent, there will be a variety of special worship and educational experiences for the members and friends of St. Peter's, St. Paul's and the Cathedral of St. Andrews.

At St. Peter's, Holden Evening Prayer is a unique and meditative Vesper's service composed by Marty Haugen, perfect for the season of Lent. It emphasizes themes of peace, justice, and the presence of God in daily life, while featuring call-and-response, prayers for healing, and a focus on community.

On Wednesdays, St. Paul's will hold a special worship for the veneration of the Blessed Virgin Mother.

On Thursdays in Lent, Dean Heather from the Cathedral will release a quick message and Thoughtful Thursday question to help guide participants in the Cathedral's Lent book group called: "Lewis in Lent: The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe". Pick up a copy of this classic, read along, read aloud, read among friends on the Square! A special in-person gathering or two may be planned along the way ~~ with this being a digital offering, you can participate whenever it works for you!

AND whether you have read through the book, plan on gathering in the Von Holt Room at the Cathedral on Friday, April 9, 6:30pm for movie night – Together we will watch the 2005 Disney version of "The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe" – complete with popcorn and concession snacks! All are most welcome!

**Bible Study, Wednesdays, 10:00am, by ZOOM**  
Study of the Bible readings for the coming Sunday  
Contact Pastor Ruth for the link.

**Lenten Jazz Vespers, 6:00pm**  
*Join us during Lent on Thursday evenings*  
February 19, 26, March 5, 12, 19, 26

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**Ministers**

The Rev. Ruth Peterson, Presider  
Dr. Joseph Eppink, Organist

Lectors:	Sim Kau, Stephanie Wight
Eucharistic Minister:	Cheryl Bochentin
Live-Streaming:	Maiesha Stovall-Nakoa
Usher/Greeter:	Stephanie Wight

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