

# Solemn High Mass

ASH WEDNESDAY

February 18, 2026 7 p.m.



*Welcome to Atonement. We hope you will participate fully in today's service, as you feel comfortable. Customary times to stand, kneel, and sit are indicated by italic type. Words spoken by the people are indicated by bold type. Hymns can be found by number in the blue hymnal in the pewbacks.*

*The Mass Ordinary is "Communion Service on Russian Themes"  
by Arthur Hutchings (1906–1989)*

## THE VOLUNTARY

*O Mensch beweine dein' Sünde groß*

J.S. Bach (1685–1750)

*When the bell rings, please stand, as able.*

## THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

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 WORD OF GOD

*The People sit for the readings from scripture.*

## THE FIRST READING

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

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—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. Yet even now, says the Lord, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; 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. 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?

Blow the trumpet in Zion; sanctify a fast; call a solemn assembly; 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. 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?'"

The Word of the Lord.  
Thanks be to God.

*The Choir sings*

THE PSALM • 103:8–14

*Benedic, anima mea*

Setting: Ivor Atkins (1869–1953)

The Lord is full of compassion and mercy, long-suffering, and of great goodness. He will not always be chiding; neither keepeth he his anger for ever. He hath not dealt with us after our sins; nor rewarded us according to our wickednesses. For look how high the heaven is in comparison of the earth; so great is his mercy also toward them that fear him. Look how wide also the east is from the west; so far hath he set our sins from us. Yea, like as a father pitieth his own children; even so is the Lord merciful unto them that fear him. For he knoweth whereof we are made; he remembereth 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.

The Word of the Lord.  
Thanks be to God.

*Please stand, as able, for*

THE TRACT

O Lord, deal not with us after our sins: nor reward us according to our wickednesses. O Lord, remember not our old sins, but have mercy upon us, and that soon: For we are come to great misery. Help us, O God of our salvation, for the glory of thy Name, O Lord: O deliver us and be merciful unto our sins, for thy Name's sake.

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 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.**

THE SERMON

The Rev'd Charles Everson  
*Rector*

*The People stand, as able.*

THE INVITATION TO 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 come before the Lord, our maker and redeemer.

*The People kneel, as able.*

Let us pray: 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 IMPOSITION OF ASHES

*As the Choir chants Psalm 51, the People are invited to come to the altar rail for the receiving of ashes.*

## THE PSALM • 51

### *Miserere mei, Deus*

Setting: Josef Rheinberger (1839–1901)

*Miserere mei, Deus: secundum magnam  
misericordiam tuam.  
Et secundum multitudinem miserationum  
tuarum, dele iniquitatem meam.  
Amplius lava me ab iniquitate mea:  
et a peccato meo munda me.  
Quoniam iniquitatem meam ego cognosco:  
et peccatum meum contra me est semper.  
Tibi soli peccavi, et malum coram te feci:  
ut iustificeris in sermonibus tuis,  
et vincas cum iudicaris.  
Ecce enim in iniquitatibus conceptus sum:  
et in peccatis concepit me mater mea.  
Ecce enim veritatem dilexisti: incerta et occulta  
sapientiae tuae manifestasti mihi.  
Asperges me, Domine, hyssopo, et mundabor:  
lavabis me, et super nivem dealbabor.  
Auditui meo dabis gaudium et lætitiā:  
et exsultabunt ossa humiliata.  
Averte faciem tuam a peccatis meis:  
et omnes iniquitates meas dele.  
Cor mundum crea in me, Deus:  
et spiritum rectum innova in visceribus meis.  
Ne proicias me a facie tua:  
et spiritum sanctum tuum ne auferas a me.  
Redde mihi lætitiā salutaris tui:  
et spiritu principali confirma me.  
Docebo iniquos vias tuas: et impii ad te  
convertentur.  
Libera me de sanguinibus, Deus, Deus salutis  
meae: et exsultabit lingua mea iustitiam tuam.  
Domine, labia mea aperies: et os meum  
annuntiabit laudem tuam.  
Quoniam si voluisses sacrificium, dedissem  
utique: holocaustis non delectaberis.  
Sacrificium Deo spiritus contribulatus: cor  
contritum, et humiliatum, Deus, non despicias.  
Benigne fac, Domine, in bona voluntate tua Sion:  
et aedificentur muri Ierusalem.  
Tunc acceptabis sacrificium iustitiæ, oblationes,  
et holocausta: tunc imponent super altare tuum  
vitulos.*

Have mercy upon me, O God,  
according to thy lovingkindness.  
According to the multitude of thy tender mercies blot  
out my transgressions.  
Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity:  
and cleanse me from my sin.  
For I know my transgressions;  
And my sin is ever before me.  
Against thee, thee only, have I sinned,  
And done that which is evil in thy sight;  
That thou mayest be justified when thou speakest,  
And be clear when thou judgest.  
Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity;  
And in sin did my mother conceive me.  
Behold, thou desirest truth in the inward parts; And in  
the hidden part thou wilt make me  
to know wisdom.  
Purify me with hyssop, and I shall be clean:  
Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.  
Make me to hear joy and gladness, That the bones  
which thou hast broken may rejoice.  
Hide thy face from my sins,  
And blot out all mine iniquities.  
Create in me a clean heart, O God;  
And renew a right spirit within me.  
Cast me not away from thy presence;  
And take not thy holy Spirit from me.  
Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation;  
And uphold me with a willing spirit.  
Then will I teach transgressors thy ways;  
And sinners shall be converted unto thee.  
Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God,  
thou God of my salvation;  
And my tongue shall sing aloud of thy righteousness.  
O Lord, open thou my lips;  
And my mouth shall show forth thy praise.  
For thou delightest not in sacrifice; else would I give it:  
Thou hast no pleasure in burnt-offering.  
The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit:  
A broken and contrite heart, O God,  
thou wilt not despise.  
Do good in thy good pleasure unto Zion:  
Build thou the walls of Jerusalem.  
Then will thou delight in the sacrifices of  
righteousness, In burnt-offering and in whole burnt-  
offering: Then will they offer bullocks upon thine altar.

*The People kneel, as able.*

THE LITANY OF PENITENCE

Most holy and merciful God;

**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.**

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.

**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 neighbors, 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;

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

Accomplish in us the work of your salvation,

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

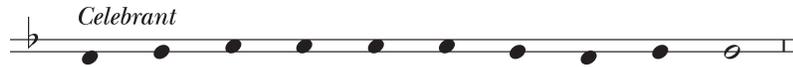
By the cross and passion of your Son our Lord,

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

Almighty God, 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 his people, being penitent, the absolution and remission of their sins. He pardons and absolves all those who truly repent, and with sincere hearts believe his holy Gospel. Therefore we beseech him to grant us true repentance and his Holy Spirit, that those things may please him which we do on 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

*Celebrant*



The peace of the Lord be al - ways with you.

*People*



And al - so with you.

Music: Ambrosian chant; adapt. Mason Martens (1933-1991). Copyright © 1971 Mason Martens.

## WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*If this is your first time here, we would love to get to know you. Please fill out a Welcome Card, which can be found in the pewbacks, and place it in the offering basket or hand it to the priest or an usher after the service.*

*Online Giving. The Church of the Atonement makes it easy to give online. Just scan the code to the right to either make a general contribution or pay your pledge online. Thank you for your support of our ongoing ministries.*



## THE HOLY COMMUNION

*The Celebrant says an Offertory sentence.*

### THE OFFERTORY PROPER

*Exaltábo te*

I will magnify thee, O Lord, for thou hast set me up, and not made my foes to triumph over me: O Lord my God, I cried unto thee, and thou hast healed me.

### THE OFFERTORY ANTHEM

#### *Ave verum corpus*

William Byrd (1540–1623)

*Ave verum corpus, natum de Maria Virgine,  
vere passum, immolatum  
in cruce pro homine cuius latus perforatum  
fluxit aqua et sanguine:  
esto nobis praegustatum in mortis examine.*

*O Iesu dulcis, O Iesu pie,  
O Iesu, fili Mariae.  
Miserere mei. Amen.*

Hail, true Body, born of the Virgin Mary,  
having truly suffered,  
sacrificed on the cross for mankind,  
from whose pierced side water and blood flowed:  
Be for us a sweet foretaste in the trial of death!

O sweet Jesus, O holy Jesus,  
O Jesus, son of Mary,  
have mercy on me. Amen.

*Please stand, as able, and sing*

### THE OFFERTORY HYMN • 150

*Forty days and forty nights*

*Aus der Tiefe rufe ich*



*Celebrant*

There - fore we pro - claim the mys - ter - y of faith:

*Celebrant and People*

Christ has died. Christ is ris - en. Christ will come a - gain.

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever.

A - men.

#### THE LORD'S PRAYER

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

Our Fa - ther, who art in hea - ven, hal - low - ed

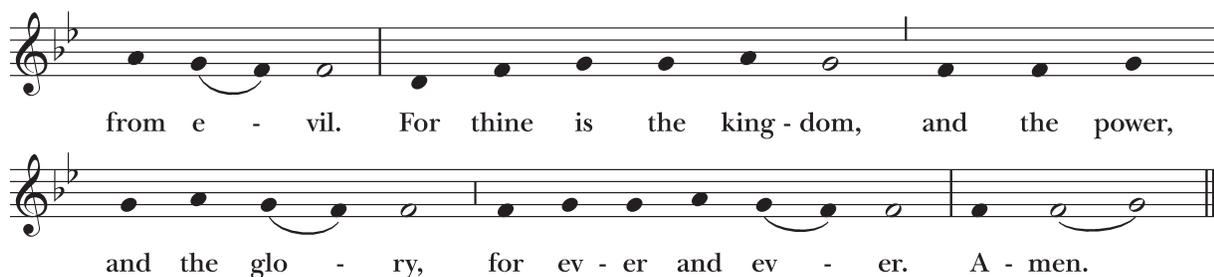
be thy Name, thy king - dom come, thy will be done,

on earth as it is in hea - ven. Give us this day our

dai - ly bread. And for - give us our tres - pas - ses,

as we for - give those who tres - pass a - gainst us. And lead

us not in - to temp - ta - tion, but de - liv - er us



*The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread.*

*The Choir sings*  
THE AGNUS DEI

O Lamb of God, that takest away  
the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.  
O Lamb of God, that takest away  
the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.  
O Lamb of God, that takest away  
the sins of the world, grant us thy peace.

#### THE INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Behold the Lamb of God; behold him who takes away the sins of the world.  
Blessed are those who are called to the supper of the Lamb.  
**Lord, I am not worthy that you should come under my roof,  
but speak the word only and my soul shall be healed.**

*Everyone is welcome to come forward at the sound of the bell. All baptized Christians are invited to receive Communion in both bread and wine. Please do not dip your bread in the wine. Gluten-free bread is available; please notify the priest as they come to you.*

*If you are not baptized, or if you prefer, you may receive a blessing from the priest instead: cross your arms over your chest to indicate this. If you do not wish to receive wine, cross your arms over your chest after receiving the bread. Please remain in place until the person next to you has received Communion.*

#### THE COMMUNION PROPER

*Qui meditabitur*

He who doth meditate on the law of the Lord day and night: will bring forth his fruit in due season.

#### THE COMMUNION ANTHEM

*Drop, drop, slow tears*

Orlando Gibbons (1583–1625)

Drop, drop, slow tears  
And bathe those beautiful feet  
Which brought from Heaven  
The news and Prince of Peace

In your deep floods  
Drown all my faults and fears  
Nor let His eye  
See sin, but through my tears

Cease not, wet eyes  
His mercies to entreat  
To cry for vengeance  
Sin doth never cease

THE COMMUNION HYMN • 325

*Let us break bread together on our knees*

*Let Us Break Bread*

*Please kneel or stand, as able, for*  
THE POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray.

Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

THE BLESSING

The Lord be with you.  
And also with you.

*The Celebrant offers God's blessing on the congregation, to which the People respond*  
Amen.

*Please stand, as able, for*

THE DISMISSAL

*The Deacon dismisses the congregation, to which the People respond*  
Thanks be to God.

THE CLOSING HYMN • 143

*The glory of these forty days*

*Erhalt uns, Herr*

THE VOLUNTARY

*Wer nur den lieben Gott läßt walten*

J. S. Bach (1685–1750)



TODAY'S MINISTERS *Celebrant & Preacher:* The Rev'd Charles Everson; *Deacon:* The Rev'd Kate Guistolise; *Subdeacon:* Br Will White CMJ; *Organist:* Charlie Sega; *Choirmaster:* Dr Christopher Windle; *Choir:* St. Cecilia Choir; *Lectors:* Evie Aadland Coe, Rick Rivera

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RESTROOMS are located in the Parish House, through the double doors on the right side of the church. There is a changing table in each restroom.

To find out more about our ministries, visit [atonementchicago.org](http://atonementchicago.org) or contact any of the staff listed below.

## Clergy, Staff & Leadership

### CLERGY AND STAFF

*Bishop of Chicago:* The Rt Rev'd Paula E. Clark; *Rector:* The Rev'd Charles Everson; *Deacon:* The Rev'd Charles Farrell; *Seminarian Intern:* Jerad Mosbey; *Director of Music:* Charlie Segal; *Associate Director of Music and Choirmaster:* Dr Christopher Windle; *Director of Operations & Communications:* Matt Rodgers; *Ministries & Pastoral Care Coordinator:* Kate Mayer; *Liturgical Coordinator:* Br Ron Fox BSG; *Sexton:* Gerardo Guzman

### PRIEST ASSOCIATES

The Rev'd Dr Maurice Charles, The Rev'd Robert S. Cristobal, The Rev'd Kate Guistolise, The Rev'd John Moulder, The Very Rev'd Joy Rogers, The Rev'd Thomas C. H. Scott, The Rev'd Norma Sutton, The Rev'd Anne Wridler

### VESTRY

*Wardens:* Charles Bonilla, Pam Ferguson; *Treasurer:* Tim Coe; *Clerk:* Michael Waltz  
Ann Cassidy, Evie Aadland Coe, Tim Fox, Sena Leikvold, Amanda Patrick, Charlaire Reynolds, Pauline Sachar, Br. Will White CMJ, Alex Wyman

## Worship Schedule

SUNDAYS Low Mass 8 a.m., Family Mass 9 a.m., Solemn High Mass 11 a.m.

WEEKDAYS Monday and Friday 7:30 a.m., Tuesday and Thursday 12 noon, Wednesday 7 p.m.

SATURDAYS The Holy Rosary 9:30 a.m., Healing Mass 10 a.m.

MORNING PRAYER Daily 8:30 a.m. *on Google Meet*

EVENING PRAYER Tuesday 5:30 p.m. *on Google Meet*

**CHURCH OF THE ATONEMENT**  
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