

# ST. JOHN'S CATHEDRAL

The Cathedral of the Episcopal Diocese of East Tennessee

*Ash Wednesday*

Wednesday, February 18, 2026 7 AM, 12 Noon, & 6 PM

*Service items listed in red are found in the red Book of Common Prayer. Hymns, listed in blue, are found in the blue Hymnal.*

## The Word of God

### The Opening Sentence *(Stand at the bell)*

*Celebrant:* Bless the Lord who forgives our sins.  
*People:* HIS MERCY ENDURES FOR EVER.

*Hymn 654: Day by day, dear Lord, of thee (sing twice)*

### The Collect of the Day

*Celebrant:* The Lord be with you.  
*People:* AND ALSO WITH YOU.  
*Celebrant:* 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 in worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our dependence on you, we 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 Reading** *Isaiah 58: 1-12*

**The Psalm** *Psalms 103: 8-14*  
(7 AM & Noon read by all; 6 PM chanted by Choir)

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

**The Homily** *The Reverend Canon Thomas J. Rasnick*

### Ash Wednesday Invitation

Dear People of God: The first Christians observed with great devotion the days of journeying with Jesus toward his passion and resurrection. It became the custom of the church to prepare for them by a season of self-reflection, repentance, and hopeful anticipation for the coming of new life found in spring. We invite you, in the name of the church, to the observance of a Holy Lent, by daily prayer and self-awareness; by acts of service and times of quiet reflection; by reading and meditating on our holy scriptures. And, to make a right beginning, and as a mark of our mortal nature, let us now come in silence and kneel before God, our creator and redeemer.

### Imposition of Ashes

After a moment of silence, The Priest leads the imposition of ashes with the following words:

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

*After receiving ashes, silence is kept for a time.  
Then kneeling or sitting, all pray:*

### The Coventry Litany of Reconciliation

All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God.  
Forgive us the hatred which divides nation from nation, race  
from race, class from class,

FATHER FORGIVE US

The covetous desires of people and nations to possess what is  
not their own,

FATHER FORGIVE US

The greed which exploits the work of human hands and lays  
waste the earth,

FATHER FORGIVE US

Our envy of the welfare and happiness of others,

FATHER FORGIVE US

Our indifference to the plight of the imprisoned, the homeless,  
the refugee,

FATHER FORGIVE US

The lust which dishonours the bodies of men, women and  
children,

FATHER FORGIVE US

The pride which leads us to trust in ourselves and not in God,  
FATHER FORGIVE US

And so be kind to one another, tender hearted, forgiving one  
another, as God in Christ forgave you.

### The Peace

## The Holy Communion

### The Offertory Sentence

**The Offertory Anthem** Richard Farrant (1525–1580)  
(6:00 pm only)

*Lord, for thy tender mercy's sake*

**The Doxology:** *Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow*  
(Hymn 380, v. 3)

**The Great Thanksgiving** BCP page 361  
*Eucharistic Prayer A*

**The Holy, Holy, Holy Lord** (S 124 Hurd)

**The Communion Anthem** Sam Batt Owens (1928-1998)  
(6:00 pm only)

*Bless the Lord, O my soul*

**Hymn 149:** *Eternal Lord of love, behold your Church*

### The Post Communion Prayer

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

### The Blessing

**Hymn 142:** *Lord, who throughout these forty days*

### The Dismissal

**Postlude:** *O Lamb of God, most holy*  
Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750)

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## Lay Ministries

**7:00 AM**  
**Crucifer**

Jarrett Vance

**12:00 Noon**

**Ushers**  
**Chalice Bearer**  
**Safety**

Steve Brewington, Mercy Hankins  
James Wolfenberger  
Sid Hankins

**6:00 PM**

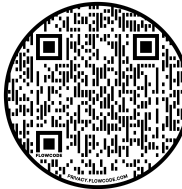
**Usher**  
**Greeter**  
**Chalice Bearer**  
**Safety**  
**Broadcast Team**

John Melnick  
Michelle McMahan  
Carroll McMahan  
Larry Hutsell  
Caleb Bales, Mike Bensey, Nick Cassell,  
Jim Foust, Christibeth Paul, & Whitney Ross

**Please note:**  
6PM service will have a full broadcast.

### Scan Code for

- Guest information
- Small Groups & Studies
- Online Giving
- Prayer Request Submission
- Weekly Cathedral Update



**The Reading**  
*Isaiah 58: 1–12*

**A reading from the book of 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.

*Reader:*       The Word of the Lord.  
*People:*       THANKS BE TO GOD.

**Psalms 103: 8–14**

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

**A reading from the Gospel according to Matthew:**

*People:* GLORY BE TO THEE, O LORD.

*People:* GLORY TO YOU, LORD CHRIST.

Jesus said, "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.

*Reader:* The Gospel of the Lord.

*People:* PRAISE BE TO THEE, O CHRIST.

*Reader:* The Gospel of the Lord.

*People:* PRAISE TO YOU, LORD CHRIST.

**Offertory anthem:** *Lord, for thy tender mercy's sake*  
(John Hitton)

Lord, for thy tender mercy's sake, lay not our sins to our charge, but forgive that is past, and give us grace to amend our sinful lives. To decline from sin and incline to virtue, that we may walk in a perfect heart before thee, now and evermore. Amen.

*Text from Lidley's Prayers, 1566*

**Communion anthem:** *Bless the Lord, O my soul*  
(Sam Batt Owens)

Bless the LORD, O my soul, \*  
and all that is within me, bless his holy Name.  
He forgives all our sins \*  
and heals all our infirmities;  
As a father cares for his children, \*  
so does the LORD care for those who love him.  
Our days are like the grass; \*  
we flourish like a flower of the field;  
When the wind goes over it, it is gone.  
Bless the LORD, O my soul.

*Adapted from Psalm 103*