

ASH WEDNESDAY
FEBRUARY 18, 2026
6:15 P.M.

Ash Wednesday begins the season of Lent with a public act of confession. Acknowledging that we have all sinned and fallen short of God's glory, we repent and express our utter reliance on God's saving grace. Ashes are an ancient symbol of repentance, sorrow, and sacrifice. We begin our Lenten journey with Imposition of Ashes, a reminder that from dust we have come and to dust we will return.

As we prepare for worship, you are invited to reflect silently on your own mortality and confess your sins before God.

PRELUDE Prelude IV. Adagio from Vierne Symphony no. 3

CALL TO WORSHIP

Lisa Patterson

OPENING PRAYER

Almighty God, you despise nothing you have made and you forgive the sins of all who trust in you.

God of life and death, mark me.

Create in us new and contrite hearts, that truly repenting of our sins, and acknowledging our brokenness, we may receive from you, the God of mercy, full pardon and forgiveness.

God of life and death, mark me.

This we pray through your Son, Jesus Christ our redeemer, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

God of life and death, mark me. Amen.

*HYMN 415

Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Chrissy Stevens

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;
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 offenses,
and my sin is ever before me.

**Against you only have I sinned
and done what is evil in your sight;
so you are justified when you speak
and right in your judgment.**

Indeed, I was born steeped in wickedness,
a sinner from my mother's womb.

**Indeed, you delight in truth deep within me,
and would have me know wisdom deep within.**

Remove my sins with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be purer than snow.

**Let me hear joy and gladness;
that the body you have broken may rejoice.**

Hide your face from my sins,
and blot out all my wickedness.

**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.

**Restore to me the joy of your salvation
and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.**

Let me teach your ways to offenders,
and sinners shall be restored to you.

**Rescue me from bloodshed, O God of my salvation,
and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness.**

O Lord, open my lips,
and my mouth shall declare your praise.

For you take no delight in sacrifice, or I would give it.

You are not pleased with burnt offering.

The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit;

a troubled and broken heart, O God, you will not despise.

ANTHEM

God Be In My Head

John Rutter

God be in my head, and in my understanding;

God be in mine eyes, and in my looking;

God be in my mouth, and in my speaking;

God be in mine heart, and in my thinking;

God be at my end, and in my departing.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

READING OF GOD'S WORD Joel 2: 1-2, 12-17 New Testament, page 798

TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

Richard B. Culp

*HYMN 433 Sign Us with Ashes (Vss. 1, 2)

ASH WEDNESDAY MEDITATION

A Black Cross

INVITATION TO OBSERVE A HOLY LENT

*HYMN 433 Sign Us with Ashes (Vss. 3, 4)

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

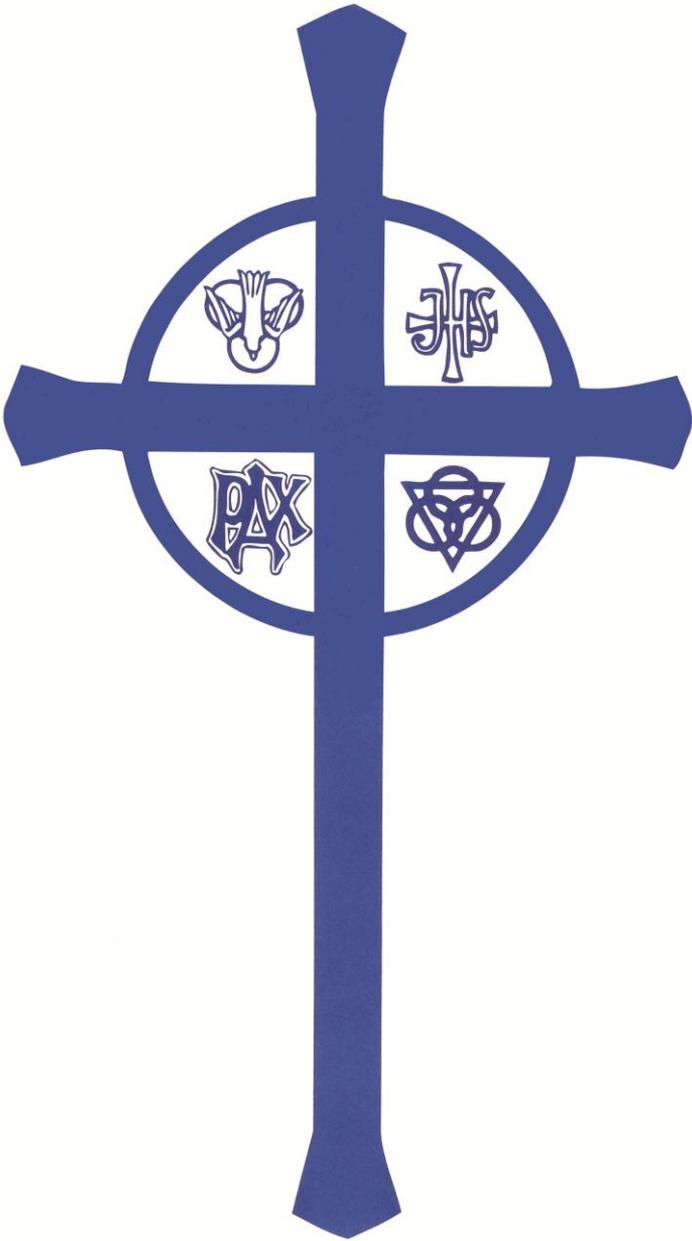
(You are invited to come to the two stations in front to receive the ashes in a sign of the cross on your forehead. If you are unable to come forward, someone will come to your pew to impose the ashes. Please come down the center aisle and return by the side aisle. The one imposing the ashes will say, "*Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return.*" An appropriate response is a simple, "*Amen.*")

*HYMN 433 Sign Us with Ashes (Vss. 5, 6)

Please depart in silence following the hymn.

*Those who are able are asked to stand.

We extend our thanks to Jacob Hord for serving as organist for today's worship service.



ST. ANDREW PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
DENTON, TEXAS