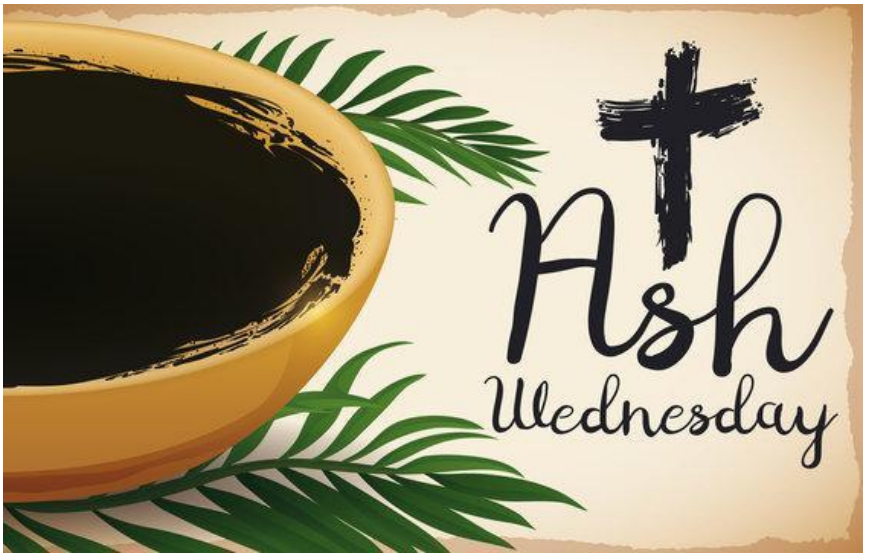
The Liturgy of Ash Wednesday
Holy Eucharist

February 18, 2026
7:00 pm



St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

Welcome! We are glad you are here. No matter where you are on your faith journey, there's a place for you here. If you are interested in learning about the Episcopal Church and St. Andrew's, brochures are available on the shelf in the Narthex (Foyer).

All who seek God and a deeper life in Christ are welcome to receive Holy Communion. You will be given a piece of bread, and you may either consume it and drink from the chalice or dip your bread into the chalice of wine (intinction). You can always choose to receive communion in one kind only by receiving the bread and then crossing your arms over your chest when offered the wine. Gluten-free communion wafers are available – simply notify the priest. Please notify an usher if you wish to have Holy Communion brought to you at your seat.

Note: Communion will be at the rail, you may stand or kneel.

Ash Wednesday

On Ash Wednesday we begin our forty-day journey toward Easter with a day of fasting and repentance. Marking our foreheads with dust, we acknowledge that we die and return to the earth. At the same time, the dust traces the life-giving cross indelibly marked on our foreheads at baptism. While we journey through Lent to return to God, we have already been reconciled to God through Christ. We humbly pray for God to make our hearts clean while we rejoice that "now is the day of salvation." Returning to our baptismal call, we more intentionally bear the fruits of mercy and justice in the world.

The assembly gathers in silence for meditation and reflection.

Welcome And Announcements

Please stand as you are able.

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant God 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 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.***

Please be seated.

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

A Reading from the book of the prophet Joel.

[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? 15Blow the trumpet in Zion; sanctify a fast; call a solemn assembly; 16gather 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. 17Between 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?' "

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's People.
People **Thanks be to God**

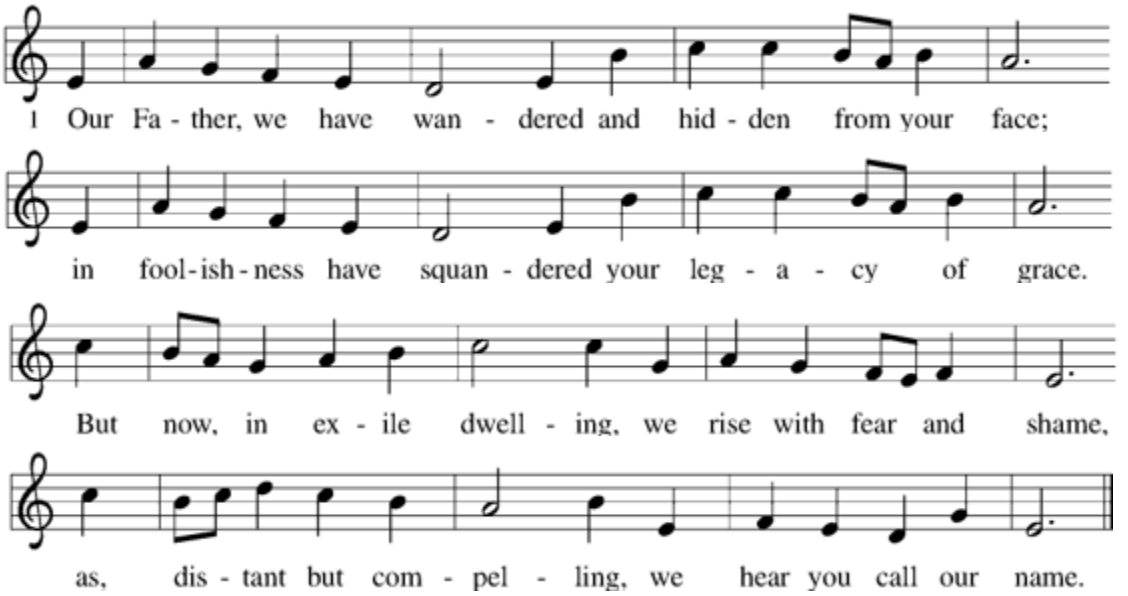
Second Reading 2 Corinthians 5:20b--6:10
A Reading from Paul's Second letter to the Church in Corinth.

20bWe entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. 21For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.
6:1As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. 2For 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! 3We are putting no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, 4but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, 5beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; 6by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, 7truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; 8in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; 9as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see—we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; 10as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's People.
People **Thanks be to God**

Please stand as you are able.

Sequence Hymn **Our Father, We Have Wandered** ***Vs. 1***



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

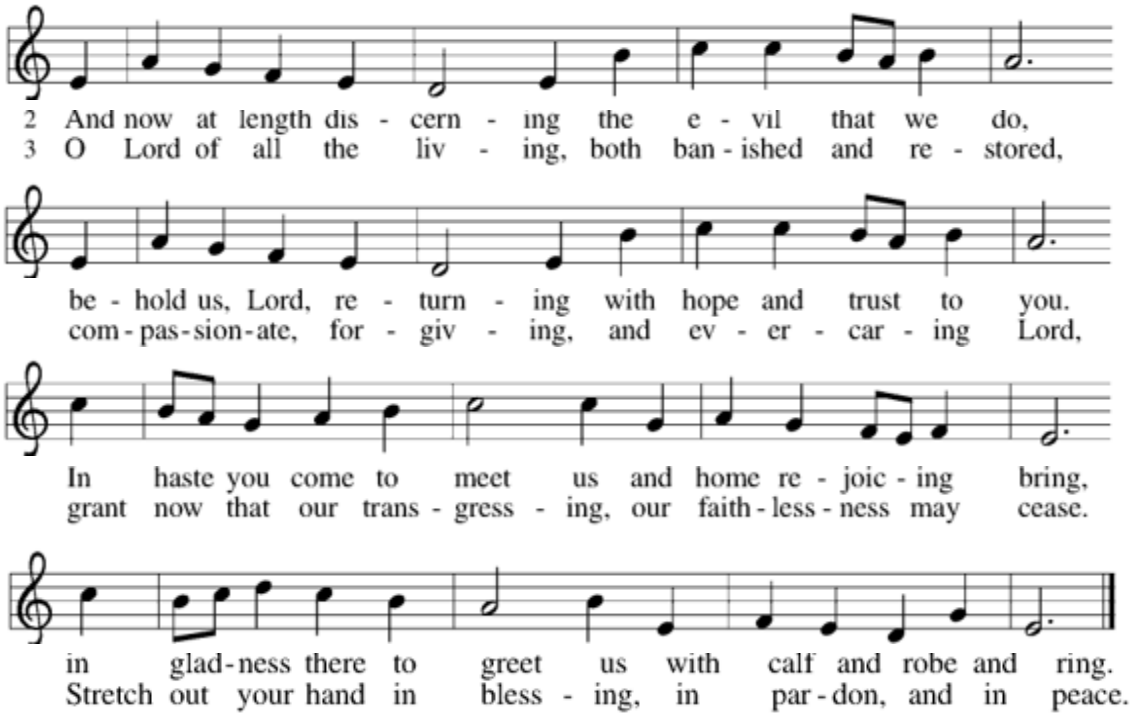
Celebrant: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew
People: **Glory to you, Lord Christ**

[Jesus said,] 1"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.
2"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. 3But when you give alms, do not let your left hand
know what your right hand is doing, 4so that your alms may be done in secret; and your
Father who sees in secret will reward you.
5"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. 6But 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.
16"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. 17But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, 18so 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.
19"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and

where thieves break in and steal; [20]but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. [21]For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.
People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Sequence Hymn **Our Father, We Have Wandered** ***Vs. 2-3***



Please be seated for the sermon.

The Sermon

Please remain seated or kneel as able.

Lenten Invitation

Friends in Christ, today with the whole church we enter the time of remembering Jesus' passover from death to life, and our life in Christ is renewed.

We begin this holy season by acknowledging our need for repentance and for God's mercy. We are created to experience joy in communion with God, to love one another, and to live in harmony with creation. But our sinful rebellion separates us from God, our neighbors, and creation, so that we do not enjoy the life our creator intended.

As disciples of Jesus, we are called to a discipline that contends against evil and resists whatever leads us away from love of God and neighbor. I invite you, therefore, to the discipline of Lent—self-examination and repentance, prayer and fasting, sacrificial giving and works of love—strengthened by the gifts of word and sacrament. Let us continue our journey through these forty days to the great Three Days of Jesus' death and resurrection.

Blessing Of the Ashes

Celebrant:
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.

Imposition Of Ashes

Those who wish to receive ashes are invited to come forward.
The priest marks the forehead of each person with a cross of ashes, saying:

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

During the Imposition of the Ashes,
the Choir will sing "Out of the Depths, I Cry to Thee" arr. K. Lee Scott

After all have received the ashes, the service continues.

Psalm 51:1-18 ***Recited in Unison***

[1]Have mercy on me, O God, according to your loving-kindness;
in your great compassion blot out my offenses.
[2]Wash me through and through from my wickedness
and cleanse me from my sin.
[3]For I know my transgressions,
and my sin is ever before me.
[4]Against you only have I sinned
and done what is evil in your sight.

[5]And so you are justified when you speak
and upright in your judgment.
[6]Indeed, I have been wicked from my birth,
a sinner from my mother's womb.
[7]For behold, you look for truth deep within me,
and will make me understand wisdom secretly.
[8]Purge me from my sin, and I shall be pure;
wash me, and I shall be clean indeed.
[9]Make me hear of joy and gladness,
that the body you have broken may rejoice.
[10]Hide your face from my sins
and blot out all my iniquities.
[11]Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.
[12]Cast me not away from your presence
and take not your holy Spirit from me.
[13]Give me the joy of your saving help again
and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.
[14]I shall teach your ways to the wicked,
and sinners shall return to you.
[15]Deliver me from death, O God,
and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness,
O God of my salvation.
[16]Open my lips, O Lord,
and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.
[17]Had you desired it, I would have offered sacrifice,
but you take no delight in burnt-offerings.
[18]The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit;
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

Litany Of Penitence

The Celebrant and People together, all kneeling as able.

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 Celebrant 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.
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.

The Celebrant says,

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.***

Please stand as you are able.



The Peace

Celebrant The peace of Christ be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

The People may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, and may say, "Peace be with you," or similar words..

Please be seated.





The Holy Communion

Celebrant:

Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and make good your vows to the Most High.
Psalm 50:14

Offering

The offering is collected to support the mission and ministry of St. Andrew's
Please stand as you are able as the offering is brought forward..

The Great Thanksgiving

Celebrant God 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 right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord, who was tempted in every way as we are, yet did not sin. By his grace we are able to triumph over every evil, and to live no longer for ourselves alone, but for him who died for us and rose again.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Sanctus **Holy, holy, holy** *Schubert/Proulx*

Celebrant and People



The Celebrant continues

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all. He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, 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 we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People

Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

The Celebrant continues
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. **Amen.**

The Lord’s Prayer

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

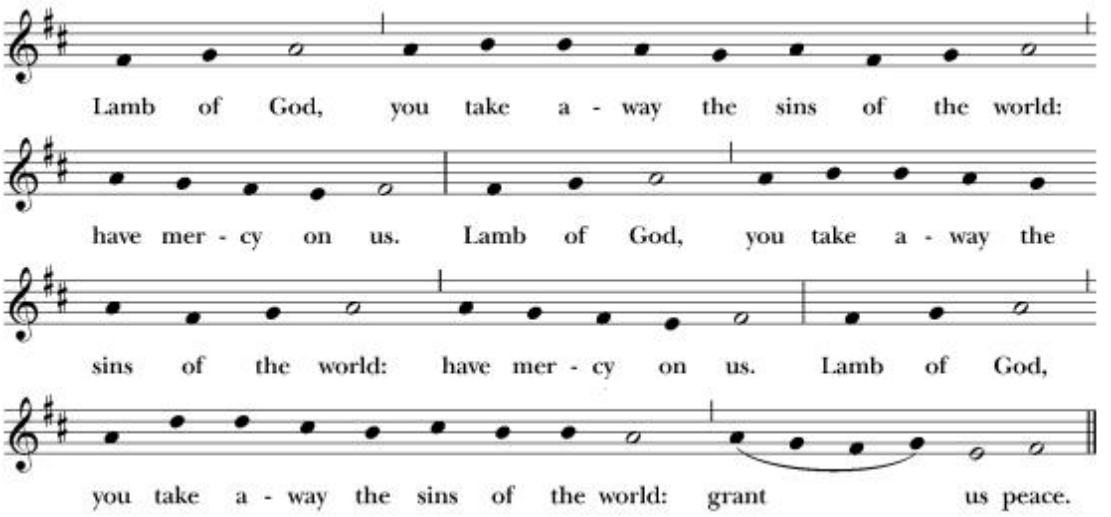
Celebrant and People

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, forever and ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

AGNUS DEI

Lamb of God *Hurd*

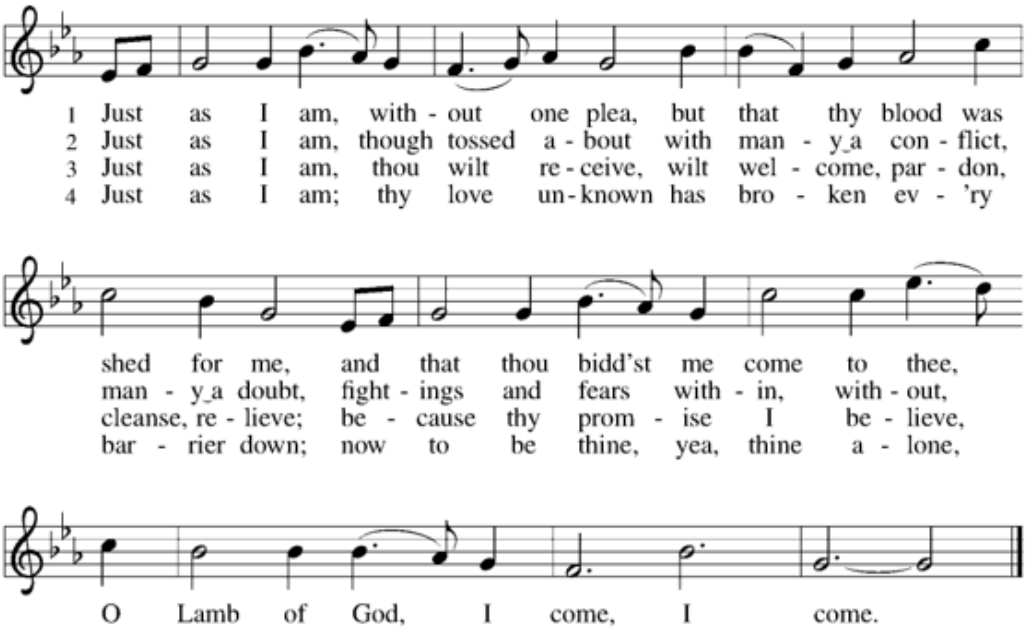


Invitation

The gifts of God, for the people of God.

Distribution

Communion Hymn **"Just as I Am"** *William B. Bradbury*



Please stand as able.

Prayer After Communion
Celebrant: Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

Almighty God,
you have given your only son to be for us
both a sacrifice for sin and an example of godly life:
give us grace that we may always most thankfully receive these spiritual gifts,
and daily endeavor to follow the blessed steps of this most holy life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Blessing
The blessing, mercy, and grace of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you, and remain with you for ever. ☩ **Amen.**

Dismissal

Celebrant	Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
People	**Thanks be to God.**

There is no Recessional hymn as we begin these solemn forty days.





Participants In Today's Service

Celebrant:	Pastor Sally Cook
Assisting Priest:	The Rev. Susan M. Smith
Minister of Music:	Eric Saupe
Crucifer:	Weah Wisseh



ST. ANDREW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
Diocese of Southern Ohio
8630 Refugee Road
Pickerington, OH 43147
614-626-2720
www.standrewspickerington.com

CONTACTS

Pastor Sally Cook: pastorsally@standrewspickerington.org

Eric Saupe: Minister of Music: eric.saupe@standrewspickerington.org

Elaine Vaughan: Office Admin: office@standrewspickerington.org

Adrienne Strickland: Nursery Attendant: Adrienne.strickland@standrewspickerington.org

Justin Strickland: Nursery Attendant: justinm.strickland@gmail.com

For Pastoral Emergencies please contact Pastor Sally Cook at 813-205-0133

Permissions
From riteplanning.com. Copyright © 2026 Church Publishing Inc. All rights reserved.
From sundaysandseasons.com. Copyright © 2026 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.
Bible passages from NRSV through Rite Planning.
"Our Father, We Have Wandered" Text: Kevin Nichols, 1929-2006. Music: HERZLICH TUT MICH VERLANGEN, Hans Leo Hassler, 1564-1612. Text © 1981 International Committee on English in the Liturgy, Inc. All rights reserved.
"Holy, Holy, Holy" Music: *Deutsche Messe,* Franz Schubert, 1797-1828; adapt. Richard Proulx, b. 1937. Adapt. © 1985, 1989 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800-442-3358. All rights reserved. Used by permission.
"Lamb of God" Hurd AGNUS DEI
"Just As I Am" Text: Charlotte Elliott, 1789-1871. Music: WOODWORTH, William B. Bradbury, 1816-1868.