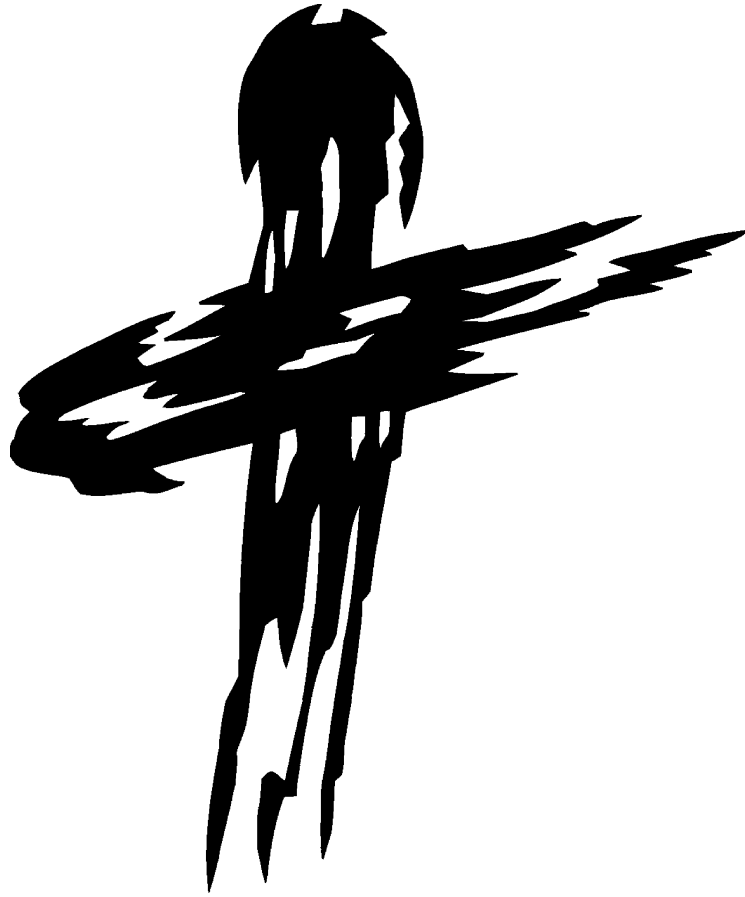


*February 18, 2026 – Ash Wednesday*  
*7:15 pm Livestream Liturgy*



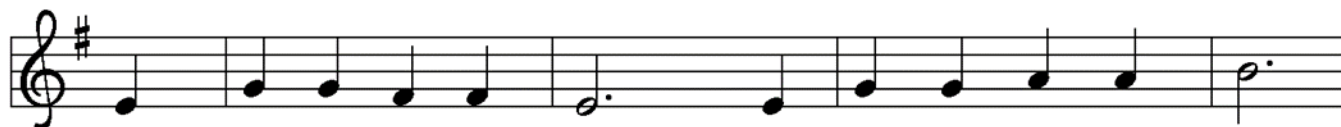
***Prince of Peace Lutheran Church***  
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[www.poplutheran.org](http://www.poplutheran.org) / [office@poplutheran.org](mailto:office@poplutheran.org)

The Rev. Steven A. Buechler, Senior Pastor  
Danielle Drobny, Pianist & Music Coordinator  
Martha Rogers, Administrative Secretary

+++ THE GATHERING +++

**Prelude:** *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross* - arr. Victor Labenske  
**Greetings & Announcements**

**Kyrie**



- 1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.
- 2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.
- 3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.



We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.  
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.  
Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

**THE EXHORTATION**

- P) 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.

*Silence for reflection and self-examination precedes the confession.*

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Most holy and merciful God,  
**we confess to you and to one another,**  
**and before the whole company of heaven,**  
**that we have sinned by our fault,**  
**by our own fault,**  
**by our own most grievous 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, O God.**

We have shut our ears 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, O God.**

Our past unfaithfulness, the pride, envy, hypocrisy, and apathy that have infected our lives, we confess to you.

**Have mercy on us, O God.**

Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people, we confess to you.

**Have mercy on us, O God.**

Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to share the faith that is in us, we confess to you.

**Have mercy on us, O God.**

Our neglect of human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty, we confess to you.

**Have mercy on us, O God.**

Our false judgments, our uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us, we confess to you.

**Have mercy on us, O God.**

Our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us, we confess to you.

**Have mercy on us, O God.**

Restore us, O God, and let your anger depart from us.

**Hear us, O God, for your mercy is great.**

## **IMPOSITION OF ASHES**

*Those who desire to receive ashes come forward to the altar. The Pastor applies ashes to the forehead of each person with the words:*

Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return. (Genesis 3:19)

### **Music during the distribution of Ashes**

*Wonderful, Merciful Savior* - arr. Carol Tornquist

*After all who desire ashes have received them, the Pastor leads the congregation in the conclusion of the confession.*

P) Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation,

**C) that we may show forth your glory in the world.**

P) By the cross and Passion of your Son, our Lord,

**C) bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.**

P) Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,

does not desire the death of sinners,

but rather that they may turn from their wickedness and live.

Therefore we implore him to grant us true repentance and his Holy Spirit,

that those things may please him which we do on this day,


that the rest of our life may be pure and holy,

and that at the last we may come to his eternal joy;

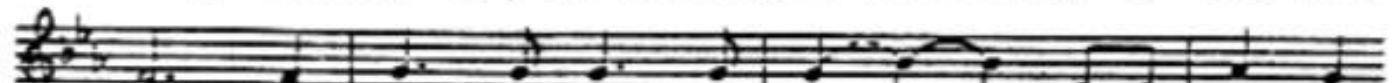
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C) Amen.**


Hymn: "Ashes" – Tom Conry



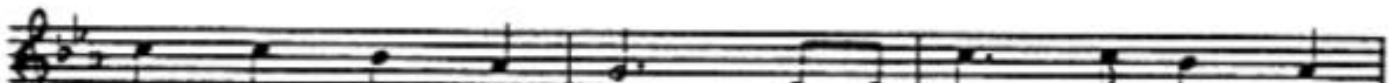
1. We rise a - gain from ash - es, — from the good we've failed to  
 2. We of - fer You our fail - ures, — we — of - fer You at -  
 3. Then rise a - gain from ash - es, — let — heal - ing come to  
 4. Thanks be to the Fath - er, — Who — made us like Him -



1. do. We rise a - gain from ash - es, — to cre - ate our -  
 2. tempts; the gifts not ful - ly giv - en, — the — dreams not  
 3. pain, though spring has turned to win - ter, — and — sun - shine  
 4. self. — Thanks be to His Son, — Who — saved us



1. selves a - new. If — all our world is ash - es, — then —  
 2. ful - ly dreamt. Give our stum - bl - ings di - rec - tion, — give our  
 3. turned to rain. The — rain we'll use for grow - ing, — and cre -  
 4. by His death. Thanks be to the Spi - rit, — Who cre -



1. must our lives be true, an — of - fer - ing of  
 2. vi - sions wi - der view, an — of - fer - ing of  
 3. ate the world a - new from an of - fer - ing of  
 4. ates the world a - new from an of - fer - ing of



1.2.	3.	Last
------	----	------

1. ash - es, — an of - fer - ing to You.  
 2. ash - es, — an of - fer - ing to You.  
 3. ash - es, — an of - fer - ing to You.  
 4. ash - es, — an of - fer - ing to You. —

## **The Prayer of the Day**

P) The Lord be with you.

C) **And also with you.**

P) Let us pray... Almighty and ever-living God, you hate nothing you have made, and you forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create in us new and honest hearts, so that, truly repenting of our sins, we may receive from you, the God of all mercy, full pardon and forgiveness through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C) **Amen.**

### **+ + + THE LITURGY OF THE WORD + + +**

#### **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?’”

*R) The Word of the Lord.*

C) **Thanks be to God.**

#### **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.

*R) The Word of the Lord.*

**C) Thanks be to God.**

*P) The Holy Gospel According to St. Matthew, the 6<sup>th</sup> Chapter.*

**C) Glory to you, O Lord.**

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

*Jesus said to the disciples:* “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.”

*P) The Gospel of the Lord.*

**C) Praise to you, O Christ.**

## Sermon

### Hymn: "Savior, When in Dust to You"



- 1 Sav-ior, when in dust to you low we bow in hom-age due;
- 2 By your help-less in-fant years, by your life of want and tears,
- 3 By your hour of dire de-spair, by your ag-o-ny of prayer,
- 4 By your deep ex-pir-ing groan, by the sad se-pul-chral stone,



when, re-pen-tant, to the skies scarce we lift our weep-ing eyes;  
by your days of deep dis-tress in the sav-age wil-der-ness,  
by the cross, the nail, the thorn, pierc-ing spear, and tor-turing scorn,  
by the vault whose dark a-bode held in vain the ris-ing God,



oh, by all your pains and woe suf-fered once for us be-low,  
by the dread, mys-te-rious hour of the in-sult-ing tempt-er's pow'r,  
by the gloom that veiled the skies o'er the dread-ful sac-ri-fice,  
oh, from earth to heav'n re-stored, might-y, re-as-cend-ed Lord,



bend-ing from your throne on high, hear our pen-i-ten-tial cry!  
turn, oh, turn a fa-v'ring eye; hear our pen-i-ten-tial cry!  
lis-ten to our hum-ble sigh; hear our pen-i-ten-tial cry!  
bend-ing from your throne on high, hear our pen-i-ten-tial cry!

Text: Robert Grant, 1779–1838, alt.

Music: ABERYSTWYTH, Joseph Parry, 1841–1903

## THE PRAYERS

- P) As we begin our Lenten journey, let us turn to God who is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.

*Each petition concludes:*

- P) Lord, in your mercy,  
C) **Hear our prayer.**

- P) Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

- C) **Amen.**

## The Sharing of the Peace

- P) The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
C) **And also with you.**

## The Offering

*We encourage everyone to support our ministry together here at Prince of Peace! If possible, [please give electronically](#) or through online banking. If you are worshipping live with us, you may also place your offering in the plate or scan this QR code to give electronically. Thank you for your continuing support of our ministry!*



## The Offertory

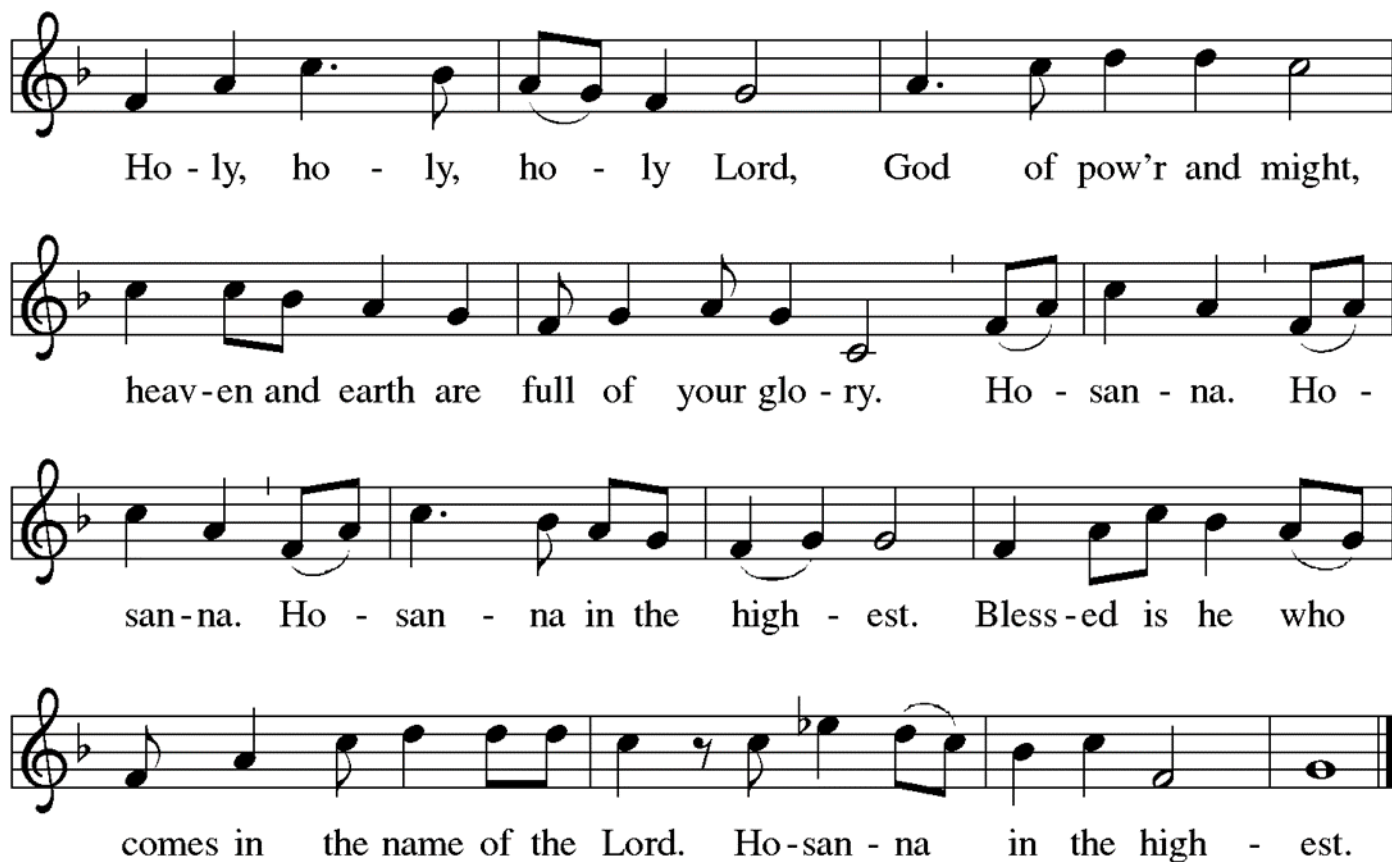
*Just As I Am, Without One Plea - arr. Cindy Berry*

## Offertory Prayer

- P) Let us pray... Holy God, gracious and merciful, you bring forth food from the earth and nourish your whole creation. Turn our hearts toward those who hunger in any way, that all may know your care; and prepare us now to feast on the bread of life, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
- C) **Amen.**

## The Great Thanksgiving

- P) The Lord be with you.  
C) **And also with you.**  
P) Lift up your hearts.  
C) **We lift them to the Lord.**  
P) Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
C) **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**
- P) It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord. You bid your people cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast. Renew our zeal in faith and life, and bring us to the fullness of grace that belongs to the children of God. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -  
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who  
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

## The Eucharistic Prayer for Lent

P) Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father,  
throughout the ages, you act to save and guide your people,  
and so together with all your people and all your creation  
we bless and magnify you and give you thanks.

You led your people Israel through the desert.

You fed them with bread from heaven  
and provided them with water from the rock.

We praise you for Christ, our Rock, our Water, and our Bread,  
who joined us in our desert,  
pouring out his life for the life of the world.

In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore,  
his life, death, and resurrection,  
we await your salvation for all this thirsty world.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on this bread and cup  
and on all the baptized gathered for this feast:  
wash away our sin and renew our faith,  
that we may be revived for our journey by the love of Christ.

Through him all glory and honor is yours,  
Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,  
in your holy Church,  
both now and forever.

**C) Amen.**

## The Lord's Prayer

P) Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

C) Our Father in heaven,

hallowed be your name,

your kingdom come,

your will be done,

on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread;

Forgive us our sins

as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial

and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,

now and forever. Amen.

## Lamb of God

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have

mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the

world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the

sin of the world; grant us peace.

## **Communion**

Communion will be distributed by individual glass (red wine; white grape juice) if you are worshipping in person. Gluten free wafers are also available.

If you are worshipping at home, please commune yourself or one another with the words:  
*The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you.*

## **Music During Communion**

*Be Thou My Vision* - Carlton Forrester

- P) The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
- C) **Amen.**

## **Post-Communion Prayer**

- P) Let us pray ... Merciful God, accompany our journey through these forty days. Renew us in the gift of baptism, that we may provide for those who are poor, pray for those in need, fast from self-indulgence, and above all that we may find our treasure in the life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C) **Amen.**

## **The Benediction**

- P) Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.
- C) **Amen.**

## Closing Hymn: “Bless Now, O God, the Journey”



1 Bless now, O God, the jour - ney that all your peo - ple make,  
2 Bless so - journ-ers and pil - grims who share this wind-ing way;  
3 Di - vine e - ter - nal lov - er, you meet us on the road.



the path through noise and si - lence, the way of give and take.  
your hope burns through the ter - rors, your love sus-tains the day.  
We wait for lands of prom - ise where milk and hon-ey flow,



The trail is found in des - ert and winds the moun-tain round,  
We yearn for ho - ly free - dom while of - ten we are bound;  
but wait-ing not for plac - es, you meet us all a - round.



then leads be - side still wa - ters, the road where faith is found.  
to - geth - er we are seek - ing the road where faith is found.  
Our cov - e - nant is writ - ten on roads, as faith is found.

Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955–1993

Music: LLANGLOFFAN, Welsh tune, 19th cent.

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## Dismissal

- P) Go forth into the world to serve God with gladness; be of good courage; hold fast to that which is good; render to no one evil for evil; strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honor all people; love and serve God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.
- C) **Thanks be to God.**

## Postlude

**Please also join us on:**  
**Saturday, February 21**  
**Saturday Service @ 5 pm**  
**(in-person only)**

**Sunday, February 22**  
**Worship @ 10:00 am**  
**(in-person & [live stream on Facebook](#))**  
**Sunday School @ 11:00 am**

**Wednesday, February 25**  
**Lenten Evening Prayer @ 7:15 pm**  
**(in-person & [live stream on Facebook](#))**

Check out our [Lent web page](#) for more information about our Lenten activities!

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