



Ash Wednesday

February 18, 2026

Choral Eucharist & Imposition of Ashes at 6:30pm

*The Cathedral Church of St. James
Diocese of Toronto • Anglican Church of Canada*

Welcome to St. James Cathedral

This sacred land is the territory of several Indigenous Nations - the Wendat, the Haudenosaunee, and the Anishnaabe, and the Métis peoples, with special recognition to the Mississaugas of New Credit. We also acknowledge that we are on the shores of Niigaani-gichigami/Lake Ontario. This territory is governed by the Dish With One Spoon Wampum Belt Treaty, an agreement between the Haudenosaunee Confederacy and the Anishnaabe Confederacy to peaceably share and sustain the life of the Great Lakes. In the spirit of that Treaty we seek to place at the centre of our gatherings the values of respectful reciprocity, diversity, peace, responsibility, and mutual aid.

Liturgical Note

In the context of Christian Liturgy, Israel does not refer to the current political state, but either to the historic Hebrews of the ancient Near East or, in Christian theology, to all people who put their faith and trust in Jesus Christ.



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(scroll to the bottom of the page).

Children & Families

Sunday School meets every Sunday at both the 9:00am and 11:00am services.
Please email Karyne Whalen at kwhalen@stjamescathedral.ca for more information.

For more information on our Children's Community Choir,
please email Director Cara Halpin at chalpin@stjamescathedral.ca

Accessibility

A Wheelchair Accessible all-gender Washroom is located
at the front of the Cathedral through the doors by the pulpit.
Assisted hearing devices are available from the sidespersons.

Coffee Hour

Join us in Snell Hall following the 9:00am & 11:00am services every Sunday.

Parking

There are a variety of inexpensive parking lots available around the Cathedral.

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online at stjamescathedral.ca/contact for more information.

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*As this is a very public and open space please be aware of your personal belongings.
Do not leave them unattended in the Cathedral or in the Cathedral Centre.*

Today at St. James

Presider: The Reverend Canon Dr. Stephen Fields

Homilist: The Reverend Canon Kristen Pitts

Deacon of the Mass: The Reverend Matthew Waterman

First Reader: Matt Jaeger • Second Reader: Daisy Pittis

Litanist: Sandra Mowat

Honorary Verger: Paul D. Seddon, ODT

Director of Music & Organist: Thomas Bell • Associate Organist: Jean-Paul Feo

Wayne Vance Organ Scholar: Joshua Duncan Lee

Sung by The Choir of St. James Cathedral

Welcome. We are so glad you have joined us for worship.

THE GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY

Mass Setting: Communion Service in the Phrygian Mode by Charles Wood

Introit

View Me, Lord

Music: Richard Lloyd

Choir

View me, Lord, a work of thine!
Shall I then lie downed in night?
Might thy grace in me but shine,
I should seem made all of light.

Cleanse me, Lord, that I may kneel
At thine altar pure and white;
They at once thy mercies feel,
Gaze no more on earth's delight.

Worldly joys like shadows fade
When the heavenly light appears;
But the covenants Thou hast made,
Endless, know not days nor years.

In thy word, Lord, is my trust,
To thy mercies fast I fly;
Though I am but clay and dust,
Yet thy grace can lift me high.

Opening Hymn

Tune: Heinlein (Aus Der Tiefe)

Forty days and forty nights thou wast fasting in the wild;
Forty days and forty nights tempted, and yet undefiled.

Sunbeams scorching all the day; chilly dew-drops nightly shed;
Prowling beasts about thy way; stones thy pillow; earth thy bed.

Shall not we thy trial share, and from earthly joys abstain,
Fasting with unceasing prayer, strong with thee to suffer pain?

And if Satan, vexing sore, flesh or spirit should assail,
Thou, his vanquisher before, grant we may not faint nor fail.

So shall we have peace divine; holier gladness ours shall be;
Round us too shall angels shine, such as ministered to thee.

Keep, O keep us, Saviour dear; ever constant by thy side;
That with thee we may appear at the eternal Eastertide.

Text: George Hunt Smyttan; Music: Melody attrib. Martin Herbst; harm. William Henry Monk;

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Collect of the Day

Presider Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, you despise 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 brokenness, 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.

People **Amen.**

THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

The First Reading

Isaiah 58:1-12

Reader 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 practised righteousness and did not forsake the ordinance of their God; they ask of me righteous judgements, they delight to draw near to God. '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. Look, 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 thongs 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 rearguard. 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
People

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm
Choir

Psalm 103: 8-18 – Plainsong

The Lord is full of compassion and mercy,
slow to anger and of great kindness.
He will not always accuse us,
neither will he keep his anger for ever.
He has not dealt with us according to our sins,
nor rewarded us according to our wickedness.
For as the heavens are high above the earth,
so great is his mercy upon those who fear him.
As far as the east is from the west,
so far has he set our sins from us.
As a father has compassion on his children,
so is the Lord merciful towards those who fear him.
For he knows of what we are made;
he remembers that we are but dust.
Our days are but as grass;
we flourish as a flower of the field;
For as soon as the wind goes over it, it is gone,
and its place shall know it no more.
But the merciful goodness of the Lord is from of old
and endures for ever on those who fear him,

and his righteousness on children's children;
On those who keep his covenant
and remember his commandments to do them.

The Second Reading

2 Corinthians 5:20b - 6:10

Reader 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, labours, 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 honour and dishonour, 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.

Reader The word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation



People **Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.**

Cantor If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

People **Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.**

The Holy Gospel

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

Reader The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

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

Reader Jesus said, “Beware of practising 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.”

Reader The Gospel of Christ.
People **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Homily

Invitation to a Holy Lent

Presider Dear friends in Christ, every year at the time of the Christian Passover we celebrate our redemption through the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. Lent is a time for each of us to prepare for this celebration and to renew our life in the paschal mystery. We begin this holy season by remembering our need for repentance, both as individuals and as a community, and for the mercy and forgiveness proclaimed in the Gospel

of Jesus Christ.

We begin our journey to Easter with the sign of ashes, an ancient sign, speaking of the frailty and uncertainty of human life, and marking the penitence of the community as a whole. I invite each of you, therefore, in the name of the Lord, to observe a holy Lent, by self-examination, penitence, prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, and by reading and meditating on the word of God.

Litany of Penitence

Presider Let us kneel before our Creator and Redeemer.

Please adopt a posture of prayer. Silence is kept for a time.

Choir Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.

Leader Most holy and merciful God,

All **we confess to you, 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.**

Leader We have not loved you with our whole heart, and mind, and strength. We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves. We have not forgiven others, as we have been forgiven.

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

Leader 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.

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

Leader We confess to you, Lord, all our past unfaithfulness: the pride, hypocrisy, and impatience of our lives.

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

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

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

Leader Our anger at our own frustration, and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves, we confess to you.

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

Leader Our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts, and our dishonesty in daily life and work, we confess to you.

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

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

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

Leader 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, we confess to you.

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

Leader For all false judgements, for uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbours, and for our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us, we confess to you.

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

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

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

Leader Restore us, good Lord, and let your anger depart from us;

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

Imposition of Ashes

Presider Almighty God, from the dust of the earth you have created us. May these ashes be for us a sign of our mortality and penitence, and a reminder that only by your gracious gift are we given eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Saviour.

People **Amen.**

Presider + Remember you are dust, and to dust you shall return.
Turn away from sin and be faithful to Christ.

*During the singing of the Motet,
those who wish to receive the Imposition of Ashes are invited to come forward to the
main altar (if you prefer to kneel) or the stations on the pavement.*

Motet**Miserere Mei, Deus (Psalm 51)**

David Hurd

Choir

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your loving kindness in your great compassion blot out my offences.

Wash me through and through from my wickedness and cleanse me from my sin.

For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me.

Against you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight; so you are justified when you speak and upright in your judgement. Indeed, I have been wicked from my birth, a sinner from my mother's womb. For behold, you look for truth deep within me, and will make me understand wisdom secretly. you taught me wisdom in that secret place. Purge me from my sin and I shall be pure. Wash me and I shall be clean indeed.

Make me hear of joy and gladness, that the body you have broken may rejoice.

Let me hear joy and gladness;

Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquities.

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.

Give me the joy of your saving help again and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit. And grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.

I shall teach your ways to the wicked, and sinners shall return to you.

Deliver me from death, O God, and my tongue will sing of your righteousness, O God of my salvation.

Open my lips, O Lord, and my mouth will proclaim your praise.

Had you desired it, I would have offered sacrifice, but you take no delight in burnt offerings. The sacrifice of God, is a troubled spirit; a broken and contrite heart O God, you will not despise. Be favourable and gracious to Zion, and rebuild the walls of Jerusalem.

Then you will be pleased with the appointed sacrifices, with offerings and oblations; then shall they offer young bullocks upon your altar. Have mercy on me O God, according to your loving kindness; in your great compassion blot out my offences.

Presider

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

People

That we may show forth your glory in the world.

Presider

By the cross and passion of your Son, our Lord,

People

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

Presider Almighty God have mercy upon you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.

People **Amen.**

The Peace

Presider The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

We offer each other a sign of peace.

THE CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST

Offertory Hymn

Tune: St. Flavian

Lord, teach us how to pray aright
with reverence and with fear;
though dust and ashes in your sight,
we may, we must, draw near.

We perish if we cease from prayer:
O grant us power to pray;
and, when to meet thee we prepare,
Lord, meet us by the way.

God of all grace, we bring to thee
a broken, contrite heart;
Give what thine eye delights to see,
truth in the inward part.

Faith in the only sacrifice
that can for sin atone,
to cast our hopes, to fix our eyes,
on Christ, on Christ alone;

Patience to watch and wait and weep,
though mercy long delay;
courage our fainting souls to keep,
and trust thee though thou slay.

Give these, and then thy will be done;
thus, strengthened with all might,
we, through thy Spirit and thy Son,
shall pray, and pray aright.

Text: James Montgomery; Music: John Day, *Psalmes*, 1562.

Prayer over the Gifts

Presider Merciful God, turn us from sin to faithfulness. Accept our offering, and prepare us to celebrate the death and resurrection of Christ our Saviour, who is alive and reigns with you now and for ever.

People **Amen.**

The Great Thanksgiving

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Presider Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Presider Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of heaven and earth, because you bid your faithful people to cleanse their hearts and to prepare with joy for the paschal feast; that reborn through the waters of baptism and renewed in the eucharistic mystery, we may be more fervent in prayer and more generous in the works of love. Therefore we raise our voices to you in praise to proclaim the glory of your name.

Sanctus & Benedictus

Choir Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.

Presider O God most mighty, O God most merciful, O God our rock and our salvation, hear us as we praise, call us to your table, grant us your life.

When the world was a formless void, you formed order and beauty. When Abraham and Sarah were barren, you sent them a child. When the Israelites were enslaved, you led them to freedom. Ruth faced starvation, David fought Goliath, and the psalmists cried out for healing, and full of compassion, you granted the people your life.

You entered our sorrows in Jesus our brother. He was born among the poor, he lived under oppression, he wept over the city. With infinite love, he granted the people your life.

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 his death, we cry out Amen.

People **Amen.**

Presider Celebrating his resurrection, we shout Amen.

People **Amen.**

Presider Trusting his presence in every time and place, we plead Amen.

People **Amen.**

Presider O God, you are Breath: send your Spirit on this meal. O God, you are Bread: feed us with yourself. O God, you are Wine: warm our hearts and make us one. O God, you are Fire: transform us with hope.

O God most majestic, O God most motherly, O God our strength and our song, you show us a vision of a tree of life with fruits for all and leaves that heal the nations. Grant us such life, the life of the Father to the Son, the life of the Spirit of our risen Savior, life in you, now and forever.

People **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

McNeil Robinson

Presider As our Saviour taught us, let us pray,

All **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 for ever. Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread

Presider We break this bread,

People **Communion in Christ's body once broken.**

Presider Let your Church be the wheat which bears its fruit in dying,

People **If we have died with him, we shall live with him; if we hold firm, we shall reign with him.**

The Communion

Presider The gifts of God for the People of God.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Agnus Dei

Choir Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, grant us peace.

- *All are welcome to receive the Holy Sacrament or a blessing (indicate by crossing your hands over your chest).*
- *Please approach the High Altar in **single file and fill the altar rail from the right side.** Exit through the door by the organ.*
- *Gluten-free hosts are available upon request at the Lady Chapel (at the front of the right aisle).*
- *It is not permitted to dip the bread in the wine for health reasons.*

Communion Hymn

All God is Forgiveness
Dare to forgive and God will be with you.
God is forgiveness.
Love, and do not fear.

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Motet **Versa Est in Luctum**

Alonso Lobo

Choir Versa est in luctum cithara mea, et organum meum in vocem flentium.
Parce mihi Domine, nihil enim sunt dies mei

My harp is turned to grieving and my flute into the voice of those who weep. Spare me, O Lord, for my days are as nothing.

Prayer after Communion

Presider Let us pray.

God of compassion, through your Son Jesus Christ you reconciled your people to yourself. Following his example of prayer and fasting, may we obey you with willing hearts and serve one another in holy love; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

People **Amen.**

The Blessing

Presider May the God of mercy transform you by his grace, and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always.

People **Amen.**

Hymn

Tune: Mannheim

All Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us o'er the world's tempestuous sea;
guard us, guide us, keep us, feed us, for we have no help but thee;
yet possessing every blessing if our God our Father be.

Saviour, breathe forgiveness o'er us; all our weakness thou dost know;
thou didst tread this earth before us, thou didst feel its keenest woe;
lone and dreary, faint and weary, through the desert thou didst go.

Spirit of our God, descending, fill our hearts with heavenly joy,
love with every passion blending, pleasure that can never cloy;
thus provided, pardoned, guided, nothing can our peace destroy.

Text: James Edmeston; Music: Melody Friedrich Filitz; adapt. Thomas Binney; harm. Lowell Mason, alt.

Dismissal

Deacon Followers of Jesus Christ, inspired by the Holy Spirit, serve the world that God loves

People **Thanks be to God.**

We depart in silence.