



Ash Wednesday

February 18, 2026

Holy Eucharist & Imposition of Ashes at 7:30am

*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.



Want to stay informed about what is happening at your Cathedral?
Sign up for **E-Connections** on our website at www.stjamescathedral.ca
(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.
Please see the leaflets at the back of the Cathedral or
online at stjamescathedral.ca/contact for more information.

Connect with the Cathedral

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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 Matthew Waterman

Assisting Clergy: The Reverend Canon Dr. Stephen Fields

A private prayer for use after receiving Holy Communion

Anima Christi

Soul of Christ, sanctify me

Body of Christ, save me

Blood of Christ, inebriate me

Water from the side of Christ, wash me

Passion of Christ, strengthen me

O Good Jesu, hear me

Within thy wounds hide me

Suffer me not to be separated from thee

From the malicious enemy defend me

In the hour of my death call me and bid me come to thee

That with thy Saints I may praise thee

For ever and ever. Amen.

***Welcome.** We are so glad you have joined us for worship this morning.
Please ensure that cell phones are muted.*

THE GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY

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

Please be seated.

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 The word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm

Psalm 103:8-18

Reader 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.

People **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.**

Reader 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.

People **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;**

Reader 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;

People **On those who keep his covenant
and remember his commandments to do them.**

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.**

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.

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.**

Those who wish to receive the Imposition of Ashes are invited to come forward.

Presider + Remember you are dust, and to dust you shall return.

Turn away from sin and be faithful to Christ.

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

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

All **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!**

Presider Blessed are you, O God of the universe. Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age. Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth. Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood. Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea. Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness to the land of milk and honey. Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one. Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ. Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

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.

With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

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

Presider O God of resurrection and new life: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine. Bless this feast. Grace our table with your presence.

People **Come, Holy Spirit.**

Presider Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread. Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world. Breathe new life into us. Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love.

People **Come, Holy Spirit.**

Presider With James, our patron, past members of our cathedral, and your holy ones of all times and places, with the earth and all its creatures, with sun

and moon and stars, we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever.

People Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Presider And now, as our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are bold to say:

All 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, the power, and the glory, for ever and 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

Presider Lamb of God,

All 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 baptized persons are welcome to receive Holy Communion.

Gluten-free hosts are available upon request. It is not permitted to dip the bread in the wine for health reasons. If you choose not to receive communion, you are welcome to come forward to receive a blessing. Simply cross your hands over your chest to indicate this to the priest.

Prayer after Communion

Presider Let us pray. *Please stand.*
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 One who loves us, the One who liberates us, and the One who leads us into all truth, be with you now and always.

People **Amen.**

Dismissal

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

People **Thanks be to God.**

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