



EPISCOPAL CHURCH
OF THE
HOLY FAMILY



ASH WEDNESDAY
FEBRUARY 18, 2026
12:00 NOON



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

Ash Wednesday

On this day the ministers enter in silence.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

BCP p. 264

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.**

The Lessons

FIRST READING: Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

A Reading from the book of the prophet Joel.

¹Blow 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—
²a 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.
¹²Yet even now, says the LORD,
 return to me with all your heart,
with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;
 ¹³rend 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.
¹⁴Who 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.
¹⁶Sanctify 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.**

PSALM 103 *Spoken responsively*

¹Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and all that is within me, bless his holy Name.

²Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and forget not all his benefits.

³He forgives all your sins
and heals all your infirmities;

⁴He redeems your life from the grave
and crowns you with mercy and loving-kindness;

⁵He satisfies you with good things,
and your youth is renewed like an eagle's.

⁶The LORD executes righteousness
and judgment for all who are oppressed.

⁷He made his ways known to Moses
and his works to the children of Israel.

⁸The LORD is full of compassion and mercy,
slow to anger and of great kindness.

⁹He will not always accuse us,
nor will he keep his anger for ever.

¹⁰He has not dealt with us according to our sins,
nor rewarded us according to our wickedness.

¹¹For as the heavens are high above the earth,
so is his mercy great upon those who fear him.

¹²As far as the east is from the west,
so far has he removed our sins from us.

¹³As a father cares for his children,
so does the LORD care for those who fear him.

¹⁴For he himself knows whereof we are made;
he remembers that we are but dust.

¹⁵Our days are like the grass;
we flourish like a flower of the field;

¹⁶When the wind goes over it, it is gone,
and its place shall know it no more.

¹⁷But the merciful goodness of the LORD endures for ever on those who fear him,
and his righteousness on children's children;

¹⁸On those who keep his covenant
and remember his commandments and do them.
¹⁹The LORD has set his throne in heaven,
and his kingship has dominion over all.
²⁰Bless the LORD, you angels of his, you mighty ones who do his bidding,
and hearken to the voice of his word.
²¹Bless the LORD, all you his hosts,
you ministers of his who do his will.
²²Bless the LORD, all you works of his, in all places of his dominion;
bless the LORD, O my soul.

SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 5:20b--6:10

A Reading from Paul's Second letter to the Church in Corinth.

^{20b}We 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.

^{6:1}As 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.**

GOSPEL: Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

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

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

THE SERMON

The Rev. Mark Winward

LENTEN INVITATION

BCP p. 264

Dear People of God: The first Christians observed with great devotion the days of our Lord’s passion and resurrection, and it became the custom of the Church to prepare for them by a season of penitence and fasting. This season of Lent provided a time in which converts to the faith were prepared for Holy Baptism. It was also a time when those who, because of notorious sins, had been separated from the body of the faithful were reconciled by penitence and forgiveness, and restored to the fellowship of the Church. Thereby, the whole congregation was put in mind of the message of pardon and absolution set forth in the Gospel of our Savior, and of the need which all Christians continually have to renew their repentance and faith.

I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church, to the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God’s holy Word. And, to make a right beginning of repentance, and as a mark of our mortal nature, let us now kneel before the Lord, our maker and redeemer.

BLESSING OF THE ASHES

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.**

The ashes are imposed with the following words

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

PSALM 51 *Spoken in unison*

¹Have mercy on me, O God, according to your loving-kindness;
in your great compassion blot out my offenses.

²Wash me through and through from my wickedness
and cleanse me from my sin.

³For I know my transgressions,
and my sin is ever before me.

⁴Against you only have I sinned
and done what is evil in your sight.

⁵And so you are justified when you speak
and upright in your judgment.

⁶Indeed, I have been wicked from my birth,
a sinner from my mother’s womb.

⁷For behold, you look for truth deep within me,
and will make me understand wisdom secretly.

⁸Purge me from my sin, and I shall be pure;
wash me, and I shall be clean indeed.

⁹Make me hear of joy and gladness,

that the body you have broken may rejoice.
¹⁰Hide your face from my sins
and blot out all my iniquities.
¹¹Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.
¹²Cast me not away from your presence
and take not your holy Spirit from me.
¹³Give me the joy of your saving help again
and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.
¹⁴I shall teach your ways to the wicked,
and sinners shall return to you.
¹⁵Deliver me from death, O God,
and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness,
O God of my salvation.
¹⁶Open my lips, O Lord,
and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.
¹⁷Had you desired it, I would have offered sacrifice,
but you take no delight in burnt-offerings.
¹⁸The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit;
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

LITANY OF PENITENCE

BCP p. 267

The Celebrant and People together, all kneeling

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.

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 Priest, stands and, facing the people, 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.**

All stand as able.

THE PEACE

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Holy Communion

All baptized Christians, regardless of denomination, are welcome to receive Communion at Holy Family. Communion is offered at the altar rail and may also be brought to anyone in the pews unable to move to the altar rail. Alternatively to drinking from the common cup you may 1) receive only the bread, or 2) dip the wafer in the wine before consuming it (intinction). On the right end of the altar rail gluten-free wafers and wine-infused wafers are available.

“Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God.” – *Ephesians 5:2*

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

BCP p. 367

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

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

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

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:

**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.**

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, 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, according to his command, O Father,

**We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;**

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

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 say,

**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 Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread.

Celebrant Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
People **Therefore let us keep the feast.**

Celebrant The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray.

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

BLESSING

The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be amongst you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

DISMISSAL

Deacon Let us go forth in the name of Christ.
People **Thanks be to God.**

UNRESTRICTED GIVING FOR DECEMBER 2025

Anticipated Contributions for December	\$42,625
Actual Contributions for December	\$61,741
Budgeted Contributions January-December	\$515,000
Actual Contributions January-December	\$537,037

EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE HOLY FAMILY

Mailing Address: 202 Griffith Road, Jasper, GA 30143

Office Phone: 770-893-4525

Rector's Mobile: 757-639-6239

Office Hours: Monday - Friday 9:00 am to 3:00 pm

Email Address: Office@HolyFamilyJasper.org

Website: www.HolyFamilyJasper.org

The Rev. Mark Winward, Rector

The Rev. Dr. Ted Hackett, Priest Associate

The Rev. Byron Tindall, Priest Associate

The Rev. Katharine Armentrout, Deacon

John King Carter, Organist/Choirmaster

Christie Beiring, Parish Administrator

Jacques LeBlanc, Sexton

Jim Braley, Head Verger

Vision: *Revealing Jesus through our actions by extending
his love for us through our service to others*

Mission: *Creating Christian community: serving and engaging*

*Your gifts support the life and ministry of Holy Family.
Online giving is available by scanning this QR code.*

