

ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

IN THE CITY OF WILMINGTON
THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF EAST CAROLINA



ASH WEDNESDAY

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2026
6:00 PM CHORAL EUCHARIST WITH IMPOSITION OF ASHES

OPEN DOORS. OPEN HEARTS. OPEN HANDS.

Tuesday, February 17

5:30 pm-7:00 pm

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

Ash Wednesday, February 18

Services with Imposition of Ashes at 12:10 pm and 6:00 pm

Wednesdays in Lent

12:10 pm - Holy Eucharist with lunch to follow

5:30 pm - Lenten Soup Supper

6:00 pm -7:00 pm - Adult program

Famous Preachers in the Church

Each week we will watch a sermon from a famous preacher in the church and have discussion

7:00 pm - 8:30 pm - Adult Choir Rehearsal

Sunday Adult Formation in Lent @ 9:30 am

The Characters in Lent - Parish Hall

A look at the biblical characters associated with Lent

All are encouraged to follow the daily reflections in our Lenten Reflections Book:
Wander and Ponder

Sunday

8:00am Holy Eucharist

10:30am Choral Eucharist

Wednesday

12:10pm Holy Eucharist

Followed by community lunch

ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Welcome to St. Paul's Episcopal Church, celebrating 166 years of service and worship in Wilmington.

6:00 PM HOLY EUCHARIST WITH IMPOSITION OF ASHES ACCORDING TO THE BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER

Our worship service can be found in the red Book of Common Prayer (BCP). The hymns can be found in the blue 1982 Hymnal. Other hymns will be marked accordingly. Please silence all electronic devices before the liturgy begins.

Voluntary

Alle Menschen müssen sterben, BWV 643

J.S. Bach

THE WORD OF GOD

The Acclamation and Response

Celebrant: Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

People: *God's mercy endures forever.*

Kyrie

Missa de Sancta Maria Magdalena

Healey Willan

14

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: *And also with you.*

Celebrant: Let us pray.

The Collect for Ash Wednesday

Celebrant: 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 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. Amen.

Please be seated.

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

Reader: A Reading from the Book of the Prophet Joel.

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?'"

Reader: The Word of the Lord.
People: *Thanks be to God.*

Please stand.

Gradual Hymn 150

Forty days and forty nights

Aus der Tiefe rufe ich

The Holy Gospel: Matthew 6: 1-6, 16-21

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

Jesus said, "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."

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

Please be seated.

The Homily

A period of silent reflection is kept.

THE PENITENTIAL OFFICE FOR ASH WEDNESDAY

Please stand.

The Exhortation

BCP 264

Celebrant: 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.

Silence is then kept for a time, all kneeling. Then, the Celebrant continues:

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

The Ashes are imposed at the altar rail and in the baptistry. The ashes are imposed with the following words:

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

Anthem

Bless thou the Lord, O my soul

Mikhail Ippolitov-Ivanov

Please kneel.

Psalm 51: 1-18

Miserere mei, Deus

Refrain (sung first by Cantor, then by all)

George Black



Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God.

Cantor: 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.

All: *Refrain*

Cantor: For I know my transgressions,
and my sin is ever before me.
Against you only have I sinned
and done what is evil in your sight.

All: *Refrain*

Cantor: And so you are justified when you speak
and upright in your judgment.
Indeed, I have been wicked from my birth,
a sinner from my mother's womb.

All: *Refrain*

Cantor: For behold, you look for truth deep within me,
and will make me understand wisdom secretly.
Purge me from my sin, and I shall be pure;
wash me, and I shall be clean indeed.

All: *Refrain*

Cantor: Make me hear of joy and gladness,
that the body you have broken may rejoice.
Hide your face from my sins
and blot out all my iniquities.

All: *Refrain*

Cantor: 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.

All: *Refrain*

Litany of Penitence

All: 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.

Celebrant: 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.

People: *Have mercy on us, Lord.*

Priest: 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.

People: *Have mercy on us, Lord.*

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

Priest: Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people,
People: *We confess to you, Lord.*

Celebrant: Our anger at our own frustration, and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves,
People: *We confess to you, Lord.*

Priest: 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,

People: *Accept our repentance, Lord.*

Celebrant: For all false judgments, for uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and for our prejudice and
contempt toward those who differ from us,

People: *Accept our repentance, Lord.*

Priest: For our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us,
People: *Accept our repentance, Lord.*

Celebrant: Restore us, good Lord, and let your anger depart from us;
People: *Favorably hear us, for your mercy is great.*

Priest: Accomplish in us the work of your salvation,
People: *That we may show forth your glory in the world.*

Celebrant: By the cross and passion of your Son our Lord,
People: *Bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.*

Celebrant: 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.

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: *And also with you.*

Offertory Anthem

Hide Not Thou Thy Face

Richard Farrant

Hide not thou thy face from us, O Lord,
and cast not off thy servant in thy displeasure;
for we confess our sins unto thee
and hide not our unrighteousness.
For thy mercy's sake,
deliver us from all our sins.

Members of the congregation will present the offerings and oblations of our life and labor to the Lord.

Presentation Hymn

Doxology

Rockingham

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise him, all creatures here below.
Praise him above, ye heavenly host:
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

The Great Thanksgiving (Eucharistic Prayer A)

BCP 361

Celebrant: The Lord 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 God 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.

You bid your faithful people cleanse their hearts, and prepare with joy for the Paschal feast; that, fervent in prayer and in works of mercy, and renewed by your Word and Sacraments, they may come to the fullness of grace which you have prepared for those who love you.

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.

The Celebrant continues.

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord God of
 Hosts: Hea - ven and earth are full - of thy glo - ry. Glo -
 ry be to thee, O Lord Most High. Bless - ed is he that com - eth -
 - in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

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 has 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 forever. *Amen.*

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

The Lord's Prayer

BCP 364

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,
for ever and ever. Amen.

Fraction Anthem

Paschal victim, bread of life

Aus der Tiefe rufe ich



Pas - chal vic - tim, bread of life, Giv - er of e - ter - nal peace,



Christ for us is sac - ri - ficed; There - fore let us keep the feast. R. C. Donehue+

Agnus Dei S-158

O Lamb of God

Healey Willan

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.
O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.
O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, grant us thy peace.

The Communion of the People

Holy Communion is distributed at the altar rail and in the baptistry.

Communion Hymn

Lenten Gifts

Cranham

1 Lenten gifts invite us,
Searching deep within.
Claiming our desires,
Naming all our sins.
Lenten gifts are offered,
Lightening our way.
Praying, giving, fasting,
Centering our day.

2 Prayer, our gospel model,
Rooting all of life.
God's gift of oasis,
Mid our desert strife.
Fasting, our next calling
On this barren plain.
Lasting food, our worship,
Emptying, our gain.

3 Giving and surrender,
This last gift God sends;
Soul food for the journey,
Sacrifice, our friend.
These three gifts now offered
Let us now make room.
Walking with our Saviour,
To the empty tomb.

- Text by JMA Wright

Communion Hymn 147

Now let us all with one accord

Bourbon

The people stand or kneel.

The people stand or kneel.

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.*

The Blessing

Processional Hymn 149

Eternal Lord of love, behold your Church

Old 124th

The Dismissal

Celebrant: Go in the joy and peace of Christ.

People: *Thanks be to God.*

Voluntary

O welt, ich muss dich lassen

Johannes Brahms

SERVICE PARTICIPANTS

Celebrant

The Reverend Caleb J. Lee

Preacher

The Reverend James H. Green

Verger

Scott Sheble

Crucifers

Zoë Frederiksen

Jeffrey Hughes

Altar Server

Zoë Frederiksen

Gospel Book Bearer

Amelia Thomas

Eucharistic Ministers

Jeffrey Hughes

Suzanne S. Sramek

Nathan Gaylord

Torchbearers

Nathan Gaylord

Scott Sheble

Lector

Lisa Sanders-Park

Suzanne S. Sramek

Intercessor

Greg Kutrow

Ushers

Ashlyn Kuykendall

Isaac Kuykendall

John Fonda

Pete Hoff

Don Bobo

Altar Guild

Anne Freeling

Gail Gallaher

ST. PAUL'S WELCOMES YOU

We are glad you are with us today.

If you are new to St. Paul's, please fill out a guest card and place it in the offering plate or give it to a greeter or an usher. Here are some quick facts that may be helpful.

Welcome:

All are welcome to receive communion. If you prefer not to receive, you can remain seated, or come forward with your arms crossed to receive a blessing. If you are allergic to wheat products, gluten-free communion bread is available. Please let your request be known to the priest as you approach the altar rail.

Help: Please see any of our ushers for assistance when you enter the worship area.

Handicapped Parking: Our facility is handicapped accessible with multiple handicapped parking spaces available in the lot off Market Street and the lot off Princess Street. Handicap ramps serve both parking lots.

Live-Streamed: Our service is live-streamed on YouTube on Sundays at 10:30 am. Please subscribe to St. Paul's on YouTube to view live-streamed services and concerts.

Worship: St. Paul's follows the services outlined in the Book of Common Prayer 1979. The services include Old and New Testament readings, a reading from the Gospel, a sermon and traditional communion.

Children: All children are welcome and encouraged to attend any of our services.

Worship Kits: Bags and boxes are located in the back of the church for different ages to use in the pew. Please return when church is over.

Nursery: The nursery is open most Sundays from 9:15 am to Noon upstairs in the Children's wing. The nursery is for infants to age 5.

Sunday School: Sunday School meets from 9:30-10:15 am upstairs in the Children's Wing for ages 4-11.

Episcopal Youth Community (EYC): EYC meets Sunday from 9:30-10:15 am in the conference room for 6th grade and older.



ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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New Office Address - 1624 Princess Street

Office Hours: Mon-Thur 9 am-4 pm, Fri 9 am-1 pm

Bulletin & E-news submissions: admin@spechurch.com (Deadline Mondays, 5:00 pm)

Clergy and Staff

The Right Reverend Robert Skirving, Bishop

The Reverend Caleb J. Lee, Rector

The Reverend James H. Green, Associate Priest

Dr. Brendan Conner, Organist and Director of Music

Lynne Rooks, Finance Manager

Jeanne Fitzpatrick, Church Administrator

Meaghan Thomas, Children's Ministry Coordinator

Isaac McDowell, Associate for Youth and Parish Life

Christian Bridges, Sunday Sexton

St. Paul's 2026 Vestry

Barbara Ellington Banks, Rector's Warden

Mait Dubois, People's Warden

Anne O'Dell, Clerk

Scott Sheble, Treasurer

Steve Bucci | Tori Cannon | Karen Day | Shelley Jonik | Cecelia Peers

Rhonda Stroud | Leon Tillary | Brad Van Amberg | Frank Wolf

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