



"Ash"
by Mike Moyers



THE WORSHIP OF GOD
ASH WEDNESDAY
FEBRUARY 18, 2026
ONLINE AND IN-PERSON WORSHIP
6:30 P.M.

THE WORSHIP OF GOD
ASH WEDNESDAY
FEBRUARY 18, 2026

Gathering Music

"Ah, Holy Jesus"

Johann Cruger/Jan Sanborn. © 2003 Alfred Pub. Co., Inc. Used by permission. CCLI #20126570

Welcome and Lighting of the Christ Candle

Rev. Matthew Sturtevant

Prelude

"If Thou But Suffer"

Georg Newmark/Robert Graham. © 1984 Lorenz Pub. Co./The Lorenz Corp.
Used by permission. CCLI #20126570

* Call to Worship

Rev. Matthew Sturtevant

Psalm 51

Leader: Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;

People: Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

Leader: Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me.

**People: The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God,
you will not despise.**

Leader: Let us worship God!

* Hymn of Gathering (CONGR 169)

"Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days"

ST. FLAVIAN

Old Testament Reading

Rev. Matthew Sturtevant

Joel 2.1-2, 12-17, 28-29

Hymn of Response (CONGR 231)

"Breathe on Me"

TRUETT

Call to Confession

Isaiah 58

Leader: God says, Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day, and oppress all your workers.

People: God says, Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight and to strike with a wicked fist.

Leader: Is this not the fast that God chooses? To loose the bonds of injustice, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke?

**People: We are to share our bread with the hungry, bring the homeless poor into our house,
clothe the naked, and not hide ourselves from our own kin.**

Leader: Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer; you shall cry for help,

People: and God will say, Here I am.

Sung Confession (CONGR 235)

"Breathe on Me, Breath of God"

TRENTHAM

Assurance of Pardon

The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. He does not deal with us according to our sins nor repay us according to our iniquities. As a father has compassion for his children, so the LORD has compassion for those who fear him. For he knows how we were made; he remembers that we are dust. For...as far as the east is from the west, so far he removes our transgressions from us. (Psalm 103)

* Gospel Reading

Rev. Matthew Sturtevant

John 10.1-18

Leader: This is the Word of God for the People of God.

People: Thanks be to God!

Call to Prayer

"And Can it Be"

Words & Music by John Kelonic and Ed Nalle/Arr. Bob Kauflin

© 1988 Organon Key Music/ASCAP/Universal Music - Brentwood-Benson Music Publishing

Used with permission CCLI #20126570

Invitation to Season of Prayer

"A Shepherd Inspires Hope"

Evening Prayer

Responding in Prayer (CONGR 399)

"O Lord, Hear My Prayer"

O LORD, HEAR MY PRAYER

Burning of the Palms & The Sign of Ashes

From ancient times Christians have on this day searched their hearts and sought to be cleansed from sin. They have sought reconciliation with God and with one another. They have received ashes marked on their foreheads as a sign of sin's disfigurement and of their own mortality.

Prayer over the Ashes

Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth. May these ashes be to us a sign of our mortality and penitence, so that we may remember that only by your gracious gift are we given everlasting life. Amen.

Imposition of Ashes

"Agnus Dei"

Gabriel Faure/Joseph Prentiss. © 1991 Lorenz Pub. Co./The Lorenz Corp.

Used by permission. CCLI #20126570

* Hymn of Sending (CONGR 168)

"I Take the Cross of Jesus Christ"

KINGSFOLD

Benediction

Postlude

"In the Cross of Christ I Glory"

Ithamar Conkey/Jan Sanborn. © 2003 Alfred Music. Used by permission. CCLI #20126570

TONIGHT IN WORSHIP

Senior Pastor: Rev. Dr. Matthew Sturtevant

Organist & Accompanist: Evelyn Falen • Vocal Soloist: Joe Karnes

Livestream Video Crew: Jim Lord, Glenn Prescott • Sound: Marylee Southard

YouTube & Facebook Chat Moderator: Jenny Purvis

Cover art: Moyers, Mike. Ash, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN.

<https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=57140> [retrieved February 13, 2026]. Original source: Mike Moyers,

<https://www.mikemoyersfineart.com/>.

Call to Worship is reprinted by permission of the publisher from When We Gather by James G. Kirk. © 2001 James G. Kirk. Published by Geneva Press. Call to Confession: Reprinted by permission of Westminster John Knox Press from Feasting on the Word Worship Companion edited by Kimberly Bracken Long. © 2013 Westminster John Knox Press.