



THE OLD STONE CHURCH

MARCH 5, 2025
ASH WEDNESDAY

12:15 PM Sanctuary Worship

* OPENING SENTENCE *(As you are able please stand)*

Pastor Stephen C. Blonder Adams

God sent Christ into the world
not to condemn the world,
but that the world might be saved through him.

God's love endures forever.

God is our refuge and strength,
a present help in trouble.
Therefore we will not fear
though the earth should change,
though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea;
though the waters roar and foam,
though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

God's love endures forever.

* Those who are able are requested to stand

Please silence all electronic devices.

* PRAYER FOR ASH WEDNESDAY

Almighty God,
you despise nothing you have made
and you forgive the sins of all who trust in you.
Create in us new and contrite hearts,
that truly repenting of our sins,
and acknowledging our brokenness,
we may receive from you, the God of all mercy,
full pardon and forgiveness;
through your Son, Jesus Christ our redeemer,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.

Amen.

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

**Merciful God,
your word is our way of truth and life.
Create in us hearts that are clean
and put your Holy Spirit within us,
so that we may receive your grace
and declare your praise forever;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

THE READINGS

Hebrew Scripture Joel 2:1–2, 12–17 (Inclusive Bible)

Blow the shofar in Zion!

Sound the alarm on my holy mountain!

Let all the people of the land tremble!

For the day of YHWH is coming—it is near—
a day of darkness and gloom,
a day of fog and thick clouds.

A vast and countless hoard appears

like soot spread over the hills;

it is like something never known before,
nor will be seen in ages to come.

“But know this”, says YHWH:

“Return to me with all your heart,
with fasting, weeping, and mourning.

Tear open your heart, not your clothes!”

Return to YHWH your God,

who is gracious and deeply loving as a mother,
quick to forgive, abundantly tender-hearted—

and relents from inflicting disaster.

Who knows? God may come back, relent
and leave a blessing behind—

grain and a drink offerings

for YHWH your God?

Blow the shofar in Zion!

Order a fast!

Proclaim a solemn assembly!

Gather the people!

Purify the community!

Assemble the elders!

Gather the children—

even infants at the breast!

Let the bridegroom leave his bedroom

and the bride her canopied bed!

Let the priests, the ministers of YHWH,

stand weeping between the portico and the altar

and say, “Spare your people, YHWH!

Don’t let your heritage become an object of ridicule,
a byword for the Nations!

Don’t let the peoples say,

‘Where is their God?’”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SOLO

Pie Jesu

Gabriel Fauré

Pie Jesu Domine, dona eis requiem

Merciful Jesus, Lord, give them rest

Dona eis Domine, sempiternam requiem.

Give them rest, eternal rest.

Val Sibila, soprano

“Beware of practicing your piety before others to attract their attention; if you do this, you will have no reward from your Abba God in heaven.

When you do acts of charity, for example, don’t have it trumpeted before you; that is what hypocrites do in the synagogues and the streets, that they may be praised by others. The truth is, they’ve already received their reward in full. But when you do acts of charity, don’t let your left hand know what your right hand is doing; your good deeds must be done in secret, and your Abba God—who sees all that is done in secret. And Abba God—who sees everything that is done in secret—will repay you.

And when you pray, don’t behave like the hypocrites; they love to pray standing up in the synagogues and at street corners, for people to see them. The truth is, they have received their reward in full. But when you pray, go your room, shut the door, and pray to God who is in that secret place, and your Abba God—who sees all that is done in secret—will reward you.

And when you fast, don’t look depressed like the hypocrites. They deliberately neglect their appearance to let everyone know that they are fasting. The truth is, they have already received their reward. But when you fast, brush your hair and wash your face. Don’t let anyone know you’re fasting except your Abba God, who sees all that is done in secret will reward you.

Don’t store up earthly treasures for yourselves, which moths and rust destroy and thieves can break in and steal. But store up treasures for yourselves in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroy and thieves cannot break in and steal them. For where your treasure is, there will your heart will be as well.”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

INVITATION TO OBSERVE A HOLY LENT

Beloved people of God:
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 to prepare for this celebration
and to renew our life in the paschal mystery.
We begin this holy season
by acknowledging our need for repentance,
and for the mercy and forgiveness
proclaimed in the gospel of Jesus Christ.
We begin our journey to Easter with the sign of ashes.
This ancient sign speaks of the frailty and uncertainty
of human life,
and marks the penitence of this community.

I invite you, therefore, in the name of Christ,
to observe a holy Lent
by self-examination and penitence,
by prayer and fasting,
by works of love,
and by meditating on God's word.
Now let us bow before God, our creator and redeemer,
and confess our *sin*.

(A time of silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.)



PSALM 51 (congregation joins in the response)

Be mer - ci - ful, O Lord, for we have sinned.

Dm Dm⁷ Gm⁷ Am⁷ Dm

Psalm Tone #27

Ps. 51:3-4, 5-6a, 12-13, 14 and 17 / 22 (219)

Dm Dm/C Bm⁷(b5) GADD9

1. Have mercy on me, O God, according to your mer-ci - ful love; according to your great compassion, blot out my trans - gressions.

2. My transgressions, truly I know them; my sin is always be - fore me.

3. Create a pure heart for me, O God; renew a steadfast spirit with - in me.

4. Restore in me the joy of your sal - vation; sustain in me a willing spirit.

Dm Am/C Bbmaj⁷ GADD9

1. Wash me completely from my in - iquity, and cleanse me from my sin.

2. Against you, you alone, have I sinned; what is evil in your sight I have done.

3. Do not cast me away from your presence; take not your holy spirit from me.

4. O Lord, open my lips and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.

LITANY OF PENANCE

Holy and merciful God,
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, O God.

We have not listened 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, O God.

We confess to you, O God, all our past unfaithfulness.
For the pride, hypocrisy, and impatience in our lives,

have mercy on us, O God.

For our self-indulgent appetites and ways
and our exploitation of other people,

have mercy on us, O God.

For our anger at our own frustration
and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves,

have mercy on us, O God.

For our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts,
and our dishonesty in daily life and work,

have mercy on us, O God.

For our negligence in prayer and worship,
and our failure to commend the faith that is in us,

have mercy on us, O God.

Accept our repentance, O God,
for the wrongs we have done.

For our neglect of human need and suffering
and our indifference to injustice and cruelty,

have mercy on us, O God.

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

have mercy on us, O God.

For our waste and pollution of your creation
and our lack of concern for those who come after us,

have mercy on us, O God.

Restore us, O God of our salvation,
and show us your steadfast love.

Turn to us in your mercy and redeem us.

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

Almighty God,
you have created us out of the dust of the earth.
May these ashes be for us
a sign of our mortality and penitence,
for it is only by your gracious gift
are we given everlasting life;
through Jesus Christ our Savior.

Amen.

(During the imposition each forehead is marked, using the following words.)

Remember that your body was formed from the dust,
and to dust it shall return.

But your soul shall live on for all eternity.

Amen.

(After all who desire ashes have received them.)

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

that we may show forth your glory in the world.

By the cross and passion of our Savior,

**bring us with all your saints
to the joy of Christ's resurrection.**

BLESSING AND CHARGE

May the God of peace
make you holy in every way
and keep your whole being—
spirit, soul, and body—
free from every fault
at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.