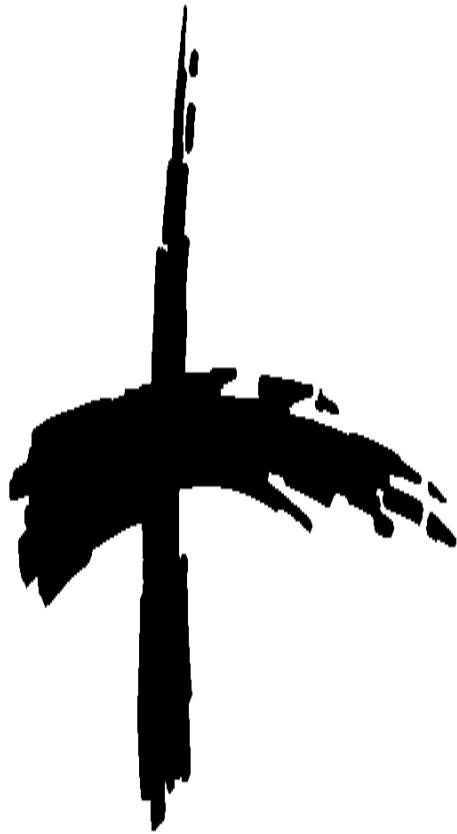


Calvary Episcopal Church

Ash Wednesday



February 18, 2026

7:00 PM

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

The Rev. Ralph B. Morgan, Rector
The Rev. Nancy Wilkes, Deacon

THE WORD OF GOD

PROCESSIONAL SONG - Here I Am to Worship

*Light of the World,
you stepped down into darkness,
opened my eyes, let me see.
Beauty that made this heart adore you,
hope of a life spent with you.*

REFRAIN:

*Here I am to worship,
here I am to bow down,
here I am to say that You're my God.
You're altogether lovely,
altogether worthy,
altogether wonderful to me.*

*King of all days, oh so highly exalted,
glorious in heaven above.
Humbly you came to the Earth you created,
all for love's sake became poor.*

*And I'll never know how much it cost
to see my sin upon that cross.
I'll never know how much it cost
to see my sin upon that cross.*

Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

His mercy endures for ever.

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, forever and ever. **Amen.**

THE LESSONS

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF THE PROPHET JOEL

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

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?'"

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

THE PSALM

Psalm 103:8-14

The Lord is full of compassion and mercy, *
slow to anger and of great kindness.

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

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 is his mercy great upon those who fear him.

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

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

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

A READING FROM PAUL'S SECOND LETTER TO THE CORINTHIANS

2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

We entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. For 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! We are putting no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see-- we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SEQUENCE SONG - Jesus Paid It All

1. *And I hear the Savior say
Thy strength indeed is small
Child of weakness watch and pray
Find in Me thine all in all*

CHORUS:

*'Cause Jesus paid it all
All to Him I owe
Sin had left a crimson stain
He washed it white as snow*

2. *Lord now indeed I find
Thy pow'r and Thine alone
Can change the leper's spots
And melt the heart of stone*

3. *And when before the throne
I stand in Him complete
Jesus died my soul to save
My lips shall still repeat*

THE GOSPEL

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew

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.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

HOMILY - Fr. Ralph

INVITATION TO THE OBSERVANCE OF A HOLY LENT (standing as you are able)

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.

Please kneel as you are able. Silence is kept.

PRAYER OVER 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.**

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

Please be seated. Ushers will guide all who wish to come forward to receive the ashes.

The ashes are imposed with the following words:

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

Psalm 51 (said in unison standing)

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

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

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

I shall teach your ways to the wicked, *
and sinners shall return to you.

Deliver me from death, O God, *
and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness, O God of my salvation.

Open my lips, O Lord, *
and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Had you desired it, I would have offered sacrifice; *
but you take no delight in burnt-offerings.

The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit; *
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

THE LITANY OF PENITENCE (please kneel as you are able)

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

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 ABSOLUTION

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.***

THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

THE OFFERTORY - Great is Thy Faithfulness

**1. Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father,
There is no shadow of turning with thee;
Thou changest not, thy compassions,
they fail not,
As thou hast been thou forever wilt be.**

CHORUS:

**Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed thy hand hath provided,
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!**

**2. Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon and stars in their courses above,
Join with all nature in manifold witness,
To thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.**

**3. Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
Strength for today and bright hope
for tomorrow,
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING (Standing as you are able.)

Eucharistic Prayer A, BCP 361

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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.

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 say this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power, of power and might
Heaven and earth are full of your glory (repeat)
Hosanna in the highest,
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord (repeat)
Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power, of power and might;
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

(The people may kneel or stand.)

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.

Christ has died,

Christ is risen,

Christ will come again

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 for ever. Amen.

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

**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.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

Therefore let us keep the feast.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:

Have mercy on us

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:

Have mercy on us

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:

Grant us peace.

These are 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.



Gluten Free hosts are available for communion.
Please make yourself known to the priest at the altar rail.

COMMUNION SONG 1 - Let Us Break Bread Together

*Let us break bread together on our knees;
When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun,
Oh Lord, have mercy on me.*

*Let us drink wine together on our knees;
When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun,
Oh Lord, have mercy on me.*

*Let us praise God together on our knees;
When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun,
Oh Lord, have mercy on me.*

COMMUNION SONG 2 - In Christ Alone

1. In Christ alone my hope is found

*He is my light, my strength, my song.
This cornerstone, this solid ground
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease!
My comforter, my all in all–
Here in the love of Christ I stand.*

2. In Christ alone, who took on flesh

*Fullness of God in helpless babe!
This gift of love and righteousness
Scorned by the ones he came to save
Til on that cross as Jesus died
The wrath of God was satisfied
For every sin on him was laid–
Here in the death of Christ I live.*

3. There in the ground his body lay.

*Light of the world by darkness slain
Then bursting forth in glorious day
Up from the grave he rose again!
And as he stands in victory
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me.
For I am his and he is mine–
Bought with the precious blood of Christ.*

4. No guilt in life, no fear in death-

*This is the power of Christ in me.
From life's first cry to final breath
Jesus commands my destiny.
No power of hell, no scheme of man
Can ever pluck me from his hand.
Til he returns or calls me home–
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand.*

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.

THE BENEDICTION

Bow down before the Lord.

Grant, most merciful Lord, to your faithful people pardon and peace, that they may be cleansed from all their sins, and serve you with a quiet mind; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you this day and remain with you always. **Amen.**

RECESSIONAL SONG - Power in the Blood

1. Would you be free from your burden of sin?

*There's pow'r in the blood, pow'r in the blood;
Would you o'er evil a victory win?
There's wonderful pow'r in the blood.*

CHORUS:

*There is pow'r, pow'r, wonder-working pow'r
In the blood of the Lamb;
There is pow'r, pow'r, wonder-working pow'r
In the precious blood of the Lamb.*

2. Would you be free from your passion and pride?

*There's pow'r in the blood, pow'r in the blood;
Come for a cleansing to Calvary's tide
There's wonderful pow'r in the blood.*

3. Would you be whiter much whiter than snow?

*There's pow'r in the blood, pow'r in the blood;
Sin-stains are lost in its life-giving flow
There's wonderful pow'r in the blood.*

4. Would you do service for Jesus your King?

*There's pow'r in the blood, pow'r in the blood;
Would you live daily His praises to sing?
There's wonderful pow'r in the blood.*

THE DISMISSAL

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

CALVARY WORSHIP SERVICE TIMES

8:00 AM Sunday – Traditional Service

10:30 AM Sunday – Contemporary Service

IF YOU HAVE AN EMERGENCY AND NEED TO SPEAK WITH SOMEONE, PLEASE CONTACT:

The Rev. Nancy Wilkes

713-818-6323

nwilkes@ces-richmond.org

The Rev. Ralph Morgan

281-797-5246

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Welcome to Calvary Episcopal Church

Welcome to Calvary Episcopal Church, a vibrant and growing Episcopal parish in the heart of Richmond, Texas. Over the past almost 170 years, the fabric of Calvary has been woven by the Spirit from the lives and gifts of diverse people; their desire to live their faith through worship, service, study, fellowship, and stewardship; and the ever-evolving life of Fort Bend County.

Our parish is guided by its mission to welcome and embrace all who join us in doing the work of Christ in our community. Calvary is a loving church that welcomes all into a closer relationship with God and each other. We are inspired by the Holy Spirit to serve God as the hands and feet of Christ in our community.

What Is Lent?

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the season of Lent. The Ash Wednesday service is centered on an invitation to prayer and penitence.

The season of Lent – from an Old English word meaning “spring” – spans 40 days: from Ash Wednesday through Holy Saturday, excluding Sundays. Traditionally, this time of year has been a period of solemn preparation, self-examination, and repentance. Remembering the time Jesus spent in the wilderness before beginning his ministry, some Christians adopt Lenten disciplines: giving up an item of food, taking on a prayer or devotional practice, taking a technology fast, or simply setting aside time each day to be present with God and those they love.

The Episcopal Church invites us to observe Lent “by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God’s holy Word”. (Book of Common Prayer, p. 265)

Our Lenten liturgy is characterized by solemnity and simplicity. The Gloria and the word *alleluia* are omitted and will not return until Easter. At Calvary the crosses are draped in purple, which is the liturgical color of Lent. Purple is the color traditionally associated with royalty and suffering, penance, repentance, and renewal. The altar is adorned simply with a wooden cross, wooden candlesticks, and wooden sacred vessels turned by one of our parishioners. There are no altar flowers during Lent.

We invite you, in the name of Christ, to join us in the observance of a holy Lent.