

Ash Wednesday – February 18, 2026

Opening:

Again We Keep This Solemn Fast

1. A - gain we keep this sol - emn fast,
 2. The law and proph - ets from of old,
 3. More spar - ing, there - fore, let us make,
 4. Let us a - void each harm - ful way,
 5. We pray, O bless - ed Three in One,

A gift of faith from a - ges past,
 In fig - ured ways Lent fore - told,
 The words we speak, the food we take,
 That lures the care - less mind a - stray;
 Our God while end - less a - ges run,

These for - ty days that, year by year,
 Which Christ, all a - ges' Lord and Guide,
 Our sleep, our laugh - ter, ev - 'ry sense;
 By watch - ful prayer our spir - its free
 That this, our Lent of for - ty days,

Bid con - trite hearts to Christ draw near.
 In these last days has sanc - ti - fied.
 Learn peace through ho - ly pen - i - tence.
 From schem - ing of the En - e - my.
 May bring us growth and give you praise.

Text: *Ex more docti mystico*; ascr. to St. Gregory the Great, c.540–604; tr. by Peter J. Scagnelli, b.1949, after John M. Neale, 1818–1866, © 1975, 2011
 Tune: ERHALT UNS HERR, LM; Klug's *Geistliche Lieder*, 1543; harm. by J. S. Bach, 1685–1750

Psalm:

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

Text: *The Revised Grail Psalms*, © 2010, Conception Abbey and The Grail, admin. by GIA Publications, Inc.;
 refrain tr. © 1969, ICEL
 Music: Michel Guimont, © 1994, GIA Publications, Inc.

Preparation:

Hosea

Verses

1. Come back to me with all your heart.
 Trees do bend, 'though straight and tall;
 2. The wil - der - ness will lead you
 In - teg - ri - ty and jus - tice,
 3. You shall sleep se - cure with peace;

Don't let fear keep us a - part.
 so must we to oth - ers' call. *(To refrain)*
 to your heart where I will speak.
 With ten - der - ness, *¶* you shall know. *(To refrain)*
 faith - ful - ness will be your joy. *(To refrain)*

Refrain

Long have I waited for your com - ing home to me and
liv - ing deep - ly our new life.

The musical score consists of two staves of music. The top staff is in G clef, has a key signature of one flat, and is in common time. It contains eight measures of music with various note values (quarter, eighth, sixteenth) and rests. The lyrics "Long have I waited for your com - ing home to me and" are written below the staff. The bottom staff is also in G clef, has a key signature of one flat, and is in common time. It contains six measures of music. The lyrics "liv - ing deep - ly our new life." are written below the staff. The music is composed of eighth and sixteenth notes, with rests indicating silence between phrases.

Text: Hosea 6:1, 3:3, 2:16, 21; Joel 2:12; Weston Priory, Gregory Norbet, OSB, b.1940

Tune: Gregory Norbet, OSB, b.1940; arr. by Mary David Callahan, OSB, b.1923

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Communion:

Deep Within

Refrain

Deep with - in I will plant my law,
not on stone, but in your heart.
Fol - low me, I will bring you back, you will
be my own, and I will be your God.

Verses

1. I will give you a new heart, a new spir - it with -
2. Seek my face, and see your
3. Re - turn to me, with all your

D.C.

in you, for I will be your strength.
God, for I will be your hope.
heart, and I will bring you back.

Text: Jeremiah 31:33, Ezekiel 36:26, Joel 2:12; David Haas, b.1957

Tune: David Haas, b.1957; acc. by Jeanne Cotter, b.1964

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Closing:

Ashes

1. We rise a - gain from ash - es, from the
 2. We of - fer you our fail - ures, we
 3. Then rise a - gain from ash - es, let
 4. Thanks be to the Fa - ther, who

good we've failed to do. We rise a - gain from
 of - fer you at - tempts, The gifts not ful - ly
 heal - ing come to pain, Though spring has turned to
 made us like him - self. Thanks be to the

ash - es, to cre - ate our - selves a - new. If
 giv - en, the dreams not ful - ly dreamt. Give our
 win - ter, and sun - shine turned to rain. The
 Son, who saved us by his death.

all our world is ash - es, then
 stum - bl - ings di - rec - tion, give our
 rain we'll use for grow - ing, and cre -
 Thanks be to the Spir - it, who cre -

must our lives be true, An of - fer - ing of
 vi - sions wid - er view, An of - fer - ing of
 ate the world a - new From an of - fer - ing of
 ates the world a - new From an of - fer - ing of

ash - es, an of - fer - ing to you.
 ash - es, an of - fer - ing to you.
 ash - es, an of - fer - ing to you.
 ash - es, an of - fer - ing to you.

Text: Tom Conry, b.1951
 Tune: Tom Conry, b.1951; acc. by Michael Joncas, b.1951
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