



Ash Wednesday

Paw Creek Presbyterian Church

February 18, 2026

12:30 PM

Prelude

“My Shepherd Will Supply My Need” arr. Zach James

Call to Worship

Leader: Let us worship God. God sent Christ into the world not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him.

People: **God’s love endures forever.**

Leader: 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.

People: **God’s love endures forever.**

Prayer

Leader: Gracious God, out of your love and mercy, you breathed into dust the breath of life, creating us to serve you and neighbors. Call forth our prayers and acts of tenderness, and strengthen us to face our mortality, that we may reach with confidence for your mercy; in Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Hymn 418

“Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling”

Scripture Reading

Isaiah 58: 1 – 12

Gospel Lesson

St. Matthew 6:1-6,16-21

Invitation to the Observance of Lenten Discipline

Pastor: Friends in Christ, 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 reading and meditating on the Word of God.

Let us bow before God, our Creator and Redeemer, and join in our litany of repentance.

Unison: **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: The pride, hypocrisy, and impatience in our lives. Our self-indulgent appetites and ways and our exploitation of other people.

We confess to you, O God. Our anger at our own frustration and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves. Our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts, and our dishonesty in daily life and work.

We confess to you, O God. Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to commend the faith that is in us.

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. 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, O God, for our waste and pollution of your creation and our lack of concern for those who come after us. Restore us, O God, and let your anger depart from us. Favorably hear us, O God, for your mercy is great. Amen.

Imposition of Ashes

Pastor: 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, and a reminder that only by your gracious gift are we given everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

(worshippers come forward to receive ashes)

*“Remember that you are dust,
and to dust you shall return.”*

“Amen”

Pastor: Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation.

People: **That we may show forth your glory in the world.**

Unison: **By the cross and passion of our Savior, bring us with all your saints to the joy of Christ’s resurrection.**

Pastoral Prayer and Lord’s Prayer

Hymn 166 “Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days”

Blessing and Charge

Postlude “Change My Heart, Oh God” arr. Mark Hayes

Rev. Dr. Elizabeth Hinson-Hasty

Celebrant

Ms. Susan Bandel

Liturgist

Mr. Mark Burleson

Pianist

This service is an adaptation of the Ash Wednesday service from the Book of Common Worship, commended by the 205th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA).