

Fairview Presbyterian Church
February 18, 2026 • Ash Wednesday

We Gather Around the Word

PRELUDE

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: We come burdened by regrets,
trembling in awareness of our hearts’ true condition.

**People: We know that the Lord is gracious and merciful,
and we trust that God will lift our burdens.**

Leader: As one people, with all our differences,
we give ourselves to God, seeking healing and redemption.

**People: In honesty and repentance, we worship the Lord and bless
God’s holy name.**

OPENING PRAYER

Gracious God, out of your love and mercy, you breathed into dust the
breath of life, creating us to serve you and our neighbors. We turn to
you, aware of our need for you. In a season of wandering, we pray
that you will guide us along right paths: paths of curiosity when we
are disillusioned, paths of hope when we despair, and paths of
transformation when we are broken.

Wipe the stain of shame from our brows and mark us instead with the
sign of your holy presence, so that we may travel with you in renewed
joy and courage, living as your people and acting with your wisdom
and mercy, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

*HYMN#314 “What Wondrous Love is This”

CALL TO CONFESSION

Beloved, now is the acceptable time. Now is the day of salvation.
Return to God with all your heart, that we may call forth prayers and
acts of tenderness, that will strengthen us to face our mortality, that
we may reach with confidence for the eternal and fathomless mercy of
our God.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;
according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.
**Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.
For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.**
Against you, you alone, have I sinned, and done what is evil in your
sight, so that you are justified in your sentence and blameless when
you pass judgment. Indeed, I was born guilty, a sinner when my
mother conceived me.
**You desire truth in the inward being; therefore teach me wisdom in
my secret heart.**

Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be
whiter than snow. Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my
iniquities.
**Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit
within me. Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take
your holy spirit from me.**

Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing
spirit.
O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise.
(Time for silent confession)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Even now the Lord says, return to me with all your heart. God is
gracious and merciful, slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love.
Thanks be to God for this unimaginable grace.

SUNG RESPONSE(Gloria) #126 Holy Lord Latin
Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty, Your glory fills the earth, Lord God
of Hosts.
Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty, Your glory fills the earth, Lord God
of Hosts.

We Hear the Word Proclaimed

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Merciful God, your Word is our way of truth and life. Open our hearts
so that we may hear and understand your call, receive your grace, and
live the gospel way, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

FIRST READING Isaiah 58:1-12

SECOND READING Luke 9:18-25

ANTHEM “Most Holy Lamb”

HOMILY
(a time of silence will be kept)

We Respond to the Word

PRAYER LITANY

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 neighbor 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
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 addiction to our own
convenience.
Have mercy on us, O God.
For our love of material comforts, and our dishonesty in daily life and
work.
Have mercy on us, O God.
For our negligence and prayer and worship and our capitulation to the
distractions all around us.
Have mercy on us, O God.
For all false judgments, uncharitable thoughts toward 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. Amen.
(a time of silence will be kept)

INVITATION TO OBSERVE A HOLY LENT

PRAYER

We bow our heads before you, O God, aware of our sinfulness and our
shortcomings. Remembering our baptism, the watermark of the cross
upon us, we also receive this ashen cross upon our foreheads— another
sign that in life and in death, we belong to you. In the name of Jesus
Christ, crucified, risen, and coming again, we pray. Amen.

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

We Carry the Word into the World

HYMN(insert) “I Want Jesus to Walk With Me”

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION