



Eucharist with the Imposition of Ashes  
*February 18, 2026, 5:30 pm*

**St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church    Yarmouth, Maine**

Prelude "Alle menschen müssen sterben" by J.S. Bach

*A chime indicates the start of worship.*

Opening Hymn, #575 Before thy throne *The Hymnal 1982*

### Salutation

*Celebrant* Blessed be God who forgives all our sins.  
*People* **God's mercy endures for ever.**

### Collect of the Day

*Celebrant* Let us pray together,  
*People* **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 brokenness, 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, for ever and ever. Amen.**

### The Lessons

First Lesson: Isaiah 58:1-12

*Jennifer Willard*

Shout out, do not hold back!  
Lift up your voice like a trumpet!  
Announce to my people their rebellion,  
to the house of Jacob their sins.  
Yet day after day they seek me  
and delight to know my ways,  
as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness  
and did not forsake the ordinance of their God;  
they ask of me righteous judgments,  
they delight to draw near to God.  
"Why do we fast, but you do not see?  
Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?"  
Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day,  
and oppress all your workers.  
Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight  
and to strike with a wicked fist.  
Such fasting as you do today  
will not make your voice heard on high.  
Is such the fast that I choose,  
a day to humble oneself?  
Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush,  
and to lie in sackcloth and ashes?  
Will you call this a fast,  
a day acceptable to the Lord?

Is not this the fast that I choose:  
to loose the bonds of injustice,  
to undo the thongs of the yoke,  
to let the oppressed go free,  
and to break every yoke?  
Is it not to share your bread with the hungry,  
and bring the homeless poor into your house;  
when you see the naked, to cover them,  
and not to hide yourself from your own kin?  
Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,  
and your healing shall spring up quickly;  
your vindicator shall go before you,  
the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard.  
Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer;  
you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am.

If you remove the yoke from among you,  
the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,  
if you offer your food to the hungry  
and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,  
then your light shall rise in the darkness  
and your gloom be like the noonday.  
The Lord will guide you continually,  
and satisfy your needs in parched places,  
and make your bones strong;  
and you shall be like a watered garden,  
like a spring of water,  
whose waters never fail.  
Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt;  
you shall raise up the foundations of many generations;  
you shall be called the repairer of the breach,  
the restorer of streets to live in.

*Lector* Holy wisdom, holy word.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

*A period of silent reflection follows the reading.*

## **Second Lesson: 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10**

*Jennifer Willard*

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.

*Lector*            Holy wisdom, holy word.  
*People*            **Thanks be to God.**

*A period of silent reflection follows the reading.*

**Gospel Hymn, #143**

The glory of these 40 days

*The Hymnal 1982*

**The Gospel: Matthew 6:1-6,16-21**

*The Rev. Amanda Gerken-Nelson*

*Celebrant*        The Holy Gospel of our Savior, Jesus Christ, according to Matthew.  
*People*            **Glory to you, O God.**

“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.

*Celebrant*        The Gospel of the Lord.  
*People*            **Praise to you, O Christ.**

*A period of silent reflection follows the reading.*

**Homily**

*The Rev. Amanda Gerken-Nelson*

## Anthem

"Lord, for Thy Tender Mercy's Sake" by R. Farrant

*Lord, for thy tender mercy's sake, lay not our sins to our charge,  
but forgive that is past, and give us grace to amend our sinful lives.  
To decline from sin and incline to virtue,  
that we may walk with an upright heart before thee, now and evermore.*

### Invitation to the Observance of a Holy Lent

*Celebrant* 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 of faith.

I invite you, therefore, in the name of the church, to the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; 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 sit before the Lord, our maker and redeemer.

*Congregation is seated. Silence is kept for a time*

**Poem:** "Blessing the Dust – A Blessing for Ash Wednesday" by Jan Richardson

All those days  
you felt like dust,  
like dirt,  
as if all you had to do  
was turn your face  
toward the wind  
and be scattered  
to the four corners  
or swept away  
by the smallest breath  
as insubstantial –  
did you not know  
what the Holy One  
can do with dust?  
This is the day  
we freely say  
we are scorched.  
This is the hour  
we are marked

by what has made it  
through the burning.  
This is the moment  
we ask for the blessing  
that lives within  
the ancient ashes,  
that makes its home  
inside the soil of  
this sacred earth.  
So let us be marked  
not for sorrow.  
And let us be marked  
not for shame.  
Let us be marked  
not for false humility  
or for thinking  
we are less  
than we are

but for claiming  
what God can do  
within the dust,  
within the dirt,  
within the stuff  
of which the world  
is made

and the stars that blaze  
in our bones  
and the galaxies that spiral  
inside the smudge  
we bear.

*A moment of silence follows the blessing*

*Celebrant* 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.

*People* **Amen.**

*Those interested may come forward for the imposition of ashes. The celebrant and deacon will make the mark of the cross on the individual's forehead with ashes while saying the words "Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return." The congregation may be seated during the imposition of ashes.*

## Litany of Penitence

*Celebrant* Most holy and merciful God:

*People* **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 not heeded 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 negligence 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.**

Almighty God, the Parent 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 ministers to declare and pronounce to God's people, being penitent, the absolution and remission of their sins. God pardons and absolves all those who truly repent, and with sincere hearts believe the holy Gospel.

Therefore we beseech God to grant us true repentance and the Holy Spirit, that those things may please God 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 God's eternal joy; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

**Amen.**

**The Peace**

*Celebrant  
People*

The peace of Christ be always with you.  
**And also with you.**

## The Holy Eucharist

### Offertory Sentence

*Celebrant* Let us with gladness present the offerings and oblations of our life and labor to our God.

*At this time, the bread and wine are brought forward. The ushers will collect the offering.*

### Offertory Hymn, #330

Therefore, we before thee bending

*The Hymnal 1982*

*The offering is brought forward.*

### Offertory Prayer

*Intern* Let us pray together,

*People* All things come of Thee O God, and of Thine own have we given Thee. Amen.

### The Great Thanksgiving

*Celebrant* God be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Celebrant* Lift up your hearts.

*People* **We lift them to our God.**

*Celebrant* Let us give thanks to the Holy One.

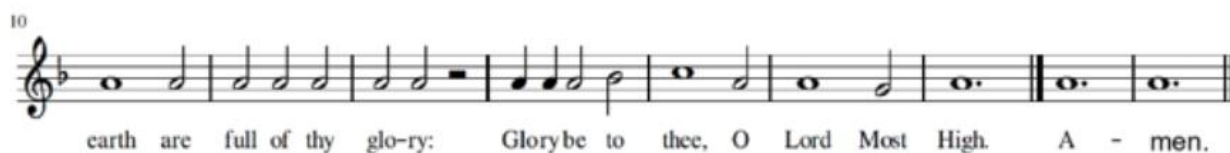
*People* **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

*Celebrant* Creating God, we lift our hearts to you because you made the universe from nothing and formed human beings in your image from the dust of the earth. In Adam and Eve, you saw your hopes for creation turn to ashes, and yet in Abraham and Sarah and Moses and his sister Miriam you called your people out of wilderness and slavery. You showed your face to your people in exile, and in Christ you raised your children to new life out of the ashes of sin and death. And so, we gladly praise and thank you, with angels and archangels and the company of heaven, singing your unending praise:

### Sanctus, 736

*Hymnal 1940*

*Peter Christian Lutkin*



## Eucharistic Prayer

*Celebrant*

Redeeming God, over forty days you flooded the earth, over forty years you led your people through the wilderness, and over forty days your Spirit led Jesus through the desert. Bless us through the sustenance of this food and drink to profess your Son's death and resurrection.

Send down your Holy Spirit, that we may come to resemble and follow our crucified and risen Savior, and that this bread and this cup may become for us our everlasting banquet, the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.

Who, at supper with his disciples, took bread, gave you thanks, broke the bread, and gave it to them, saying: "Take, eat: this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup. Again, he gave you thanks, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "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. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

*Celebrant*  
*People*

Great is the mystery of faith.  
**Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.**

*Celebrant*

Sanctifying God, where your children are in the wilderness, lead them to your heart. Where your people are hungry for you, give them practices of fasting and Scripture-reading and alms-giving and repentance and prayer. Where your followers know beatings, imprisonments, hardships, and calamities, visit them with the comforting power of your presence.

*People*

Raise up the glory of your resurrection from the ashes of our pride and sloth and greed, that all your church and the whole creation may celebrate the wonders of your love, until the day when everyone shall perceive you and praise you, you are all in all, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, ever one God, Mother of us all.  
**Amen.**

## The Lord's Prayer

*Celebrant*  
*People*

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,  
**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 Fraction

*Celebrant* We break this bread to share in the Body of Christ.  
*People* **We who are many are one body, for we all share in the one bread.**

### The Invitation

*Celebrant* Come, for all is now ready. The gifts of God for the people of God.  
*People* **Thanks be to God.**

### The Communion

*Everyone is welcome to receive communion at St. Bart's! The ushers will invite you to come forward through the center aisle, individuals and families are invited to stand along the rounded edge of the chancel to receive the bread, hands facing upward for bread with gluten, hands facing down will indicate you'd like gluten free bread. The Chalice Bearer will follow the Priest with the cup of wine. You are invited to sip from the cup. If you would prefer not to sip from the cup, you may place your hands across your chest to receive the blessing of the words. If you would prefer to receive neither the bread nor the wine but would like to come forward for a blessing, please come forward as described above and simply cross your arms at your chest and the Priest will offer a blessing. Hand sanitizer is available in the aisle. Please use the side aisles to return to your seat once you have received.*

### Communion Hymn, #140

Wilt thou forgive

*The Hymnal 1982*

### Post Communion Prayer

*Intern* God of the feast,  
we thank you for satisfying us at your table  
with the body and blood of our Savior Jesus Christ.  
*People* **In the strength of this meal,  
refreshed by your Holy Spirit,  
send us into a hungry world  
with food and love and Good News to share.  
Amen.**

### Blessing

*Celebrant* The God of peace,  
who gives food to every living creature,  
give you your daily bread,  
and make you hungry and thirsty for justice.  
*People* **Amen.**

*Celebrant* The Lord Jesus Christ,  
who feeds us in this sacrament,  
give you strength for work and witness,  
and bring you to the wedding banquet of heaven and earth.  
*People* **Amen.**

*Celebrant* The Spirit of grace,  
who nourishes hearts and minds with saving truth,  
give you joyful companions at Wisdom's feast,  
and send you to feed the hungry and bring good news to the poor.  
*People* **Amen.**

*Celebrant* And the blessing of God,  
holy eternal Majesty,  
holy incarnate Word,  
holy abiding Spirit,  
be upon you and remain with you always.  
*People* **Amen.**

**Hymn, #152** Kind maker of the world *The Hymnal 1982*

**Dismissal**  
*Celebrant* Let us go forth in the name of Christ.  
*People* **Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude** "Jesu, meine freude" by J. Pachelbel

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## SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY

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Celebrant	The Rev. Amanda Gerken-Nelson
Deacon	The Rev. Corey Walmer
Music Director	Dr. Christina Edelen
Musicians	The St. Bart's Choir
Chalice Bearer	Nancy Gunzelmann
Lector	Jennifer Willard
Ushers	Ann Donaghy, Pam Hobson
Altar Guild	Jan Burson
A/V	Peter Sillin

## WORSHIP RESOURCES

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“Blessing the Dust – A Blessing for Ash Wednesday” by Jan Richardson  
Great Thanksgiving/Eucharistic Prayer: *Eucharistic Prayers*. Samuel Wells and Abigail  
Kocher. Eerdmans 2016

Postcommunion Prayer & Blessing: © The Anglican Church of Australia  
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**St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church, Yarmouth, ME**  
*A Congregation of The Episcopal Diocese of Maine*

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<b>Music Director:</b>	Dr. Christina Edelen
<b>Sr. Warden:</b>	Susan Garrett
<b>Jr. Warden:</b>	Ann Donaghy
<b>Pastoral Care:</b>	Barbara Barhydt, Susan Peixiotto
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