Mary of Magdala, ECC – February 18, 2026

Ash Wednesday - Together Wherever We Are

Mother Rosean Amaral presiding

Entrance Song. Jesus, I Trust In You (R; V1; R; V2; R)

Greeting and Welcome: *Mother Rosean*

Let us continue as one expression of God's people…

In the name of Mother/Father God, our brother Jesus, and of the Holy Spirit. **All: Amen**.

May the grace of Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **All: And also with you.**

Welcome, and thanks for coming to worship with us this evening. It is always a blessing to have you present here among us.

Today we gather, on Ash Wednesday, with Christians across the world, to mark the beginning of the holy season of Lent. God calls us to bring forth our burdens and our failures, and to ask for forgiveness and healing. In stillness, we come into the presence of God who is always forgiving, always merciful, always compassionate, and always loving. So let us pause to come fully into this sacred space, body, mind, emotion, soul and spirit, and to recognize the presence of God in us and among us.

NO PENITENTIAL RITE OR GLORIA

Opening Prayer

Let us pray…

Loving God, as we begin this holy season of Lent may we turn to you with all our heart…

Open our hearts to you Source of All Souls, you whose love dwells within and among us.

Open us to believe how fully we are welcomed by you in each moment of our lives.

Open us to carry our union with you to those who are a part of our daily encounters.

Open us when we are weary, when we resist, when we forget, when we doubt, when we are anxious.

Open our hearts to full confidence, to the trust that we have more than enough love to give away.

Open, open, open us to the journey of love that is ours.

Grant this through Jesus Christ. **All: Amen.**

And now let us listen to the Word of God in our midst…

LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading *Lector Cindy Cloyd*

A reading from the **Book of Isaiah. (58: 6-12)**

My siblings in Christ,
God says to us,
This is the sort of fast that pleases me:
Remove the chains of injustice!
Undo the ropes of the yoke!
Let those who are oppressed go free,
and break every yoke you encounter!
Share your bread with those who are hungry,
and shelter homeless poor people!
Clothe those who are naked,
and do not hide from the needs of your own flesh and blood!

Do this, and your light will shine like the dawn —
and your healing will break forth like lightning!
Your integrity will go before you,
and the glory of God will be your rearguard.
Cry, and God will answer;
call and God will say, “I am here.” –
If you give yourself to the hungry
and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,
then your light will rise in the darkness,
and your shadows will become like noon.
God will always guide you
giving relief in desert places.
God will give strength to your bones
and you will be like a watered garden,
like a spring of water whose waters never run dry.

The Word of an ancient prophet.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm: O Dios, Crea en Me (R Spanish, R English, R Spanish)

Gospel Acclamation: Lenten Gospel Acc (R; V4; R)

Gospel Reading: *Mother Rosean Amaral*

A Reading from the Holy Gospel attributed **to Matthew. (6:1-6,16-18)**

Jesus taught the crowds and the disciples, saying: "Take care not to perform righteous deeds so that people may see them; otherwise, you'll have no recompense from your heavenly Amma/Abba God.
When you give alms, do not blow a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in places of worship and in the streets to win the praise of others. Amen, I say to you, they have received their reward.
When you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your almsgiving may be secret. Your God, who sees in secret, will bless you.

When you pray, do not be like hypocrites who love to stand and pray in their

places of worship and on street corners so that others may see them. Amen, I say to you, they've received their reward.
When you pray, go to your inner room, close the door, and pray to God in secret. God, who sees in secret, will bless you.

"When you fast, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites. They neglect their appearance, so they appear to others to be fasting. Amen, I say to you, they've received their reward.
When you fast, anoint your head and wash your face so you don't appear to be fasting, except to your God who is hidden. Your God, who sees what is hidden, will reward you.

"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and decay destroy, and thieves break in and steal. Instead, store up treasures in the heavens, where neither moth nor decay destroy, nor thieves break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there also will your heart be."
The Good News of Jesus, our Christ. **All: Praise to You, Jesus, our Christ.**

Homily: *Mother Rosean Amaral*

Prayers of the People

Mother Rosean – Our lives are precious in the sight of God. Let us then with confidence voice our prayers and concerns for ourselves, our Church, and our world.

Lector David Cloyd

Our response is : Loving God, we lift up our prayers to you.

All: Loving God, we lift up our prayers to you.

For the physical and mental health and well-being of ourselves and our families, we pray.

All: Loving God, we lift up our prayers to you.

For the continuing guidance and courage to work together to solve the large social problems we have created, we pray. **All: Loving God, we lift up our prayers to you.**

For the wisdom to cherish our home planet and share its abundance, we pray.

All: Loving God, we lift up our prayers to you.

Are there prayers from those on zoom? . . . ,we pray.

All: Loving God, we lift up our prayers to you.

For those on our Prayer List and those held in our hearts, we pray.

All: Loving God, we lift up our prayers to you.

Mother Rosean:

Let us spend a moment in silence for all the prayers you wish to bring before God. (silence)

Loving God, our prayers, spoken and silent, rest in your hands, in the name of your son Jesus, the Christ. **All: Amen.**

BLESSING AND DISTRIBUTION OF THE ASHES

(Ashes Will Be Pre-Mixed With Water And Placed On The Altar To Be Blessed)

My siblings in Christ, let us ask our God to bless these ashes… (ask attendees to raise their hands)

Compassionate God, + Bless these ashes and all those who receive them. May they be a sign to the world of our desire to follow in the footsteps of your Son.

We ask this through our brother Jesus, The Christ**.**

All: Amen.

Distribution of Ashes - *Making a cross on each person's forehead saying*

"Remember that you are dust and to dust you will return."

Distribution of Ashes: The Servant Song (V1; V2; V3; V4; V5; V1)

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

May the love of God be with you **All: And also with you.**

Open your hearts. **All: We open them to God.**

Let us give thanks to our loving God. **All: It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

Blessed are you, God, creator of the universe. Blessed are you, God, liberator of the captives. Blessed are you, God, hope of the lost and the exiled. Blessed are you, God, who has created bread and wine for our tables and us for your delight.

Send your Spirit upon these gifts of the earth.

Let them become for us the + Body and Blood of your Son, Jesus the Christ.

On the night he was betrayed, he took the bread and gave you thanks and praise, he broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said:

All: Take this, all of you, and eat it; this is my body which will be given up for you.

When supper was ended, he took the cup. Again, he gave you thanks and praise, he gave the cup to his disciples, and said:

All: Take this all of you and drink from it: This is the cup of my blood, the blood of the new and everlasting covenant. It will be shed for you and for all so that sins may be forgiven. Do this in memory of me.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith.

Memorial Acclamation: MOD

Loving God, holy and merciful, renew us by your Spirit, until your mercy mends all that is torn and we feast forever in the company of Jesus and the communion of saints.

All: Through Christ, with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, self-emptying/life-giving God, forever and ever.
AMEN: Spoken

The Prayer of Jesus

Let us turn to the camera so that we can pray together with our siblings at home in the words our Savior gave us:

All: Abba/Amma, God in heaven, Holy is your name. Your kin-dom come Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kin-dom, the power, and the glory are Yours, now and forever. Amen

The Shared Table

Lamb of God: MOD

This is the Body and Blood of Christ. This is the one who transforms the world. Blessed are we who are called to this meal.
All: Jesus, I am ready to receive You and by your invitation, I am here.

Invitation to Communion

Whether partaking here, or at our home tables, this food from God is offered to the people of God, without exception. You are each a precious child of God. All are welcome at this table where our brother Jesus is the Host. Come, for the feast is prepared for you.

(Gluten-free wafers in front of altar in the center. And there is wine and grape juice in the metal cups)

Communion Hymn: Purify My Heart (V1; R; V2; R)

Prayer after Communion

Let us pray…

God of love, through the 40 days of Lent help us to follow you and to find you. Help us to discover you in our aloneness and in community, in our emptiness and our fulfillment, in our sadness and in our laughter. Help us to perceive new growth amid the ashes of the old. In Jesus' name we pray.

All: Amen

Concluding Rite

May the love of God be with you. **All: And also with you.**

Let us open our hearts to receive God's blessing…

In a movement toward mindfulness during each day of Lent, I would like to ask you all to participate in the spiritual practice of blessing your body. St. Paul tells us that our bodies are the temple of God's Holy Spirit and function as vehicles for God's grace and love. So, if you could follow my lead and place your hand on the parts of your body as I do on mine, I will share this blessing with you.

(also, hard copy in the narthex)

BODY BLESSING FOR LENT



FOREHEAD: May you have keen insights and think clearly. May your thoughts be kind and wise. May you resolve anything in your mind that keeps you from being your true self.

EARS: May you listen to the inner Voice of the Beloved and act on the word of God. May you hear the melodies of your own goodness and treasure who you are.

EYES: May you have inner vision to see more clearly the path that is yours. May you look upon others with love as you search for your way home.

MOUTH: May you speak with love, proclaim the truth, and make your needs known. May you laugh at the absurdities of life and taste life with joy and enthusiasm.

HANDS: May you use your hands to touch all life with reverence and gratitude. May these hands reach out with care to others. May these hands be willing to receive from others.

FEET: As you travel through the many ups and downs of life, may you develop an ever firmer foundation for your spiritual path.

HEART: May you develop awareness of what stirs deep within you. May you keep turning your heart toward God and allow this love to be reflected in the way you live your life.

Return with all your heart.
Remember the Holy Spirit dwells within you. Be at peace.

We ask for this blessing now in the name of Mother/Father God, Jesus our brother, and the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen

(Adapted *from Body Blessing for Lent* from *Out of the Ordinary* by Joyce Rupp)

Dismissal:

Let us go forth into our Lenten season entering ever more fully into relationship with the Divine. **All: Thanks be to God.**

Closing Song : 40 Days (V1; R)

