

ASH WEDNESDAY

February 18, 2026



Christ Church

Woodbury, New Jersey

A Parish in the Diocese of New Jersey

10:00 AM & 6:30 PM



Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the Season of Lent. Beginning in the tenth century ashes were imposed on this day upon penitent sinners in preparation for their restoration to full communion with the Church. Since the eleventh century, ashes have been imposed upon all the faithful as a reminder that the wages of sin is death. As God said to Adam, “dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.” (Genesis 3:19b) But as we are marked with ashes in the same manner that we were signed with the cross in our Baptisms, we are also reminded that we only have life in Jesus Christ, the second Adam (ASB). Our relationship and life with Christ is all that matters.

During Lent, the Church gives us the time to refocus on our relationship with Christ and to do what we need to do to prioritize and get closer to Him. It is about conversion, a continuous turning away from sin and a reorientation, through grace, toward God. This includes penance, fasting and self-denial. It also includes taking something on which draws us closer to God and the Church. It might include weekday Mass and Stations of the Cross. It might include extra reading of Scripture and the spiritual classics. It might include volunteering at a local food bank. These upcoming weeks we walk with Jesus into the wilderness and continue to the Cross on Good Friday with our eye always on His glorious Resurrection.



The Ash Wednesday Liturgy

10:00 am Mass

Prelude:

Praeludium VIII. "Durch Adams Fall ist ganz verderbt" Christlieb Sigmund Binder (1723-1789)

The congregation stands as the bell is rung and the ministers enter

On this day, the celebrant begins the liturgy with the Salutation and the Collect of the Day.

Opening Acclamation Book of Common Prayer (BCP) 264

Collect of the Day (Ash Wednesday) Bulletin p. 5

The Word God

The people sit for the lesson.

The First Lesson: Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 Bulletin p. 5

Gradual Psalm 103: 8:14 Bulletin p. 6

Read responsively by verse.

The Second Lesson: II Corinthians 5:20b-6:10 Bulletin p. 7

The People stand for the Gospel reading

The Holy Gospel: Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21 Bulletin p. 8

Please be seated.

The Sermon Fr. Civale

Please stand as you are able

The Exhortation Bulletin p.8

Silence is kept, with all kneeling

Blessing and Imposition of Ashes Bulletin p. 9

Psalm 51:1-8 Bulletin p. 9

Litany of Penitence Bulletin p. 11

The Absolution Bulletin p. 12

The people stand

The PeaceBCP 332

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Offertory Sentence

Offertory Meditation: “Improvisation on Tysk”

the people are seated until the Offering is brought forward the people standing

At the Presentation:

Celebrant All things come of thee, O Lord.
People ***And of thine own have we given thee. Amen.***

The Great Thanksgiving: Eucharistic Prayer I BCP 333

Sursum cordaBCP 333

Sanctus et Benedictus qui venitBCP 334

Said by all.

***Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts:
Heaven and earth are full of thy glory.
Glory be to thee, O Lord Most High.
Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.***

the congregation kneels for the canon of the Mass

The Great AmenBCP 336

The Lord’s PrayerBCP 336

Fraction BCP 337

Agnus Dei BCP 337

Prayer of Humble Access BCP 337
Invitation to Communion BCP 338

Celebrant

Behold the Lamb of God; Behold him that taketh away the sins of the world.

Celebrant and People

Lord, I am not worthy that thou shouldest come under my roof: but speak the word only, and my soul shall be healed.

All baptized Christians are invited to receive Holy Communion. Those who are not baptized or who do not wish to receive Communion are invited to come to the altar for a blessing, indicated by placing crossed hands over the chest. the people kneeling.

Communion Meditation:

“Sarabande in A minor” Elisabeth Jacquet de La Guerre (1665-1729)

Post Communion Prayer BCP 339

The Blessing BCP 339

the people standing

Dismissal BCP 340

Postlude:

“Erhalt uns, Herr, bei deinem Wort” Attributed to Georg Böhm (1661-1733)



The Ash Wednesday Liturgy

6:30 pm Mass

Prelude:

Praeludium VIII. "Durch Adams Fall ist ganz verderbt" Christlieb Sigmund Binder (1723-1789)

The congregation stands when the bell is rung and the procession enters the church in silence.

Introit Mode I

Misereris omnium, Domine, et nihil odisti eorum quae fecisti, dissimulans peccata hominum propter paenitentiam et parcens illis: quia tu es Dominus, Deus noster. Miserere mei Deus, miserere mei: quoniam in te confidit anima mea. Gloria Patri..... Misereris....

Thou hast mercy on all things, O Lord and hatest nothing that thou hast created: and winkest at men's iniquities, because they should amend, and sparest all men, for they are thine, O Lord, thou lover of souls. Be merciful unto me, O God, be merciful unto me: for my soul trusteth in thee. Glory be....,(etc.) Thou hast....

Collect of the Day (Ash Wednesday)BCP 166

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People ***And with thy spirit.***
Celebrant Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, who hatest nothing that thou hast made and dost forgive the sins of all those who are penitent: Create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, may obtain of thee, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. ***Amen.***

THE WORD OF GOD

The people sit for the lesson

The First Lesson Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

Lector A reading from the Book of Joel.

Blow the trumpet in Zion; sound the alarm on my holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble, for the day of the Lord is coming, it is near, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness! Like blackness there is spread upon the mountains a great and powerful people;

Lector A reading from the Second Letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

We beseech 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. Working together with him, then, we entreat you not to accept the grace of God in vain. For he says, “At the acceptable time I have listened to you, and helped you on the day of salvation.” Behold, now is the acceptable time; behold, now is the day of salvation. We put no obstacle in anyone’s way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, but as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, tumults, labors, watching, hunger; by purity, knowledge, forbearance, kindness, the Holy 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 well known; as dying, and behold we live; 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 The Word of the Lord.

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

The people stand

Tract *Mode IV*

O Lord, deal not with us after our sins: nor reward us according to our wickednesses. O Lord, remember not our old sins, but have mercy upon us, and that soon: For we are come to great misery.
Ps. 103:10; 79:8, 9

Sequence Hymn 152 “Kind Maker of the world, O hear” *A la venue de Noël*

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

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Saint Matthew.

People ***Glory be to thee, O Lord.***

Jesus said, “Beware of practicing your piety before men in order to be seen by them; for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven. Thus, when you give alms, sound no trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be praised by men. Truly, I say to 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 in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by men. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when 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 when you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by men. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, that your fasting may not be seen by men but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal, but lay 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 will your heart be also.”

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.

People ***Praise be to thee, O Christ.***

The people are seated

The Sermon Fr. Civale

The Exhortation:

All stand, and the Celebrant invites the people to the observance of a holy Lent, saying

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 and faith.

I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church, to the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and 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 kneel before the Lord, our maker and redeemer.

Silence is kept for a time, all kneeling.

Blessing and Imposition of Ashes:

The Celebrant alone stands and blesses the ashes.

Almighty God, who hast created us out of the dust of the earth: Grant that these ashes may be unto us a sign of our mortality and penitence, that we may remember that it is only by thy gracious gift that we are given everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The people come forward to the chancel rail for the imposition of ashes.

The ashes are imposed with the following words,

"Remember that thou art dust, and unto dust thou shalt return."

the priest and people kneeling

Psalm 51:1-17 *Miserere mei, Deus* (prayed in unison at 10:00 and chanted by the choir at 6:30)

Miserere Mei..... *Tone IV*

**Have mercy upon me, O God, after thy great goodness;*
according to the multitude of thy mercies
do away mine offences.**

**Wash me thoroughly from my wickedness, *
and cleanse me from my sin.**

**For I acknowledge my faults, *
and my sin is ever before me.**

**Against thee only have I sinned, and done this evil in thy sight; *
that thou mightest be justified in thy saying,
and clear when thou shalt judge.**

**Behold, I was shapen in wickedness, *
and in sin hath my mother conceived me.**

**But lo, thou requirest truth in the inward parts, *
and shalt make me to understand wisdom secretly.**

**Thou shalt purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; *
thou shalt wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.**

**Thou shalt make me hear of joy and gladness, *
that the bones which thou hast broken may rejoice.**

**Turn thy face from my sins, *
and put out all my misdeeds.**

**Make me a clean heart, O God, *
and renew a right spirit within me.**

**Cast me not away from thy presence, *
and take not thy holy Spirit from me.**

**O give me the comfort of thy help again, *
and stablish me with thy free Spirit.**

**Then shall I teach thy ways unto the wicked, *
and sinners shall be converted unto thee.**

**Deliver me from blood-guiltiness,
O God, thou that art the God of my health; *
and my tongue shall sing of thy righteousness.**

**Thou shalt open my lips, O Lord, *
and my mouth shall show thy praise.**

**For thou desirest no sacrifice, else would I give it thee; *
but thou delightest not in burnt-offerings.**

**The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit: *
a broken and contrite heart, O God, shalt thou not despise.**

Litany of Penitence

The Celebrant and People together, all kneeling

Most holy and merciful Father;
We confess to thee 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.

The Celebrant continues and the people respond

We have not loved thee 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 upon us, O Lord.

We have been deaf to thy call to serve, as Christ served us. We have not been true to the mind of Christ. We have grieved thy Holy Spirit.

Have mercy upon us, O Lord.

We confess to thee, Lord, all our past unfaithfulness: the pride, hypocrisy, and impatience of our lives,

We confess to thee, O Lord.

Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people,

We confess to thee, O Lord.

Our anger at our own frustration, and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves,

We confess to thee, O Lord.

Our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts, and our dishonesty in daily life and work,

We confess to thee, O Lord.

Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to commend the faith that is in us,

We confess to thee, O Lord.

Accept our repentance, O Lord, for the wrongs we have done: for our blindness to human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty,

Accept our repentance, O 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, O Lord.

For our waste and pollution of thy creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us,

Accept our repentance, O Lord.

Restore us, good Lord, and let thine anger depart from us;

Favorably hear us, for thy mercy is great.

Accomplish in us the work of thy salvation,

That we may show forth thy glory in the world.

By the cross and passion of thy Son our Lord,

Bring us with all thy saints to the joy of his resurrection.

The Priest alone stands and pronounces absolution

Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who desireth not the death of sinners, but rather that they may turn from their wickedness and live, hath given power and commandment to his ministers to declare and pronounce to his people, being penitent, the absolution and remission of their sins. He pardoneth and absolves all those who truly repent, and with sincere hearts do believe his holy Gospel.

Therefore we beseech him to grant us true repentance and his Holy Spirit, that those things may please him 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 his eternal joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The people standing

The Peace:

Celebrant
People

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And with thy spirit.

All are invited briefly to greet one another with a sign of peace

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Offertory Sentence *Mode II*

I will magnify thee, O Lord, for thou hast set me up, and not made my foes to triumph over me: O Lord my God, I cried unto thee, and thou hast healed me.

the people are seated until the Offering is brought forward

Offertory Meditation : Improvisation on Tysk

Invitation to Communion BCP 338

Celebrant

Behold the Lamb of God; Behold him that taketh away the sins of the world.

Celebrant and People

Lord, I am not worthy that thou shouldst come under my roof: but speak the word only, and my soul shall be healed.

All baptized Christians are invited to receive Holy Communion. Those who are not baptized, or who do not wish to receive Communion, are invited to come to the altar for a blessing, indicated by placing crossed hands over the chest.

Communion Sentence*Mode I*

He who doth meditate on the law of the Lord day and night: will bring forth his fruit
in due season.

Communion Motet Prayer of John Donne..... William Bradley Roberts (b.1947)

Wilt Thou forgive that sin where I begun,
Which was my sin, though it were done
before?
Wilt Thou forgive that sin through which I
run,
And do run still, though still I do deplore?
When Thou hast done, Thou hast not done;
For I have more.

I have a sin of fear, that when I've spun
My last thread, I shall perish on the shore;
But swear by Thyself that at my death Thy
Son
Shall shine as He shines now and
heretofore:
And having done that, Thou hast done;
I fear no more.

Wilt Thou forgive that sin which I have won
Others to sin, and made my sins their door?
Wilt Thou forgive that sin which I did shun
A year or two, but wallow'd in a score?
When Thou hast done, Thou hast not done;
For I have more.

Communion Hymn 574 “Before thy throne, O God we kneel”..... *St. Petersburg*
The people kneeling

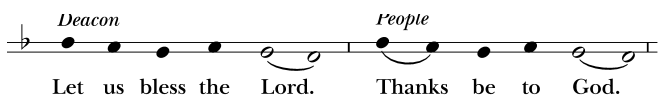
Post Communion Prayer BCP 339

Ash Wednesday Prayer over the People

Grant, O most merciful Lord, to thy faithful people pardon and peace, that they may be cleansed from all their sins, and serve thee with a quiet mind; through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

the people standing

Dismissal S174 Hymnal



Setting: Copyright © Church Publishing Inc.

Procession Hymn 143: “The Glory of these forty days”..... *Erhalt uns, Herr*

Postlude:

“Erhalt uns, Herr, bei deinem Wort”.....Attributed to Georg Böhm (1661-1733)

Those Who
Serve Today

10:00 am

Server & Chalice: Ed Ferrell

Usher : Steve Shomo

Lector: Frank & Helen Gwalthney

6:30 pm

Celebrant: The Rev. Lawrence Civalo

Organist & Choir Director: Luke Staisiunas

Master of Ceremonies: Steve Lewis

Thurifer & Boat: Scott Craston

Crucifer: Miguel Sanchez

1st Server: Annabella Scales

2nd Server: Rebecca Piskun

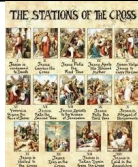
Torches: Thoma Piskun & Petra Ares

Acolyte Master: Robertta Shomo

Chalice Bearers: Rob Johnson & Steve Lewis

Lector I & Intercessor: Scott Carr

Lector II: Charles Lewis



Stations of the Cross and Evening Prayer

Fridays 5:30 pm

February 20 - March 27.

Christ Episcopal Church

2026 Lenten Offerings

Weekly Masses

Sunday

8 am Low Mass

10 am Choral Mass

Wednesday 10 am Mass with Prayers for Healing

Thursday 6:30 pm Mass

Friday 5:30 pm Evening Prayer & Stations of the Cross

Weekly Events

Monday 8 pm (February 16 - April 6, 2026) Adult Online Bible Study

Wednesday GWCM Lenten Series at Christ Church (March 4, 11 & 18, 2026)

6:00 pm Soup Supper & Fellowship

6:45 pm Presentation & Discussion

Holy Week

Palm Sunday (March 29)

8 am Low Mass

10 am Choral Mass

Monday in Holy Week (March 30) 10 am Mass

Tuesday in Holy Week (March 31) 6:30 pm Mass

Wednesday in Holy Week (April 1) 10 am Mass

Maundy Thursday (April 2)

10 am Morning Prayer

6:30 pm Mass of the Lord's supper

8 pm - Midnight The Watch

Good Friday (April 3)

10 am Morning Prayer

12:00 pm Noonday Prayer & Stations of the Cross

6:30 pm Solemn Liturgy of Good Friday

Holy Saturday (April 4)

10 am Morning Prayer

6:30 pm The Great Vigil of Easter

Easter Day (April 5)

8 am Mass of the Resurrection

10 am Choral Mass of the Resurrection



GWCM

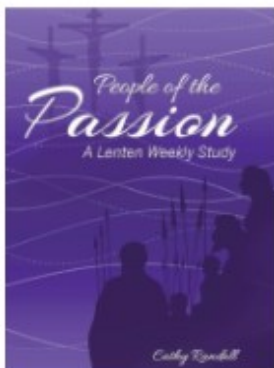
2026 Lenten Supper and Book Discussion at Christ Church

March 4, 11 & 18, 2026

Supper & Fellowship 6:00 pm - 6:45 pm

Presentation & Discussion 6:45 pm - 7:30 pm

Discussion will be led by
Woodbury Clergy members



People of the Passion by Cathy Randall



Rector

Fr. Lawrence Civalè

Email: frcivale@christchurch.woodburynj.org

Cell Phone: (617) 947-3261, in case of a pastoral emergency.

Fr. Civalè tries to keep Monday as his Sabbath day.

The Sacrament of Penance

The Sacrament of Penance (Confession) and spiritual counsel are always available by appointment. Please don't hesitate to reach out to Father Civalè (856) 845-0190.

Parish Office Hours

Monday 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

Tuesday 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

Wednesday 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

Thursday 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

Friday 9:00 am - 3:00 pm



Christ Church

62 Delaware Street,
Woodbury, NJ 08096
(856) 845-0190

www.christchurchwoodbury.org

*A Parish of the Episcopal Diocese of New Jersey
and the worldwide Anglican Communion*

Service Schedule

Sunday: 8:00 AM & 10:00 AM

Wednesday: 10:00 AM Healing Mass

Thursday: 6:30 PM Mass

Friday: 5:30 PM Evening Prayer

Sacrament of Penance (Confession)

by appointment

Rector

The Rev. Lawrence Civale

Our Vestry

Wardens: Tori Wishnick & Steve Lewis

Treasurer: Mark Novalsky

Clerk: Nathan Wishnick

Class of 2027

Jim Bathurst

Charles Lewis

Class of 2028

Brandon Gorman

Robertta Shomo

Nathan Wishnick

Class of 2029

Maureen Carrigan

Doreen Mills

