

# Ash Wednesday

March 5, 2025 • 12:10 p.m.



## Prelude

Create in Me a Clean Heart, O God . . . . . Johann Sebastian Bach

## Call to Worship

One: *Have mercy on us, O God,*

All: according to your steadfast love.

One: *According to your abundant mercy*

All: remove our transgressions from us.

## Prayer for the Day

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THE FOURTH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHICAGO

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**\*Hymn 165** . . . . . “The Glory of These Forty Days”

The glory of these forty days we celebrate with songs of praise;  
for Christ, by whom all things were made, himself has fasted and has prayed.  
Alone and fasting Moses saw the loving God who gave the law;  
and to Elijah, fasting, came the steeds and chariots of flame.  
So Daniel trained his mystic sight, delivered from the lions’ might;  
and John, the Bridegroom’s friend, became the herald of Messiah’s name.  
Then grant that we like them be true, consumed in fast and prayer with you;  
our spirits strengthen with your grace, and give us joy to see your face.

**Prayer for Illumination**

**First Lesson** . . . . . Exodus 3:1–9

**Anthem**

“Hide Not Thy Face From Us” . . . . . Richard Farrant

**Second Lesson** . . . . . Micah 6:1–8

**Homily** . . . . . Joseph L. Morrow

**\*Hymn 802** . . . . . “The King of Love My Shepherd Is”

The King of love my shepherd is, whose goodness faileth never;  
I nothing lack if I am his and he is mine forever.  
Where streams of living water flow my ransomed soul he leadeth,  
and where the verdant pastures grow, with food celestial feedeth.  
Perverse and foolish oft I strayed, but yet in love he sought me,  
and on his shoulder gently laid, and home, rejoicing, brought me.  
In death’s dark vale I fear no ill with thee, dear Lord, beside me;  
thy rod and staff my comfort still, thy cross before to guide me.  
Thou spread’st a table in my sight; thy unction grace bestoweth;  
and O what transport of delight from thy pure chalice floweth!  
And so through all the length of days thy goodness faileth never;  
Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise within thy house forever.

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## An Invitation to Observe a Holy Lent

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### **Litany of Penitence** *(silence is kept after each petition)*

One: *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.*

All: **Have mercy on us, O God.**

One: *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.*

All: **Have mercy on us, O God.**

One: *We confess to you, O God, all our past unfaithfulness.  
For the pride, hypocrisy, and impatience in our lives,*

All: **have mercy on us, O God.**

One: *For our self-indulgent appetites and ways  
and our exploitation of other people,*

All: **have mercy on us, O God.**

One: *For our anger at our own frustration  
and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves,*

All: **have mercy on us, O God.**

One: *For our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts,  
and our dishonesty in daily life and work,*

All: **have mercy on us, O God.**

One: *For our negligence in prayer and worship,  
and our failure to commend the faith that is in us,*

All: **have mercy on us, O God.**

*(continued on following page)*

One: *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,*

All: have mercy on us, O God.

One: *For all false judgments, for uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors,  
and for our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us,*

All: have mercy on us, O God.

One: *For our waste and pollution of your creation  
and our lack of concern for those who come after us,*

All: have mercy on us, O God.

One: *Restore us, O God of our salvation, and show us your steadfast love.*

All: Turn to us in your mercy and redeem us.

## **The Imposition of Ashes**

### **Offering**

### **Offertory Anthem**

“Call to Remembrance, O Lord” . . . . . Richard Farrant

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## The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

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### Invitation

### Great Thanksgiving

Leader: *The Lord be with you.*

People: And also with you.

Leader: *Lift up your hearts.*

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Leader: *Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.*

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

### Prayer

Leader: *It is truly right and our greatest joy . . . forever singing to the glory of your name:*

**Sanctus** (*sung*). . . . . The Hymnal, 565

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power, God of might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.

Leader: . . . *Great is the mystery of faith:*

**Memorial Acclamation** (*sung*). . . . . The Hymnal, 566

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

### The Lord's Prayer (*unison*)

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors;

and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

**The Communion**

**Prayer after Communion** (*unison*)

Great Provider, holy is your name.  
Through Christ’s ministry you have fed us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation.  
With the Spirit’s help, may we now in turn nourish the world with your love and care.  
Amen.

**\*Hymn 434.** . . . . . “Restore in Us, O God”

Restore in us, O God, the splendor of your love;  
renew your image in our hearts, and all our sins remove.

O Spirit, wake in us the wonder of your power;  
from fruitless fear unfurl our lives like springtime bud and flower.

Bring us, O Christ, to share the fullness of your joy;  
baptize us in the risen life that death cannot destroy.

Three-personed God, fulfill the promise of your grace,  
that we, when all our searching ends, may see you face to face.

**\*Charge and Benediction**

—DEPART IN SILENCE—

## Welcome!

**We are grateful to be worshipping with you on this solemn day on the church calendar.**

Inspired by the radical hospitality of Jesus Christ, we welcome everyone, without exception, into the life of this congregation and hope you will explore the many opportunities for learning, serving, and community building at Fourth Church. ✱ We invite you to join us at this intersection of faith and life as we share God's grace with one another and the world through worship and ministries of healing, reconciliation, and justice.

## Join our Lenten Journey

In this Lenten season of self-reflection and nurturing our spiritual growth, we invite you to use our daily **Lenten devotions as a resource for prayer and reflection**. They are available via email (sign up at [bit.ly/fpcdevotions](http://bit.ly/fpcdevotions) or send email addresses to [devotions@fourthchurch.org](mailto:devotions@fourthchurch.org)) and online ([fourthchurch.org/devotions](http://fourthchurch.org/devotions)). ✱ Also available for your reflection during the season is our **Lenten "Rhythm and Word" video and podcast series**. These five-minute reflections from Fourth Church pastors are released on our YouTube channel ([bit.ly/fpcvideos](http://bit.ly/fpcvideos)) and multiple podcast platforms ([fourthchurch.org/podcasts](http://fourthchurch.org/podcasts)) on Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m. To **receive them by email**, sign up at [www.bit.ly/rhythmandwordemail](http://www.bit.ly/rhythmandwordemail) ✱ Our **Lenten Path of Discipleship series**, which will explore *Holy Solitude: Lenten Reflections with Saints, Hermits, Prophets, and Rebels* by Heidi Haverkamp, will gather on Tuesday evenings at 6:00 p.m. beginning March 11. The March 11 and April 15 sessions will be both in person and via Zoom; the March 18–April 8 sessions will meet via Zoom only. To participate, please register online at [bit.ly/pod2025](http://bit.ly/pod2025).

## Resources for worship, prayer, and meditation

A **Sacred Pause time of meditation** is hosted virtually by our Replogle Center for Counseling and Well-Being at [facebook.com/reploglecenterforcounselingandwellbeing](https://facebook.com/reploglecenterforcounselingandwellbeing) on Tuesdays at 7:45 a.m. and Saturdays at 8:30 a.m. ✱ On Wednesdays we gather via Zoom at 9:30 a.m. for **Morning Prayer**. For details, email Nancy Benson-Nicol ([nbenson-nicol@fourthchurch.org](mailto:nbenson-nicol@fourthchurch.org)). Buchanan Chapel is open for **opportunity to walk the labyrinth** between 1:00 and 3:00 p.m. on Tuesdays, Wednesdays (*except March 11*), and Thursdays. ✱ **On Sundays we gather for worship** at 9:30 (also livestreamed) and 11:00 a.m.

## Get Connected

**For resources and additional ways to connect** with Fourth Church and one another as well as to see **snapshots of life in this community**, see our **weekly email newsletter** (subscribe online at [bit.ly/newsfromfpc](http://bit.ly/newsfromfpc)) and watch our **website** ([fourthchurch.org](http://fourthchurch.org)). ✱ Online events are posted on our **church calendar**, accessible from the home page of our website and at [fourthchurch.org/calendar](http://fourthchurch.org/calendar) ✱ We also invite you to follow us on **YouTube** ([www.bit.ly/fpcvideos](http://www.bit.ly/fpcvideos)), **Facebook** ([facebook.com/fourthchurch](https://facebook.com/fourthchurch)), and **Instagram** ([instagram.com/fourthchurch](https://instagram.com/fourthchurch)).

## Worship Leaders

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Amy Pagliarella, Joseph L. Morrow

## The Music Today

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Choral quartet: Sarah Van Harrison, Carol Carpenter, Micah Dingler, Jeremiah Strickler  
Doug Cleveland, Interim Organist and Director of Music

## Worship Notes

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TODAY'S SERVICE INCLUDES THE IMPOSITION OF ASHES. These ashes serve as a sign of human mortality and penitence—and the eternal life that is ours by God's grace alone.

WE WILL ALSO BE CELEBRATING THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER. Communion is not only for Presbyterians or "members of the church." Even those who doubt or whose trust is wavering are invited to partake of the Lord's Supper, in which we are assured of God's love and grace.

Those who are worshiping with us online are encouraged to have bread and juice on hand so that we might share in this meal together.

WE ARE RECEIVING THE ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING OFFERING throughout Lent. Gifts to this offering support Chicago Lights Tutoring and Social Service Center; Fourth Church Meals Ministry; and the work of Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, Hunger, and Self-Development of People Programs.

To make a "One Great Hour of Sharing" gift, you can use the envelopes in the pew racks or designate "One Great Hour of Sharing" (OGHS) when giving at [fourthchurch.org/give](http://fourthchurch.org/give) or on the memo line of a check payable to Fourth Presbyterian Church.

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**Tom Are Jr.** Interim Pastor

**Rocky Supinger** Senior Associate Pastor

Associate Pastors

**Nancy Benson-Nicol** Caring Ministries and Spiritual Formation

**Matt Helms** Children, Family, and Welcoming Ministries

**Joseph L. Morrow** Evangelism and Community Engagement

**Nanette Sawyer** Discipleship and Small Group Ministry

**Amy Pagliarella** Parish Associate for Caring Ministries

SOURCES AND CREDITS: "Restore in Us, O God" text

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**THE FOURTH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHICAGO**

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