

## ASH WEDNESDAY

February 18, 2026

*Whoever you are and wherever you are on your journey of faith, welcome to Advent Episcopal Church. Our worship service follows the Book of Common Prayer and includes Holy Communion in which all may receive the bread and wine of Christ's Body and Blood. Hymn numbers preceded by the letter "H" are found in the blue Hymnal 1982. The hymn numbers preceded by the letter "W" are found in the blue hymnal Worship & Rejoice. Thank you for joining us for worship today!*

*Acknowledging the people of the land, the Hohokam and other indigenous people as the original stewards of this land, we give thanks for our ancestors, our elders, and for all indigenous people who pray for unity and peace together.*

### Prelude

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

*Celebrant            The Lord be with you.*

*People              And also with you.*

*Celebrant Let us pray.*

Almighty and everlasting God, you have made and forgiven 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 wretchedness, 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 PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

#### The First Reading

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

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 spread upon the mountains a great and powerful army comes; their like has never been from of old, nor will be again after them in ages to come. Yet even now, says the Lord, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; rend your hearts and not your clothing. Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing. Who knows whether he will not turn and relent, and leave a blessing behind him, a grain offering and a drink offering for the Lord, your God? Blow the trumpet in Zion; sanctify a fast; call a solemn assembly; gather the people. Sanctify the congregation; assemble the aged; gather the children, even infants at the breast. Let the bridegroom leave his room, and the bride her canopy. Between the vestibule and the altar let the priests, the ministers of the Lord, weep. Let them say, "Spare your people, O Lord, and do not make your heritage a mockery, a byword among the nations. Why should it be said among the peoples, 'Where is their God?'"

Reader    The Word of the Lord.

All        **Thanks be to God.**

#### Psalm 103:8-14 (sung)

<sup>8</sup> The Lord is full of compassion and mercy, \*  
slow to anger and of great kindness.

- <sup>9</sup> He will not always accuse us, \*  
nor will he keep his anger for ever.
- <sup>10</sup> He has not dealt with us according to our sins, \*  
nor rewarded us according to our wickedness.
- <sup>11</sup> For as the heavens are high above the earth, \*  
so is his mercy great upon those who fear him.
- <sup>12</sup> As far as the east is from the west, \*  
so far has he removed our sins from us.
- <sup>13</sup> As a father cares for his children, \*  
so does the Lord care for those who fear him.
- <sup>14</sup> For he himself knows whereof we are made; \*  
he remembers that we are but dust.

## The Second Lesson

2 Corinthians 5:20b—6:10

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.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

## Gospel Hymn

H 149

*Clergy* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew [6:1-6, 16-21]

*People* *Glory to you, Lord Christ.*

Jesus said, “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.”

Clergy     The Gospel of the Lord.

**People     Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

**The Sermon**

The Rev. Dr. Beverly Rader

*All stand, as able*

### **THE EXHORTATION**

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.

*All kneel, as able.*

### **BLESSING AND IMPOSITION OF ASHES**

*The Celebrant then says*

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. *Amen.*

*Those people desiring may then come and kneel before the altar rail to receive the imposition of ashes. The ashes are imposed with the following words:*

Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.

*The Celebrant and People all kneeling as able then say*

**Psalms 51** *(said in unison)*     BCP 656

- <sup>1</sup> Have mercy on me, O God, according to your  
loving-kindness; \*  
in your great compassion blot out my offenses.
- <sup>2</sup> Wash me through and through from my wickedness \*  
and cleanse me from my sin.
- <sup>3</sup> For I know my transgressions, \*  
and my sin is ever before me.
- <sup>4</sup> Against you only have I sinned \*  
and done what is evil in your sight.

- <sup>5</sup> And so you are justified when you speak \*  
and upright in your judgment.
- <sup>6</sup> Indeed, I have been wicked from my birth, \*  
a sinner from my mother's womb.
- <sup>7</sup> For behold, you look for truth deep within me, \*  
and will make me understand wisdom secretly.
- <sup>8</sup> Purge me from my sin, and I shall be pure; \*  
wash me, and I shall be clean indeed.
- <sup>9</sup> Make me hear of joy and gladness, \*  
that the body you have broken may rejoice.
- <sup>10</sup> Hide your face from my sins \*  
and blot out all my iniquities.
- <sup>11</sup> Create in me a clean heart, O God, \*  
and renew a right spirit within me.
- <sup>12</sup> Cast me not away from your presence \*  
and take not your holy Spirit from me.
- <sup>13</sup> Give me the joy of your saving help again \*  
and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.
- <sup>14</sup> I shall teach your ways to the wicked, \*  
and sinners shall return to you.
- <sup>15</sup> Deliver me from death, O God, \*  
and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness,  
O God of my salvation.
- <sup>16</sup> Open my lips, O Lord, \*  
and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.
- <sup>17</sup> Had you desired it, I would have offered sacrifice, \*  
but you take no delight in burnt-offerings.
- <sup>18</sup> The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit; \*  
a broken and contrite heart, O God,  
you will not despise.

**Litany of Penitence**

*BCP 267 (Turn to page 267 in the Book of Common Prayer)*

**Peace**    *All stand, as able.*

*The Celebrant says to the people*

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*People*    *And also with you.*

*The Ministers and People greet one another in the name of the Lord.*

**The Offertory Sentence** *(said by all)*    *(2 Cor. 9:7)*

All that we are and all that we have comes from God. Let us offer our best to God in thanksgiving, remembering that God loves a cheerful giver.

*The people stand as able while the offerings of bread, wine, and money are presented and placed on the Altar.*

## The Presentation and Blessing of The Gifts

All things come of thee, O Lord.  
and of thine own have we given thee.

### The Great Thanksgiving

*Eucharistic Prayer A*

*Celebrant*        The Lord be with you.  
*People*            *And also with you.*  
*Celebrant*        Lift up your hearts.  
*People*            *We lift them to the Lord.*  
*Celebrant*        Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
*People*            *It is right to give him thanks and praise.*

*Celebrant:* It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, who was tempted in every way as we are, yet did not sin. By his grace we are able to triumph over every evil, and to live no longer for ourselves alone, but for him who died for us and rose again. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

**Sanctus**    *(sung)*                      S-125

*Celebrant and People*

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full, full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.

*The people stand or kneel.*

*Celebrant:* Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all. He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "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. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

*Celebrant and People*

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

*The Celebrant continues*

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving.

Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. AMEN.

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

*People and Celebrant*

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 Breaking of the Bread** (*A period of silence is kept*)

*Celebrant* Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

*People*                      *Therefore let us keep the feast.*

**Lamb of God**    (*sung*)                      S-164

*Celebrant* The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

*All persons are welcome to receive Holy Communion. Please come to the altar rail when directed by an usher.*

*The People come forward single file, one at a time to a communion station to receive the bread, and may intinct the bread in the chalice at the gate, returning to their seat after consuming it.*

**Communion Hymn**                      H 325

*After communion the Celebrant says*

Let us pray.

*Celebrant and People*

Almighty and everliving God,  
we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food  
of the most precious Body and Blood  
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ;  
and for assuring us in these holy mysteries

that we are living members of the Body of your Son,  
and heirs of your eternal kingdom.  
And now, Father, send us out  
to do the work you have given us to do,  
to love and serve you  
as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord.  
To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit,  
be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

### **The Blessing**

Grant, most merciful Lord, to your faithful people pardon and peace, that they may be cleansed from all their sins, and serve you with a quiet mind; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be upon you and remain with you always. *Amen.*

### **Closing Hymn**

H 142

### **Dismissal**

<i>Clergy</i>	Let us bless the Lord.
<i>People</i>	<i>Thanks be to God.</i>

### **Postlude**



ADVENT EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
13150 W Spanish Garden Drive  
Sun City West, Arizona 85375  
Phone (623) 584-0350