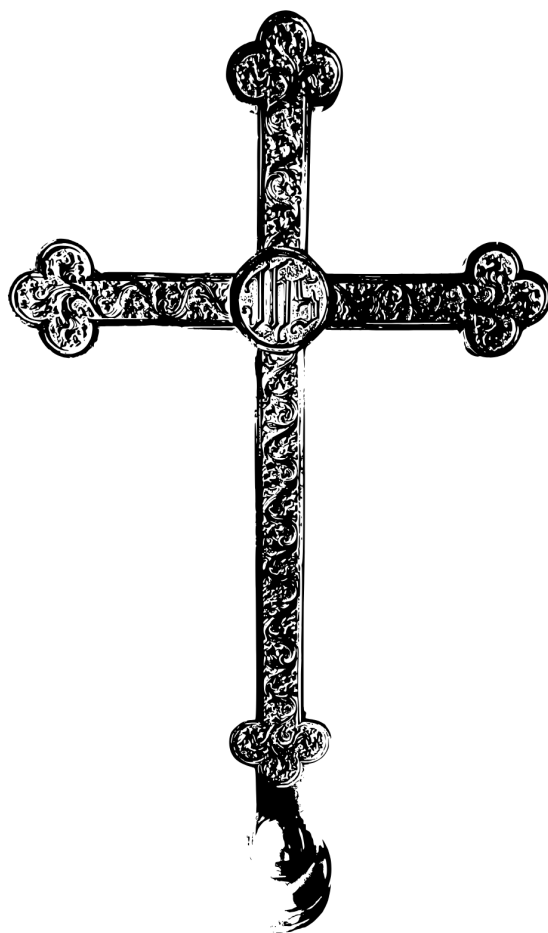


**ST. MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH**  
**THE PIONEER CHURCH OF WYOMING**



**ASH WEDNESDAY**

March 5, 2025  
7:00 AM & 12:00 NOON



# WELCOME

## FROM THE RECTOR

The Rev. Christian Paul Basel

Today, we enter the holy season of Lent, beginning with Ash Wednesday - a day of quiet reflection, repentance, and renewal. Across the world, Christians mark their foreheads with ashes in the shape of a cross, recalling the words from Genesis 3:19:

*“Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.”*

These ashes are a sign of our mortality and our need for God’s grace. They remind us that we were formed from the dust of the earth (Genesis 2:7), and one day, we shall return to it (Ecclesiastes 3:20). Yet, even in this truth, there is hope, for God is compassionate towards us, as it says in Psalm 103:14, *“For he knows how we were made; he remembers that we are dust.”*

Ash Wednesday is also a fast. In the discipline of fasting, we empty ourselves in order to be filled with God. It is an act of humility, like Job who repented “in dust and ashes” (Job 42:6), and an invitation to be awaked from spiritual sloth, as John Henry Newman - the 19th Century theologian and Cardinal - prayed:

*Give me grace, O my Father, to be utterly ashamed of my own reluctance. Rouse me from sloth and coldness, and make me desire you with my whole heart. Teach me to love meditation, sacred reading, and prayer. Teach me to love that which must engage my mind for all eternity.*

Yet, Ash Wednesday should not be seen as a day of sorrow - ultimately it is a day of joy, as the well-known spiritual writer and Trappist monk, Thomas Merton, reminds us, *“Ash Wednesday is full of joy...the source of all sorrow is the illusion that of ourselves we are anything but dust.”*

We are dust, but we are God’s dust - beloved, redeemed, and called to one day return to him. May this Lent be a journey of grace, and may the sign of ashes today remind each of us of the deeper transformation which Christ calls us into in the days ahead.

Blessings,

# THE LITURGY OF ASH WEDNESDAY

March 5, 2025  
7:00 AM & 12:00 NOON

*The procession enters in silence.*

## THE WORD OF GOD

### The Salutation & Collect of the Day (standing)

*BCP 264*

Celebrant: Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.  
People: **His mercy endures for ever.**

Let us pray.

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 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 First Lesson (seated)

*Joel 2:1-2, 12-17*

Lector: A reading from the Prophet 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 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?'"

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

**The Psalm** (seated, read responsively)

Psalm 103:8-14, *Benedic, anima mea*

Lector: The LORD is full of compassion and mercy, \*  
slow to anger and of great kindness.

People: **He will not always accuse us, \*  
nor will he keep his anger for ever.**

He has not dealt with us according to our sins, \*  
nor rewarded us according to our wickedness.

**For as the heavens are high above the earth, \*  
so is his mercy great upon those who fear him.**

As far as the east is from the west, \*  
so far has he removed our sins from us.

**As a father cares for his children, \*  
so does the LORD care for those who fear him.**

For he himself knows whereof we are made; \*  
he remembers that we are but dust.

**The Second Lesson** (seated)

*2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10*

Lector: A reading from the second letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; 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: The Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**The Gospel** (standing)

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

Gospeller: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

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

"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.”

Gospeller: The Gospel of the Lord  
People: **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

**The Sermon** (seated)

The Rev. Christian Paul Basel

**Invitation to a Holy Lent** (standing)

*BCP 264*

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.

*Please kneel.*

*Silence is kept for a time, all kneeling.*

**Prayer over the Ashes**

*BCP 265*

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.**

**IMPOSITION OF THE ASHES**

*All are invited forward to receive the imposition of ashes.*

**Psalm 51** (said together, kneeling) *Miserere mei, Deus*

- 1 Have mercy on me, O God, according to your loving-kindness; \*  
in your great compassion blot out my offenses.**
- 2 Wash me through and through from my wickedness \*  
and cleanse me from my sin.**
- 3 For I know my transgressions, \*  
and my sin is ever before me.**
- 4 Against you only have I sinned \*  
and done what is evil in your sight.**
- 5 And so you are justified when you speak \*  
and upright in your judgment.**
- 6 Indeed, I have been wicked from my birth, \*  
a sinner from my mother's womb.**
- 7 For behold, you look for truth deep within me, \*  
and will make me understand wisdom secretly.**
- 8 Purge me from my sin, and I shall be pure; \*  
wash me, and I shall be clean indeed.**

- 9 Make me hear of joy and gladness, \*  
that the body you have broken may rejoice.**
- 10 Hide your face from my sins \*  
and blot out all my iniquities.**
- 11 Create in me a clean heart, O God, \*  
and renew a right spirit within me.**
- 12 Cast me not away from your presence \*  
and take not your holy Spirit from me.**
- 13 Give me the joy of your saving help again \*  
and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.**
- 14 I shall teach your ways to the wicked, \*  
and sinners shall return to you.**
- 15 Deliver me from death, O God, \*  
and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness,  
O God of my salvation.**
- 16 Open my lips, O Lord, \*  
and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.**
- 17 Had you desired it, I would have offered sacrifice, \*  
but you take no delight in burnt-offerings.**
- 18 The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit; \*  
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.**



**Celebrant & People:**

**Most holy and merciful Father:  
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.**

Celebrant: 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 other, as we have been forgiven.

**People: Have mercy on us, Lord.**

We have been deaf 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.  
**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 blindness 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.**

Celebrant:

Almighty God, the Father 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 his ministers to declare and pronounce to his people, being penitent, the absolution and remission of their sins. He pardons and absolves all those who truly repent, and with sincere hearts 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 Peace** (standing)

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**People: And also with you.**

**Announcements**

**The Lord's Prayer** (standing)

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

**Celebrant & People:**

**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.***

**Solemn Prayer** (kneeling)

Celebrant: Bow down before the Lord.

*Please kneel.*

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; through Christ our Lord. ***Amen.***

**The Dismissal** (standing)

Celebrant: Let us bless the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

*The service departs in silence.*

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## UPCOMING EVENTS & SERVICES

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### MORNING PRAYER

Join us for Morning Prayer every Tuesday and Thursday at 7:30 AM during Lent, beginning March 6th. Start your day with quiet reflection, scripture, and prayer in the beauty of our sanctuary. All are welcome.

### TAIZÉ

Experience a peaceful, contemplative service of chant, scripture, and candlelight, led by the Sancte Spiritus Singers and instrumentalists. Held every third Friday, our next service is March 21 at 7:00 PM with a reception to follow.

### YOGA EUCHARIST

Join us for a heart-centered yoga practice combined with Holy Communion. No experience needed – just bring a yoga mat and firm blanket (or borrow one of ours). Yoga Eucharist meets every second Thursday at 5:30 PM in the Parish Hall. Next session is March 13th. Enter through Kingham Walkway.

### COMEA SHELTER

Help us in providing a warm meal for those in need by serving at the COMEA Shelter. St. Mark's serves meals every third Thursday at 5:30 PM. Your help makes a difference! To volunteer, please contact Eric Nelson at nelsonhams19@gmail.com

### GIRLFRIENDS UNLIMITED

#### LIT 'N' LATTE

The Girlfriends Unlimited book club meets in the Wildflower Room (3rd Floor) of the Laramie County Library from 3-4:00 PM on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month. Upcoming Dates: March 10 and March 24.

#### SEW & SEWS

Gather with fellow crafters for friendship, creativity, and fun. Join us every third Wednesday from 11 AM to 1:30 PM in the Sew & Sews Room (downstairs). Bring your lunch and any fiber art project. Next gathering: March 19th.

#### GAB (GIRLFRIENDS ADVISORY BOARD)

The GAB Team meets every second Wednesday of the month at 12:00 Noon in the Sew & Sews room. Anyone is welcome to join! Next meeting: March 12th.

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*The foregoing text of the worship service contained in this order of worship is taken from the Book of Common Prayer 1979. The Book of Common Prayer alone is of authority in the worship of the Episcopal Church. This program is provided for convenience of use on this occasion.*

# LENTEN BOOK STUDY

**“LOVE SET FREE”**  
MEDITATIONS ON THE  
PASSION ACCORDING TO ST. JOHN

*by the Rev. Martin L. Smith*

- Led by Fr. Christian
- Sunday Mornings in Lent
- March 9 - April 13
- Guild Room
- 11:00 AM
- Books available for purchase



## WEDNESDAYS IN LENT



Holy Eucharist - Rite I  
with Community Supper  
& Forum on Women in Scripture

March 12 - April 9  
5:30 PM



## PALM CROSS MAKING

THURSDAY,  
APRIL 10, 2025

GUILD ROOM  
10:30 AM - 3:00 PM

# Easter Flowers

This year, St. Mark's is embracing a fresh approach to our Easter flowers. Throughout Lent, traditional greens will symbolize the penitential nature of the season, while reflecting themes of waiting and preparation. For Easter, instead of the usual potted lilies, the altar will be beautifully adorned with an expanded variety of floral decorations.

To make a contribution, please fill out this form and return it by either placing it in the offering plate or dropping it off at the church office (Tuesday - Friday, 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.). **The deadline for donations is Sunday, April 6th.** For checks, kindly note "Easter Flower Donation" in the memo line.

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

I will donate \$\_\_\_\_\_ for Easter Flowers.

**(Please circle one)**

In Memory, Honor, or Celebration of:



# HOLY WEEK & EASTER

AT ST. MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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**Sunday of the Passion:**

**Palm Sunday, April 13**

9:30 AM Holy Eucharist, Rite II

**Holy Monday, April 14**

5:30 PM Holy Eucharist, Rite I

**Holy Tuesday, April 15**

5:30 PM Holy Eucharist, Rite I

**Holy Wednesday, April 16**

5:30 PM Tenebrae

**Maundy Thursday, April 17**

5:30 PM Holy Eucharist, Rite II

7:00 PM - 12:00 Noon All Night Vigil

**Good Friday, April 18**

12:00 Noon Good Friday Service

3:00 PM Stations of the Cross

7:00 PM Good Friday Service

**Holy Saturday, April 19**

8:30 AM The Liturgy of Holy Saturday

**Great Vigil of Easter, April 19**

7:00 PM The Great Vigil of Easter

**Easter Sunday, April 20**

6:00 AM Sunrise Service: Holy Eucharist, Rite II

8:30 AM Holy Eucharist, Rite II

10:00 AM Easter Egg Hunt


11:00 AM Festival Eucharist, Rite II





## **ST. MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

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**THE PIONEER CHURCH OF WYOMING | EST. 1868**