



MURFREESBORO BAPTIST CHURCH

Murfreesboro, North Carolina

Love God. Follow Jesus. Serve Others

Ash Wednesday

February 18, 2026

7:00 P.M.



Ash Wednesday developed as a day of penitence to mark the beginning of Lent—the forty days of preparation for the celebration of Easter. According to the Gospel accounts of Matthew, Mark and Luke, Jesus spent forty days fasting in the desert, where he endured temptation by Satan. The ancient practice of repentance and mourning in sackcloth and ashes is referenced in Esther 4:1, Job 2:8, Daniel 9:3, and Matthew 11:21.

Ash Wednesday is a particular time for new beginnings in the faith, a time for returning to the Lord. On this day we recall our mortality and wait upon the Lord to renew our spirit through his Spirit. This is a time for putting aside the sins and failures of the past in the light of who we are yet to become by the grace of God.

Ash Wednesday Service

Prelude

Call to Worship

Psalm 103:1-4 (NRSV)

Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name!

Bless the LORD, O my soul, and do not forget all his benefits –

who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases,

who redeems your life from the Pit,

who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy.

Invocation

Mark Gaskins

*Hymn No. 168

I Take the Cross of Jesus Christ

KINGSFOLD

Scripture Lessons

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17
2 Corinthians 5:21 – 6:2

The Word of God, for the People of God.

Thanks be to God.

*Hymn No. 171

What Wondrous Love Is This

WONDROUS LOVE

Scripture and Meditation

Mark Gaskins

Luke 18:9-14

An Accurate Assessment

*Hymn No. 471

Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy

RESTORATION

Silent Reflection and Personal Confession

Corporate Confession

Merciful God, we have not loved you with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength, nor our neighbor as ourselves. We have not forgiven others as we have been forgiven.

*Please stand as you are able.

Lord Jesus Christ, have mercy on us.

We have often been deaf to your call to serve, unfaithful, proud, and hypocritical. We have been self-centered and have taken advantage of others. We have been envious of those more fortunate than ourselves. We have loved worldly goods and comforts too much.

Lord, have mercy.

We have neglected prayer and worship, and have failed to commend the faith that is in us. We have been blind to human need and suffering, and indifferent to injustice and cruelty. We have thought uncharitably about others, and have been prejudiced toward those who differ from us. We have wasted and polluted your creation, and lacked concern for those who come after us.

Christ, have mercy.

Have mercy on us, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out our transgressions. Wash us thoroughly from our iniquities, and cleanse us from our sin. Create in us a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within us. Restore to us the joy of your salvation, and sustain a willing spirit in us. Then we will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will return to you; in the name of Jesus our Lord and Savior we pray. Amen.

Choral Reflection

The Jesus Prayer (Kyrie Eleison)

David Baker

Imposition of Ashes

Assurance of Pardon

Prayer of Thanksgiving

* Hymn No. 169

Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days

ST. FLAVIAN

*Charge and Benediction

Mark Gaskins

Postlude

