

A Service for Ash Wednesday

Prelude Ralph Boggess
"Sweet Hour of Prayer" William Bradbury/Arr. Gary Prim
"Fairest Lord Jesus" Silesian Melody/Arr. Cindy Berry

Greeting Pastor Michael
The Grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.
And also with you.
Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.
God's mercy endures for ever.

Opening Prayer
**O God,
maker of every thing and judge
of all that you have made,
from the dust of the earth you have formed us
and from the dust of death you would raise us up.
By the redemptive power of the cross,
create in us clean hearts
and put within us a new spirit,
that we may repent of our sins
and lead lives worthy of your calling;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*First Hymn #287
"O Love Divine, What Hast Thou Done"

Reading from the Old Testament Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 (page #650)

Reading from the Epistle 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10 (page #139)

*Reading from the Gospel Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21 (page #4)

Sermon

Special Music Praise Team
"I Saw Mercy"
Ben Fielding, Brett Younker, David Leonard, Leeland Mooring

Invitation to Observance of Lenten Disciplines

Thanksgiving Over the Ashes

*Imposition of Ashes

Music During Imposition of Ashes
"O Sacred Head, Now Wounded" Hans Leo Hassler/Arr. Craig Courtney
"The King of Love My Shepherd Is" Irish Melody/Arr. Craig Courtney
"Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross" William Doane/Arr. Craig Courtney

Prayer of Confession Psalm 51:1-17

**1 Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;
according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.
2 Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,
and cleanse me from my sin!**

**3 For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.
4 Against you, you only, have I sinned,
and done that which is evil in your sight,
so that you are justified in your sentence
and blameless in your judgment.**

**5 Behold, I was born into iniquity,
and I have been sinful since my mother conceived me.
6 Behold, you desire truth in the inward being;
therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.**

**7 Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow;
8 Make me hear with joy and gladness;
let the bones which you have broken rejoice.
9 Hide your face from my sins,
and blot out all my iniquities.**

**10 Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and put a new and right spirit within me.
11 Cast me not away from your presence,
and take not your holy Spirit from me.
12 Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
and sustain in me a willing spirit.
13 Then I will teach transgressors your ways,
and sinners will return to you.
14 Deliver me from death, O God, God of my salvation,
and my tongue will sing aloud of your deliverance.
15 O Lord, open my lips,
and my mouth shall show forth your praise.
16 For you have no delight in sacrifice;
were I to give a burnt offering, you would not be pleased.
17 The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit;
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.**

Personal Confession and Self-Examination (in silence)

Words of Assurance and Pardon

Passing of the Peace

Prayer of Thanksgiving and The Lord's Prayer

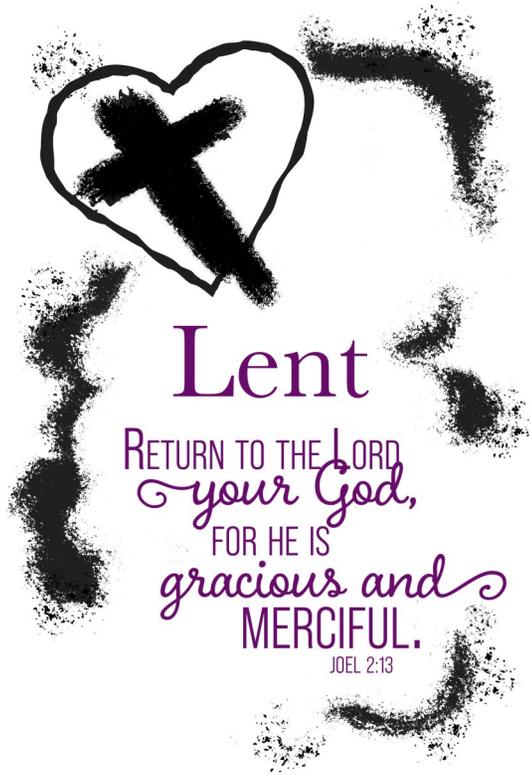
*Congregational Song

"Lead Me To The Cross" Brooke Ligertwood

*Benediction

*Going Forth in Silence

*Those who are able may stand



Ash Wednesday Service

February 18, 2026

Easley First United Methodist Church

