

Westminster Presbyterian Church

2110 Sheridan Blvd. Lincoln, NE

February 18, 2026

Ash Wednesday



Please rise in body or spirit for the parts of worship with an asterisk () before the title. Parts of worship that are ***bolded and italicized*** are for all worshippers to read together aloud.

A Note on the Imposition of Ashes

Tonight, we will have a time of imposition of ashes. This is a time of marking our foreheads with ashes in the sign of a cross. This sign is a symbol of our human frailty and penitence, and our desire to die to sin and live a new life in Christ. If you would like to receive this sign from a pastor, we ask that you come down the center aisle and return to your seats by the side aisles. There is also a self-imposition station located near the elevator doors on the North side of the sanctuary.

Prelude

“Christ, the Life of All the Living” by Flor Peeters

Welcome

Please sign and pass the friendship pad.

*Call to Worship (John 3:17)

Elder Sarah Baltensperger

One: God sent Christ into the world

All: not to condemn the world

One: but that the world might be saved through him.

All: God’s love endures forever.

*Hymn #427

Jesus Knows the Inmost Heart

Prayer for Illumination

Rev. Dr. Jimmy Shelbourn

Scripture

Hebrew Prophets

Isaiah 58:1-12

O.T. pg. 688

Gospel

Matthew 6:1, 16-21

N.T. pg. 5

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Meditation

“What is the Fast You Choose?”

Rev. Chris Peters

Invitation to Observe a Holy Lent

Litany of Penitence

Jimmy: Holy and merciful God,

We confess to you and to one another, and to the whole communion of saints, 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.

Chris: 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.

Have mercy on us, O God.

Sarah: 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.

Have mercy on us, O God.

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

Have mercy on us, O God.

Chris: For our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and for our exploitation of other people.

Have mercy on us, O God.

Sarah: For our anger at our own frustration and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves.

Have mercy on us, O God.

Jimmy: For our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts and our dishonesty in daily life and work.

Have mercy on us, O God.

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

Have mercy on us, O God.

Sarah: 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.

Have mercy on us, O God.

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

Have mercy on us, O God.

Chris: For our waste and pollution of your creation and our lack of concern for those who come after us.

Have mercy on us, O God.

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

Turn to us in your mercy and redeem us, O Lord.

Imposition of Ashes

Musical Reflection

“Change My Heart, O God” arr. Joel Raney
Wes Hansmeyer and John Ross

Prayers of the People

The Lord’s Prayer

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.

Hymn #802

The King of Love My Shepherd Is (verses 1, 2, 3 & 6)

***Charge & Benediction**

Rev. Chris Peters

Postlude

“Savior, When in Dust to You” by Gerald Near

Tonight’s liturgy and service order come from the *PC(USA) Book of Common Worship, 2018 Edition*.

Westminster welcomes and values children in worship. All kids and their families are welcome to pick up a Children’s Worship bag or blue Infant Bag in the Narthex (Sheridan Blvd. foyer). A nursery is available for kids under 5. If a parent feels a break is needed for their child during the service, our **Infant Room** is available at the north end of the Narthex.

Giving to Westminster’s Mission and Ministry

At Church: An offering to support Westminster may be placed in our Giving Baskets following the service. These are located by the Sheridan Blvd. doors in the narthex and near the top of the stairs in the sanctuary on the Garden Room / South side. Look for the baskets and signs that read “Giving Basket.” Ushers monitor the baskets and collect the offerings following the service.

For online giving, scan the QR code.

Ministers: The whole congregation

Pastors: Rev. Chris Peters & Rev. Dr. Jimmy Shelbourn

Liturgist: Elder Sarah Baltensperger

Music Director: Wes Hansmeyer

Organist: John Ross

Handbell Director: Christopher Boilesen

Director of Children & Youth: Trish Souliere

Ushers: Joyce Douglas, Dan Schafer, Erika Schafer

Sanctuary Audio and Livestream: Dale Minter

