

# THE CATHEDRAL OF SAINT PAUL

BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA



ASH WEDNESDAY

FEBRUARY 18, 2026

Welcome to the Cathedral of Saint Paul. The order of Mass can be found on page 3 in the Sunday's Word booklets found in the pew racks. Please follow this order of worship for today's music.

On Ash Wednesday, a universal day of fast, ashes are distributed. The faithful, by receiving ashes, enter upon the season appointed for spiritual purification. This sign, biblical in origin and preserved among the customs of the Church until our own day, expresses the human condition as affected by sin. In this sign we outwardly profess our guilt before God and thereby, prompted by the hope that the Lord is kind and compassionate, patient and abounding in mercy, express our desire for inward conversion. This sign is also the beginning of the journey of conversion that will reach its goal in the celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation during the days leading to Easter. —Ceremonial of Bishops

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON (12:10PM) *Misereris omnium*

CF. WISDOM 11:24, 25, 27

Please join in the antiphon below after the cantor introduction and between verses.

I  
Y  
OU are mer-ci-ful to all, O Lord, for you are the  
Lord our God.

Musical notation for the Entrance Antiphon. It consists of two staves of music. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a common time signature (C). The melody starts with a quarter note G4, followed by quarter notes A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4, F4, E4, D4, C4. The second staff continues the melody with quarter notes B3, A3, G3, F3, E3, D3, C3, B2, A2, G2, F2, E2, D2, C2. The lyrics are placed below the notes.

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON (6:30PM) *Misereris omnium*

CF. WISDOM 11:24, 25, 27

*Misereris omnium, Dómine, et nihil odisti eórum quæ fecisti, dissimulans peccáta hóminum propter pæniténtiam et parcens illis: quia tu es Dóminus, Deus noster.*

*℟ Miserere mei, Deus, miserere mei: quóniam in te confidit ánima mea.*

You are merciful to all, O Lord, and despise nothing that you have made. You overlook people's sins, to bring them to repentance, and you spare them, for You are the Lord our God.

*℟ Be merciful to me, O God, be merciful to me, for my soul confides in You.*

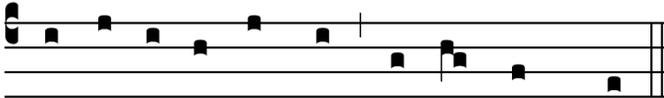
On this day, the Penitential Act is replaced (albeit later in the Mass) with the Imposition and Distribution of Ashes. Mass begins with the Collect, or opening prayer.

# LITURGY OF THE WORD

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

PSALM 51:3-4, 5-6AB, 12-13, 14, 17

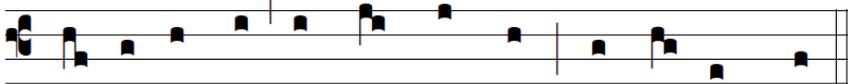
III



**B** E mer-ci-ful, O Lord, for we have sinned.

VERSE BEFORE THE GOSPEL

II



**G** Lo-ry to you, O Word of God, Lord Je- sus Christ.  
If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

BLESSING AND DISTRIBUTION OF ASHES

*The choir or schola sing the following antiphons and responsory assigned by the Church for this day of penitence. For the hymns that are interspersed between the antiphons, please read down in the order of worship.*

ANTIPHON I

Let us change our garments to sackcloth and ashes, let us fast and weep before the Lord, that our God, rich in mercy, might forgive us our sins.

ANTIPHON II

CF. JOEL 2:17; ESTHER 4:17

Let the priests, the ministers of the Lord, stand between the porch and the altar and weep and cry out: Spare, O Lord, spare Your people; do not close the mouths of those who sing Your praise, O Lord.

HYMN

ERHALT UNS, HERR



1. A - gain we keep this sol - emn fast, A  
2. The law and proph - ets from of old In  
3. More spar - ing, there - fore, let us make The  
4. Let us a - void each harm - ful way That  
5. We pray, O bless - ed Three in One, Our



gift of faith from a - ges past, This Lent which binds us  
fig - ured ways this Lent fore - told, Which Christ, all a - ges'  
words we speak, the food we take, Our sleep, our laugh-ter,  
lures the care - less mind a - stray; By watch - ful prayer our  
God while end - less a - ges run, That this, our Lent of



lov - ing - ly To faith and hope and char - i - ty.  
Lord and Guide, In these last days has sanc - ti - fied.  
ev - 'ry sense; Learn peace thru ho - ly pen - i - tence.  
spir - its free From schem - ing of the En - e - my.  
for - ty days, May bring us growth and give you praise.

II  
**B** Lot out my transgressions, O Lord.

RESPONSORY *Emendemus in melius*

CF. BARUCH 3:2; PSALM 79:9

℣ Let us correct our faults which we have committed in ignorance, let us not be taken unawares by the day of our death, looking in vain for leisure to repent. Hear us, O Lord, and show us Your mercy, for we have sinned against You.

℟ **Help us, O God, our Savior; for the sake of Your name, O Lord, set us free.**

℣ Hear us, O Lord...

HYMN (AD LIBITUM)

AUDI BENIGNE CONDITOR

1. O \_\_\_\_\_ kind Cre - a - tor, \_\_\_\_\_ bow Thine ear  
 2. Our \_\_\_\_\_ hearts are \_\_\_\_\_ o - pen, \_\_\_\_\_ Lord to Thee:  
 3. Our \_\_\_\_\_ sins are \_\_\_\_\_ man - y, \_\_\_\_\_ this we know;  
 4. Give \_\_\_\_\_ us the \_\_\_\_\_ self - con - trol that springs  
 5. We \_\_\_\_\_ pray Thee, \_\_\_\_\_ Ho - ly \_\_\_\_\_ Trin - i - ty,

To \_\_\_\_\_ mark the cry \_\_\_\_\_ to know \_\_\_\_\_ the tear  
 Thou \_\_\_\_\_ know - est our \_\_\_\_\_ in - fir - mi - ty;  
 Spare \_\_\_\_\_ us good Lord, \_\_\_\_\_ Thy mer - cy show;  
 From \_\_\_\_\_ dis - ci - pline \_\_\_\_\_ of out - ward things,  
 One \_\_\_\_\_ God, un - chang - ing U - ni - ty,

Be - fore Thy throne \_\_\_\_\_ of mer - cy spent  
 Pour out on all \_\_\_\_\_ who seek Thy face  
 And for the hon - or of Thy Name  
 That fast - ing in - ward se - cret - ly  
 That we from this \_\_\_\_\_ our ab - sti - nence

In \_\_\_\_\_ this \_\_\_\_\_ our ho - ly fast \_\_\_\_\_ of Lent.  
 A - bun - dance of \_\_\_\_\_ Thy par - d'ning grace.  
 Our \_\_\_\_\_ faint - ing souls to life \_\_\_\_\_ re - claim.  
 The \_\_\_\_\_ soul \_\_\_\_\_ may pure - ly dwell with Thee.  
 May \_\_\_\_\_ reap \_\_\_\_\_ the fruit \_\_\_\_\_ of pen - i - tence. A - men. \_\_\_\_\_

# LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

## OFFERTORY GIVING QR CODES

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING THE CATHEDRAL OF SAINT PAUL!

WeShare Online – Offertory  
(Includes Credit/Debit, ACH,  
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Venmo – Offertory  
(Please be sure to  
type a description.)



WeShare – Music Fund  
(Thank you for supporting  
our Sacred Music program!)



## OFFERTORY ANTIPHON (5:30PM) *Exaltabo te, Domine*

PSALM 29:2-3

Exaltábo te, Dómine, quóniam suscepisti me, nec delectásti inimicos meos super me: Dómine, clamávi ad te, et sanásti me. / *I will extol you, O Lord, for You drew me clear and did not let my enemies rejoice over me. O Lord, I cried out to You and You healed me.*



## OFFERTORY HYMN

LORD, WHO THROUGHOUT THESE FORTY DAYS

ST. FLAVIAN



1. Lord, who through-out these for - ty days, For us did fast and pray,
2. As you with Sa - tan did con-tend, And did the vic - t'ry win,
3. As you did hun - ger and did thirst, So teach us, gra-cious Lord,
4. And through these days of pen - i - tence, And through your Pas - sion - tide,
5. A - bide with us, that through this life Of doubts and hope and pain,

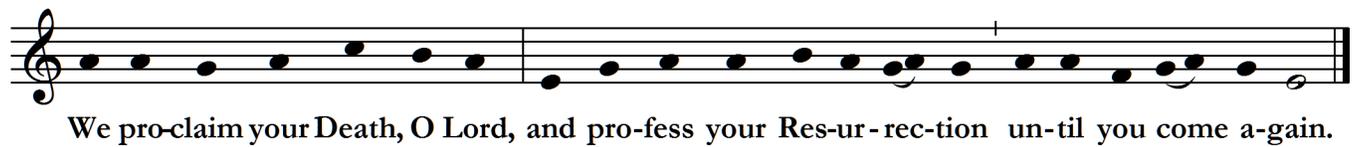


Teach us to o - ver - come our sins, And close by you to stay.  
O give us strength in you to fight, In you to con-quer sin.  
To die to self, and so to live By your most ho - ly word.  
For ev - er - more, in life and death, O Lord! with us a - bide.  
An East - er of un - end - ing joy We may at last at - tain!



**S** Anc tus, \* Sanc tus, Sanc tus Dóminus De- us Sába- oth. Pleni sunt cæ- li et  
 ter- ra gló- ri- a tu- a. Hosán na in excélsis. Benedíc tus qui venit in nómine Dómini.  
 Hosán na in excélsis.

## MYSTERIUM FIDEI



We pro-claim your Death, O Lord, and pro-fess your Res-ur- rec- tion un-til you come a- gain.



## AGNUS DEI

## MASS XVIII



**A** -gnus De- i, \* qui tollis peccá- ta mun di: mi- serére no- bis. Agnus De- i, \*  
 qui tollis peccá- ta mun di: mi- serére no- bis. Agnus De- i, \* qui tollis peccá- ta mun-  
 di: dona nobis pa- cem.

## HOLY COMMUNION

We invite all Catholics who are properly disposed (i.e., in the state of grace and having fasted for one hour before communion) to come forward in the usual way to receive Holy Communion.

All others, including our non-Catholic guests, may remain in their pews and join us in prayer. Alternatively, to participate in the communion procession and receive a blessing, come forward in the line and cross your arms over your chest as you approach the minister. Thank you.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON *Qui meditabitur*

PSALM 1:2-3

*Qui meditabitur in lege Dómini die ac nocte, dabit fructum suum in témpore suo.*

*He who ponders the Law of the Lord day and night will yield fruit in due season.*

COMMUNION

O FOOD OF EXILES LOWLY

INNSBRUCK

1. O Food of ex - iles low - ly, O Bread of  
2. O cleans - ing wa - ter, stream - ing From Je - sus'  
3. O Lord, we kneel be - fore you And fer - vent -  
an - gels ho - ly, O Man - na from on high! We  
side, re - deem - ing All those of A - dam's race! O  
ly a - dore you, All hid be - neath this bread. But  
hun - ger for your bless - ing, All good in you pos -  
quench - ing foun - tain flow - ing, Our ev - 'ry want be -  
make to us this prom - ise: To see you in your  
sess - ing. With fa - vor hear our heart's out - cry.  
stow - ing, O come and fill our souls with grace.  
full - ness, The sa - cred bo - dy's mys - tic head.

POSTCOMMUNION (5:30PM)

MISERERE MEI, DEUS

GREGORIO ALLEGRI

Miserere mei, Deus, secundum magnam misericordiam tuam, et secundum multitudinem miserationum tuarum, dele iniquitatem meam.

*Have mercy on me, O God, according to Your great mercy. And according to Your abundant mercy, blot out my transgressions. –Psalm 51*



1. For - ty days and for - ty nights You were fast - ing in the wild;
2. Shall not we your sor - row share And from world - ly joys ab - stain,
3. Then if Sa - tan on us press, Flesh or spir - it to as - sail,
4. So shall we have peace di - vine: Ho - lier glad - ness ours shall be;
5. Keep, O keep us, Sav - ior dear, Ev - er con - stant by your side;



For - ty days and for - ty nights Tempt - ed and yet un - de - filed.  
 Fast - ing with un - ceas - ing prayer, Strong with you to suf - fer pain?  
 Vic - tor in the wil - der - ness, Grant we may not faint nor fail!  
 Round us, too, shall an - gels shine, Such as served you faith - ful - ly.  
 That with you we may ap - pear At the e - ter - nal East - er - tide.

### **LENTEN FASTING AND ABSTINENCE REGULATIONS**

Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are obligatory **days of fasting and abstinence** for Catholics. In addition, Fridays during Lent are obligatory days of abstinence. The norms on **fasting** are obligatory from age 18 until age 59. Pregnant women and others for whom fasting would be perilous to their health are exempted. Those fasting are permitted to eat one full meal; two smaller meals may also be taken, but not to equal a full meal. The norms concerning **abstinence** from meat are binding for all from age 14 onwards. Broths made from meat (as long as there are no pieces of meat in it) are permissible according to the letter of the law, though perhaps not fully coherent with its spirit. Vegetarians do well on days of abstinence to give up a certain food or dish that they regularly enjoy, since they already give up meat, not for penitential reasons, but as a way of life.

PLEASE JOIN US ON

**FRIDAY, MARCH 13, AT 5:30PM FOR**

**CHORAL STATIONS OF THE CROSS**

CATHEDRAL CHOIR PRESENTS WORKS BY ALLEGRI, BARTOLUCCI, HAYDN, AND MORE, ALONG WITH DEVOTIONS COMPOSED BY ST. JOHN HENRY NEWMAN.

# THE CATHEDRAL OF SAINT PAUL

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THE MOST REVEREND STEVEN J. RAICA, JCD

BISHOP OF BIRMINGHAM IN ALABAMA

THE VERY REVEREND BRYAN W. JERABEK, JCL, RECTOR

## LITURGICAL SCHEDULE

### SUNDAY MASSES

SATURDAY 5:00PM (ANTICIPATED), SUNDAY 7:15, 8:30, & 11:00AM

### WEEKDAY MASSES

MONDAY-FRIDAY: 6:30AM & 12:10PM

### CONFESSIONS

MONDAY-FRIDAY, 11:30AM-12:00PM; SATURDAY, 3:00-4:30PM OR BY APPOINTMENT

### DURING LENT

STATIONS OF THE CROSS EACH FRIDAY AT 5:30PM



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