

# The Church of the Holy Cross

## Valle Crucis, North Carolina



The Episcopal Church in the Vale of the Cross Since 1842

### **ASH WEDNESDAY**

Solemn Liturgy with The Holy Eucharist, Rite II  
with Imposition of Ashes

**7:00 pm**

*WELCOME to the Church of the Holy Cross.*

*All those who seek a deeper knowledge and love of the Lord are welcomed to receive the bread and wine of Holy Eucharist. Children are always welcome and encouraged to participate throughout the service. Rocking chairs have been provided for caregivers with infants.*

## The Meaning of Ashes and Origin of Observing Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the Season of Lent, a time of self-examination, penitence, fasting, and spiritual renewal in preparation for the Easter feast.

Beginning on the first day of Lent (Wednesday) in the 10th Century ashes (a symbol of contrition and penitence) were marked upon the foreheads of notorious sinners as a sign that they were penitent and seeking to amend their lives so that they could be restored to full communion with the Church at Easter. Thus, the term “Ash Wednesday” was born. However, ashes also symbolize our mortality. Therefore, since the 11th Century, ashes have been imposed upon the foreheads of all Christians as both a reminder that the wages of sin is death and also, our need for regular repentance and grace. As God said to Adam, “Dust you are and to dust you shall return.” (Genesis 3:19b)

Yet, as we are marked with ashes on Ash Wednesday, they are not simply pressed upon our foreheads, but rather, they are pressed with the sign of the cross in the same manner that our brow was signed with the cross in our Baptism. Thus, ashes symbolize not only our mortality and our need for repentance; they remind us that we have the promise of life in and through Jesus Christ, the second Adam.

*Thanks be to God!*

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**“O Lord, Hear My Prayer” Tune: Jacques Berthier, © 1982, Les Presses de Taizé, GIA Publications, Inc., agent. Text: Taizé Community, © 1982, Les Presses de Taizé, GIA Publications, Inc., agent. Reprinted/Podcast/Streamed with permission under OneLicense.net #A-718736. All rights reserved.**

## The Word of God

*All stand at the sound of the bell.*

*On this day, the Choir and Altar Ministers enter in silence.*

*The Priest begins the liturgy saying,*

BCP 264

Priest: Bless (†) the Lord who forgives all our sins;

**People: God's mercy endures forever.**

### The Collect of the Day:

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.

**People: Amen.**

*All are now seated for the readings from Scripture.*

### The Lessons

#### The First Lesson:

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

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.

*Continued...*

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?’”

**Reader:** The Word of the Lord.

**People:** Thanks be to God.

*A time for silent reflection follows.*

**The Response:** **Psalm 103:8-14** (*prayed responsively by **half verse***) *Benedic, anima mea*

- 8 The LORD is full of compassion and mercy, \*  
**slow to anger and of great kindness.**
- 9 He will not always accuse us, \*  
**nor will he keep his anger for ever.**
- 10 He has not dealt with us according to our sins, \*  
**nor rewarded us according to our wickedness.**
- 11 For as the heavens are high above the earth, \*  
**so is his mercy great upon those who fear him.**
- 12 As far as the east is from the west, \*  
**so far has he removed our sins from us.**
- 13 As a father cares for his children, \*  
**so does the LORD care for those who fear him.**
- 14 For he himself knows whereof we are made; \*  
**he remembers that we are but dust.**

*A time for silent reflection follows.*

**The Second Lesson:** **2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10**

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.

**Reader:** The Word of the Lord.

**People:** Thanks be to God.

*A time for silent reflection follows.*

**The Gradual Hymn: #150 “Forty Days and Forty Nights”**

*Aus der Tiefe rufe ich*

**The Holy Gospel:**

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

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

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

Jesus said, “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.

*Continued...*

“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.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

**The Homily:**

**The Rev. Robert G. Hartmans**

*A time of silence follows the Homily.*

*Please remain seated until the Altar Ministers stand.*

*All stand.*

**The Exhortation:**

BCP 264

*The Priest invites the people to the observance of a holy Lent, saying,*

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.

*All kneel or stand as they are able.*

*A time of silence is now observed.*

Priest: 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.

**People: Amen.**

## The Imposition of Ashes:

BCP 265

*All are encouraged to come forward during the recitation of the Penitential Psalm to be marked with ashes.*

*Ashes are imposed with the following words:* Remember that you are dust,  
and to dust you shall return.

*All kneel or stand as they are able.*

## The Penitential Psalm: Psalm 51 (*prayed aloud by the Litanist during the Imposition*)

- 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.

*Continued...*

- 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.

*When all have returned to their seats, all kneel or stand as they are able.*

### **The Litany of Penitence:**

BCP 267

Priest: Most holy and merciful Father:

**People: 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.**

Priest: 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.

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

*Litanist:* 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.

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

*Litanist:* We confess to you, Lord, all our past unfaithfulness: the pride, hypocrisy, and impatience of our lives,

**People: We confess to you, Lord.**

*Litanist:* Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people,

**People: We confess to you, Lord.**

*Litanist:* Our anger at our own frustration, and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves,

**People: We confess to you, Lord.**



*Litanist:* Our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts, and our dishonesty in daily life and work,

*People:* **We confess to you, Lord.**

*Litanist:* Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to commend the faith that is in us,

*People:* **We confess to you, Lord.**

*Litanist:* 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,

*People:* **Accept our repentance, Lord.**

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

*People:* **Accept our repentance, Lord.**

*Litanist:* For our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us,

*People:* **Accept our repentance, Lord.**

*Litanist:* Restore us, good Lord, and let your anger depart from us;

*People:* **Favorably hear us, for your mercy is great.**

*Litanist:* Accomplish in us the work of your salvation,

*People:* **That we may show forth your glory in the world.**

*Litanist:* By the cross and passion of your Son our Lord,

*People:* **Bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.**

*Priest:* 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.

*People:* **Amen.**

All stand.

## The Peace:

The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

**People:** And also with you.

*All greet one another in the Name of the Lord.*

## The Welcome:

The Rev. Robert G. Hartmans

### ***Concerning The Holy Communion***

*A reminder that all present are welcome to the Communion regardless of Christian denomination.*

*We consider it an honor and privilege to commune with all present as one united body of Christ.*

*To receive the bread, extend your hands towards the priest. To receive the wine, guide the bottom of the chalice with both hands. To receive the bread and wine together via intinction, place your right hand over your left shoulder. To receive a blessing instead of the bread and wine, cross your arms across your chest.*

*If you have a gluten allergy, simply inform the priest when you come to the rail.*

### **The Holy Communion**

#### **The Offertory Anthem:**

“What Wondrous Love”

James Melby

#### **The Presentation Hymn: #439 “What Wondrous Love is This”**

*Wondrous Love*

### **The Great Thanksgiving**

***Eucharistic Prayer A***

BCP 361

*All stand as they are able at the invitation of the Priest.*

## The Sursum Corda:

Priest: The Lord be with you.

**People:** And also with you.

Priest: Lift up your hearts.

**People:** We lift them to the Lord.

Priest: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

**People:** It is right to give God thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth; you bid your faithful people cleanse their hearts, and prepare with joy for the Paschal feast; that, fervent in prayer and in works of mercy, and renewed by your Word and Sacraments, they may come to the fullness of grace which you have prepared for those who love you.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

**The Sanctus:**

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

*All kneel or stand as they are able.*

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all. He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

***Priest and People:* Christ has died. Christ is risen.  
Christ will come again.**

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts. Sanctify (†) them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify (†) us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

*Continued...*

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. By (†) him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever.

**People:** *AMEN.*

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

**The Lord's Prayer:**

*Traditional Version*

BCP 364

**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.**

**The Breaking of the Bread:** *(The Fraction)*

*The Priest breaks the consecrated bread.*

*A time of silence is kept.*

**The Fraction Anthem:**

Priest: Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world.

**People:** Have mercy on us.

Priest: Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world.

**People:** Have mercy on us.

Priest: Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world.

**People:** Grant us peace.

**The Invitation:**

*The Priest invites the people to Communion.*

*Please come to the Altar to receive Communion. At the Altar Rail move toward either wall so that those in the center will kneel last. Please wait to be dismissed; those in the center depart first.*

**The Communion Hymn: #149 “Eternal Lord of Love”**

*Old 124th*

*When all have communed, all kneel or stand as able and sing the following hymn.*

**Kneeling Hymn: “O Lord, Hear My Prayer”**

*Taizé 20*

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "O Lord, Hear My Prayer". It consists of two systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is common time (C). The first system of music has the following lyrics: "O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer. When I call an - swer me. O The Lord is my song, the Lord is my praise: All my hope comes from God. The". The second system of music has the following lyrics: "Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer. Come and lis - ten to me. O Lord is my song, the Lord is my praise: God, the well - spring of life. The". Both systems end with a "fine" marking and a fermata.

*A time for silent reflection precedes the following prayer.s*

**The Post-communion Prayer:**

*BCP 365*

**Eternal God, heavenly Father,  
you have graciously accepted us as living members  
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,  
and you have fed us with spiritual food  
in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.  
Send us now into the world in peace,  
and grant us strength and courage  
to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart;  
through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.**

*All stand.*

**The Blessing:**

*The Priest offers a blessing concluding with,*

And the Blessing of Almighty God: (†) the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,  
be among you this day and remain with you always.

**People:** Amen.

**Processional Hymn: #142 “Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days”** *St. Flavian*

**The Dismissal:**

Priest: Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

**People:** Thanks be to God.

*Please depart in silence.*

*We thank those who served this evening*

<i>Organist:</i>	Shane Watson
<i>Greeters/Oblationers:</i>	
<i>Ushers:</i>	
<i>Lector:</i>	John Goodrich
<i>Litanist:</i>	John Goodrich
<i>Chalice:</i>	Karla Prudhomme
<i>Acolytes:</i>	Karla Prudhomme



**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5, 2025**

***Ash Wednesday Services***

**12:00 pm** Ash Wednesday Liturgy with Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion

**7:00 pm** Solemn Liturgy for Ash Wednesday with Imposition of Ashes,  
Holy Communion, and Hymnody

*(This service is Live-Streamed via our YouTube Channel)*

*SUNDAY, MARCH 9, 2025*  
*Daylight Savings Time Begins!*

Remember to turn your clocks *forward one hour* before retiring on Saturday evening, March 8th so that you arrive in time for the **Prelude** not the **Postlude** on Sunday morning.

*NEXT SUNDAY, MARCH 9, 2025*  
*The First Sunday in Lent*

- 9:00 am** Valle Crucis United Methodist Church Service  
**9:45 am** Christian Formation **in Skiles Hall**  
**11:00 am** **The Great Litany** and Holy Eucharist, Rite II, at Holy Cross  
*with sacred music and hymnody*  
*(This service is Live-Streamed via our YouTube Channel)*  
**12:30 pm** Fellowship time in Skiles Hall

**The Parish Prayer List: March 5, 2025**

*Please keep the following in your prayers this week:*

**For Healing:** Our injured and disabled military personnel, our veterans, all civilians harmed in conflict, and for Dayton C., Wendell S., Noyes L., Marilyn W., Gerry P., Rebecca M., Sam Y., Bill B., Gail T., Julia M., Walter B., Randy M., Shane B., Claire M., Sara P., Tav G., Andrea M., Charles III, Kate M., John N., Floyd T., Ray L., Leslie S., Terry & Jean M., Suzie L., Pam C., Ann G., Jan H., Joe U., Rosalie G., Stuart T., Joe V., Jocelyn, Edie T., Gini H., Michael H., Bob C., Mary B., \_\_\_\_\_.

**For those in Harm's Way:** All who serve with the armed forces at home & abroad, all who serve in the Peace Corps, and all health & relief workers throughout the world.

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## **The Church of the Holy Cross**

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### **Diocese of Western North Carolina**

The Rt. Rev. José McLoughlin, Bishop

#### **Clergy & Staff**

The Rev. Robert G. Hartmans, Interim Rector  
Shane Watson, Interim Organist  
Ahren Koenig, Parish Administrator

#### **Vestry**

Terry Fulton (2026), Senior Warden  
Darby Logan (2025), Junior Warden  
Tav Gauss (2025)  
Nina-Jo Moore (2025), completing vacant term  
Doris Boulton (2026)  
Angela Williams (2026)  
Radie Armstrong (2027)  
Derek Eggers (2027)  
Sis Kinney (2027)

#### **Officers**

Jan Skopecek, Treasurer  
Dedy Traver, Clerk

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