

ASCENSION

Lutheran Church

A **Christ-centered** community where we **connect, learn, and serve.**

Ash Wednesday – February 18, 2026



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Ash Wednesday

Welcome

Prelude

As We Gather

We pray, but at times God seems distant. Today we hear the Good News that God has come down to us as Jesus, who calls Himself “I am,” the name Moses was to use. Jesus is God, in whom all of God dwells bodily, Paul writes. In His Son, our heavenly Father made lavish promises: to Abraham, “In you shall all the nations be blessed” (Galatians 3:8), and to us, who belong to Christ, “If you are Christ’s, then you are Abraham’s offspring, heirs according to promise” (Galatians 3:29). God has revealed Himself in our Savior, Jesus, by His wondrous love.

PREPARATION

Stand

Ash Wednesday Address

P Dear brothers and sisters of our Lord Jesus Christ, on this day the Church begins a holy season of prayerful and penitential reflection. Our attention is especially directed to the holy sufferings and death of our Lord Jesus Christ.

From ancient times the season of Lent has been kept as a time of special devotion, self-denial, and humble repentance born of a faithful heart that dwells confidently on His Word and draws from it life and hope.

Let us pray that our dear Father in heaven, for the sake of His beloved Son and in the power of His Holy Spirit, might richly bless this Lententide for us so that we may come to Easter with glad hearts and keep the feast in sincerity and truth.

Invocation

P In the name of the Father and of the \div Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

Opening Hymn - Savior, When in Dust to Thee

LSB 419

Confession and Psalm

Psalm 51:1–15, 17

P As we focus on the overwhelming grace of God and His love, we must admit our sinful condition before we approach Him. Let us confess our failings to God, our heavenly Father.

The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit;

C **a broken and contrite heart, O God, You will not despise.**

P Have mercy on me, O God, according to Your steadfast love;

C **according to Your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.**

P Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,

C **and cleanse me from my sin!**

P For I know my transgressions,

C **and my sin is ever before me.**

P Against You, You only, have I sinned and done what is evil in Your sight,

C **so that You may be justified in Your words and blameless in Your judgment.**

P It is only with God's help that we can rise above our sin.

Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity,

C **and in sin did my mother conceive me.**

P Behold, You delight in truth in the inward being,

C **and You teach me wisdom in the secret heart.**

P Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;

C **wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.**

P Let me hear joy and gladness;

C **let the bones that You have broken rejoice.**

P The joy and gladness we long for can be ours only from God, for He alone knows what we have done.

Hide Your face from my sins,

C **and blot out all my iniquities.**

P Create in me a clean heart, O God,
C and renew a right spirit within me.

P Cast me not away from Your presence,
C and take not Your Holy Spirit from me.

P As we approach God's throne of grace, let us ask for what we do not deserve and seek His presence, help, and even joy.

Restore to me the joy of Your salvation,
C and uphold me with a willing spirit.

P Then I will teach transgressors Your ways,
C and sinners will return to You.

P The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit;
C a broken and contrite heart, O God, You will not despise.

Imposition of Ashes

P Symbolizing our repentance, come forward, ushered to receive a cross of ashes on your forehead.

As the ashes are imposed on the forehead of each person in the sign of the cross, the pastor says, "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

Absolution

P Because of God's great love and mercy in sending His Son to die and rise for you, and as a called and ordained servant of His, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the \div Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen. Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, O God of my salvation, and my tongue will sing aloud of Your righteousness. O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare Your praise.

WORD

Salutation

P The Lord be with you.
C And also with you.

Collect of the Day

P Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, Your love knows no bounds, and we cannot fathom Your great power, compassion, and love. Increase in us the desire to see our failings as clearly as You see them, so that, living under Your grace and love, we may give thanks to You with our songs of praise and in loving deeds toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Sit

Old Testament Reading

Joel 2:12–19

P The Old Testament Reading is from Joel, the second chapter.

¹²“Yet even now,” declares the LORD,
“return to me with all your heart,
with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;
¹³and rend your hearts and not your garments.”

Return to the LORD, your God,
for he is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love;
and he relents over disaster.

¹⁴Who 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?

¹⁵Blow the trumpet in Zion;
consecrate a fast;
call a solemn assembly;
¹⁶gather the people.

Consecrate the congregation;
assemble the elders;
gather the children,
even nursing infants.

Let the bridegroom leave his room,
and the bride her chamber.

¹⁷Between the vestibule and the altar
let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep
and say, “Spare your people, O LORD,

and make not your heritage a reproach,
a byword among the nations.
Why should they say among the peoples,
‘Where is their God?’”

¹⁸Then the LORD became jealous for his land
and had pity on his people.

¹⁹The LORD answered and said to his people,
“Behold, I am sending to you
grain, wine, and oil,
and you will be satisfied;
and I will no more make you
a reproach among the nations.”

P This is the Word of the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

Gradual

Hebrews 12:2

P O come, let us fix our eyes on Jesus,
C **the founder and perfecter of our faith,**

P who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the
shame,
C **and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.**

Epistle

2 Corinthians 5:20b—6:10

P The Epistle is from Second Corinthians, the fifth and sixth chapters.

We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

¹Working together with him, then, we appeal to you not to receive the grace of God in vain. ²For he says,

“In a favorable time I listened to you,
and in a day of salvation I have helped you.”

Behold, now is the favorable time; behold, now is the day of salvation. ³We put no obstacle in anyone’s way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, ⁴but as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: by great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, ⁵beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; ⁶by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, the Holy

Spirit, genuine love; ⁷by truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; ⁸through honor and dishonor, through slander and praise. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; ⁹as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold, we live; as punished, and yet not killed; ¹⁰as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, yet possessing everything.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Verse for Lent - Return to the Lord Your God

Joel 2:13



C Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for He is gra - cious and
mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a-bound - ing in
stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

Holy Gospel

Matthew 6:1–6, 16–21

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the sixth chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

¹[Jesus said:] “Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them, for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven.

²“Thus, when you give to the needy, sound no trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be praised by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. ³But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴so that your giving may be in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

⁵“And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. ⁶But when

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. . . .

¹⁶“And when you fast, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. ¹⁷But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, ¹⁸that your fasting may not be seen by others but by your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

¹⁹“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, ²⁰but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Sit

Hymn - O Love, How Deep

LSB 544 sts. 1, 5–6

Sermon

Stand

Nicene Creed

C I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.

He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the
dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and
glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life [†] of the world to come. Amen.

Prayer of the Church

Psalm 51:12, 15

- P** Let us bring our requests to God, whose love knows no bounds.
For all who do not know our loving Lord, that He would bring the news of Christ to their ears, strengthen them in faith, and urge them to live in love, let us pray to the Lord.
- C** **O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare Your praise.**
- P** For the church, that God would open doors of opportunity for leaders and members to proclaim the Gospel, that schisms within it be mended, that the faithful be protected in body and soul, and that all people of faith find joy in their ministry, let us pray to the Lord.
- C** **Grant them, O God, to be strengthened with power through Your Spirit.**
- P** Where there is conflict and warfare between nations, that God would move leaders and citizens to seek peace with their neighbors and calm within their borders, let us pray to the Lord.
- C** **Dwell in their hearts, O Christ, through faith.**
- P** Where the old and young are forgotten, the sick and grieving ignored, and the needs of any are not met, that God would prosper the work of farmers and ranchers, relief agencies and civic leaders to provide for their needs, let us pray to the Lord.
- C** **Grant that all caregivers reflect God's love and be gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.**

P For each of us, that our service to God, our concern for one another, and the mission He puts before us be joyful endeavors we seek for the growth of the church and glory of God, let us pray to the Lord.

C **Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit. Amen.**

Sit

Offering

Meditation Song

Praise Team

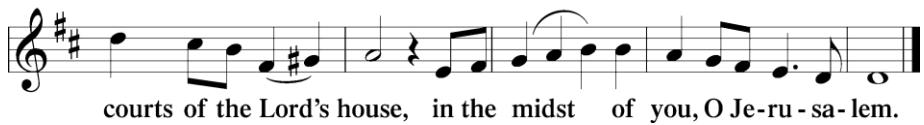
Stand

Offertory - What Shall I Render

Psalm 116:12–13, 17–19



C What shall I ren - der to the Lord for all His ben - efits to
me? I will of - fer the sac - ri - fice of thanks - giv - ing and will
call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal -
va - tion and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my
vows to the Lord now in the pres - ence of all His peo - ple, in the



SACRAMENT

Preface

LSB 177

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

Proper Preface

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who became sin for us at the cross, taking away the ashes of our death so that we may be redeemed by His blood and marked

by His Spirit. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus

Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of
pow'r and might: Heav'n and earth are full of Your
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is He who comes in the name
of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

P Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have not left Your frail and wandering people but sent Your only-begotten Son. We receive His salvation today, won for us by the sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross. Gather us together with all the faithful from the ends of the earth to celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom.

C Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father of glory and power beyond our understanding, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

The Words of Our Lord

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said:

“Take, eat; this is My $\text{\textt{T}}$ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.”

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My $\text{\textt{T}}$ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

Proclamation of Christ

P As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

C **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

P O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

Lord's Prayer

C **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
forever and ever. Amen.**

Pax Domini

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **Amen.**

Agnus Dei

John 1:29



C Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the world;
have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the
sin of the world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of
God, You take a-way the sin of the world;
have mer-cy on us. Lamb of
God, You take a-way the sin of the world;
have mer-cy on us. Lamb of
God, You take a-way the sin of the world;
grant us peace, grant us peace.

Sit

Holy Communion

Distribution Hymn - The Lamb

LSB 547

Distribution Hymn - How Deep the Father's Love for Us

Verse 1

How deep the Father's love for us
How vast beyond all measure
That He should give His only Son
To make a wretch His treasure
How great the pain of searing loss
The Father turns His face away
As wounds which mar the Chosen One
Bring many sons to glory

Behold the Man upon a cross
My sin upon His shoulders
Ashamed I hear my mocking voice
Call out among the scoffers
It was my sin that held Him there
Until it was accomplished
His dying breath has brought me life
I know that it is finished

Verse 2

Verse 3

I will not boast in anything

No gifts no pow'r no wisdom
But I will boast in Jesus Christ
His death and resurrection
Why should I gain from His reward
I cannot give an answer
But this I know with all my heart
His wounds have paid my ransom

Tag

Why should I gain from His reward
I cannot give an answer
But this I know with all my heart
His wounds have paid my ransom

Communion Dismissal

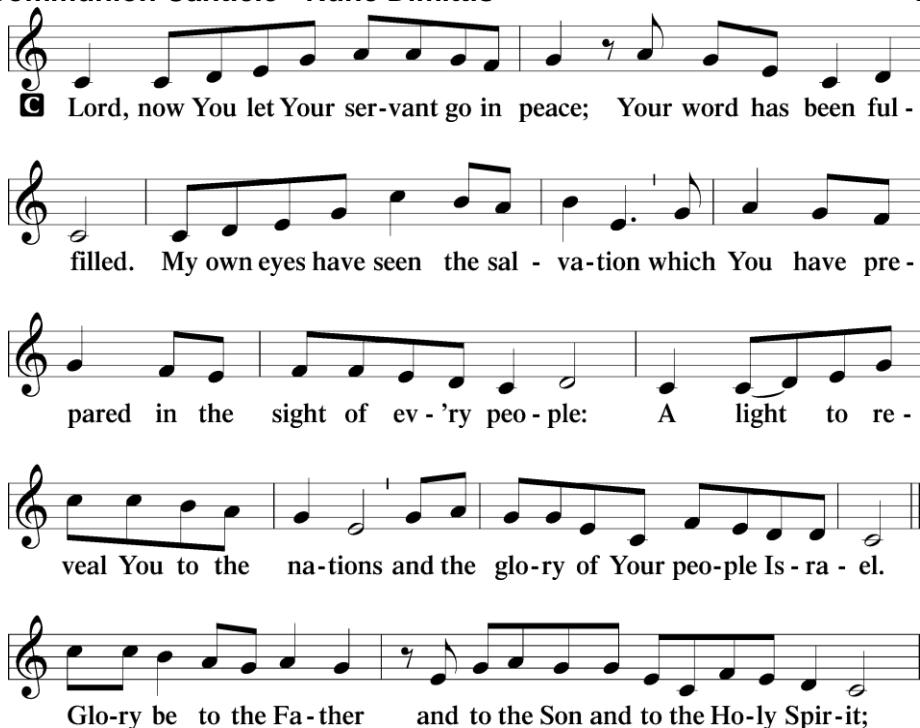
P Now may this true body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, strengthen and preserve you, in body and soul, unto life everlasting. Depart in His peace  and with joy.

C Amen.

Stand

Post-Communion Canticle - Nunc Dimittis

Luke 2:29-32



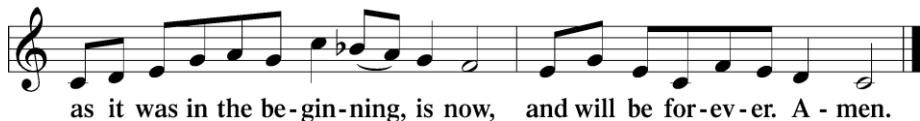
Lord, now You let Your ser-vant go in peace; Your word has been ful -

filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va-tion which You have pre -

pared in the sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple: A light to re -

veal You to the na-tions and the glo-ry of Your peo-ple Is - ra - el.

Glo-ry be to the Fa - ther and to the Son and to the Ho-ly Spir-it;



Post-Communion Thanksgiving

P Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have given us pardon, peace, and strength through this Sacrament, and we ask that You would move us to proclaim Your powerful mercy and love and serve one another and all You send to us; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Benediction

Numbers 6:24-26

P The LORD bless you and keep you.

The LORD make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The LORD look upon you with favor and give you peace.

C Amen.

Closing Hymn - I Need Thee Every Hour

Verse 1

I need Thee every hour
Most gracious Lord
No tender voice like Thine
Can peace afford

When Thou art nigh
(Chorus)

Chorus

I need Thee O I need Thee
Every hour I need Thee
O bless me now my Savior
I come to Thee

Verse 3

I need Thee every hour
In joy or pain
Come quickly and abide
Or life is vain
(Chorus)

Verse 2

I need Thee every hour
Stay Thou near by
Temptations lose their pow'r

Verse 4

I need Thee every hour
Most Holy One
O make me Thine indeed
Thou blessed Son
(Chorus)

Dismissal

P Go in peace and
C **serve the Lord!**

Acknowledgments

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