



**HAVE MERCY ON ME, GOD,
ACCORDING TO YOUR FAITHFUL LOVE!**

- P S A L M 51:1



Wednesday, February 18, 2026

Ash Wednesday

7 p.m. Service

St. Mark's Lutheran Church
Olathe, KS

GATHERING

INTRODUCTION

On Ash Wednesday we begin our forty-day journey toward Easter with a day of fasting and repentance. Marking our foreheads with dust, we acknowledge that we die and return to the earth. At the same time, the dust traces the life-giving cross indelibly marked on our foreheads at baptism. While we journey through Lent to return to God, we have already been reconciled to God through Christ. We humbly pray for God to make our hearts clean while we rejoice that "now is the day of salvation." Returning to our baptismal call, we more intentionally bear the fruits of mercy and justice in the world.

OPENING HYMN

Lord Jesus, Think on Me

ELW 599

WELCOME/ ANNOUNCEMENTS

IMPOSITION OF ASHES



PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty and ever-living God, you hate nothing you have made, and you forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create in us new and honest hearts, so that, truly repenting of our sins, we may receive from you, the God of all mercy, full pardon and forgiveness through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.



WORD

FIRST READING

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

Because of the coming Day of the Lord, the prophet Joel calls the people to a community lament. The repentant community reminds God of his gracious character and asks God to spare the people, lest the nations doubt God's power to save.

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
²a 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.

¹²Yet even now, says the LORD,
return to me with all your heart,
with fasting, with weeping, and with
mourning;

¹³rend 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.

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;
sanctify a fast;
call a solemn assembly;

¹⁶gather 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.

¹⁷Between 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 mock-
ery,
a byword among the nations.
Why should it be said among the peoples,
'Where is their God?'"

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

PSALM

Psalms 51:1-17

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love. (Ps. 51:1)

¹Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;
in your great compassion blot out my offenses.

²**Wash me through and through from my wickedness,
and cleanse me from my sin.**

³For I know my offenses,
and my sin is ev-er before me.

⁴**Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight;
so you are justified when you speak and right in your judgment.**

⁵Indeed, I was born steeped in wickedness,
a sinner from my mother's womb.

⁶**Indeed, you delight in truth deep within me,
and would have me know wisdom deep within.**

⁷Remove my sins with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be pur-er than snow.

⁸**Let me hear joy and gladness;
that the body you have broken may**

rejoice.

⁹Hide your face from my sins,
and blot out all my wickedness.

¹⁰**Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spir-it within me.**

¹¹Cast me not away from your presence,
and take not your Holy Spir-it from me.

¹²**Restore to me the joy of your salvation
and sustain me with your boun-tiful Spirit.**

¹³Let me teach your ways to offenders,
and sinners shall be re-stored to you.

¹⁴**Rescue me from bloodshed, O God of my salvation,
and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness.**

¹⁵O Lord, o-pen my lips,
and my mouth shall pro-claim your praise.

¹⁶**For you take no delight in sacrifice, or I would give it.**

You are not pleased with burnt offering.

¹⁷The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit;
a troubled and broken heart, O God,
you will not despise.

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



SECOND READING

2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

The ministry of the gospel endures many challenges and hardships. Through this ministry, God's reconciling activity in the death of Christ reaches into the depths of our lives to bring us into a right relationship with God. In this way, God accepts us into the reality of divine salvation.

Chapter 5

^{20b}We entreat 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.

Chapter 6

As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. ²For 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! ³We are putting no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, ⁴but as

servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, ⁵beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; ⁶by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, ⁷truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; ⁸in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; ⁹as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see — we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; ¹⁰as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

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



GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



We are turn - ing, Lord, to hear you; you are mer - ci - ful and kind —



slow to an - ger, rich in bless - ing, and with love to us in - clined.

GOSPEL

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus commends almsgiving, prayer, and fasting, but emphasizes that spiritual devotion must not be done for show.

*The Holy Gospel, according to Matthew, the 6th chapter. **Glory to You, O Lord.***

"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.

²"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. ³But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

⁵"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. ⁶But 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.

¹⁶"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. ¹⁷But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, ¹⁸so 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.

¹⁹"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; ²⁰but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal.

²¹For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**



ASH WEDNESDAY MESSAGE

Pastor Kris Dietzen

HYMN OF THE DAY

If You But Trust in God to Guide You

ELW 769

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only
Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy
Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was
buried;
he descended to the dead.*
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of
the Father,
and he will come to judge the
living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS

Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, let us pray for the world and its needs.

A brief silence.

Guide your church, O God. Accompany all Christians in this season of repentance, and renew our faith in the riches of grace you give to us in baptism. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Heal this earth, O God. Satisfy the needs of every parched place, every diverse ecosystem, every suffering creature. Though all return to dust, grant beauty and purpose to each living thing. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Restore the nations, O God. Let your healing spring up quickly across the world. Give all

in authority the will to loose the bonds of injustice and let any who are oppressed go free.
Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Deliver your people, O God. Comfort any whose hearts are rent by grief, uphold any who are sick, bring food to those who hunger, and give housing to all without shelter. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Bless this assembly, O God. Reconcile us to one another and to you. Strengthen our resolve to fast from evil, open our hands in sharing, and quicken our prayer. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Hold us forever, O God. We thank you for all who now know their treasure in heaven, and for *Martin Luther* and all who on earth proclaimed your abounding, steadfast love. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Receive our prayers, O God, through Jesus Christ, our strength and salvation.

Amen.

MEAL

PEACE

In Jesus Christ, God has made his peace with us. The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

Let us share God's peace with one another.



OFFERING— Wednesday Lenten Offering: Heart to Heart International

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise ...

... we praise your name and join the unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY

pg. 207

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er 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, ho - san - na in the high - est.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray ...

**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 forever.
Amen.**



COMMUNION

All who seek the Crucified and Risen Christ in bread and cup are welcome to dine at this table. We will commune at the altar rail. Wine is in the chalice or you may choose an individual cup of wine or grape juice from the tray. Those who do not commune will receive a word of blessing.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come to the table.
Feast on God's goodness and mercy.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

COMMUNION HYMN

Just As I Am, without One Plea

ELW 592

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
Amen.

PRAYER**God of our salvation,**

we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls,
reconciles us to you, and strengthens us for the journey.

Through the body and blood of your Son,
may we become Christ's body in the world,
bearing witness to your love for all creation,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

SENDING

Compassionate God,
You have fed us with the bread of heaven.
Sustain us in our Lenten pilgrimage:
may our fasting be hunger for justice;
our alms, a making of peace; and our prayer,
the song of grateful hearts,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

BLESSING

Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity:
God, who calls all things into existence,
Jesus Christ, who redeems us,
and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation,
✠ bless you now and always.
Amen.

RECESSIONAL HYMN

Be Thou My Vision

ELW 793

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Believe the good news.

Thanks be to God.



SERVING TODAY

Pastor: Kris Dietzen
Organist: Tom Watgen
Assisting Minister: Larrie Nichols
Altar Care: Julie Eiter
Lector: Joel Sorensen
Acolyte: Tim Eiter

7 p.m. Wednesday night service theme: Passion Stories of Christ

Midweek service, February 25—7 p.m.— **Gospel of Matthew:** Matthew 26:36—27:66

Midweek service, March 4 —7 p.m.— **Gospel of Mark:** Mark 14:26 – 15:47

Midweek service, March 11 —7 p.m.— **Gospel of Luke:** Luke 22:39– 23:56

Midweek service, March 18—7 p.m.— **Gospel of John:** John 18:1—19:42

Midweek service, March 25 —7 p.m.— **Discussion of all Four Passion Stories**
Which of these stories touched you?

Maundy Thursday, April 2—7 p.m.— First Communion

Good Friday, April 3 —7p.m.— Enter in silence. The church service continues from Thursday – Gospel according to John.

Wednesday Soup Supper offering goes to fund WINGS at St Marks.