

ASH WEDNESDAY

FEBRUARY 18, 2026

12 PM & 7 PM



SAINT MARTIN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
*Annapolis, Maryland*

## PRELUDE

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*(Please stand as you are able)*

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS - *Pastor*

In the name of the Father,  
and of the ✠ Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

1 John 1:8

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and one another.

Gracious God,

have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

## PROCESSIONAL HYMN

## Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery

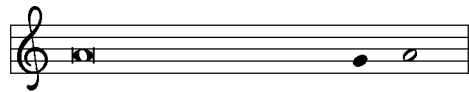
**ELW 334**

2 Corinthians  
13:13-14

## GREETING - *Pastor*

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

# KYRIE



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



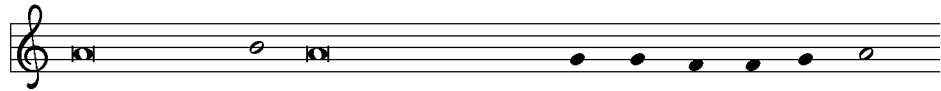
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. Lord have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de-fend us, gra-cious Lord. A - men.

*The Kyrie is an ancient chant to begin Christian worship.*

*Kyrie eleison means Lord, have mercy.*

*This prayer "collects" the theme of the day.*

## PRAYER OF THE DAY - Assisting Minister

Gracious God, out of your love and mercy you breathed into dust the breath of life, creating us to serve you and our neighbors. Call forth our prayers and acts of kindness, and strengthen us to face our mortality with confidence in the mercy of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

*(Please be seated)*

*This reading is typically from the Hebrew Scriptures, which Jesus often quoted.*

## THE FIRST LESSON - Lector

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

<sup>1</sup> 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—<sup>2</sup> 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. <sup>12</sup> Yet even now, says the LORD, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; <sup>13</sup> rend your hearts and not your clothing. Return to the LORD your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from punishment. <sup>14</sup> 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? <sup>15</sup> Blow the trumpet in Zion; consecrate a fast; call a solemn assembly; <sup>16</sup> gather the people. Consecrate the congregation; assemble the aged; gather the children, even infants at the breast. Let the bridegroom leave his room and the bride her canopy. <sup>17</sup> 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?' "

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

*The psalms are prayers that Jesus used and cover every mood of humanity's relationship with God and one another. Psalms are the hymnbooks of the children of Israel*

## THE PSALM

## Psalm 51

ELW 188

Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right  
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your  
pres-ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re -  
store un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,  
and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

This reading bears  
witness to the early  
church.

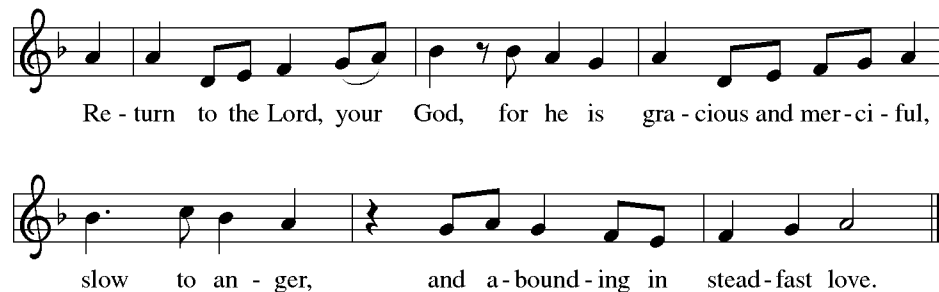
## THE SECOND LESSON - *Lector*

## 2 Corinthians 5:20b - 6:10

<sup>20b</sup> We entreat you on behalf of Christ: be reconciled to God. <sup>21</sup> For our sake God made the one who knew no sin to be sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. <sup>6:1</sup> As we work together with him, we entreat you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. <sup>2</sup> For he says, "At an acceptable time I have listened to you, and on a day of salvation I have helped you." Look, now is the acceptable time; look, now is the day of salvation! <sup>3</sup> We are putting no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, <sup>4</sup> but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: in great endurance, afflictions, hardships, calamities, <sup>5</sup> beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; <sup>6</sup> in purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, <sup>7</sup> truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; <sup>8</sup> in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors and yet are true, <sup>9</sup> as unknown and yet are well known, as dying and look—we are alive, as punished and yet not killed, <sup>10</sup> as 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.**

(Please stand as you are able)

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



We acclaim the living  
Word, Jesus Christ,  
present in the gospel  
reading.

John 6:68

## THE GOSPEL LESSON - *Pastor*

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

The Gospel of our Lord, Jesus Christ according to Matthew the sixth chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said to the disciples:] <sup>1</sup> "Beware of practicing your righteousness before others in order to be seen by them, for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven. <sup>2</sup> "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. <sup>3</sup> But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, <sup>4</sup> so that your alms may be done in secret, and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. <sup>5</sup> "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. <sup>6</sup> 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. <sup>16</sup> "And whenever you fast, do not look somber, like the hypocrites, for they mark their faces to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. <sup>17</sup> But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, <sup>18</sup> 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. <sup>19</sup> "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal, <sup>20</sup> but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. <sup>21</sup> For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

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

(Please be seated)

"Viva Vox," the Living  
Word of God  
interpreted. (Romans  
10:14-17)

## SERMON - *Pastor*

*(Please stand as you are able)*

## INVITATION TO LENT

## IMPOSITION OF ASHES

*The congregation may come forward to receive the ashes (as you are able). You are invited to move to the side of the altar and stay for a moment of prayer as you desire and then return to your seat. If you are unable to come forward, please let an usher know if you'd like ashes at your seat. After all have received the imposition of ashes, the service continues:*

Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation,

**that we may show forth your glory in the world.**

By the cross and passion of your Son, our Savior,

**bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.**

Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all good ness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life.

**Amen.**

*(Music Plays Softly)*

*We pray for ourselves  
and particularly on  
behalf of others.  
(1 Timothy 2:1-2; 1  
Thessalonians 5:17;  
Acts 2:42)*

## THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH - *Assisting Minister*

To the words "Hear us, O God," the congregation responds **"your mercy is great."**

*Extending God's word  
of peace to others.  
(Romans 16:16;  
Matthew 5:23-24)*

## SHARING OF THE PEACE - *Pastor*

*1 Corinthians 16:1-2  
2 Corinthians 9:7-9*

## THE OFFERING *(Please be seated)*

We thank you for your generosity and support! We are blessed to return thanks to God through our offerings to support the work of the Church in the world. Ushers will bring the plates to those worshipping in person this day. For those worshipping online you may give electronically or by way of US Mail. Your gifts enable our day to day operational budget, our missions, and the care of those in need. Please visit [www.stmartinsannapolis.org/giving](http://www.stmartinsannapolis.org/giving) or by scanning the QR code below:



## OFFERTORY ANTHEM



1 Just as I am, with - out one plea, but that thy blood was  
 2 Just as I am, though tossed a - bout with man - y\_a con - flict,  
 3 Just as I am, thou wilt re - ceive, wilt wel - come, par - don,  
 4 Just as I am; thy love un - known has bro - ken ev - 'ry



shed for me, and that thou bidd'st me come to thee,  
 man - y\_a doubt, fight - ings and fears with - in, with - out,  
 cleanse, re - lieve; be - cause thy prom - ise I be - lieve,  
 bar - rier down; now to be thine, yea, thine a - lone,



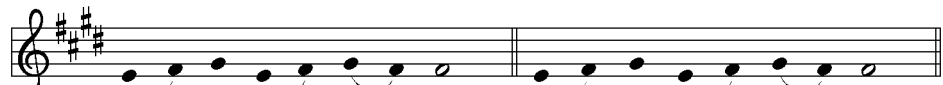
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

### OFFERING PRAYER - *Assisting Minister*

O God, maker of heaven and earth, your steadfast love embraces all creation. You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth and bring forth its bounty. Through these gifts of bread and wine, draw us into the death and life of your Son, who calls us to bear witness to his saving work. We ask this in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

*Before the Lord's  
 supper is shared, the  
 presiding minister leads  
 us into thanksgiving.  
 (Psalm 15:1)*

### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING - *Pastor (Please stand as you are able)*



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.



Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.



Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



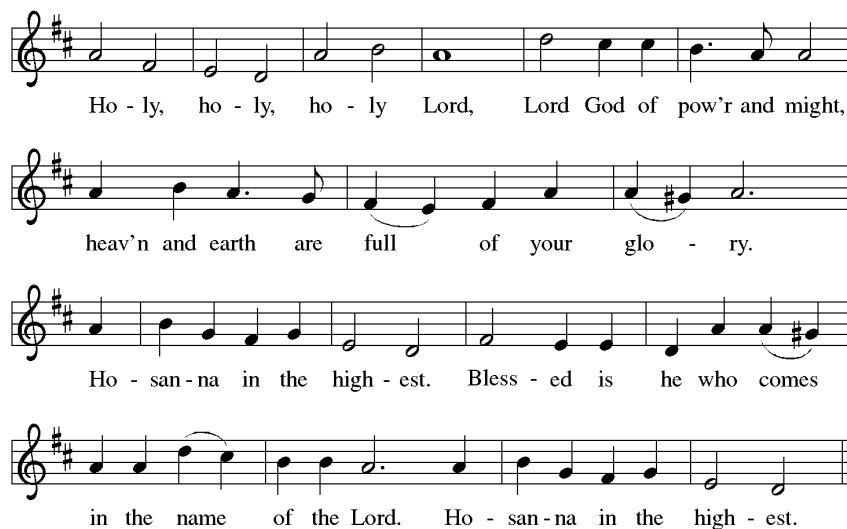
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

## PREFACE - *Pastor*

It is indeed right our duty and our joy...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## THE SANCTUS

*The Sanctus is the hymn of praise that never ceases before God. (Isaiah 6:3)*



*In these words—Jesus institutes the sacrament for the church*

*Matthew 26:26-28;  
Luke 22:19-20; 1  
Corinthians 11:23-26*

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION - *Pastor*

*Jesus teaches his disciples to pray.  
(Luke 11:24;  
Matthew 6:9-13)*

## 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 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.**

*(Please be seated)*

*Our invitation to  
Christ's Table  
(adapted from Iona  
Community, Scotland)*

## INVITATION - *Pastor*

This is Christ's table. It is a table of love and welcome. It is a table of fellowship with the poor.

It is a table of communion with the earth.

So, come those of you who have great faith and those of you who wish you had more.

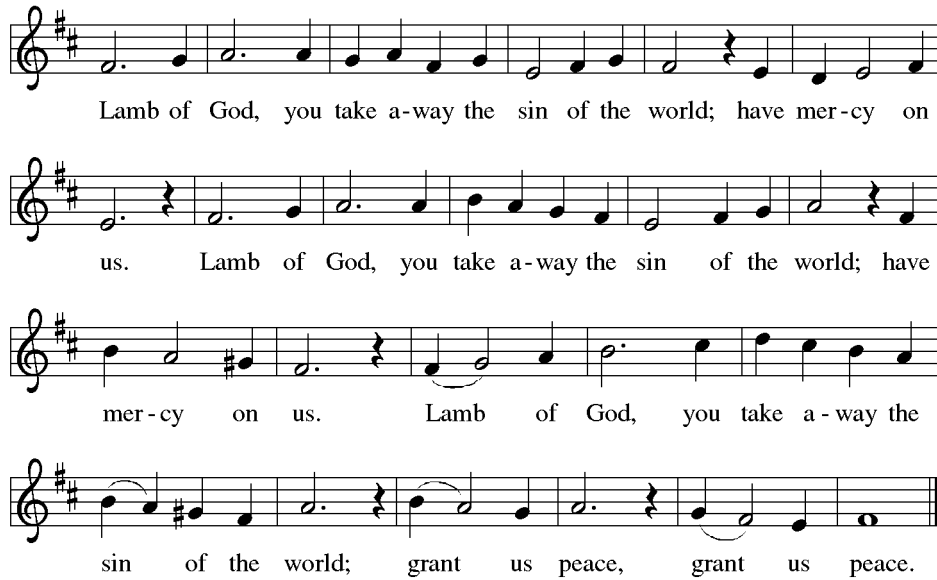
Come, those of you who have tried to follow Jesus, and those of you who have failed.

Come, those of you who depend on this sacrament for your life, and those of you for whom it is a new and strange thing. These are the gifts of God for the people of God. Come!



As John the Baptist  
pointed to Jesus, he  
said these words.  
(John 1:29)

## THE AGNUS DEI



\*\*\*Blue Communion Cards– Please remember to fill in a blue communion card each week. You can hand your blue communion cards to an usher as you come up for communion.

**DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION** - At the Lord's Table we share in the gift of Jesus' body and blood. Please bring an empty glass from the head of the aisle to receive wine from a pouring cup. Grape juice is available in the pre-filled glasses near the empty ones. If you need a gluten-free option for bread, please indicate that to the person with bread. Peel away communion kits are also available for any who so desire. Blessings will be given to those not yet communing.

### COMMUNION HYMNS

**The King of Love My Shepherd Is  
Eat this Bread**

**ELW 502  
ELW 472**

### POST COMMUNION PRAYER - *Pastor* (Please stand as you are able)

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

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION – *Assisting Minister*

Let us pray.

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.**

### BENEDICTION - *Pastor*

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.**

A personal blessing  
from God in the name  
of the Triune God.  
(Numbers 6:24-26)

On our way rejoicing.  
(Colossians 3:16;  
Philippians 4:4)

## RECESSIONAL HYMN

## The Glory of These Forty Days

ELW 320

We go forth to bless  
the world

Luke 7:50;

Romans 10:12-13

## DISMISSAL - *Assisting Minister*

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE

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## **Midweek Lenten Services (Noon & Evening Opportunities)**

*Wednesdays: 2/25, 3/4, 3/11, 3/18, 3/25*

### **Noontime Service**

We will gather at noon in the sanctuary for a brief prayer service with reflection. Immediately following the service, you are invited to bring your own lunch and join us in the Fellowship Hall as we eat together in community.

### **Evening Meal, Bible Study, and Meditation**

Each evening, we will gather in a new way, and you are invited to join us for as much (or as little) as you are able.

### **Schedule:**

#### **6:00 pm – Dinner**

A lite dinner will be provided each week by one of our church groups.

#### **6:30 pm – Bible Study**

Our Bible study will explore the biblical use of the earthly elements: Air, Fire, Water, and Earth.

#### **7:30 pm – Meditative Worship**

Following Bible study, we will move into a time of meditative worship, with prayer stations and guided prayers centered on the element explored that evening.

You are welcome to attend any part of the evening, in any week. You do not need to come at the beginning or attend every week. If you can only join us once, that's wonderful. If you can only come for worship, that's great too.

We hope you will join us as we ground ourselves together during this Lenten season.



Serving in Worship Today 12pm	
Preacher & Celebrant	Pastor Micah Krey
Director of Music Ministry	Adedotun Olayemi
Assisting Minister	Linda Wetz
Communion Assistants	Judy Svoboda
Lector	Dave Ehemann
Ushers	Barb Freeman Eva Coale
Communion Cleanup	Altar Guild

Serving in Worship Today 7pm	
Preacher & Celebrant	Pastor Micah Krey
Director of Music Ministry	Adedotun Olayemi
Media Technician	Sara Wetz
Assisting Minister	Linda Wetz
Communion Assistants	Youth
Lector	Youth
Ushers	Youth
Communion Cleanup	Altar Guild

### New Member Classes

Are you curious about becoming part of our St. Martin's family? We'd love to have you join us for a series of gatherings designed to help you get to know our church, our community, and one another.

Each gathering will focus on a different part of our life together at St. Martin's. We encourage you to come to all three if you are able, but even if you can only make one or two, you are warmly welcome!

#### Gathering Times (Fellowship Hall):

- Thursday, February 19 • 6:30–8:00 pm
- Monday, February 23 • 6:30–8:00 pm

#### New Member Welcome Sunday:

March 1st at the 8:00 am and/or 10:00 am service.

Questions? Please contact Pastor Micah at [srpastor@stmartinsonline.org](mailto:srpastor@stmartinsonline.org).

### Opportunities This Week

#### *Thursday, February 19, 2026*

**11:30 am** Mid-Day Bible Study  
(Double T)

**6:30 pm** New Member Class  
(Fellowship)

#### *Sunday, February 22, 2026*

**8:00 am** Worship (Sanctuary)

**9:00 am** Sunday School  
(Fellowship)

**10:00 am** Worship (Sanctuary)

**11:30 am** Confirmation Class  
(Lounge)



**SAVE the DATE**

**Annapolis St. Patty's Day Parade**  
**March 8<sup>th</sup> 1pm**

Join St. Martin's Church and School as we hit the streets with our float in the parade! Come walk with us, wave to the crowd, and celebrate our St. Martin's spirit. More exciting details coming next week!

Float assembly will take place on Saturday, March 7th.

If you are interested in helping with the float reach out to Laura Albanese.