



**ASH WEDNESDAY**  
**February 18, 2026 – 12:00 Noon & 6:30PM**

*The liturgy and hymns are from Evangelical Lutheran Worship (burgundy hymnal, Setting 10).  
Page numbers are at the bottom of the page in the first half of the hymnal.  
Hymn numbers are at the top of the hymns in the last half of the hymnal.*

*Please stand in body or spirit when indicated by “\*”*

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**GATHERING**

The Holy Spirit calls us together as people of God

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*Lent begins with a solemn call to fasting and repentance as we begin our journey to the baptismal waters of Easter. During Lent the people of God will reflect on the meaning of their baptism into Christ's death and resurrection. The sign of ashes suggests our human mortality and frailty. What seems like an ending is really an invitation to make each day a new beginning, in which we are washed in God's mercy and forgiveness. With the cross on our brow, we long for the spiritual renewal that flows from the springtime Easter feast to come.*

*The assembly gathers in silence*

**PRELUDE**

**\* GATHERING HYMN – Our Father, We Have Wandered**

**Hymn 606**

\* **GREETING** – *All may make the sign of the cross in remembrance of baptism*

**P** The immeasurable grace of Christ Jesus,  
the rich mercy of God,  
and the unity of the Holy Spirit  
be with you all.

**C** **And also with you.**

\* **KYRIE**

*(Page 147-148, Setting 4)*



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.



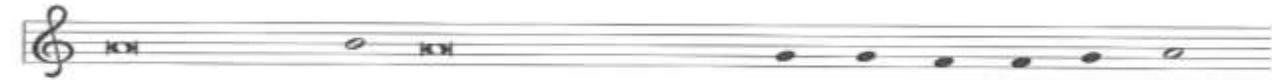
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



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.

**\* INVOCATION**

**P** In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

**C** **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.**

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**WORD**

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching and song

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**FIRST READING – *Isaiah 58:1-12***

<sup>1</sup>Shout out, do not hold back!

Lift up your voice like a trumpet!  
Announce to my people their rebellion,  
to the house of Jacob their sins.

<sup>2</sup>Yet day after day they seek me  
and delight to know my ways,  
as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness  
and did not forsake the ordinance of their God;  
they ask of me righteous judgments,  
they delight to draw near to God.

<sup>3</sup>“Why do we fast, but you do not see?  
Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?”  
Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day,  
and oppress all your workers.

<sup>4</sup>Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight  
and to strike with a wicked fist.  
Such fasting as you do today  
will not make your voice heard on high.

<sup>5</sup>Is such the fast that I choose,  
a day to humble oneself?

Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush,  
and to lie in sackcloth and ashes?  
Will you call this a fast,  
a day acceptable to the LORD?

<sup>6</sup>Is not this the fast that I choose:  
to loose the bonds of injustice,  
to undo the thongs of the yoke,  
to let the oppressed go free,  
and to break every yoke?

<sup>7</sup>Is it not to share your bread with the hungry,  
and bring the homeless poor into your house;  
when you see the naked, to cover them,  
and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

<sup>8</sup>Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,  
and your healing shall spring up quickly;  
your vindicator shall go before you,  
the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard.

<sup>9</sup>Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer;  
you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am.

If you remove the yoke from among you,  
the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,

<sup>10</sup>if you offer your food to the hungry  
and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,  
then your light shall rise in the darkness  
and your gloom be like the noonday.

<sup>11</sup>The LORD will guide you continually,  
and satisfy your needs in parched places,  
and make your bones strong;  
and you shall be like a watered garden,  
like a spring of water,  
whose waters never fail.

<sup>12</sup>Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt;  
you shall raise up the foundations of many generations;  
you shall be called the repairer of the breach,  
the restorer of streets to live in. The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**



**C** <sup>16</sup>For you take no delight in sacrifice, or | I would give it.  
You are not pleased | with burnt offering.

**A** <sup>17</sup>The sacrifice of God is a | troubled spirit;  
a troubled and broken heart, O God, you will | not despise.

**SECOND READING** – 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 he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

<sup>6:1</sup>As we work together with him, we urge 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.”

See, now is the acceptable time; see, 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: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, <sup>5</sup>beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; <sup>6</sup>by 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 see—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.**

**\* GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

(Page 205, Setting 10)



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**

P The Holy Gospel according to Matthew

**☩ Glory to you, O Lord.**

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

[Jesus said to the disciples:] <sup>1</sup>“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.

<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 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. <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.”

P The Gospel of the Lord.

**☩ Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON - Pastor Daniel Swanson**

**\* HYMN OF THE DAY – Bring Peace to Earth Again**

**Hymn 700**

## \* INVITATION TO LENT

- P** Friends in Christ, today with the whole church we enter the time of remembering Jesus' passover from death to life, and our life in Christ is renewed.

We begin this holy season by acknowledging our need for repentance and for God's mercy. We are created to experience joy in communion with God, to love one another, and to live in harmony with creation. But our sinful rebellion separates us from God, our neighbors, and creation, so that we do not enjoy the life our creator intended.

As disciples of Jesus, we are called to a discipline that contends against evil and resists whatever leads us away from love of God and neighbor. I invite you, therefore, to the discipline of Lent—self-examination and repentance, prayer and fasting, sacrificial giving and works of love—strengthened by the gifts of word and sacrament. Let us continue our journey through these forty days to the great Three Days of Jesus' death and resurrection.

## CONFESSION OF SIN

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

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

- P** Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,

**G** **have mercy on us.**

- P** For self-centered living,  
and for failing to walk with humility and gentleness:

**G** **Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.**

- P** For longing to have what is not ours,  
and for hearts that are not at rest with ourselves:

**G** **Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.**

- P** For misuse of human relationships,  
and for unwillingness to see the image of God in others:

**G** **Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.**

- P** For jealousies that divide families and nations,  
and for rivalries that create strife and warfare:
- C** **Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.**
- P** For reluctance in sharing the gifts of God,  
and for carelessness with the fruits of creation:
- C** **Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.**
- P** For hurtful words that condemn,  
and for angry deeds that harm:
- C** **Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.**
- P** For idleness in witnessing to Jesus Christ,  
and for squandering the gifts of love and grace:
- C** **Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal, have mercy on us.**

## IMPOSITION OF ASHES

- P** Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth. May these ashes be a sign of our mortality and penitence, reminding us that only by the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ are we given eternal life; through the same Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
- C** **Amen.**

## CONFESSION HYMN – *Jesus, Remember Me* (sung continuously) **Hymn 616**

*People may come forward and kneel or stand to receive the ashes while the hymn is sung.  
The pastor marks the forehead of each person with a cross of ashes, saying:*

Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.

Je - sus, re - mem - ber me when you come in - to your king - dom.

Je - sus, re - mem - ber me when you come in - to your king - dom.

Text: Luke 23:42; Taizé Community  
Music: Jacques Berthier, 1923–1994  
Text and music © 1981 Les Presses de Taizé, admin. GIA Publications, Inc.

REMEMBER ME  
6868

*After those who desire ashes have received them, the minister continues:*

**P** Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation,  
**C** **that we may show forth your glory in the world.**

**P** By the cross and passion of your Son, our Savior,  
**C** **bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection. Amen**

**P** In the mercy of almighty God,  
Jesus Christ was given to die for us,  
and for his sake God forgives us all our sins.  
Through the Holy Spirit God cleanses us  
and gives us the power to proclaim  
the mighty acts of the one who called us  
out of darkness into his marvelous light.

**C** **Amen.**

**\* NICENE CREED**

**We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation**

**he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the  
virgin Mary and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death  
and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven**

**and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,**

and his kingdom will have no end.

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has  
spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.**

**We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the  
resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen**

## \* THE PRAYERS

**P** Hearing the call to return to the Lord, let us join the whole people of God in prayer for all who cry out in pain and in hope. Let us thank God for God's miracles this week, and for all that God has done for us.

God, our hope and our Redeemer, you are so good to us. Your mercy and your love are new every morning.

*After each portion of the prayers:*

**P** Hear us, O God. **C** **Your mercy is great.**

*The prayers conclude:*

**P** To you, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your boundless mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

**C** **Amen**

Anthem (6:30)

Chancel Choir

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## MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ

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## PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS

### \* OFFERTORY

*Hymn 186*

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 to me the joy of  
your sal-va-tion, and up-hold me with your free Spir-it.

Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923  
Music © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

**\* OFFERING PRAYER**

- A** Let us pray. Merciful God,
- C** receive our praise and thanksgiving and the offering of our lives. Make us your hands to feed the hungry and prepare us to receive the bread of life, Jesus Christ, your Son, our Savior. Amen.

**\* GREAT THANKSGIVING**

- 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 our thanks and praise.
- P** It is indeed right, our duty and our joy that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ.

You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

*(Page 153, Setting 4)*

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.

**\* EUCHARISTIC PRAYER**

**\* 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**

**\* INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

**Ⓟ** Return to God with all your heart.  
 Receive bread for the journey, drink for the desert.

**Ⓒ** Thanks be to God.

# LAMB OF GOD

# Hymn 336 "Lamb of God"

1 Your on - ly Son, no sin to hide, but you have  
2 Your gift of love we cru - ci - fied. We laughed and  
3 I was so lost, I should have died, but you have  
sent him from your side to walk up - on this guilt - y  
scorned him as he died. The hum - ble king we named a  
brought me to your side to be led by your staff and  
*Refrain*  
sod and to be - come the Lamb of God. O Lamb of  
fraud and sac - ri - ficed the Lamb of God. God.  
rod and to be called a lamb of God. God.  
God, sweet Lamb of God, I love the ho - ly Lamb of God. Oh, wash me  
in your pre - cious blood, my Je - sus Christ, the Lamb of God.

Text: Twila Paris, b. 1958

Music: Twila Paris

Text and music © 1985 Straightway Music/Mountain Spring Music

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YOUR ONLY SON

LMD

## \* COMMUNION BLESSING

**P** The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God's grace.

**C** Amen

## \* PRAYER

**A** Let us pray.

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 Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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## SENDING

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God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world

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### \* BLESSING

- ☐ May God who has called us forth from the dust of the earth,  
and claimed us as children of the light,  
strengthen you on your journey into life renewed.  
The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord's face shine upon you with grace and mercy.  
The Lord look upon you with favor  
and give you ☩ peace.
- ☑ Amen.

### \* SENDING HYMN – Restore in Us, O God

Hymn 328

### \* DISMISSAL

- ☐ Marked with the cross of Christ,  
go forth to love and serve the Lord.
- ☑ Thanks be to God.

### SILENT RECEPTION

**Five Wednesdays of Lent – February 25, March 4, 11, 18, 25 –**

1. 12-Noon *followed by lunch (Noon only)*  
*(Please sign-up to donate soup or desserts on round table in the main narthex)*
2. 6:30 pm

**Church Council has designed our Lenten/Easter offerings for the LaVale Food Pantry.**

**Please pick up your Lenten Devotional** on the round table in the main narthex – A Time of Grace and Peace by Alice Camille and Lent Calendar from the ELCA World Hunger.

**Upcoming Listening Circle –Sunday, February 22<sup>nd</sup> following worship** - The Mission and Generosity Committee will be holding a Listening Circle focused on discerning what God wants from us. We will be sharing pizza prior to the session as a way to spend some enjoyable time together. So join us on Sunday, February 22<sup>nd</sup> whether you plan on staying for the Listening Circle or not – **but**, we **hope** you will stay for the **Listening Circle**.