

CHRIST

LUTHERAN CHURCH

Ash Wednesday

✠ February 18, 2026 ✠

ASH WEDNESDAY

The congregation enters the sanctuary in silence.

PRAYER

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.

Silence for reflection

Litany

- P** O Lord,
C have mercy.
P O Christ,
C have mercy.
P O Lord,
C have mercy.
P O Christ,
C hear us.
P God the Father in heaven,
C have mercy.
P God the Son, Redeemer of the world,
C have mercy.

- P** God the Holy Spirit,
C **have mercy.**
- P** Be gracious to us.
C **Spare us, good Lord.**
- P** Be gracious to us.
C **Help us, good Lord.**
- P** By the mystery of Your holy incarnation; by Your holy nativity; by Your baptism, fasting, and temptation; by Your agony and bloody sweat; by Your cross and passion; by Your precious death and burial; by Your glorious resurrection and ascension; and by the coming of the Holy Spirit, the Comforter:
C **Help us, good Lord.**
- P** In all time of our tribulation; in all time of our prosperity; in the hour of death; and in the day of judgment:
C **Help us, good Lord.**
- P** We poor sinners implore You
C **to hear us, O Lord.**
- P** To prosper the teaching of Your Word; to bless our prayer and meditation; to strengthen and preserve us in the true faith; and to give heart to our sorrow and strength to our repentance:
C **We implore You to hear us, good Lord.**
- P** To draw all to Yourself; to bless those who are instructed in the faith; to watch over and console the poor, the sick, the distressed, the lonely, the forsaken, the abandoned, and all who stand in need of our prayer; to give abundant blessing to all works of mercy; and to have mercy on us all:
C **We implore You to hear us, good Lord.**
- P** To turn our hearts to You; to turn the hearts of our enemies, persecutors, and slanderers; and graciously to hear our prayers:
C **We implore You to hear us, good Lord.**
- P** Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God,
C **we implore You to hear us.**
- P** Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,
C **have mercy.**
- P** Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,
C **have mercy.**
- P** Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,
C **grant us Your peace.**

- P** O Christ,
C **hear us.**
P O Lord,
C **have mercy.**
P O Christ,
C **have mercy.**
P O Lord,
C **have mercy. Amen.**

Concluding Collect

- P** O God, You desire not the death of sinners, but rather that they turn from their wickedness and live. We implore You to have compassion on the frailty of our mortal nature, for we acknowledge that we are dust and to dust we shall return. Mercifully pardon our sins that we may obtain the promises You have laid up for those who are repentant; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** **Amen.**

Please be seated

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

*The usher will bring forward those who desire the imposition of ashes.
When you have received the ashes, you may return to your seat.*

*A Christian custom on Ash Wednesday is to receive
the mark of the cross made with ashes upon the forehead.
Ashes are a symbol of repentance and of our mortality,
especially as we hear the words,*

***“Remember, O man, that thou art dust,
and to dust thou shalt return.”***

*However, in tracing the sign of our Baptism,
they also bear witness to our hope in the resurrection
and the promises of new life in Christ.*

Psalm: Domine, ne in furore

Psalm 38, sung by cantor



O LORD, rebuke me not in your | anger,*
nor discipline me | in your wrath!

For your arrows have sunk | into me,*
and your hand has come | down on me.

There is no soundness in my flesh because of your indig- | nation,*
there is no health in my bones because | of my sin.

For my iniquities have gone o- | ver my head,*
like a heavy burden, they are too heav- | y for me.

My wounds stink and | fester*
because of my | foolishness,

I am utterly bowed down and | prostrate,*
all the day I go about | mourning.

For my sides are filled with | burning,*
and there is no soundness | in my flesh.

I am feeble | and crushed,*
I groan because of the tumult | of my heart.

O Lord, all my longing is be- | fore you,*
my sighing is not hid- | den from you.

My heart throbs; my strength | fails me,*
and the light of my eyes—it also has- | gone from me.

My friends and companions stand aloof | from my plague,*
and my nearest kin stand | far off.

Those who seek my life lay their snares; those who seek my hurt speak of | ruin*
and meditate treachery | all day long.

But I am like a deaf man; I | do not hear,*
like a mute man who does not o- | pen his mouth.

I have become like a man who | does not hear,*
and in whose mouth are | no rebukes.

But for you, O LORD, | do I wait;*
it is you, O Lord my God, who will | answer.

For I said, “Only let them not rejoice | over me,*
who boast against me when my | foot slips!”

For I am read- | y to fall,*
and my pain is ever be- | fore me.

I confess my in- | iquity;*
I am sorry | for my sin.

But my foes are vigorous, they are | mighty,*
and many are those who hate me | wrongfully.

Those who render me e- | vil for good*
accuse me because I follow | after good.

Do not forsake me, | O LORD!*

O my God, be not | far from me!

Make haste to | help me,*
O Lord, my sal- | vation!

Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy | Spirit;
as it was in the be- | ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

Once the psalm is completed, the congregation may meditate in silence.

Please Stand

PSALMODY

Psalm: Miserere mei, Deus, secundum

Psalm 51:1-13; Ant. Psalm 51 :17



The sacrifices of God are a | broken spirit;*
A broken and contrite heart, O God, you will | not despise.

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your | steadfast love;*
according to your abundant mercy blot out my trans- | gressions.

Wash me thoroughly from my in- | iquity,*
and cleanse me | from my sin!

For I know my trans- | gressions,*

and my sin is ever be- | fore me.

Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil | in your sight,*
so that you may be justified in your words and blameless in your | judgment.

**Behold, I was brought forth in in- | iquity,*
and in sin did my mother con- | ceive me.**

Behold, you delight in truth in the inward | being,*
and you teach me wisdom in the | secret heart.

**Purge me with hyssop, and I | shall be clean;*
wash me, and I shall be whit- | er than snow.**

Let me hear joy and | gladness;*
let the bones that you have bro- | ken rejoice.

**Hide your face | from my sins,*
and blot out all my in- | iquities.**

Create in me a clean heart, | O God,*
and renew a right spirit with- | in me.

**Cast me not away from your | presence,*
and take not your Holy Spirit | from me.**

Restore to me the joy of your sal- | vation,*
and uphold me with a willing | spirit.

**Then I will teach transgressors | your ways,*
and sinners will re- | turn to you.**

**Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy | Spirit;
as it was in the be- | ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.**

The sacrifices of God are a | broken spirit,*
A broken and contrite heart, O God, you will | not despise.

Please be seated

Hymn

Savior, When in Dust to Thee

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READINGS

First Reading

Joel 2:12-19

“Yet even now,” declares the LORD,
“return to me with all your heart,
with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;
and 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.
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;
consecrate a fast;
call a solemn assembly;
gather 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.
Between 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?’”
Then the LORD became jealous for his land
and had pity on his people.
The 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.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

2 Corinthians 5:20-6:10

Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore 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.

Working together with him, then, we appeal to you not to receive the grace of God in vain. For 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. We put no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, but as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: by great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, the Holy Spirit, genuine love; by truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; through honor and dishonor, through slander and praise. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold, we live; as punished, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, yet possessing everything.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Third Reading

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

[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.

“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. But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

“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. But 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.

[Jesus said:] “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.

But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, that 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.

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

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Responsory



- L** 1 We have an advocate with the Fa-ther; Jesus is the propitiation for our sins.
2 Blessed is he whose
transgression is for - giv - en and whose sin is put a - way.
3 We have an advocate with the Fa-ther; Jesus is the propitiation for our sins.



C He was delivered up to death; He was delivered
for the sins of the peo-ple.

Meditation

Please stand

PRAYER

Kyrie



C Lord, have mer-cy; Christ, have mer-cy; Lord, have mer-cy.

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.

Collects



L O Lord, hear my prayer.



C And let my cry come to You.

L Almighty and everlasting God, You despise nothing You have made and forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create in us new and contrite hearts that lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness we may receive from You full pardon and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

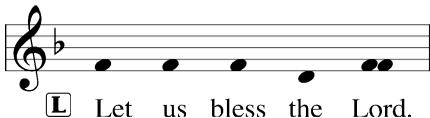


C A - men.

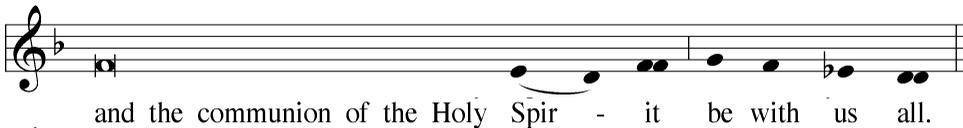
L O God of unchangeable power and eternal light, look favorably on Your whole Church, this wonderful and sacred mystery; and, by the tranquil operation of Your perpetual providence, carry out the work of man's salvation; and grant that the world might know that things which were cast down are being raised up, that things which had grown old are being made new, and that all things now return to perfection through Him from whom they took their origin, even Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.



Benedicamus



Benediction



Closing Hymn

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CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
4423 I-55 North, Jackson, MS 39206-6102
Church phone: (601) 366-2055
www.ChristLutheranJacksonMS.org

