

# Ash Wednesday

*February 18, 2026*



**Shepherd of the Mountains Lutheran Church**

*Pastor Todd Bertani*

*Ann Knipping, Accompanist*

Preludes: "My Shepherd Will Supply My Need" and  
"Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us" *by Mark Hayes*

## **The Greeting and Invitation to Lent**

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.**

Friends in Christ, today with the whole church we enter the time of remembering Jesus' passage 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.

## **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.**

## Opening Hymn “The Glory of These Forty Days” Hymn 320

1 The glo - ry of these for - ty days we cel - e -  
 4 Then grant, O God, that we may, too, re - turn in

brate with songs of praise; for Christ, through whom all  
 fast and prayer to you. Our spir - its strength - en

things were made, him - self has fast - ed and has prayed.  
 with your grace, and give us joy to see your face.

Text: Latin hymn, 11th cent.; tr. Maurice F. Bell, 1862–1947, alt.

Music: ERHALT UNS, HERR, J. Klug, *Geistliche Lieder*, 1543

Outside USA: Text from *The English Hymnal*, © Oxford University Press 1906. All rights reserved.

(You may stand, in body or spirit)



## Confession of Sin

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

*(Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination)*

Most holy and merciful God,

**We confess to you and to one another, and before the whole company of heaven, that we have sinned by our fault, by our own fault, by our own most grievous fault, in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone.**

We have not loved you with our whole heart, and mind, and strength.  
We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others as we have been forgiven.

**Have mercy on us, O God.**

We have shut our ears to your call to serve as Christ served us.  
We have not been true to the mind of Christ. We have grieved your Holy Spirit.

**Have mercy on us, O God.**

Our past unfaithfulness, the pride, envy, hypocrisy, and apathy that have infected our lives, we confess to you.

**Have mercy on us, O God.**

Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people, we confess to you.

**Have mercy on us, O God.**

Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to share the faith that is in us, we confess to you.

**Have mercy on us, O God.**

Our neglect of human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty, we confess to you.

**Have mercy on us, O God.**

Our false judgments, our uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us, we confess to you.

**Have mercy on us, O God.**

Our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us, we confess to you.

**Have mercy on us, O God.**

Restore us, O God, and let your anger depart from us.

**Hear us, O God, for your mercy is great.**

*(You may be seated)*

## The Imposition of Ashes

The worship leader marks the forehead of each person with a cross of ashes, saying: *“Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.”*

### Sung during the Imposition of Ashes “Oh, Love, How Deep” Hymn 322

1 Oh, love, how deep, how broad, how high, be - yond all  
2 God sent no an - gel to our race, of high - er  
3 For us bap - tized, for us he bore his ho - ly  
4 For us he prayed; for us he taught; for us his  
thought and fan - ta - sy, that God, the Son of  
or of low - er place, but wore the robe of  
fast and hun - gered sore; for us temp - ta - tion  
dai - ly works he wrought, by words and signs and  
God, should take our mor - tal form for mor - tals' sake!  
hu - man frame, in Christ our Lord to this world came.  
sharp he knew; for us the tempt - er o - ver - threw.  
ac - tions thus still seek - ing not him - self, but us.

Text: Thomas á Kempis, 1380–1471; tr. Benjamin Webb, 1819–1885, alt.  
Music: DEO GRACIAS, English ballad, 15th cent.

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 goodness, and, by the power of the Holy Spirit, keep us in eternal life.

**Amen.**

## 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 want God on their side.

<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>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 straps 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.

Word of God, Word of Life.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Psalm 23**

<sup>1</sup>The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.  
<sup>2</sup>**He makes me lie down in green pastures;  
he leads me beside still waters;**  
<sup>3</sup>he restores my soul.  
He leads me in right paths for his name's sake.



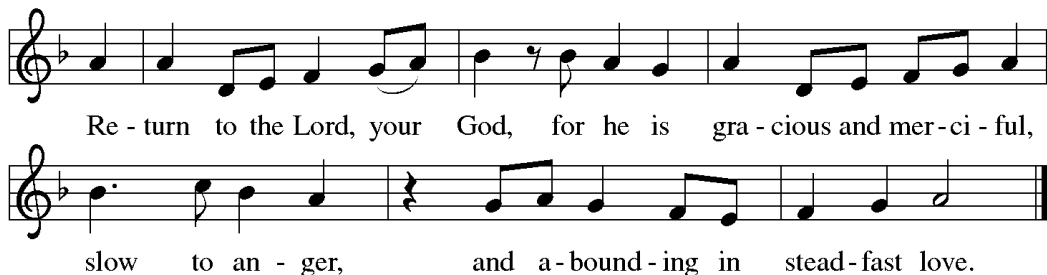
**<sup>4</sup>Even though I walk through the darkest valley,  
I fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff,  
they comfort me.**

**<sup>5</sup>You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;  
you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.**

**<sup>6</sup>Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,  
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord my whole life long.**

*(You may stand, in body or spirit)*

### **Lenten Verse**



### **Gospel: John 10:1-18**

The holy gospel according to John Chapter 10.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>“Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. <sup>2</sup>The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. <sup>3</sup>The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. <sup>4</sup>When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. <sup>5</sup>They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.”

<sup>6</sup>Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

<sup>7</sup> So again Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. <sup>8</sup> All who came before me are thieves and bandits, but the sheep did not listen to them. <sup>9</sup> I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved and will come in and go out and find pasture. <sup>10</sup> The thief comes on-ly to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.

<sup>11</sup> “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. <sup>12</sup> The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. <sup>13</sup> The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. <sup>14</sup> I am the good shepherd. I know my own, and my own know me, <sup>15</sup> just as the Father knows me, and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. <sup>16</sup> I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. <sup>17</sup> For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. <sup>18</sup> No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*(You may be seated)*

**Sermon: “The Still Small Voice”**

## Sermon Hymn: "The King of Love My Shepherd Is" Hymn 502

1 The King of love my shep - herd is, whose good - ness  
2 Where streams of liv - ing wa - ter flow, my ran - somed

fail - eth nev - er; I, noth - ing lack if  
soul he lead - eth and, where the ver - dant

I am his and he is mine for - ev - er.  
pas - tures grow, with food ce - les - tial feed - eth.

Text: Henry W. Baker, 1821–1877  
Music: ST. COLUMBA, Irish tune

## 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.

### Intercessory Prayer

Each petition ends: "Hear us, O God."

Response is **"Your mercy is great."**

### Sharing of the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

### Offering

*Online  
Giving*



## **Offertory: “Dust and Ashes”** *by David Haas and Brian Wren*

*(You may stand, in body or spirit)*

### **Receiving of Gifts**

### **Offering Prayer**

**God our provider, you have not fed us with bread alone, but with words of grace and life. Bless us and these your gifts, which we receive from your bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

**Amen.**

### **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.**

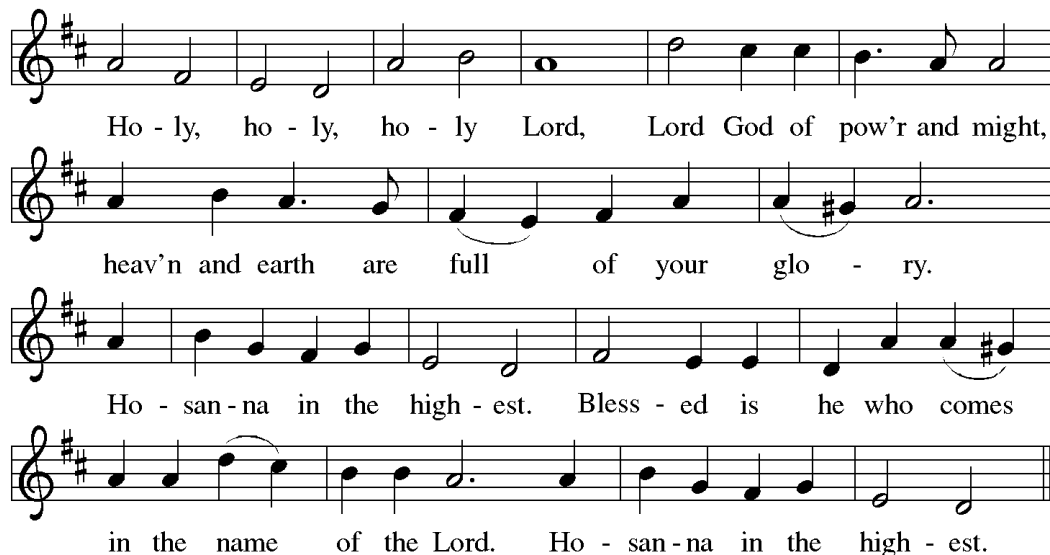
### **Preface**

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:

## “Holy, Holy, Holy”



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.

## Thanksgiving at the Table

Holy God,  
our living Water and our merciful Guide,  
together with rivers and seas, wells and springs  
we bless and magnify you.

You led your people Israel through the desert,  
and provided them water from the rock.  
We praise you for Christ, our Rock and our Water,  
who joined us in our desert,  
pouring out his life for the world.

In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore,  
his life, death, and resurrection,  
we await your salvation for all this thirsty world.

Pour out your Spirit on this holy food  
and on all the baptized gathered for this feast:  
wash away our sin,  
that we may be revived for our journey by the love of Christ.

Through him all glory and honor is yours,  
Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,  
in your holy Church,  
both now and forever.

**Amen**

## **The Lord's Prayer**

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come,  
your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from  
the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

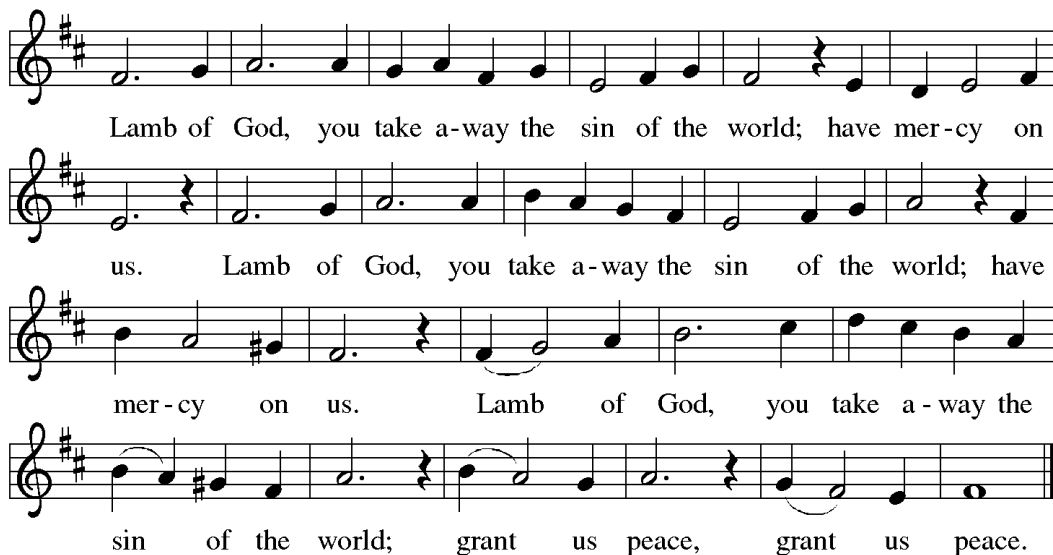
## Invitation to Communion

Come to the banquet, for all is now ready.

*We commune by 'Intinction', by dipping the wafer in wine or grape juice.  
We are all guests at God's table. **Everyone** is invited to receive communion.*

*(You may be seated)*

## Lamb of God



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.





## Communion Hymn: “Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive” Hymn 605



- 1 “For - give our sins as we for - give,” you taught us, Lord, to pray;
- 2 How can your par - don reach and bless the un - for - giv - ing heart
- 3 In blaz - ing light your cross re - veals the truth we dim - ly knew:
- 4 Lord, cleanse the depths with - in our souls and bid re - sent - ment cease;



but you a - lone can grant us grace to live the words we say.  
that broods on wrongs and will not let old bit - ter - ness de - part?  
how tri - fling oth - ers' debts to us; how great our debt to you!  
then, by your mer - cy rec - on - ciled, our lives will spread your peace.

Text: Rosamond E. Herklots, 1905–1987, alt.

Music: DETROIT, *The Sacred Harp*, Philadelphia, 1844

Text © Oxford University Press 1969.

## Post Communion Blessing

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

## Prayer

Merciful God, accompany our journey through these forty days. Renew  
us in the gift of baptism, that we may provide for those who are poor,  
pray for those in need, fast from self-indulgence, and above all that we  
may find our treasure in the life 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.**


*(You may stand, in body or spirit)*

## Blessing

Almighty God, Father, <sup>†</sup> Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

**Amen.**

## Sending Hymn: “Restore in Us, O God” *Hymn 328*



1 Re - store in us, O God, the splen-dor of your love; re -  
2 O Spir - it, wake in us the won - der of your pow'r; from  
3 Bring us, O Christ, to share the full - ness of your joy; bap -

new your im - age in our hearts, and all our sins re - move.  
fruit-less fear un - furl our lives like spring-time bud and flow'r.  
tize us in the ris - en life that death can - not de - stroy.

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944

Music: BAYLOR, Hal H. Hopson, b. 1933

Text © 1989 Hope Publishing Company.

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## Dismissal

Go forth into the world to serve God with gladness;  
be of good courage;  
hold fast to that which is good;  
render to no one evil for evil;  
strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak;  
help the afflicted; honor all people;  
love and serve God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude: “Worthy”** *by Todd Beaney*



<b><i>Thank you for serving!</i></b>		
	<b><i>February 18</i></b>	<b><i>February 22</i></b>
<b><i>Accompanist:</i></b>	Ann Knipping	Ann McAlpin
<b><i>Choir Director:</i></b>	Ann Knipping	Ann Knipping
<b><i>Greeter:</i></b>	<b>OPEN</b>	<b>OPEN</b>
<b><i>Lector:</i></b>	Ralie Deffenbaugh	Paula Stensvaag
<b><i>Ushers:</i></b>	Mike Wold	Heidi Schweikart Susan Anderson
<b><i>Tellers:</i></b>	<b>NA</b>	Susan Anderson <b>OPEN</b>
<b><i>Altar Care:</i></b>	Tara McConnell	Kris O'Neil
<b><i>Communion Asst:</i></b>	<b>OPEN</b> <b>OPEN</b> <b>OPEN</b>	Paula Stensvaag Miriam Deffenbaugh <b>OPEN</b>
<b><i>AV Engineer:</i></b>	Bruce Adams	Bruce Adams
<b><i>Fellowship Host:</i></b>	<b>NA</b>	Adams—Knipping
<b><i>Flower Sponsor:</i></b>	Lent	Lent
<b><i>Flower Arranger:</i></b>	Lent	Lent
<b><i>Calendar</i></b>		
<b><i>Thursday, Feb 19</i></b>	11:00 am Council Meeting 1:00 pm Quilting	