

**SERVICE OF ASHES
AND HOLY COMMUNION**
February 18, 2026



ELW Setting Five
LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
Rev. Timothy C. Linstrom, Pastor
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ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

The service for Ash Wednesday leads us into the penitential season of Lent. We begin tonight with a powerful Act of Confession, greatly expanded over our usual briefer confessions: a penitential Psalm, an exhortation to keep the Discipline of Lent in the struggle against sin, a public cataloging of our collective and individual wrong-doings, and the silence of self-examination and renewal. At this point in most acts of confession, we receive the absolution of forgiveness. Instead, tonight we hear the words: "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return," and we are so marked with the dust of ashes. Absolution does not come this night. Our whole season of Lent will be one of repentance. Absolution will come with the Maundy Thursday supper of love.

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PSALM: Psalm 51:1-18

Spoken responsively led by Pastor

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your loving-kindness; in your great compassion blot out my offenses.

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

³For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.

⁴Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight.

⁵And so you are justified when you speak and upright in your judgment.

⁶Indeed, I have been wicked from my birth, a sinner from my mother's womb.

⁷For behold, you look for truth deep within me, and will make me understand wisdom secretly.

⁸Purge me from my sin, and I shall be pure; wash me, and I shall be clean indeed.

⁹Make me hear of joy and gladness, that the body you have broken may rejoice.

¹⁰Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.

¹¹Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

¹²Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

¹³Give me the joy of your saving help again and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.

¹⁴I shall teach your ways to the wicked, and sinners shall return to you.

¹⁵Deliver me from death, O God, and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness, O God of my salvation.

¹⁶Open my lips, O Lord, and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.

¹⁷Had you desired it, I would have offered sacrifice, but you take no delight in burnt-offerings.

¹⁸The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

EXHORTATION *The Pastor addresses an exhortation to the congregation.*

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.

Silence for reflection and self-examination precedes the confession.

CONFESSON

P Most holy and merciful God,

C **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.**

P 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.

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

P 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.

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

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

C Have mercy on us, O God.

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

C Have mercy on us, O God.

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

C Have mercy on us, O God.

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

C Have mercy on us, O God.

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

C Have mercy on us, O God.

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

C Have mercy on us, O God.

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

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

BLESSING AND IMPOSITION OF ASHES

P Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth. Bless these ashes and those who receive them. May this sign of our mortality and penitence remind us that only by the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ are we given eternal life.

C Amen.

Those who desire to receive ashes come forward.

The Pastor applies ashes to the forehead of each person with the words:

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

HYMN

“Change My Heart, O God”

ELW 801

Change my heart, O God; make it ev-er true.

Change my heart, O God; may I be like you.

You are the pot - ter; I am the clay.

Mold me and make me; this is what I pray.

After all who desire ashes have received them, the pastor leads the congregation in the conclusion of the confession.

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.**

P 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.

C **Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P 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.

C **Amen.**

FIRST READING

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

¹ 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--
² 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.

¹¹ The Lord utters his voice at the head of his army how vast is his host! Numberless are those who obey his command. Truly the day of the Lord is great; terrible indeed—who can endure it! ¹² Yet even now, says the LORD, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; ¹³ rend 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. ¹⁴ 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? ¹⁵ Blow the trumpet in Zion; sanctify a fast; call a solemn assembly; ¹⁶ gather 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. ¹⁷ 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?"

P Here ends the First Lesson.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Stand for Lenten verse

GOSPEL

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

P The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the sixth chapter.

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

P [Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹"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.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor Tim Linstrom

HYMN OF THE DAY "Our Father We Have Wandered" ELW #606

1 Our Fa - ther, we have wan - dered and hid - den from your face;
 2 And now at length dis - cern - ing the e - vil that we do,
 3 O Lord of all the liv - ing, both ban - ished and re - stored,

in fool-ish - ness have squan - dered your leg - a - cy of grace.
 be - hold us, Lord, re - turn - ing with hope and trust to you.
 com - pas - sion - ate, for - giv - ing, and ev - er - car - ing Lord,

But now, in ex - ile dwell - ing, we rise with fear and shame,
 In haste you come to meet us and home re - joic - ing bring,
 grant now that our trans - gress - ing, our faith - less - ness may cease.

as, dis - tant but com - pel - ling, we hear you call our name.
 in glad - ness there to greet us with calf and robe and ring.
 Stretch out your hand in bless - ing, in par - don, and in peace.

Text: Kevin Nichols, 1929–2006

Text: REINHOLD KRIST, 1921-2006
Music: HERZLICH TUT MICH VERLANGEN, Hans Leo Hassler, 1564-1612; arr. Johann Sebastian Bach, 1685-1750

Text from *Resource Collection of Hymns and Service Music for the Liturgy*. © 1981 International Committee on English in the Liturgy, Inc.

APOSTLES' CREED

C **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.

THE PRAYERS

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

A 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.

C **Your mercy is great.**

A 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.

C **Your mercy is great.**

A 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.

C **Your mercy is great.**

A 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.

C Your mercy is great.

A 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.

C Your mercy is great.

A 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.

C Your mercy is great.

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

C Amen.

THE PEACE

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

All the people greet one another through the sharing of the peace.

Please be seated.

OFFERING

MUSICAL OFFERING

“Hashivenu”

arr. Michael Ryan

Adult Choir

Hashivenu, Adonai elecha Venashuva chadesh yameinu keedem. Lamentations 5:21
Cause us to return Lord, to You and we shall return. Renew our days of old.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

A Let us pray. God our provider,

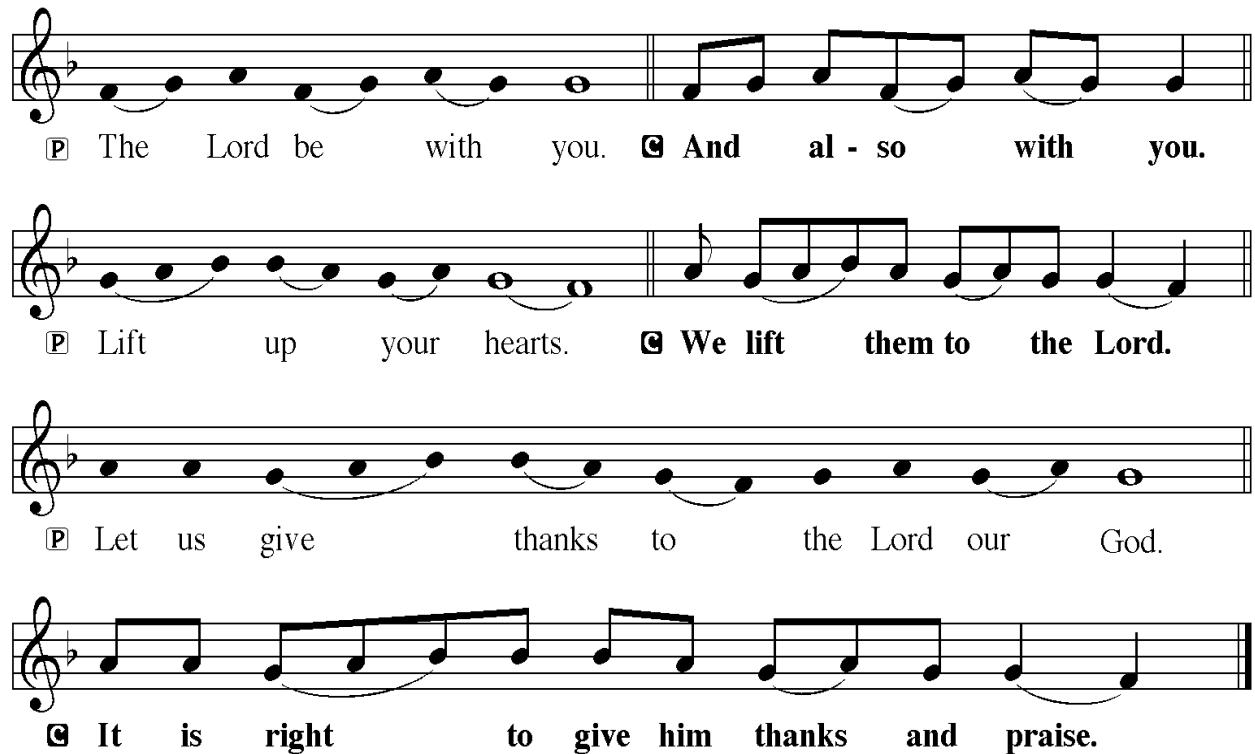
C O God, maker of heaven and earth,

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.

GREAT THANKSGIVING



The musical notation for the Great Thanksgiving consists of four staves of music in G clef, common time. The first staff contains the text: "P The Lord be with you. C And al - so with you." The second staff contains: "P Lift up your hearts. C We lift them to the Lord." The third staff contains: "P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God." The fourth staff contains: "C It is right to give him 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:

C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:
 Heav - en 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.

P Blessed are you, O God of the universe.
 Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age.
 Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth.
 Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood.
 Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea.
 Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness
 to the land of milk and honey.
 Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one.
 Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ.
 Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.
 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.
With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's passover from death to life
as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

C Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P O God of resurrection and new life: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on
these gifts of bread and wine. Bless this feast. Grace our table with your
presence.

C Come, Holy Spirit.

P Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread. Raise us up as the body of
Christ for the world. Breathe new life into us. Send us forth, burning with
justice, peace, and love.

C Come, Holy Spirit.

P With your holy ones of all times and places, with the earth and all its
creatures,
with sun and moon and stars, we praise you, O God, blessed and Holy
Trinity, now and forever.

C Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

P All who believe in our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, are welcome at the
table of the Lord. Let us pray together as our Lord taught us.

**C 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.

Please be seated

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

*Please come forward by the center aisle and return to your seats by way of the side aisles.
During the communion distribution the following canticle is sung:*

COMMUNION CANTICLE

The musical notation consists of six staves of music in G clef, common time, and a key signature of one flat. The lyrics are as follows:

C 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; have mer - cy on us.

Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace. A - men

Stand after all have been communed.

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

C Amen.

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE

Now, Lord, you let your servant go in peace: your word has been fulfilled. My own eyes have seen the salvation which you have prepared in the sight of every people: a light to reveal you to the nations and the glory of your people Israel. Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

A Let us pray.

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.

C Amen.

BLESSING

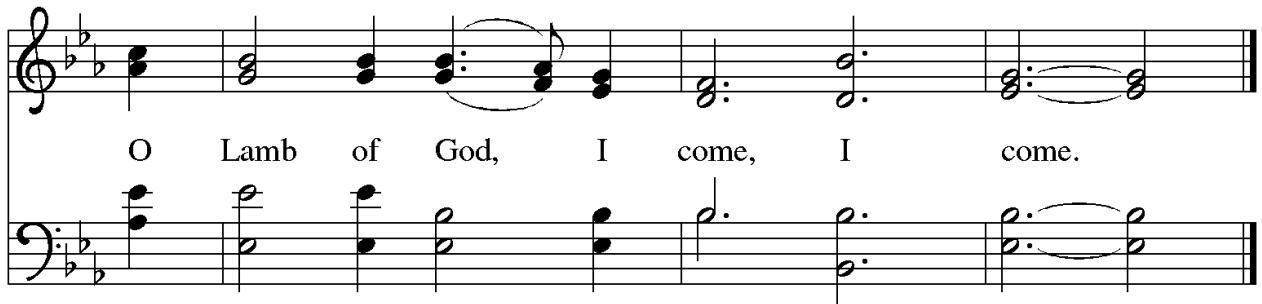
P Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you now and forever.

C Amen.

SENDING HYMN “Just As I Am, Without One Plea” ELW 592

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,



DISMISSAL

A 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.
Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

“Herzlich tut verlangen”

Burkhardt

Holy Week and Easter

~ Passion/Palm Sunday, March 29

A Sunday morning that begins with Palms and climaxes in the passion of our Lord. Join the choir processions with palms and praises at 8:30 or 10:45 a.m.

~ Maundy Thursday, April 2 at 7:30 p.m.

On this night we hear Jesus' command "Do this for the remembrance of me" and respond by gathering as He did with His disciples.

~ Good Friday, April 3 at 7:30 p.m.

A service that moves from light to darkness as we reflect on the meaning of Christ's last hours and words, His suffering and death.

~ Saturday, April 4 Holy Week Children's Event at 11:00 a.m.

~ Easter Morning Worship April 5 at 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

Celebrate the resurrection and the promise of new life.

~ Easter Breakfast You are invited to join us from 9:30-10:30 a.m. Easter morning. A special tradition at Holy Spirit is the gathering of the community for breakfast after service on Easter morning.

Pastor Rev. Timothy C. Linstrom

Office Manager Ciara Crews

Organist and Choir Director Karen M. Jirsa,

Children's Choir Director Bill Vaananen,

Children's Ministry Director: Jennifer Williams

Assistant Minister Mary Lou Gilliam

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