

Remember, you are dust...



and to dust
you shall return.

Trinity Lutheran Church (LCMS) Auburn, Nebraska

ASH WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2026



We gather in silence. The tone for today is somber and serious, appropriate for individual and community reflection.

Ash Wednesday is a solemn day of corporate confession, providing an opportunity for us as a congregation to lament the sins of all of God's people and commit ourselves to assisting one another in preparing for a godly celebration of our Lord's victory over sin in His death and resurrection.

Today, you will have an opportunity to participate in an ancient church rite known as "The Imposition of Ashes." A mark of ash is placed on the forehead as a symbol of one's mortality and repentance. This rite may have developed from the Old Testament custom of repenting in sackcloth and ash. If you wish to participate, you will come forward. The pastor will apply ash to your forehead and say, "Remember you are dust and to dust you shall return." Then return to your seat for prayerful reflection.

Holy Communion will also be served tonight. Our Lord's Body and Blood bring to us the forgiveness of sins, strengthens our faith in Jesus, and imparts spiritual power to amend our sinful lives. As a congregation we practice CLOSED COMMUNION. We ask all visitors wishing to commune today to speak to the pastor BEFORE the service begins. It is our practice to admit to the Sacrament only confirmed members in good standing of this or a sister congregation in the LCMS, after prayerful self-examination. Guest may still come forward, cross their arms over their chest, to receive a blessing.

Normally, we begin a worship service with a greeting and prayer. However, tonight we begin with the Opening Hymn.

OPENING HYMN

422 On My Heart Imprint Your Image

On my heart im - print Your im - age, Bless - ed Je - sus, King of grace,
That life's rich-es, cares, and plea-sures Nev - er may Your work e-rase;
Let the clear in - scrip-tion be: Je - sus, cru - ci - fied for me,
Is my life, my hope's foun - da - tion, And my glo - ry and sal - va - tion!

Text: Thomas Hansen Kingo, 1634-1703; tr. Peer O. Strömme, 1856-1921, alt. Tune: Johann Balthasar König, 1691-1758 Text and tune: Public domain

INTROIT

(*Psalm 51:1-3, 6-12, Antiphon, 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 unfailing love;
According to Your great compassion blot out my transgressions.
Wash away all my iniquity
And cleanse me from my sin.
For I know my transgressions,
and my sin is always before me.
Surely You desire truth in the inner parts;
You teach me wisdom in the inmost place.
Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean

wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.
Let me hear joy and gladness;
let the bones You have crushed rejoice.
Hide Your face from my sins
and blot out all my iniquity.
Create in me a pure heart, O God,
and renew a steadfast spirit within me.
Do not cast me from Your presence
or take Your Holy Spirit from me.
Restore to me the joy of Your salvation
and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.

EXHORTATION

P: 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 in God's Word and draws from God's Word 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 that we may come to Easter with glad hearts and keep the feast in sincerity and truth.

TIME FOR REFLECTION

P: God the Father, Creator of heaven and earth,

C: Have mercy.

P: God the Son, Redeemer of the World,

C: Have mercy.

P: God the Holy Spirit, our Sanctifier,

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 our tribulations; in all 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 preaching of Your Word; to bless our prayer and meditation; to strengthen and preserve us in the true faith; 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 prayers; 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 all 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: Have mercy.

P: O Lord,

C: Have mercy.

P: O Christ,

C: Have mercy. Amen

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray... Almighty and everlasting God, because You hate nothing You have made and forgive the sins of all who repent, create in us new and contrite hearts that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, may obtain from You, the God of all mercy, perfect remission 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: Amen

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

HYMN DURING IMPOSITION

609 Jesus Sinners Doth Receive

1 Je - sus sin - ners doth re - ceive; Oh, may all this
 2 We de - serve but grief and shame, Yet His words, rich
 3 Sheep that from the fold did stray No true shep - herd
 4 I, a sin - ner, come to Thee With a pen - i -

say - ing pon - der Who in sin's de - lu - sions live
 grace re - veal - ing, Par - don, peace, and life pro - claim;
 e'er for - sak - eth; Wea - ry souls that lost their way
 tent con - fes - sion. Sav - ior, mer - cy show to me;

And from God and heav - en wan - der! Here is hope for
 Here our ills have per - fect heal - ing. Firm - ly in these
 Christ, the Shep - herd, gent - ly tak - eth In His arms that
 Grant for all my sins re - mis - sion. Let these words my

all who grieve: Je - sus sin - ners doth re - ceive.
 words be - lieve: Je - sus sin - ners doth re - ceive.
 they may live: Je - sus sin - ners doth re - ceive.
 soul re - lieve: Je - sus sin - ners doth re - ceive.

5 Oh, how blest it is to know:
 Were as scarlet my transgression,
 It shall be as white as snow
 By Thy blood and bitter passion;
 For these words I now believe:
 Jesus sinners doth receive.

6 Now my conscience is at peace;
 From the Law I stand acquitted.
 Christ hath purchased my release
 And my ev'ry sin remitted.
 Naught remains my soul to grieve:
 Jesus sinners doth receive.

7 Jesus sinners doth receive;
 Also I have been forgiven;
 And when I this earth must leave,
 I shall find an open heaven.
 Dying, still to Him I cleave:
 Jesus sinners doth receive.

Text: tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.; Erdmann Neumeister, 1671-1756 Tune: Neu-verfertigtes Darmstädisches Gesang-Buch, 1699, Darmstadt Text and tune: Public domain

THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Joel 2:12-19

¹² “Even now,” declares the LORD, “return to Me with all your heart, with fasting and weeping and mourning.” ¹³ Rend your heart and not your garments. Return to the LORD your God, for He is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love, and He relents from sending calamity. ¹⁴ Who knows? He may turn and have pity and leave behind a blessing — grain offerings and drink offerings for the LORD your God. ¹⁵ Blow the trumpet in Zion, declare a holy fast, call a sacred assembly. ¹⁶ Gather the people, consecrate the assembly; bring together the elders, gather the children, those nursing at the breast. Let the bridegroom leave his room and the bride her chamber. ¹⁷ Let the priests, who minister before the LORD, weep between the temple porch and the altar. Let them

say, “Spare Your people, O LORD. Do not make Your inheritance an object of scorn, a byword among the nations. Why should they say among the peoples, ‘Where is their God?’” ¹⁸Then the LORD will be jealous for His land and take pity on His people.

¹⁹ The LORD will reply to them: “I am sending you grain, new wine and oil, enough to satisfy you fully; never again will I make you an object of scorn to the nations.

THE GRADUAL

Hebrews 12:2

P: [Oh, come,] let us fix our eyes on Jesus,

C: The author and perfecter of our faith,

P: Who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, scorning its shame,

C: And sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

THE EPISTLE

2 Peter 1:2-11

²May grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.

³His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, ⁴by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire. ⁵For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, ⁶and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, ⁷and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love. ⁸For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹For whoever lacks these qualities is so nearsighted that he is blind, having forgotten that he was cleansed from his former sins. ¹⁰Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to make your calling and election sure, for if you practice these qualities you will never fall. ¹¹For in this way there will be richly provided for you an entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

THE VERSE

Joel 2:13b

P: Return to the Lord your God, for He is gracious and compassionate,

C: Slow to anger and abounding in love.

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

¹ “Be careful not to do your ‘acts of righteousness’ before men, to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven.

² “So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by men. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full. ³ But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴ so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, Who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

⁵ “And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by men. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full.

⁶ But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, Who is unseen. Then your Father, Who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

¹⁶ “When you fast, do not look somber as the hypocrites do, for they disfigure their faces to show men they are fasting. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full. ¹⁷ But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, ¹⁸ so that it will not be obvious to men that you are fasting, but only to your Father, Who is unseen; and your Father, Who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

¹⁹ “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. ²⁰ But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

THE NICENE CREED

**C I believe in one God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.**

And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life T of the world to come.**

Amen.

HYMN

683 Jesus, Thy Boundless Love to Me

Jesus, Thy boundless love to me
 1 Je - sus, Thy bound - less love to me No thought can reach, no
 2 O grant that noth - ing in my soul May dwell, but Thy pure
 3 This love un - wea - ried I pur - sue And daunt - less - ly to
 4 In suf - f'ring be Thy love my peace, In weak - ness be Thy
 tongue de - clare; U - nite my thank - ful heart to Thee,
 love a - lone; Oh, may Thy love pos - sess me whole,
 Thee as - pire. Oh, may Thy love my hope re - new,
 love my pow'r; And when the storms of life shall cease,
 And reign with-out a ri - val there! Thine whol - ly, Thine a -
 My joy, my trea - sure, and my crown! All cold-ness from my
 Burn in my soul like heav'n - ly fire! And day and night,
 O Je - sus, in that fi - nal hour, Be Thou my rod and



lone I am; Be Thou a - lone my con - stant flame.
 heart re - move; My ev - 'ry act, word, thought be love.
 all my care To guard this sa - cred trea - sure there.
 staff and guide, And draw me safe - ly to Thy side!

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607-76; tr. John B. Wesley, 1703-91, alt. Tune: Norman Cocker, 1889-1953 Text: Public domain Tune: © Oxford University Press. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110003637

MESSAGE

PRAYERS

OFFERING AND OFFERTORY

CONFESSON OF SINS

P: Beloved in the Lord, let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, imploring Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness. Our help is in the name of the Lord.

C: Who made heaven and earth.

P: I said, I will confess my transgressions to the Lord

C: And You forgave the guilt of my sin.

P: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

All: O almighty God, merciful Father, I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess to You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserve Your punishment now and forever. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter suffering and death of Your COMMUNION IS SERVED beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor sinful being.

P: Upon this your confession, I, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God to all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER & WORDS OF INSTITUTION

COMMUNION IS SERVED

COMMUNION HYMNS

611 Chief of Sinners Though I Be



1 Chief of sin - ners though I be, Je - sus shed His
 2 Oh, the height of Je - sus' love, High - er than the
 3 On - ly Je - sus can im - part Balm to heal the
 4 Chief of sin - ners though I be, Christ is all in
 5 O my Sav - ior, help af - ford By Your Spir - it

blood for me, Died that I might live on high,
 heav'ns a - bove, Deep - er than the depths of sea,
 wound - ed heart, Peace that flows from sin for - giv'n,
 all to me; All my wants to Him are known,
 and Your Word! When my way - ward heart would stray,

Lives that I might nev - er die. As the branch is
 Last - ing as e - ter - ni - ty! Love that found me—
 Joy that lifts the soul to heav'n, Faith and hope to
 All my sor - rows are His own. He sus - tains the
 Keep me in the nar - row way; Grace in time of

to the vine, I am His, and He is mine.
 won - drous thought! Found me when I sought Him not.
 walk with God In the way that E - noch trod.
 hid - den life Safe with Him from earth - ly strife.
 need sup - ply While I live and when I die.

Text: William McComb, 1793-1873, alt. Tune: Richard Redhead, 1820-1901 Text and tune: Public domain

418 O Lord, throughout These Forty Days

1 O Lord, through - out these for - ty days You
 2 You strove with Sa - tan, and You won; Your
 3 Though parched and hun - gry, yet You prayed And
 4 Be with us through this sea - son, Lord, And

prayed and kept the fast; In - spire re - pen - tance
 faith - ful - ness en - dured; Lend us Your nerve, Your
 fixed Your mind a - bove; So teach us to de -
 all our earth - ly days, That when the fi - nal

for our sin, And free us from our past.
 skill and trust In God's e - ter - nal Word.
 ny our - selves, Since we have known God's love.
 Eas - ter dawns, We join in heav - en's praise.

Text: based on Claudia F. Hernaman, 1838-98; para. Gilbert E. Doan, 1930-2024 Tune: The Psalms of David in Prose and Meeter, 1635, Edinburgh
 Text: © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110003637 Tune: Public domain

563 Jesus, Thy Blood and Righteousness

1 Je - sus, Thy blood and righ - teous - ness My beau - ty
2 Bold shall I stand in that great day, Cleansed and re -
3 Lord, I be - lieve Thy pre - cious blood, Which at the
4 Lord, I be - lieve, were sin - ners more Than sands up -

are, my glo - rious dress; Midst flam - ing worlds, in
deemed, no debt to pay; Ful - ly ab - solved through
mer - cy seat of God Pleads for the cap - tives?
on the o - cean shore, Thou hast for all a

these ar - rayed, With joy shall I lift up my head.
these I am From sin and fear, from guilt and shame.
lib - er - ty, Was al - so shed in love for me.
ran - som paid, For all a full a - tone - ment made.

5 When from the dust of death I rise
To claim my mansion in the skies,
This then shall be my only plea:
Jesus hath lived and died for me.

6 Jesus, be endless praise to Thee,
Whose boundless mercy hath for me,
For me, and all Thy hands have made,
An everlasting ransom paid.

Text: Nicolaus Ludwig von Zinzendorf, 1700-60; tr. John B. Wesley, 1703-91, alt. Tune: George J. Elvey, 1816-93 Text and tune: Public domain

PRAYERS

P: Let us pray... We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

BENEDICTION

CLOSING HYMN

422 On My Heart Imprint Your Image

On my heart im - print Your im - age, Bless - ed Je - sus, King of grace,

That life's rich-es, cares, and plea-sures Nev - er may Your work e-rase;

Let the clear in - scrip-tion be: Je - sus, cru - ci - fied for me,

Is my life, my hope's foun - da - tion, And my glo - ry and sal - va - tion!

Text: Thomas Hansen Kingo, 1634-1703; tr. Peer O. Strömme, 1856-1921, alt. Tune: Johann Balthasar König, 1691-1758 Text and tune: Public domain

The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit;



A broken and contrite heart, O God, You will not despise.

~ Psalm 51:17