



Ash Wednesday

PEACE LUTHERAN MINISTRIES

February 18, 2026

WELCOME!

We love that you are here today! Please note these things:

Restrooms are located in the hallway to the right as you exit the worship space, as well as across the hall as you enter into the school.

Quiet room Parents may use the library in the back of this worship space which still enables you to hear/see the service.

A **Connection Card** and pen are found in the pocket of the chair in front of you. You may drop it in the wicker basket along the wall after the service.

ASH WEDNESDAY

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent, a 40-day journey with the Lord to the cross and empty tomb. The emphasis is repentance – the Holy Spirit worked turn from sin to Jesus for forgiveness and a new life.

WHY “ASH” WEDNESDAY?

After Adam and Eve sinned, God told them, “From dust you came, to dust you shall return” (Genesis 3:19). In Bible times, dust and ashes were used as a sign for sorrow and repentance (Job 42:6, Jeremiah 6:26, Matthew 11:21). Already by the middle of the second century (AD 150), there is evidence of Christian churches imposing ashes on the forehead as a reminder of our mortality and our need for a Savior. The ashes come from the previous year’s Palm Sunday palm branches to remind that Jesus is the blessed Savior who comes in the Name of the Lord to free us from sin and death!

DO I HAVE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE IMPOSITION OF ASHES?

The Imposition of Ashes is not commanded in Scripture. It does not bring you closer to God, nor does it earn His approval. It is simply a vivid reminder of our mortality and our need for a Savior. Only those should participate who freely wish to. Children are welcome to participate at the discretion of their parents.

WEDNESDAY LENTEN OFFERINGS

The offerings from our Wednesday Lenten services will go toward our Peace Lutheran School tuition assistance. The Tuition Assistance Fund is entirely funded by individual gifts and supports member students who desire to send their children to Peace but cannot afford tuition. The School Board receives these applications and approves financial support based on need and the funds available in the Tuition Assistance Fund.

40 DAYS OF LENT?

The concept of the 40 days of Lent recalls the 40 days our Lord Jesus was tempted in the wilderness, as our perfect Champion defeating the devil in our place. However, if you count the actual number of days from Ash Wednesday to Easter you get 46. This is because the Sundays in the season of Lent are not counted as part of Lent, but are (as every Sunday is) a little Easter – recalling the first day of the week when our Lord conquered the power of death and grave for His people securing for us a brand new and eternal life!

A WORD ABOUT FASTING

Many Christians “give up” something for Lent. This doesn’t gain us heaven or make us more righteous (Colossians 2:23; 1 Timothy 4:1-5).

On the other hand, some Christians like to do this

- 1) as a way of taking something seriously. It is doubtful in the face of tragedy or serious regret that you’d gorge yourself on food. To the contrary, you may not feel like eating at all. Fasting is a way of setting the tone for ourselves to be serious about prayer or repentance.
- 2) as a means of consciously crucifying the flesh by deprivation (1 Corinthians 6:12-13a; 8:8) as opposed to living for gluttony. For example, if you really love ice cream but give it up for Lent – each time you suffer a pang for ice cream, it is a reminder of the much greater suffering of Christ for your sake.
- 3) as a way of enhancing the Easter celebration. Food doesn’t bring us closer to God, but to have ice cream once again on Easter Sunday is simply a way to enhance the celebration. (That’s the ancient fast/feast concept.)

You are NOT less of a Christian if you don’t do this. The Apostle Paul says, “Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind” (Romans 14:5).



Peace

LUTHERAN MINISTRIES

The most recent service is our website homepage:

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Please stand when presider indicates

INVOCATION

In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

PSALM

Psalm 51D sts. 1-2¹



1 God, be mer - ci - ful to me, on your grace I

2 My trans - gres - sions I con - fess, grief and guilt my



rest my plea; your com - pas - sions o - ver - flow,

soul op - press; I have sinned a - gainst your grace



blot out my trans - gres - sions now; wash me, make me

and pro - voked you to your face; I con - fess your



pure with - in, cleanse, O cleanse me from my sin.

judg - ment just, speech - less, in your mer - cy trust.

Text: Psalter, 1912, alt. Tune: Richard Redhead Text and tune: Public domain

PRAYER

Let us pray.

Almighty and merciful God, you never despise what you have made and always forgive those who turn to you. Create in us such new and contrite hearts that we may truly repent of our sins and obtain your full and gracious pardon; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

¹With this Psalm by King David, we confess our sinfulness and our trust in God's gracious forgiveness.

PSALM

Psalm 51D sts. 3-4

- 3 I am evil, born in sin;
you desire all truth within.
You alone my Savior are,
teach your wisdom to my heart;
make me pure, your grace bestow,
wash me whiter than the snow.**
- 4 Broken, humbled to the dust
by your wrath and judgment just,
let my contrite heart rejoice
and in gladness hear your voice;
from my sins, O hide your face,
blot them out in boundless grace.**

Text: Psalter, 1912, alt. Text: Public domain

Please be seated

FIRST READING

Isaiah 59:12-20

¹²Yes, our rebellious deeds are many before you,
and our sins testify against us.

Our rebellious deeds are with us,
and as for our guilty deeds, we are aware of them.

¹³Those deeds are rebellion and treachery against the LORD.

We turn back from following our God.

We incite oppression and apostasy.

We conceive and mutter deceitful words from our hearts.

¹⁴Justice is turned back,
and righteousness stands far away,
for truth stumbles in the city square,
and honesty cannot enter it.

¹⁵The truth is missing,
and anyone who turns from evil makes himself prey.
The LORD looked and saw something evil—
there was no justice.

¹⁶He saw that there was no one.
He was appalled that there was no one who could intervene.
So his own arm worked salvation for him,
and his own righteousness supported him.

¹⁷He clothed himself with righteousness like armor
and wore a helmet of salvation on his head.

He dressed in garments for vengeance,
and he wrapped himself with zeal like a cloak.

¹⁸He will repay in full what they have earned,
namely, wrath to his foes and full payment to his enemies.

He will repay even the distant coastlands.

¹⁹From the west they will fear the LORD's name,
and from the rising of the sun they will fear his glory,
for he will come like a raging river,
driven by the Spirit of the LORD.

²⁰Then a redeemer will come for Zion
and for those in Jacob who turn from rebellion.

This is the declaration of the LORD.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 51D sts. 5-6

**5 Gracious God, my heart renew²,
make my spirit right and true;
let me not abandoned be,
let your Spirit dwell in me;
your salvation's joy impart,
steadfast make my willing heart.**

**6 Sinners then shall learn from me
and to God restored shall be;
Savior, all my guilt remove,
and my tongue shall sing your love;
touch my silent lips, O Lord,
and my mouth shall praise accord.**

Text: Psalter, 1912, alt. Text: Public domain

²Psalm 51, like all of Scripture, makes it clear the Lord works repentance in our hearts. Believing hearts are a creation of the Holy Spirit through the Gospel. Faith that recognizes our sin and our Savior is a gift of God (Ephesians 2:8-10).

SECOND READING

2 Corinthians 7:8–13a

⁸For even if I caused you sorrow with my letter, I do not regret it (even though I did regret it, for I see that my letter caused you sorrow—yet only for a little while). ⁹Now I rejoice, not because you were made to feel sorrow, but because this sorrow resulted in repentance. Yes, you were made sorry in a godly way. So you were not harmed in any way by us. ¹⁰In fact, godly sorrow produces repentance, which leads to salvation, leaving no regret. On the other hand, worldly sorrow produces death.

¹¹Yes, look what godly sorrow produced in you: what diligence, what eagerness to clear yourself, what indignation, what alarm, what longing, what zeal, what correction! In every way you proved yourselves to be pure in this matter. ¹²So although I wrote to you, it was not because of the one who did what was wrong, or because of the one who was harmed by it. I wrote instead so that your genuine concern for us would be revealed to you in the sight of God. ¹³For that reason we have been comforted.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 51D sts. 7–8

**7 No attempted sacrifice
has acceptance in your eyes;
broken hearts are in your sight
more than sacrificial rite;
contrite spirit, pleading cries,
you, O God, will not despise.**

**8 Prosper Zion in your grace
and her broken walls replace;
then our righteous sacrifice
shall delight your holy eyes;
freewill off' rings, gladly made,
on your altar shall be laid.**

Text: Psalter, 1912, alt. Text: Public domain

Please stand

GOSPEL

Matthew 6:1–6, 16–21

¹Be careful that you do not do your righteous works in front of people, so that they will notice. If you do, you have no reward from your Father who is in heaven. ²So whenever you perform acts of mercy, do not sound a trumpet for yourself, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets to be praised by people. Amen I tell you: They have received their reward. ³Instead, when you perform acts of mercy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing. ⁴Then your acts of mercy will be in secret, and your Father who sees what is done in secret will reward you.

⁵Whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites. They love to stand and pray in the synagogues and on the street corners so that they may be seen by people. Amen I tell you: They have received their reward. ⁶But whenever you pray, go into your private room, close your door, and pray to your Father who is unseen. And your Father, who sees what others cannot see, will reward you.

¹⁶Whenever you fast, do not make yourself look sad like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces to show everyone that they are fasting. Amen I tell you: They have received their reward. ¹⁷But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, ¹⁸so that it is not apparent to people that you are fasting, but only to your Father who sees what is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

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

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

CONFESSION OF FAITH³

Selected portions of The Augsburg Confession, Article XII: “Repentance”

**Our churches teach that there is forgiveness of sins for those who have fallen after Baptism whenever they are brought to repentance. The Church ought to impart Absolution to those who return to repentance (Jeremiah 3:12).
Now strictly speaking repentance consists of two parts.**

³ The presentation of the Augsburg Confession, the foundational Lutheran Confession, on June 25, 1530, marks the “birth” of the Lutheran Church.

One part is contrition, that is, terrors striking the conscience through the knowledge of sin.

The other part is faith, which is born of the Gospel (Romans 10:17) or the Absolution and believes that for Christ's sake, sins are forgiven. It comforts the conscience and delivers from terror.

Then good works are bound to follow, which are the fruit of repentance (Galatians 5:22-23).

Please be seated

HYMN OF THE DAY

Savior, When in Dust to You | CW 393



1 Sav - ior, when in dust to you low we bow in hom - age due,
2 By your help - less in - fant years, by your life of want and tears,
3 By your hour of dire de - spair, by your ag - o - ny of prayer,
4 By your deep ex - pir - ing groan, by the sad se - pul - chral stone,



when, re - pent - ant, to the skies scarce we lift our weep - ing eyes,
by your days of deep dis - tress in the sav - age wil - der - ness,
by the cross, the nail, the thorn, pierc - ing spear, and tor - turing scorn,
by the vault whose dark a - bode held in vain the ris - ing God,



O, by all your pains and woe suf - fered once for us be - low,
by the dread, mys - te - rious hour of th' in - sult - ing tempt - er's pow'r,
by the gloom that veiled the skies o'er the dread - ful sac - ri - fice,
O, from earth to heav'n re - stored, might - y, re - as - cend - ed Lord,



bend - ing from your throne on high, hear our pen - i - ten - tial cry!
turn, O turn a fa - v'ring eye, hear our pen - i - ten - tial cry!
lis - ten to our hum - ble sigh, hear our pen - i - ten - tial cry!
bend - ing from your throne on high, hear our pen - i - ten - tial cry!

Text: Robert Grant, 1779–1838, abr., alt.

Tune: Joseph Parry, 1841–1903

Text and tune: Public domain

Dressed for Battle

Please stand

PRAYER

Now is the time of God's favor, now is the day of salvation. Let us pray for the people of God in Christ Jesus that, through repentance and faith in the gospel, they may remain secure in your love.

Lord God, gracious Father, we thank you for setting your Son's sacrifice between us and sin's reward. By your Spirit work in us through the gospel, give us repentant hearts, make our faith firm in Christ, and enliven us to serve you faithfully.

Have mercy upon us, Lord, according to your unfailing love.

Lord God, almighty Father, renew your Church throughout the world that it may constantly look to Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith. Bless us with faithful ministers who always proclaim Christ's cross and resurrection for the salvation of the world.

Have mercy upon us, Lord, according to your unfailing love.

Lord God, loving Father, in your mercy you abundantly supply our needs of body and soul. Create in us the mind of Christ, that in humility and generosity—considering not only our own interests, but also the interests of others—we may be merciful to those in need. Direct our efforts to help poor, lonely, troubled, and ill people.

Have mercy upon us, Lord, according to your unfailing love.

Lord God, heavenly Father, comfort all who are mourning the death of people they loved. Lift their eyes to the cross where your Son defeated death and to the empty tomb where he assured us that we will live with him forever. Teach us to number our days that we may gain a heart of wisdom.

Have mercy upon us, Lord, according to your unfailing love.

Lord God, heavenly Father, look with favor upon all sick, injured, and recovering people. If it be your will deliver them from their infirmities. Let them hear of your unfailing love.

Have mercy upon us, Lord, according to your unfailing love.

Special Prayers

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

Silent prayer

Lord God, eternal Father, we praise you that you have delivered the Christian souls who have gone before us from this world of dust and ashes to paradise. As their prayers continually ascend before your throne, join our prayers to theirs as fragrant incense. Hear us for the sake of him who was crucified for us and always intercedes on our behalf, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

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.**

**Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and forever. Amen.**

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

Amen.

Please be seated

DISMISSAL HYMN

With All My Heart I Praise You, Lord | CW 658:1-2

At the conclusion of this hymn, the keyboardist will play through one more verse quietly, before introducing the hymn on page 10. Those who do not wish to stay for the imposition of ashes may dismiss themselves at this time.

Please see the worship folder cover for an explanation of the imposition of ashes.



1 With all my heart I praise you, Lord, that in your
2 When I confess my sin and shame, peace and for -



Son you saved me. You saw in me what you de- plored;
give - ness seek - ing, you grant me par - don in your name



my griev-ous sin en - slaved me. Yet, Lord, you paid
be - fore I've fin - ished speak - ing! In love you lis -



the high - est price, Je - sus' a - ton - ing sac - ri - fice,
ten care - ful - ly to all our sighs of mis - er - y,



that you might ev - er own me. Were I to bless
our ev - 'ry need ad - dress - ing. Our guilt should make



you all my days, it would be in - suf - fi - cient praise
you turn a - way; in - stead you turn toward us and say:



for kind - ness you have shown me.
"Re - ceive my gra - cious bless - ing."

Ash Wednesday Confessional Rite

HYMN

Jesus, Lover of My Soul | CW 533



1 Je - sus, lov - er of my soul, let me to thy
2 Oth - er ref - uge have I none; hangs my help - less
3 Thou, O Christ, art all I want; more than all in
4 Plen - teous grace with thee is found, grace to cov - er



bos - om fly while the near - er wa - ters roll, while the
soul on thee. Leave, ah, leave me not a - lone; still sup -
thee I find. Raise the fall - en, cheer the faint, heal the
all my sin. Let the heal - ing streams a - bound; make and



tem - pest still is high. Hide me, O my Sav - ior,
port and com - fort me. All my trust on thee is
sick, and lead the blind. Just and ho - ly is thy
keep me pure with - in. Thou of life the foun - tain



hide, till the storm of life is past; safe in -
stayed; all my help from thee I bring. Cov - er
name; I am all un - right - eous - ness. False and
art; free - ly let me take of thee. Spring thou



to the ha - ven guide. O re - ceive my soul at last!
my de - fense - less head with the shad - ow of thy wing.
full of sin I am; thou art full of truth and grace.
up with - in my heart, rise to all e - ter - ni - ty.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788
Tune: Simeon B. Marsh, 1798–1875
Text and tune: Public domain

CONFESSION

Most holy and merciful Father,

**we confess to you and to one another that we have sinned by our own fault,
by our own 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, Lord.

We have been deaf to your call to serve as Christ served us.

We have not been true to the mind of Christ.

We have grieved the Holy Spirit.

Have mercy on us, Lord.

We have placed our wants before your will.

We have gratified the desires of our sinful nature.

We have merited your punishment now and forever.

Have mercy on us, Lord.

We confess to you, Lord, all our past unfaithfulness.

The pride, hypocrisy, and impatience in our lives

we confess to you, O Lord.

Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, our manipulation of other people,
our anger when our selfish aims are denied, and our envy of those more fortunate than
ourselves

we confess to you, O Lord.

Our love of worldly goods and comforts, and our dishonesty in daily life and work,
our negligence in worship and prayer, and our failure to show the faith that is in us

we confess to you, O Lord.

Forgive us, Lord, for the wrongs we have done. For our blindness to human need and suffering and our indifference to injustice and cruelty,

forgive us, Lord.

For all false judgments, for uncharitable thoughts toward others, and for our prejudice and contempt for those who differ from us,

forgive us, Lord.

For what we think or say or do that is at variance with your will,

forgive us, Lord.

Restore us, good Lord, and let your anger depart from us.

Hear us, Lord, for your mercy is great.

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

During the Imposition of Ashes we will sing the hymn below. Come forward at the usher's direction. If you wish to receive ashes on the hand, please hold your hand out for the minister. The minister applies ashes to the forehead or hand of each penitent in the form of a small cross, saying:

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

IMPOSITION HYMN

All Men Living Are But Mortal | CW 840



1 All men liv - ing are but mor - tal and will sure - ly
2 There - fore, when my God shall choose it, will - ing - ly I'll
3 Je - sus for my sake de - scend - ed my sal - va - tion
4 There is joy be - yond our tell - ing, where so man - y



fade as grass; on - ly thro' death's gloom - y por - tal
yield my life, nor will grieve that I should lose it,
to ob - tain: death and hell for me are end - ed,
saints have gone; thou - sands, thou - sands, there are dwell - ing,



to e - ter - nal life we pass. When this bod - y here has
with its sor - row, pain, and strife. In my dear Re - deem - er's
peace and hope are now my gain. With great joy I leave earth's
wor - ship - ing be - fore the throne. There the an - gel hosts are



per - ished, then will heav'n - ly joys be cher - ished where the
mer - it peace has found my trou - bled spir - it, and in
sad - ness for the home of heav'n - ly glad - ness, where I
shin - ing, ev - er - more in cho - rus join - ing: "Ho - ly,



saints, in glo - rious dress, live and reign in right - eous - ness.
death my com - fort this: Je - sus' death my source of bliss.
shall for - ev - er see God, the Ho - ly Trin - i - ty.
ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord! Tri - une God, by all a - dored!"

**5 Patriarchs of sacred story
and the prophets there are found;
twelve apostles, bright with glory,
on twelve seats are there enthroned.
All the saints that have ascended
age on age, through time extended,
there in blissful concert sing
hallelujahs to their King.**

**6 O Jerusalem, how glorious
are your heav'nly mansions fair!
I can hear the tones victorious
ever sweetly sounding there.
Oh, the bliss that there surprises!
Look, my soul, the sun now rises,
and the breaking day I see
that shall never end for me.**

**7 Now I see what here was told me,
see that wondrous glory shine,
feel the spotless robes enfold me,
know a golden crown is mine.
Thus before the throne so glorious
now I stand, a soul victorious,
filled with purest joy and peace
that in Christ shall never cease.**

Text: J. C. Albinus, 1624–1679; (sts. 1–4, 6–7): tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.; (st. 5): unknown, alt.
Tune: Das grosse Cantional, Darmstadt, 1687
Text and tune: Public domain

Please stand

Accomplish in us, Lord, the work of your salvation
that we may show forth your glory in the world.

By the cross and suffering of your Son,
bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.

Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, does not desire the death of sinners but rather that they turn from their wickedness and live. He sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins and for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

During these days of Lent, let us implore God to give us renewal and his Holy Spirit. May we continue to abide in the true faith and at the last be received by him through the merits of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Please be seated

CLOSING HYMN

Abide with Me | CW 783:1,6,7



1 A - bide with me, fast falls the e - ven - tide.
 6 I fear no foe with thee at hand to bless;
 7 Hold thou thy cross be - fore my clos - ing eyes;



The dark - ness deep - ens; Lord, with me a - bide.
 ills have no weight and tears no bit - ter - ness.
 shine through the gloom and point me to the skies.



When oth - er help - ers fail and com - forts flee,
 Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy vic - to - ry?
 Heav'n's morn - ing breaks, and earth's vain shad - ows flee;

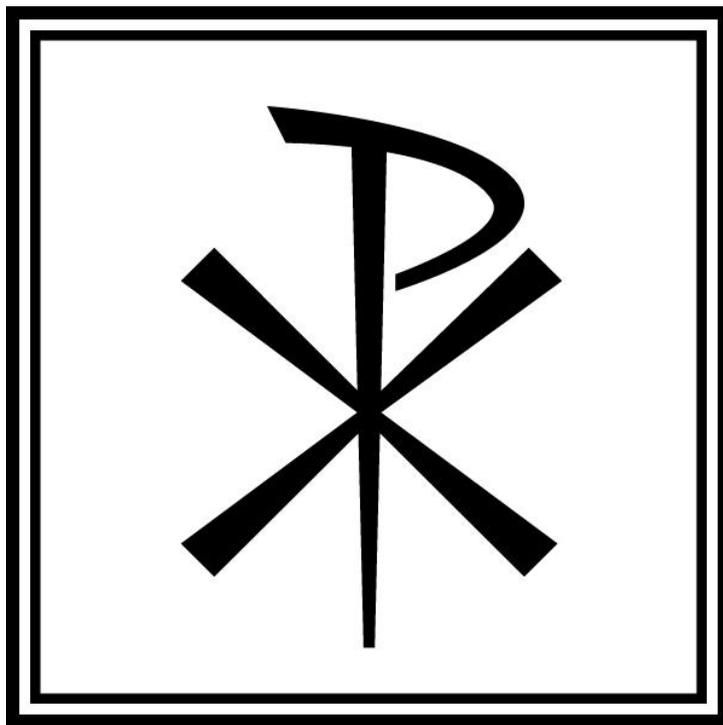


help of the help - less, O a - bide with me.
 I tri - umph still if thou a - bide with me.
 in life, in death, O Lord, a - bide with me!

Text: Henry F. Lyte, 1793–1847, alt.
 Tune: William H. Monk, 1823–1889
 Text and tune: Public domain

SERVING IN WORSHIP

Presider Rev. Shaun Arndt
Imposition Assistant..... Rev. Luke Werre
Keyboard Mrs. Lisa Schoenherr



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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