

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH



Ash Wednesday

FEBRUARY 18, 2026 - 6:30 pm

PRELUDE

GREETING

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray. 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.**

GATHERING SONG

ELW # 319

O LORD, THROUGHOUT THESE FORTY DAYS

FIRST READING

GENESIS 3:1-19

¹ Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God say, ‘You shall not eat from any tree in the garden?’” ² The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, ³ but God said, ‘You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.’ ” ⁴ But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not die, ⁵ for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” ⁶ So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food and that it was a delight to the eyes and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. ⁷ Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked, and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

⁸ They heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. ⁹ But the Lord God called to the man and said to him, “Where are you?” ¹⁰ He said, “I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself.” ¹¹ He said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?” ¹² The man said, “The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate.” ¹³ Then the Lord God said to the woman, “What is this that you have done?” The woman said, “The serpent tricked me, and I ate.” ¹⁴ The Lord God said to the serpent,

“Because you have done this, cursed are you among all animals and among all wild creatures; upon your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life.

¹⁵ I will put enmity between you and the woman and between your offspring and hers; he will strike your head, and you will strike his heel.”

¹⁶ To the woman he said,
“I will make your pangs in childbirth exceedingly great;
in pain you shall bring forth children,
yet your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you.”

¹⁷ And to the man he said,
“Because you have listened to the voice of your wife
and have eaten of the tree about which I commanded you,
‘You shall not eat of it,’ cursed is the ground because of you;
in toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life;

¹⁸ thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you;
and you shall eat the plants of the field.

¹⁹ By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread until you return to the
ground, for out of it you were taken; you are dust,
and to dust you shall return.”

R: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand as you are able for the reading of the Gospel.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



☩ Re - turn to the Lord, your God, who is gra - cious and mer - ci - ful,



slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

READING OF THE GOSPEL

MATTHEW 6:1-6, 16-21

P: This is the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 4th chapter.

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

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹ “Beware of practicing your righteousness 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. ³ But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴ so 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. ⁶ But 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 somber, like the hypocrites, for they mark their faces to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ¹⁷ But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, ¹⁸ so 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, ²⁰ but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

P: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Please be seated.

TODAY’S REFLECTION

REV. CLAYTON J. BAILEY

THE TREE OF KNOWLEDGE OF GOOD & EVIL

Please stand.

HYMN OF THE DAY

BEHOLD THE TREE

*Sung to: Erhalt Uns, Herr LM
"The Glory of These Forty Days"*

***Behold the tree; its lesson learn:
Unto the Lord your God return,
For he is gracious unto those
For whom his mercy overflows.***

***Behold the tree; the tempter's voice
Unfolds a cataclysmic choice.
And so a wondrous forecast see
Of yet another blessed tree.***

***As Eve and Adam once were told
A tree's harsh lesson to behold,
So may we in repentance turn,
Behold the tree, its lesson learn.***

***With Eve and Adam lift your eyes
To God restoring paradise:
The cross, that blest life-giving tree,
Our doorway to eternity!***

INVITATION TO LENT

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.

THE CONFESSION

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

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.**

A: 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.**

A: 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.

A: 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.

THE PRAYER AND BLESSING OVER THE ASHES

P: Let us pray. Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth. May these ashes be a sign of our mortality and penitence, reminding us that only by the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ are we given eternal life; through the same Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

Please be seated.

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

At this time all those who desire the imposition of ashes may come forward.

Following the Imposition of Ashes all are invited to stand.

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.**

OFFERING & OFFERING MUSIC

OFFERING PRAYER

A: Let us pray. O God, maker of heaven and earth,

C: **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.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Musical notation for the first line of 'The Great Thanksgiving'. It consists of two measures of music on a treble clef staff with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature (C). The melody is: G4 (quarter), A4-B4 (beamed eighth notes), C5 (quarter), B4-A4 (beamed eighth notes), G4 (quarter). The lyrics are: P The Lord be with you. C And al - so with you.

Musical notation for the second line of 'The Great Thanksgiving'. It consists of two measures of music on a treble clef staff with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature (C). The melody is: G4 (quarter), A4-B4 (beamed eighth notes), C5 (quarter), B4-A4 (beamed eighth notes), G4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), A4-B4 (beamed eighth notes), C5 (quarter). The lyrics are: P Lift up your hearts. C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give our thanks and praise.

THE PROPER PREFACE

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:

SANCTUS

C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,
 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, bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the
 Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

P: God of our weary years, God of our silent tears, you have brought us this far along the way. In times of bitterness you did not abandon us, but guided us into the path of love and light.

In every age you sent prophets to make known your loving will for all humanity. The cry of the poor has become your own cry; our hunger and thirst for justice is your own desire. In the fullness of time, you sent your chosen servant to preach good news to the afflicted, to break bread with the outcast and despised, and to ransom those in bondage to prejudice and sin.

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 all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, his death and resurrection, we await the day when Jesus shall return to free all the earth from the bonds of slavery and death.

Send your Holy Spirit, our advocate, to fill the hearts of all who share this bread and cup with courage and wisdom to pursue love and justice in all the world.

Join our prayers and praise with your prophets and martyrs of every age, that, rejoicing in the hope of the resurrection, we might live in the freedom and hope of your Son.

Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.

C: Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

A: As our Savior Christ has taught us, together we are bold to pray.

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.

Please be seated.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: Come to the table. Feast on God's goodness and mercy.

AGNUS DEI



DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

At Grace, all are welcome to the Table of the Lord. At the ushers invitation, you are invited to come forward to receive the bread and wine. Grape juice is offered as an additional substitute. As you return to your seat using the side aisle, there is a basket to dispose of your individual communion cup. Those who would like a blessing are also welcome to come forward. Simply ask Pastor for a blessing instead of taking communion.

COMMUNION HYMN

ELW # 601

SAVIOR, WHEN IN DUST TO YOU

After all have communed, you will be invited to stand.

TABLE BLESSING

P: The Body and Blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A: Let us pray. God of our salvation, we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls, reconciles us to you, and strengthens us for the journey. Through the body and blood of your Son, may we become Christ's body in the world, bearing witness to your love for all creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: **Amen.**

BENEDICTION

P: Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity:
God, who calls all things into existence,
Jesus Christ, who redeems us,
and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation,
bless you now and always.

C: **Amen.**

ABIDE WITH ME

DISMISSAL

- A:** Go in peace.
- P:** Believe the good news.
- C:** **Thanks be to God!**

THIS WEEK AT GRACE **February 18 - 22, 2026**

Today: **ASH WEDNESDAY**
 12:30 – Worship with Communion & Imposition of Ashes
 6:30 – Worship with Communion & Imposition of Ashes
 Thursday: 11:30 - Soup Kitchen
 6:00 – Grace Gathers at The Chateau
 Friday: -----
 Saturday: 4:00 - Worship/Communion
 5:00 – Pack 302 Pinewood Derby
 Sunday: 9:00 - Worship/Communion/Kids Zone
 10:15 - Confirmation

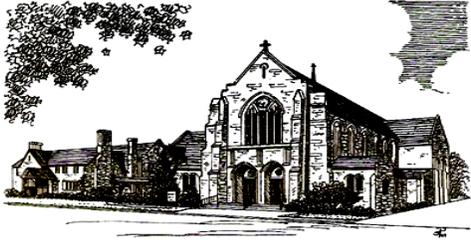
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Called to Present the Light of Christ!