

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church

Jackson, Minnesota

Ash Wednesday
February 18, 2026



P Dear 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 on His Word and draws from it 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; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

Litany for Ash Wednesday

- P** O Lord,
C have mercy.
- P** O Christ,
C have mercy.
- P** O Lord,
C have mercy.
- P** O Christ,
C hear us.
- P** God the Father in heaven,
C have mercy.
- P** God the Son, Redeemer of the world,
C have mercy.
- P** God the Holy Spirit,
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 time of our tribulation; in all time of 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 teaching of Your Word; to bless our prayer and meditation; to strengthen and preserve us in the true faith; and 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 our 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 hear us.

P O Lord,

C have mercy.

P O Christ,

C have mercy.

P O Lord,

C have mercy. Amen.

P O God, You desire not the death of sinners, but rather that they turn from their wickedness and live. We implore You to have compassion on the frailty of our mortal nature, for we acknowledge that we are dust and to dust we shall return. Mercifully pardon our sins that we may obtain the promises You have laid up for those who are repentant; 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

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

Hymn “Savior, When in Dust To Thee” **419**

Confession and Absolution

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

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

C **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You 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; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Psalmody

Psalm 51:1–13 ESV

- P** Have mercy on me, O God, according to Your steadfast love;
C according to Your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.
- P** Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin!
C For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.
- P** Against You, You only, have I sinned and done what is evil in Your sight,
C so that You may be justified in Your words and blameless in Your judgment.
- P** Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me.
C Behold, You delight in truth in the inward being, and You teach me wisdom in the secret heart.
- P** Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.
C Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that You have broken rejoice.
- P** Hide Your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.
C Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.
- P** Cast me not away from Your presence, and take not Your Holy Spirit from me.
C Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit.
- P** Then I will teach transgressors Your ways, and sinners will return to You.
C Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Kyrie

- P** Lord have mercy.
C Christ have mercy. Lord have mercy.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

- P** The Lord be with you. **C** And also with you.
P Let us pray: Almighty and everlasting God, You despise nothing You have made and forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create

in us new and contrite hearts that lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness we may receive from You full pardon and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Old Testament Reading

Joel 2:12–19 ESV

- ¹² “Yet even now,” declares the LORD,
“return to me with all your heart,
with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;
¹³ and rend your hearts and not your garments.”
Return to the LORD your God,
for he is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love;
and he relents over disaster.
- 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;
consecrate a fast;
call a solemn assembly;
¹⁶ gather the people.
Consecrate the congregation;
assemble the elders;
gather the children,
even nursing infants.
Let the bridegroom leave his room,
and the bride her chamber.
- ¹⁷ Between the vestibule and the altar
let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep
and say, “Spare your people, O LORD,
and make not your heritage a reproach,
a byword among the nations.
Why should they say among the peoples,
‘Where is their God?’ ”
- ¹⁸ Then the LORD became jealous for his land
and had pity on his people.
- ¹⁹ The LORD answered and said to his people,
“Behold, I am sending to you

grain, wine, and oil,
and you will be satisfied;
and I will no more make you
a reproach among the nations.”

P This is the Word of the Lord. **C** Thanks be to God.

Gradual

Hebrews 12:2

P O come, let us fix our eyes on Jesus,

C the founder and perfecter of our faith,

P who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising
the shame,

C and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

Epistle

Ephesians 3:14–19 ESV

¹⁴For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, ¹⁵from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, ¹⁶that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, ¹⁷so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, ¹⁸may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, ¹⁹and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

P This is the Word of the Lord. **C** Thanks be to God.

Verse

Joel 2:13b

Spoken by all: **Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

Holy Gospel

St. Matthew 6:1–6, 16–21 ESV

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the ninth chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

¹[Jesus said:] “Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them, for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven.

²“Thus, when you give to the needy, sound no trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be praised by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward.

³But 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. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

⁵“And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. ⁶ But when 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 when you fast, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. ¹⁷ But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, ¹⁸ that your fasting may not be seen by others but by your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

¹⁹“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, ²⁰ but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

☐ This is the Gospel of the Lord. **☩** Praise to You, O Christ.

Nicene Creed

158

Hymn

“O Love, How Deep”

544 vv. 1, 5, 6

Sermon

Ephesians 3:14–19

“O Love, How Deep, How Broad, How High”

Prayer of the Church

☐ Let us bring our requests to God, whose love knows no bounds.

For all who do not know our loving Lord, that He would bring the news of Christ to their ears, strengthen them in faith, and urge them to live in love, let us pray to the Lord.

☩ O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare Your praise.

☐ For the church, that God would open doors of opportunity for leaders and members to proclaim the Gospel, that schisms within it be mended, that the faithful be protected in body and soul, and that all people of faith find joy in their ministry, let us pray to the Lord.

☩ Grant them, O God, to be strengthened with power through Your Spirit.

- P** Where there is conflict and warfare between nations, that God would move leaders and citizens to seek peace with their neighbors and calm within their borders, let us pray to the Lord.
- C Dwell in their hearts, O Christ, through faith.**
- P** Where the old and young are forgotten, the sick and grieving ignored, and the needs of any are not met, that God would prosper the work of farmers and ranchers, relief agencies and civic leaders to provide for their needs, [*and especially . . .*], let us pray to the Lord.
- C Grant that all caregivers reflect God’s love and be gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.**
- P** For each of us, that our service to God, our concern for one another, and the mission He puts before us be joyful endeavors we seek for the growth of the church and glory of God, let us pray to the Lord.
- C Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit. Amen.**

Offering

Offertory **159-160**

Service of the Sacrament **160-166**

Brief responses are spoken.

Distribution Hymns **707, 694, 615**

Post-Communion Canticle “Nunc Dimittis” **165**

Closing Hymn **418**

“O Lord, throughout These Forty Days”

Postlude



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