

LARGE PRINT EDITION



HOLY COMMUNION

with imposition of ashes

Ash Wednesday

February 18, 2026 + 7:00 pm

The practice of faith:

fasting, prayer, acts of love

All Are Welcome! Mt Carmel at 100 – Past Present Promise 1926 - 2026

Jesus is a home for the homeless poor

Lent begins with a solemn call to fasting and repentance as we begin our journey to the baptismal waters of Easter. As we hear in today's readings, now is the acceptable time to return to the Lord. During Lent the people of God will reflect on the meaning of their baptism into Christ's death and resurrection. The sign of ashes suggests our human mortality and frailty. What seems like an ending is really an invitation to make each day a new beginning, in which we are washed in God's mercy and forgiveness. With the cross on our brow, we long for the spiritual renewal that flows from the springtime Easter feast to come.

GATHERING

PRELUDE

"Dona Nobis Pacem" (*Grant Us Peace*)

Jubilate Bells

At the sound of the bell please stand and face the worship leaders.

GATHERING HYMN

(*hymn*) ELW 602

"Your Heart, O God, Is Grieved"

Leader O God, Father in heaven, have mercy upon us.
**All Your heart, O God, is grieved, we know,
by ev'ry evil, ev'ry woe;
upon your cross-forsaken Son
our death is laid, and peace is won.**

Leader O Son of God, redeemer of the world,
have mercy upon us.
**All Your arms extend, O Christ, to save
from sting of death and grasp of grave;
your scars before the Father move
his heart to mercy at such love.**

Leader O God, Holy Spirit, have mercy upon us.
**All O lavish Giver, come to aid
the children that your word has made.
Now make us grow and help us pray;
bring joy and comfort; come to stay.**

Text: Jiří Tranovský, 1591-1637; tr. Jaroslav J. Vajda, b. 1919
Tr. © 1970 Concordia Publishing House

GREETING

P Blessed be the holy Trinity + one God,
our life and our salvation.

C Thanks be to God.

INVITATION TO LENT

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Friends in Christ...

CONFESSION OF SIN

P Let us confess our sin ...

(front) p. 252

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 own 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.**

P 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.

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

(front) p. 254

The presider introduces the imposition of ashes with these or similar words.

P 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.

Members of the assembly are invited to come forward and stand or kneel to receive the sign of ashes. Ministers mark the forehead of each person with a cross of ashes, saying:

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

MUSIC FOR REFLECTION – “Elegy”

After those who desire ashes have received them, all may kneel or sit, and the presiding minister continues...

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.

HYMN

(hymn) **ELW 188**

“Create in Me a Clean Heart”

**C Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from your presence,
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.
Restore to me the joy of your salvation.
and uphold me with your free Spirit.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

Gracious God, out of your love and mercy you breathed into dust the breath of life, creating us to serve you and our neighbors. Call forth our prayers, generosity and acts of kindness, and strengthen us to face our mortality with confidence in the mercy 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.

The presider continues with words of welcome.

WORD

FIRST READING

Return to the Lord, your God

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17



Because of the coming Day of the Lord, the prophet Joel calls the people to a community lament. The repentant community reminds God of his gracious character and asks God to spare the people, lest the nations doubt God's power to save.

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--
²a 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.
¹²Yet even now, says the LORD,
 return to me with all your heart,
with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;
 ¹³rend 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.
¹⁴Who 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?
¹⁵Blow the trumpet in Zion; sanctify a fast;
call a solemn assembly; ¹⁶gather 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.
¹⁷Between 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?' "

...The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 51:1-17

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love. (51:1)

A Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;
in your great compassion blot out my offenses.

**C Wash me through and through from my wickedness,
and cleanse me from my sin.**

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

A Against you only have I sinned
and done what is evil in your sight; so you are justified
when you speak and right in your judgment.

**C Indeed, I was born steeped in wickedness,
a sinner from my mother's womb.**

A Indeed, you delight in truth deep within me,
and would have me know wisdom deep within.

**C Remove my sins with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be purer than snow.**

**Let me hear joy and gladness;
that the body you have broken may rejoice.**

A Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my wickedness.

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

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

**Restore to me the joy of your salvation
and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.**

A Let me teach your ways to offenders,
and sinners shall be restored to you.
Rescue me from bloodshed, O God of my salvation,
and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness.

**C O Lord, open my lips,
and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.
For you take no delight in sacrifice, or I would give it.
You are not pleased with burnt offering.**

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

**C Give praise to the Father Almighty;
to the Son, Jesus Christ, the Lord;
to the Spirit who dwells in our hearts;
both now and forever. Amen.**

SECOND READING

Now is the day of salvation

2 Corinthians 5:20b – 6:1-10

The ministry of the gospel endures many challenges and hardships. Through this ministry, God's reconciling activity in the death of Christ reaches into the depths of our lives to bring us into a right relationship with God. In this way, God accepts us into the reality of divine salvation.

Paul writes to the church at Corinth:

We entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

^{6:1}As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. ²For he says, "At an acceptable time I have listened to you, and on a day of salvation I have helped you." See, now is the

acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation! ³We are putting no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, ⁴but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, ⁵beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; ⁶by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, ⁷truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; ⁸in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; ⁹as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see—we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; ¹⁰as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

LENTEN GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Joel 2:13

The assembly stands to welcome the gospel, singing: ELW setting 3, p. 142

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

GOSPEL

The practice of faith

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus commends almsgiving, prayer, and fasting, but emphasizes that spiritual devotion must not be done for show.

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said to the disciples:

“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.

P The gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to you, O Christ!**

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

(hymn) ELW 592

“Just As I Am”

**1 Just as I am, without one plea,
but that thy blood was shed for me,
and that thou bidd'st me come to thee,**

O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

**2 Just as I am, though tossed about
with many a conflict, many a doubt,
fightings and fears within, without,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.**

**3 Just as I am, thou wilt receive,
wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
because thy promise I believe,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come,**

**4 Just as I am; thy love unknown
has broken ev'ry barrier down;
now to be thine, yea, thine alone,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.**

Text: Charlotte Elliott, 1789-1871

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Prayers are offered for the Church, the earth, the nations, and those in any need.

... in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P ... through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

MEAL

PEACE

P In Jesus Christ God has made peace with us.

The peace of Christ be with you always.

C And also with you.

The assembly is invited to share God's peace with one another.

OFFERING

When bread and wine are broken and shared in the Lord's Supper an offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need. Please leave your offerings in the plates as they are passed, at the usher desk or give online. During this time, the table is set. Please stand as the offering procession reaches the chancel. Thank you for your generosity.

"What Wondrous Love"

M. Walker

Offertory Prayer

A Let us pray together.

C **Merciful Father,**

we offer with thanksgiving what you have first given us- ourselves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

The presider continues with the Great Thanksgiving, concluding:

Lord's Prayer (1789)

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.

Breaking of the Bread and Invitation to Communion

Communion

"Lamb of God"

(ELW setting 3)

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

silence for reflection concludes the communion

Prayer after Communion

A Let us pray. God of mercy, we give you thanks for seating us at your table and serving us with the food of eternal life. We who once were dead are now living members of your Son.

Accompany our journey through these forty days. Send us out to awaken others to the mystery of your love, revealed in the one who came to give himself away, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C **Amen.**

SENDING

BENEDICTION

P May God who has called us forth from the dust of the earth, and claimed us as children of the light, strengthen you on your journey into life renewed.

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

C **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

(hymn) ELW 793

“Be Thou My Vision”

- 1 Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
naught be all else to me, save that thou art:
thou my best thought both by day and by night,
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.**
- 2 Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word;
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord.
Thou my soul's shelter, and thou my high tow'r,
raise thou me heav'nward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.**
- 3 Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise,
thou mine inheritance, now and always:
thou and thou only, the first in my heart,
great God of heaven, my treasure thou art.**
- 4 Light of my soul, after victory won,
may I reach heaven's joys, O heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.**

Text: Irish, 8th cent.; vers. Eleanor H. Hull, 1860-1935, alt.; tr. Mary E. Byrne, 1880-1931

[ANNOUNCEMENTS & SERVING OPPORTUNITIES]

DISMISSAL

A Marked with the cross of Christ, go forth to love and serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

The assembly departs in silence.

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SERVING TODAY

Pastor Foy Christopherson, *presiding*

Karen Moeller, *assisting minister*

Stephenie Labandz, *reader*

Ruth Bills, *director of music & worship*

Chancel Choir Jubilate Bells

Julie and Dave Larson, *technology desk*

Janell Partyka, *sacristan/altar guild*

___, *confirmation sacristan*

Steve Ristuben, *Confirmation class, ushers*

This service is being streamed live on the internet.

WORSHIP LIFE

Ashes

Ashes. Ashes are left after the thing itself is gone. The life is gone. Even the fire is gone. They are the ruins of life. Dust and ashes are the barest remains of something that might have been waiting for God.

We are dust, we say with honesty. We are in death and the stuff of death is all around us. We wait for God and so for life. We are marked with ashes. We are marked with our need and the need of all things.

But one waits with us, shares our dust and is made into our ashes, “made to be sin for us,” says St. Paul, given into death with us. But when his sign is traced on our foreheads, we are invited to believe that the waiting is in confidence and joy. This day we turn towards the Easter feast, dust turning toward the breath and power of God. All of us turn, accompanying those who are going to be baptized, as if toward our own baptism.

The disciplines of Lent are the disciplines of those going toward baptism. We confess our need for life, our inadequacy. We stand with all of humanity, will all those who beg for life.

– Gordon Lathrop, adapted

WELCOME

Everyone is welcome. We are a faith community participating in the life of God, a life that is a gift to us and in which we are actively engaged. That gift compels us to be actively engaged in the neighborhoods of Northeast Minneapolis as well. We are a multigenerational community that proudly celebrates our history while joining together with younger generations to follow where God is leading. We build our community through faith practices like prayer, dwelling in the Word and hospitality.

Guests are welcome. We are pleased you are worshiping with us today. If you would like more information about

Welcome to the Lord's Table. All who come seeking Jesus are welcome at the Lord's Table. Please follow the guidance of the ushers and instructions in the order of service. During communion, ministers will bring bread and wine to you where you are seated if you require accessibility accommodation. Please inform the ushers. Communion may be received in one kind (only bread or only wine) from any station if wheat bread or alcohol presents a health concern. White grape juice is available by request at most liturgies from most communion stations.



Digital giving is available at Mt. Carmel. You can easily donate online through our website at mountcarmelmpls.org and click on **Give**. Mt. Carmel Lutheran is supported by generous people like you. Questions? Contact the church office at 612-781-2796.



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