



ASH WEDNESDAY

FEBRUARY 18, 2026 | 10:00 AM AND 7:00 PM
ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH; CONCORDIA, MO

ABOUT TODAY'S WORSHIP

In the Book of Exodus, Moses asks Pharaoh to let God's people go seven times (Ex 5:1; 7:16; 8:1, 20; 9:1, 13; 10:3), and Pharaoh finally does it! When he does, God's salvation is so amazing that the event becomes the Gospel of the Old Testament. Israel's Scriptures mention the exodus 125 times! Throughout the book, God reveals who He is through His absence and His presence, through His silence and His speech, through His wrath and His mercy, and through His judgment and His amazing grace. In doing so, the book paints a beautiful portrait of our Savior Jesus. *Worship Wednesdays in Lent and on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday at 10 am and 7 pm.*

P Pastor

C Congregation/All

✠ All may make the sign of the cross to remember their baptism.



Led by the Holy Spirit, we gather for worship.

We are prepared for worship through Confession and Absolution.

*Prior to the service, all who wish to do so
may come forward for the Imposition of Ashes.*

Ashes have been a symbol of contrition since biblical times: "I despise myself, and repent in dust and ashes" (Job 42:6). They are also vivid reminders of mortality: "You are dust, and to dust you shall return" (Genesis 3:19). Therefore, the imposition of ashes has been a fitting beginning for the season of Lent.

The ashes consist of the remains of the previous Palm Sunday's burned palms and are applied to the forehead in the sign of the cross. Although powerfully speaking the law (sorrow for our sinfulness and mortality), ashes also speak the Gospel as they are applied in the shape of the cross, where sin and death were conquered and we are cleansed of our sin.

PRELUDE, WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

INVITATION TO LENTEN DISCIPLINE

- 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 so that we may come to Easter with glad hearts and keep the feast in sincerity and truth. 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 Lord,
- C** **bring us with all Your saints to the joy of His resurrection. Amen.**

OPENING HYMN *“Now, Even Now, Declare a Fast” (See insert.)*

CONFESSION OF SINS & FORGIVENESS

2 Corinthians 6:2 NIV; Genesis 3:19; Joel 2:12; Psalm 51:17; John 3:16–17

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** **Amen.**
- P** The Lord says, “In the time of my favor I heard you, and in the day of salvation I helped you.”
- C** **But we are dust, and to dust we shall return.**
- P** “Yet even now,” declares the Lord, “return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning.”
- C** **The sacrifice the Lord desires is a broken and contrite heart; it will not be despised.**
- 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** “God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.” 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.**

SALUTATION & COLLECT OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P 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, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.



We hear God's Word read and proclaimed,
and we respond with our prayers and praise, tithes and offerings.

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Exodus 2:1–10*

Moses is born.

Now a man from the house of Levi went and took as his wife a Levite woman. ²The woman conceived and bore a son, and when she saw that he was a fine child, she hid him three months. ³When she could hide him no longer, she took for him a basket made of bulrushes and daubed it with bitumen and pitch. She put the child in it and placed it among the reeds by the river bank. ⁴And his sister stood at a distance to know what would be done to him. ⁵Now the daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river, while her young women walked beside the river. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her servant woman, and she took it. ⁶When she opened it, she saw the child,

and behold, the baby was crying. She took pity on him and said, "This is one of the Hebrews' children." ⁷Then his sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, "Shall I go and call you a nurse from the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?" ⁸And Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Go." So the girl went and called the child's mother. ⁹And Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Take this child away and nurse him for me, and I will give you your wages." So the woman took the child and nursed him. ¹⁰When the child grew older, she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and he became her son. She named him Moses, "Because," she said, "I drew him out of the water."

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE *2 Corinthians 5:16–21*

Whereas we once regarded other people from the world's point of view, we now see that anyone who is in Christ is a new creation. We have been reconciled with God and one another through Jesus Christ our Savior.

¹⁶From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though

we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer.

¹⁷Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. ¹⁸All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

HOLY GOSPEL *Matthew 6:1–6, 16–21*

Jesus teaches that we should not practice piety in ways that needlessly draw attention to ourselves in the hopes of being praised by others. Instead, our hearts and treasures should be secure in heaven.

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the sixth chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

¹“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, ⁴so 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. ⁶But 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. ...

²¹For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

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.

¹⁷But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, ¹⁸that 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, ²⁰but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

NICENE CREED *See the inside back cover of the hymnal.*

SERMON HYMN 419 *“Savior, When in Dust to Thee”*

SERMON *Let My People Go!: “Big Things with Small Stuff”*

GATHERING OUR TITHES & OFFERINGS

All may sign the friendship register found in each pew.

Music during the offering (7:00 pm):

PSALM SETTING *“Have Mercy on Us, O Lord” (Psalm 51) by Scott Soper*
(Join the choir in singing the refrain below as you feel comfortable.)

Have mer-cy on us, O God. Have mer-cy on us, O

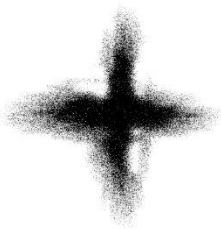
God. Have mer-cy on us, O God, for we have sinned.

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PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

After each petition:

- P** Lord, in Your mercy,
- G** hear our prayer.





We receive God's gifts of forgiveness, life, and salvation
as we share the Sacrament of the Altar.

PREFACE

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** And also with you.
- 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 Him thanks and praise.
- P** It is truly good, right, and salutary ... evermore praising You and singing:

SANCTUS | Holy, Holy, Holy *Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9*

Tune: SOUTHWELL ("Lord Jesus, Think on Me")

- C** (sung) O holy Lord of hosts,
Our loud hosannas cry:
Bring Your almighty pow'r to bear;
Save us, O Lord, we pray.

WORDS OF OUR LORD

Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24; Luke 22:19–20; 1 Corinthians 11:23–25

PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST *1 Corinthians 11:26*

- P** As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.
- C** Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

LORD'S PRAYER *Matthew 6:9–13*

- P** O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us 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.

PAX DOMINI | Peace of the Lord *John 20:19*

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

AGNUS DEI | Lamb of God *John 1:29*

Tune: SOUTHWELL ("Lord Jesus, Think on Me")

C (sung) **O spotless Lamb of God**

Who takes away our sin,

By Your great mercy and Your grace

Wash us without, within.

We believe that in the Lord's Supper our Lord gives to us His true body and blood with the bread and the wine for the forgiveness of our sins. We recognize the charge that St. Paul offers in 1 Corinthians 11:27–28 that those who come to receive the Lord's Supper ought to examine themselves so that they do not eat and drink in an unworthy manner. Therefore, out of concern for those who have not been instructed in the faith or who hold to a different confession, we ask that only members of Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod congregations receive the Sacrament. If you would like to learn more about what our congregation teaches, to inquire about becoming a member or have questions about our practice, please speak to one of the pastors. Adults and children who have not yet been baptized or instructed in the Christian faith are invited to come forward and receive a spoken blessing at the altar rail; please indicate this by crossing your arms across your chest.

For those who require it, diluted wine is found in the purple glasses in the center of the tray of individual cups; gluten free wafers are available upon request.

Music during distribution:

DUET "Prelude on 'Aberystwyth'" arr. by Robert J. Powell (7 pm)

HYMN 615 "When in the Hour of Deepest Need"

HYMN 611 "Chief of Sinners Though I Be"

HYMN 609 "Jesus Sinners Doth Receive"



Even as this time of worship ends, we go out of the church into the worship of our everyday lives, ready to be God's witnesses and do His will.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER & BENEDICTION

CLOSING HYMN 616 “*Baptismal Waters Cover Me*”

SENDING & POSTLUDE

P Go in peace; serve the Lord.

G Thanks be to God!

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SERVING IN THIS SERVICE

Rev. Michael Pottschmidt, *Liturgist*

Rev. Andrew Lehenbauer, *Preacher*

John Jacobsen, Katie Drefs, *Organist*

Sarah Sullivan, Kahlan Haase, *Clarinete (7:00 pm)*

Lindsay McKeage, *Flute (7:00 pm)*

Elijah Rankin, *Soloist (7:00 pm)*

Henry Mills, Jonah Virus, *Acolytes (7:00 pm)*



"Making a Christ-centered difference in our community and world today and for eternity."

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