

Ash Wednesday, Feb. 18, 2026

Prelude

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GATHERING HYMN                      ELW #157 "Kyrie"

Leader: In peace, in peace, let us pray to the Lord.

All: **Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.**

For the reign of God, and for peace throughout the world,  
for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.**

For your people here who have come to give you praise,  
for the strength to live your word, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.**

Help, save, and defend us, O God. **Amen.**

PSALM 51 (*responsive reading*)

Have mercy on me O God in your great kindness:  
in the fullness of your mercy blot out my offences.

Wash away all my guilt:

and cleanse me from my sin.

**Create in me a clean heart, O God.**

For I acknowledge my faults:  
and my sin is always before me.

Against you only have I sinned  
and done evil in your sight.

**Create in me a clean heart, O God.**

Create in me a clean heart O God:  
and renew a right spirit within me.

Do not cast me away from your presence:  
do not take your holy spirit from me.

**Create in me a clean heart, O God.**

Give me the joy of your help again:  
and strengthen me with a willing spirit.

O Lord open my lips:

and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.

**Create in me a clean heart, O God.**



## INVITATION TO LENT

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.

## CONFESSION OF SIN

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

*(The assembly sits. Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.)*

Most holy and merciful God,

**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.**

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, O God.**

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.

**Have mercy on us, O God.**

Our past unfaithfulness, the pride, envy, hypocrisy, and apathy that have infected our lives, we confess to you.

**Have mercy on us, O God.**

Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people, we confess to you.

**Have mercy on us, O God.**

Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to share the faith that is in us, we confess to you.

**Have mercy on us, O God.**

Our neglect of human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty, we confess to you.

**Have mercy on us, O God.**

Our false judgments, our uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us, we confess to you.

**Have mercy on us, O God.**

Our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us, we confess to you.

**Have mercy on us, O God.**

Restore us, O God, and let your anger depart from us.

**Hear us, O God, for your mercy is great.**

### Imposition of Ashes

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.

**Amen.**

*(People may come forward to receive the ashes.)*

Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation,

**that we may show forth your glory in the world.**

By the cross and passion of your Son, our Savior,

**bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.**

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.

**Amen.**

### WORDS OF INSTITUTION

#### THE LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered as one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.**

## DISTRIBUTION HYMN    ELW #485 - vs 1, 2, 4    "I Am The Bread of Life"

- 1 "I am the Bread of life.  
 You who come to me shall not hunger,  
 and who believe in me shall not thirst.  
 No one can come to me unless the Father beckons."

***Refrain***

**"And I will raise you up,  
 and I will raise you up,  
 and I will raise you up on the last day."**

- 2 "The bread that I will give  
 is my flesh for the life of the world,  
 and if you eat of this bread,  
 you shall live forever, you shall live forever."    ***To Refrain***

- 4 "I am the resurrection,  
 I am the life.  
 If you believe in me,  
 even though you die, you shall live forever."    ***To Refrain***

## POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

## PRAYER

Let us pray. Merciful God, **accompany our journey through these forty days. Renew us in the gift of baptism, that we may provide for those who are poor, pray for those in need, fast from self-indulgence, and above all that we may find our treasure in the life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

## BLESSING

Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.    **Amen.**

## SENDING HYMN    ELW #803    “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”

- 1 When I survey the wondrous cross  
on which the prince of glory died,  
my richest gain I count but loss  
and pour contempt on all my pride.
- 2 Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast  
save in the death of Christ, my God;  
all the vain things that charm me most,  
I sacrifice them to his blood.
- 3 See, from his head, his hands, his feet,  
sorrow and love flow mingled down.  
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,  
or thorns compose so rich a crown?
- 4 Were the whole realm of nature mine,  
that were a present far too small;  
love so amazing, so divine,  
demands my soul, my life, my all.

Dismissal

Go forth into the world to serve God with gladness;  
be of good courage;  
hold fast to that which is good;  
render to no one evil for evil;  
strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak;  
help the afflicted; honor all people;  
love and serve God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

**Thanks be to God.**