



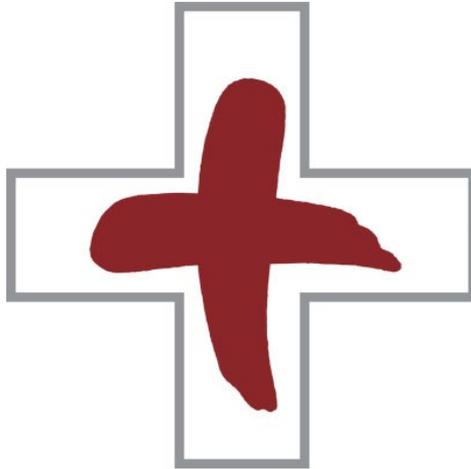
# St. John's Lutheran Church

A congregation of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod

## **Ash Wednesday**

**February 18, 2026**

**12:15pm & 7 pm Worship**



**Behold, the Lamb of God**

## From Ashes to Mercy

*On Ash Wednesday, we begin the solemn journey of Lent, marked by ashes and the honest confession of our mortality and sin. As we behold the Lamb of God, we are called to repentance and renewed faith, trusting not in ourselves but in Christ's mercy. From dust we have come, and to dust we shall return, yet in the Lamb who was slain, we find forgiveness, hope, and the promise of new life.*

**Hymn**      "O Lord, throughout These Forty Days"      *LSB 418*

O Lord, throughout these forty days

    You prayed and kept the fast;

Inspire repentance for our sin,

    And free us from our past.

You strove with Satan, and You won;

    Your faithfulness endured;

Lend us Your nerve, Your skill and trust

    In God's eternal Word.

Though parched and hungry, yet You prayed

    And fixed Your mind above;

So teach us to deny ourselves,

    Since we have known God's love.

Be with us through this season, Lord,

    And all our earthly days,

That when the final Easter dawns,

    We join in heaven's praise.

## Invocation and Confession

**P**    In the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C**    **Amen.**

**P**    Our help is in the name of the Lord,

**C**    **Who made heaven and earth.**

**P**    Why are you cast down, o my soul, and why are you disquieted within me?

**C**    **Hope in God; for we shall praise Him, our help and our God.**

- P As we gather this Ash Wednesday, let us humble ourselves before God, our Creator and Redeemer, and confess our sin.
- C Lord God, it is hard to think that we will die someday. We dream, make plans, and talk about what we'll do in the near future. We don't always think about what You want. Instead, we make choices that we think are good for us. But we are only here because You take care of us. We confess that we forget we need You all the time. We confess that sometimes we make choices that aren't what You want. We don't know what is best for our lives. Holy God, we are sorry for our sin. Help us to remember we live because of You. Help us to do what You want us to do through Jesus, our Lord. Amen.**
- P Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows. He was wounded for our transgressions and bruised for our iniquities. Upon Him was the chastisement that makes us whole, and with His stripes we are healed. He will feed his flock like a shepherd and gather the lambs in His arms. Take heart, brothers and sisters in Christ, your sins are forgiven.
- C Amen.**

## Responsive Psalm

*Psalm 51:1-13*

- P Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.
- C Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin!**
- P For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.
- C Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, 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.

## **Collect for Ash Wednesday**

**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, Your Son, 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*

“Yet even now,” declares the Lord, “return to me with all our heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; 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. 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? Blow the trumpet in Zion; consecrate a fast; call a solemn assembly; 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. 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?’” Then the Lord became jealous for his Land and had pity on his people. 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.**

## **Epistle**

*2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10*

We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. Working together with him, then, we appeal to you not to receive the grace of God in vain. For he says, “In a favorable

time I listened to you, and in a day of salvation I have helped you.” Behold, now is the favorable time; behold, now is the day of salvation. We put no obstacle in anyone’s way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, but as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: by great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, the Holy Spirit, genuine love; by truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; through honor and dishonor, through slander and praise. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold, we live; as punished, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, yet possessing everything.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

## Holy Gospel

*Matthew 6:1–6, 16–21*

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

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

[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. “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. But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you. “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. 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. . . .

“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. But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, 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. “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and

where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C** **Praise to You, O Christ.**

## **Apostles’ Creed**

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.  
He descended into hell.  
The third day He rose again from the dead.  
He ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.  
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy Christian Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life T everlasting. Amen.**

## **Hymn**      “From Depths of Woe I Cry to Thee”

*LSB 607*

From depths of woe I cry to Thee,  
In trial and tribulation;  
Bend down Thy gracious ear to me,  
Lord, hear my supplication.  
If Thou rememb’rest ev’ry sin,  
Who then could heaven ever win  
Or stand before Thy presence?

Thy love and grace alone avail  
To blot out my transgression;  
The best and holiest deeds must fail  
To break sin’s dread oppression.

Before Thee none can boasting stand,  
But all must fear Thy strict demand  
And live alone by mercy.

Therefore my hope is in the Lord  
And not in mine own merit;  
It rests upon His faithful Word  
To them of contrite spirit  
That He is merciful and just;  
This is my comfort and my trust.  
His help I wait with patience.

And though it tarry through the night  
And till the morning waken,  
My heart shall never doubt His might  
Nor count itself forsaken.  
O Israel, trust in God your Lord.  
Born of the Spirit and the Word,  
Now wait for His appearing.

Though great our sins, yet greater still  
Is God's abundant favor;  
His hand of mercy never will  
Abandon us, nor waver.  
Our shepherd good and true is He,  
Who will at last His Israel free  
From all their sin and sorrow.

## Sermon

## Offering

### The Imposition of Ashes

*After the minister receives the Imposition of Ashes, those who desire to receive ashes may come forward to the bottom step. The ministers apply the ashes to the forehead of each person in the shape of the cross, saying the words, "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return." After all have returned to their pew, the minister continues...*

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.**

## **The Lord's Prayer**

**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.**

## **Benediction**

**P** The Lord bless thee and keep thee.

The Lord make His face shine upon thee and be gracious to thee.

The Lord lift up His countenance upon thee and T give thee peace.

**C Amen.**

## **Blessing and Dismissal**

**P** May the God of mercy grant you grace to renounce all evil and to cling to Christ, that in every way you may prove to be His loving child.

**C Amen.**

**P** Go in peace, serve the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

## **Hymn**      “Savior, When in Dust to Thee”

*LSB 419*

Savior, when in dust to Thee

Low we bow the\_adoring knee;

When, repentant, to the skies

Scarce we lift our weeping eyes;

O, by all Thy pains and woe

Suffered once for us below,

Bending from Thy throne on high,

Hear our penitential cry!

By Thy helpless infant years,  
By Thy life of want and tears,  
    By Thy days of deep distress  
    In the savage wilderness,  
By the dread, mysterious hour  
Of the\_ insulting tempter's pow'r,  
    Turn, O turn a fav'ring eye;  
    Hear our penitential cry!

By Thine hour of dire despair,  
By Thine agony of prayer,  
    By the cross, the nail, the thorn,  
    Piercing spear, and torturing scorn,  
By the gloom that veiled the skies  
O'er the dreadful sacrifice,  
    Listen to our humble sigh;  
    Hear our penitential cry!

By Thy deep expiring groan,  
By the sad sepulchral stone,  
    By the vault whose dark abode  
    Held in vain the rising God,  
O, from earth to heav'n restored,  
Mighty, reascended Lord,  
    Bending from Thy throne on high,  
    Hear our penitential cry!

## Acknowledgments

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St. John's Lutheran Church & School

### **Our Mission Statement**

"We are here to share the good news of salvation and make disciples of Jesus Christ, in accordance with the Scriptures (Matt. 28:18-20) and with the help of the Holy Spirit. This mission begins with our St. John's family and extends to the Midland Community and the world."