



Christ Lutheran Church

ASH WEDNESDAY

February 18, 2026

Welcome to Christ Lutheran Church. We are glad that you are here to worship with us today! Please sign the pew booklets in the pews. If you are a visitor, please introduce yourself and sign our guest book in the narthex along with the pew booklet.

***Please stand as you are able.**

†Please be seated.

Prelude: Vicky Harris (1:30 PM), Chris Starr (7:00 PM)

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

Welcome

***Invocation & Invitation to Lent**

In the name of the Father, and of the Son †, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

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.

The first Christians observed with great devotion the days of our Lord's passion and resurrection, and it became the custom of the Church to prepare them by a season of penitence and fasting. The season of Lent provided a time in which converts to the faith were prepared for Holy Baptism. It was also a time when those who, because of notorious sin, had been separated from the body of the faithful were reconciled by penitence and forgiveness, and restored to the fellowship of the Church. Thereby, the whole congregation was put in mind of the message of pardon and absolution set forth by the Gospel of our Savior, and the need which all Christians continually have to renew their repentance in faith.

I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church, to the observance to a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's holy Word. **Amen.**

Call to Worship

The grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **Amen.**

Return to the Lord your God. **Christ crucified, I come.**

Behold his miracle of mercy. **Christ crucified, I come.**

Abide in his steadfast love. **Christ crucified, I come.**

Rest in his unflinching faithfulness. **Christ crucified, I come. Amen.**

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever. **Amen.**

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

Compassionate One, **you are slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, but our lives do not always reflect you and your love for the world. We do not show others the tender compassion you have shown to us. We do not welcome others with the radical hospitality you grant to all people. We oppress others, even though you have set us free again and again. We squander the abundant gifts of the earth. Transform our lives and guide us again in the way of the cross. Amen.**

Please silently reflect on the fact that though our sin is great, God's mercy is greater.

Beloved in Christ, God's arms are always stretched open wide to welcome the wandering one's home. In † Christ your sins are forgiven. You have a place in God's house forever. **Amen.**

† Imposition of Ashes

The assembly is invited forward to receive ashes placed upon their foreheads or the back of their hands. The symbol of ashes suggests our human mortality and frailty. What seems like an ending is truly an invitation to make each day a new beginning, in which we are washed in God's mercy and forgiveness. With the ashes placed upon us, it is also a remembrance of our baptism that we have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

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

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 life eternal. **Amen.**

*** Prayer of the Day**

The Lord be with you! **And also with you!** Let us pray:

Almighty and ever-living God, **you hate nothing you have made, and you forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create in us new and honest hearts, so that, truly repenting of our sins, we may receive from you, the God of all mercy, full pardon and forgiveness through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.**

Amen.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

✠First Reading: Psalm 51

¹Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.

²Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.

³For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.

⁴Against you, you alone, have I sinned, and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are justified in your sentence and blameless when you pass judgment.

⁵Indeed, I was born guilty, a sinner when my mother conceived me.

⁶You desire truth in the inward being therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.

⁷Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

⁸Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have crushed rejoice.

⁹Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquities.

¹⁰Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me.

¹¹Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your holy spirit from me.

¹²Restore to me the joy of your salvation and sustain in me a willing spirit.

¹³Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will return to you.

¹⁴Deliver me from bloodshed, O God, O God of my salvation, and my tongue will sing aloud of your deliverance.

¹⁵O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise.

¹⁶For you have no delight in sacrifice; if I were to give a burnt offering, you would not be pleased.

¹⁷The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

¹⁸Do good to Zion in your good pleasure; rebuild the walls of Jerusalem,

¹⁹then you will delight in right sacrifices, in burnt offerings and whole burnt offerings; then bulls will be offered on your altar.

Ash Wednesday Reading: Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

⁶Beware 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.

Message

Rev. Erik Karlson

Hymn of the Day

"Lord Jesus, Think On Me"

ELW # 599

*Prayers of Intercession

God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Sharing of the Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

STEWARDED GOD'S GIFTS

We offer to God what is God's own

✠Offering

[Please remember to send your much appreciated and needed weekly tithes and offerings.]

*Offering Prayer

Gracious Provider, **you set your immense treasures among us, opening your heart to the world. As we prepare to feast on your bountiful love, deepen our commitment to sharing those treasures with others, through our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

The Great Thanksgiving

ELW pg. 206

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

ASH WEDNESDAY PREFACE

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Words of Institution

Lord's Prayer

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 of Communion "Lamb Of God" ELW # 208

[As we celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion, all who believe they receive the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ under the form of bread and wine, forgiveness of sin and renewal therein are welcome at this table. It is the meal of all the Baptized. Please follow the direction of the Ushers.]

Communion Hymns

ELW # 592,460,485

***Prayer after Communion**

Generous Host, you have shared your feast with us and made us new. Send us now to set tables of love and grace in our communities, that your liberating love might nourish the world into freedom, in the name of the crucified one, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

Announcements

Blessing

God our tender parent, God the crucified one, God the reconciling Spirit, ✠ bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

Sending Song

"O Lord, throughout These Forty Days"

ELW # 319

Dismissal

Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you. **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude: Vicky Harris (1:30 PM), Chris Starr (7:00 PM)



A special thank you to all who assisted with our 1:30 PM worship service:

Organist: Vicky Harris

Cantor: -

Lector: Dennis Davis

Communion Assistants: Dennis Davis, **Kitchen Guild:** Lois Tritz

Mary Metag (Helper)

Altar Guild: Jenny Kirchoff, Karla
Ardolf

Ushers: Howard Giese, Fran Huwe

Audio/Visual: Roxanne Wavra

Greeters: Marcia Miller

A special thank you to all who assisted with our 7 PM worship service:

Organist: Chris Starr

Cantor: Vicky Harris

Lector: Connie Duenow

Kitchen Guild: Lois Tritz

Ushers: Duane McDougall, Dave Meyer

Audio/Visual: Roxanne Wavra

Greeters: Lori Harms

Communion Assistants: Kelli Foley, Cheryl
McDougall, Connie Duenow, Bonnie Hahn
(Helper)

Altar Guild: Jenny Kirchoff, Karla Ardolf