



Redeemer Lutheran Church  
Ash Wednesday  
Wednesday, February 18, 2026, 7:00 p.m.

*On Ash Wednesday, we begin our forty-day journey toward Easter with a day of fasting and repentance. Marking our foreheads with dust, we acknowledge that we die and return to the earth. At the same time, the dust traces the life-giving cross indelibly marked on our foreheads at baptism. While we journey through Lent to return to God, we have already been reconciled to God through Christ. We humbly pray for God to make our hearts clean while we rejoice that “now is the day of salvation.” Returning to our baptismal call, we more intentionally bear the fruits of mercy and justice in the world.*

*A time of silence before the service begins is encouraged.*

## PSALM 51

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;  
in your great compassion blot out my offenses.  
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. 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. Indeed, I was born steeped in wickedness,  
a sinner from my mother's womb.**

**Indeed, you delight in truth deep within me,  
and would have me know wisdom deep within.  
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. Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my wickedness.  
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.

**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.**

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

**The Lord be with you. And also with you.**

## Prayer of the Day

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.**

## Children's Sermon

Pastor Lisa

### Joel 2: 1-2, 12-17

<sup>1</sup> 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 —

<sup>2</sup> a 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.

<sup>12</sup> Yet even now, says the LORD,

return to me with all your heart,

with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;

<sup>13</sup> rend your hearts and not your clothing.

Return to the LORD your God,

for he is gracious and merciful,

slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love,

and relenting from punishment.

<sup>14</sup> 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?

<sup>15</sup> Blow the trumpet in Zion;

consecrate a fast;

call a solemn assembly;

<sup>16</sup> gather the people.

Consecrate the congregation;

assemble the aged;

gather the children,

even infants at the breast.

Let the bridegroom leave his room

and the bride her canopy.

<sup>17</sup> Between 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. **Thanks be to God.**

## **2 Corinthians 5: 20b – 6:10**

<sup>20b</sup>We entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. <sup>21</sup>For our sake God made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

<sup>6:1</sup>As we work together with God, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. <sup>2</sup>For God 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! <sup>3</sup>We are putting no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, <sup>4</sup>but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way:

through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, <sup>5</sup>beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; <sup>6</sup>by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, <sup>7</sup>truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; <sup>8</sup>in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; <sup>9</sup>as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see—we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; <sup>10</sup>as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

## Verse



Noth-ing in all cre - a - tion can sep - a - rate us from the love of God.



Noth-ing in all cre - a - tion can sep - a - rate us from the love of God.

## **Matthew 6: 1-6, 16-21**

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

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] <sup>1</sup>“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.

<sup>2</sup>“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. <sup>3</sup>But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, <sup>4</sup>so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

<sup>5</sup>“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. <sup>6</sup>But 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.

<sup>16</sup>“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. <sup>17</sup>But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, <sup>18</sup>so 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.

<sup>19</sup>“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; <sup>20</sup>but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. <sup>21</sup>For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Sermon**

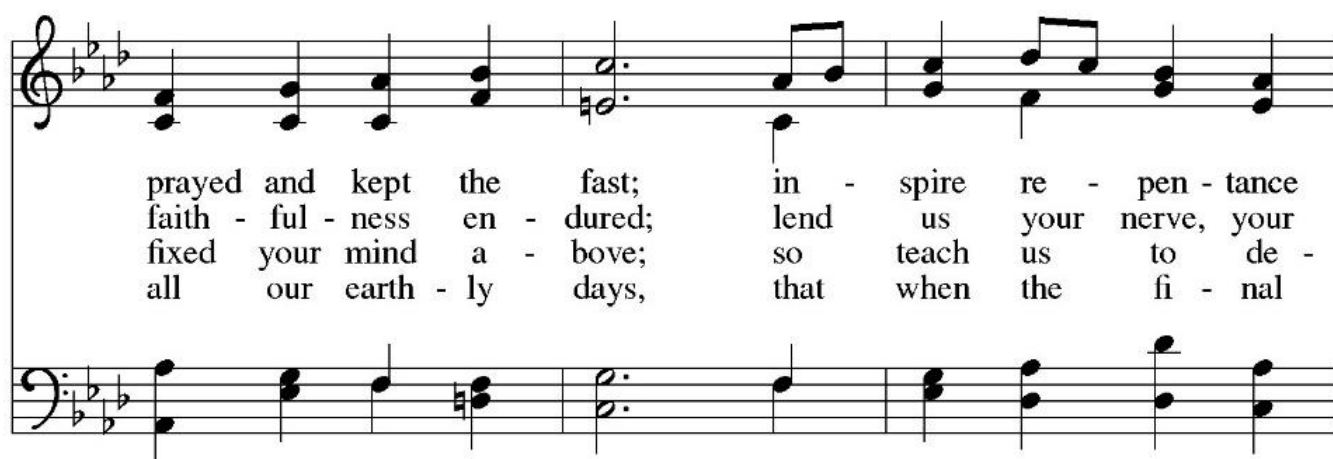
**Being the Righteousness of God**

# Hymn: O Lord, throughout These Forty Days

ELW#319



1 O Lord, through - out these for - ty days you  
2 You strove with Sa - tan, and you won; your  
3 Though parched and hun - gry, yet you prayed and  
4 Be with us through this sea - son, Lord, and



prayed and kept the fast; in - spire re - pen - tance  
faith - ful - ness en - dured; lend us your nerve, your  
fixed your mind a - bove; so teach us to de -  
all our earth - ly days, that when the fi - nal



for our sin, and free us from our past.  
skill and trust in God's e - ter - nal word.  
ny our - selves that we may know God's love.  
Eas - ter dawns, we join in heav - en's praise.

Text: based on Claudia F. Hernaman, 1838–1898; para. Gilbert E. Doan Jr., b. 1930  
Music: CONSOLATION, A. Davisson, *Kentucky Harmony*, 1816; arr. Theodore A. Beck, 1929–2003  
Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.  
Arr. © 1969 Concordia Publishing House.

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## 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.

*You may kneel for the confession.*

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. Ministers mark the forehead of each person with a cross of ashes saying, "Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return."*

**Special Music:** *O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee* –V. Taranto, Jr.  
*Dona Nobis Pacem* – arr. Catherine McMichael

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.**

## **The Prayers**

Sustained by God's abundant mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

O God, you create in us clean hearts and renew within us a right spirit. Help us to live into the fullness of that gracious promise as a reconciling force in the world.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

O God, you created the earth and all its inhabitants and you declared that it is good. Protect mountains and valleys, animals and plants, and direct us to be good stewards of all you have made.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

O God, you desire peace. Direct governments and leaders to work for the well-being of all people and raise up advocates to speak and serve on behalf of the the most vulnerable.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

O God, you are our hope in the midst of despair, our help in the midst of sorrow, and our consolation in the midst of affliction. Grant comfort to all

who suffer in body, mind, or spirit *especially* Caden, Monica, Cecil, Paul, Angie, Brad, Elvin, Julianna, Bill, Doreen, Laura, Jean, Nancy, Madalyn, Jane M, Jane S, Heidi and Dave. Support caregivers who attend to all in need.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

O God, you are love, and you call us to love one another. Accompany with your grace those journeying toward baptism and call us all to repentance as we prepare to celebrate Christ's death and resurrection.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your steadfast love and your promise to renew your whole creation; through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

## **Peace**

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

## **Offering**

*During this time please take a moment to greet one another. Your offering may be placed in the plates as they are passed by the ushers, or you may support the ongoing ministry of Redeemer by making your offering electronically, online from our website or through our Simply Giving program.*

**Choir Anthem:** *Jesus, Name of Wonderful of Love* - Eugene Butler

## **Offering Prayer**

Let us pray. Abiding God, under the cover of darkness, you bring forth life. Nourish us with earth's bounty, that we may freely share the gifts you have first given us, through the one who gives his life for the world, Jesus Christ, our risen Savior. **Amen.**

## Great Thanksgiving

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 him thanks and praise.**

## Preface

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,  
that we should at all times and in all places  
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,  
through our Savior Jesus Christ.

You call your people to cleanse their hearts  
and prepare with joy for the paschal feast,  
that, renewed in the gift of baptism,  
we may come to the fullness of your grace.

And so, with all the choirs of angels,  
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## Sanctus



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and  
God of might, heav - en and earth are full of your  
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.  
Bless - ed is the one who comes in the name of the  
Lord. Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.  
Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

The musical score is written on six staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below each staff. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The lyrics are: 'Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and'. The second staff continues: 'God of might, heav - en and earth are full of your'. The third staff: 'glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.'. The fourth staff: 'Bless - ed is the one who comes in the name of the'. The fifth staff: 'Lord. Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.'. The sixth staff: 'Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.'. The score ends with a double bar line.

## Eucharist Prayer

As the shadows lengthen,  
we bless you, sheltering God.

We glorify you for the endless, starlit sky,  
deep with the mystery of your creative labor  
through all time and space.

We praise you for the fertile earth  
and for the life its darkness holds and births:

plants of every variety,  
animals curled in sleep,  
humankind you shaped by your own hand.

Stay with us, for it is evening.

**Stay with us, for it is evening.**

Through the night  
you led your people into freedom.

At day's end  
you rained down manna in the wilderness.

At sundown  
your Son brought healing to people in need.

In the midday night  
when Jesus died on the cross,  
life came forth for all.

Stay with us, for it is evening.

**Stay with us, for it is evening.**

In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Our hearts burn within us  
as we proclaim the mystery of faith:  
**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

Like a mother hen,  
hold us close through the coming night.  
Watch with those who labor,  
accompany those who long for peaceful sleep,  
welcome those whose waking will be only in you.  
Into our deepest night, come, Lord Jesus.  
**Come, Lord Jesus.**

Come, Holy Spirit,  
make here the body of Christ:  
in the breaking of the bread,  
in justice for our broken world,  
in rest for the weary, come, Holy Spirit.  
**Come, Holy Spirit.**

To you, O God,  
painter of both night and day,  
guiding star and healing sun,  
breath of peace and wind of change,  
be all glory, all honor, all praise  
this night unto the coming dawn, now and forever.  
**Amen.**

### **Lord's Prayer**

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those  
who sin against us.**

Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. Amen.

*All are welcome at the Lord's table. We believe Jesus is truly present in the bread and the wine, and we invite all to partake of God's grace and forgiveness through Jesus' body and blood. If gluten-free bread is needed, please ask the server. White grape juice is available in the center rings of the tray. Please come forward at the direction of the usher. Children who are not yet communing may come forward for a blessing.*

**Senior Choir: "Communion Kum Ba Yah"** arr. Rhoades & Kupferschmid

**Communion Hymn: Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence** ELW#490



1 Let all mor - tal flesh keep si - lence, and with fear and trem - bling stand;  
2 King of kings, yet born of Mar - y, as of old on earth he stood,  
3 Rank on rank the host of heav - en spreads its van-guard on the way;  
4 At his feet the six - winged ser-aph, cher - u - bim with sleep - less eye,



pon - der noth - ing earth - ly - mind - ed, for with bless - ing in his hand  
Lord of lords in hu - man ves - ture, in the bod - y and the blood,  
as the Light of light, de - scend - ing from the realms of end - less day,  
veil their fac - es to the pres - ence, as with cease - less voice they cry:



Christ our God to earth de - scend - ing comes full hom-age to de - mand.  
he will give to all the faith - ful his own self for heav'n - ly food.  
comes, the pow'rs of hell to van - quish, as the dark-ness clears a - way.  
"Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia, Lord Most High!"



## **Blessing**

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen**

## **Post-communion Canticle (spoken)**

**Lord, now you let your servant go in peace;  
your word has been fulfilled.**

**My own eyes have seen the salvation  
which you have prepared in the sight of every people:  
A light to reveal you to the nations  
and the glory of your people Israel.**

## **Post-communion Prayer**

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.**

## **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.**

*The assembly departs in silence.*

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## **Worship Support:**

**Accompanist:** Julie Schnieders

**Senior Choir Director:** Gayla Tighe

**Singers:** Senior Choir

**Violinist:** Katherine Bendon

**Ushers:** Hugh Lickiss, Connee Larsen

**Reader:** Connee Larsen

**Communion Assistants:** Nancy Lickiss, Eric & Connee Larsen

**Imposition of Ashes:** Kari Borlaug & Jennie Dawson

**Altar Guild:** Amy Wooley

**Audio/Visual:** Gary Borlaug & David Hotchkiss, Steve Hansen



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