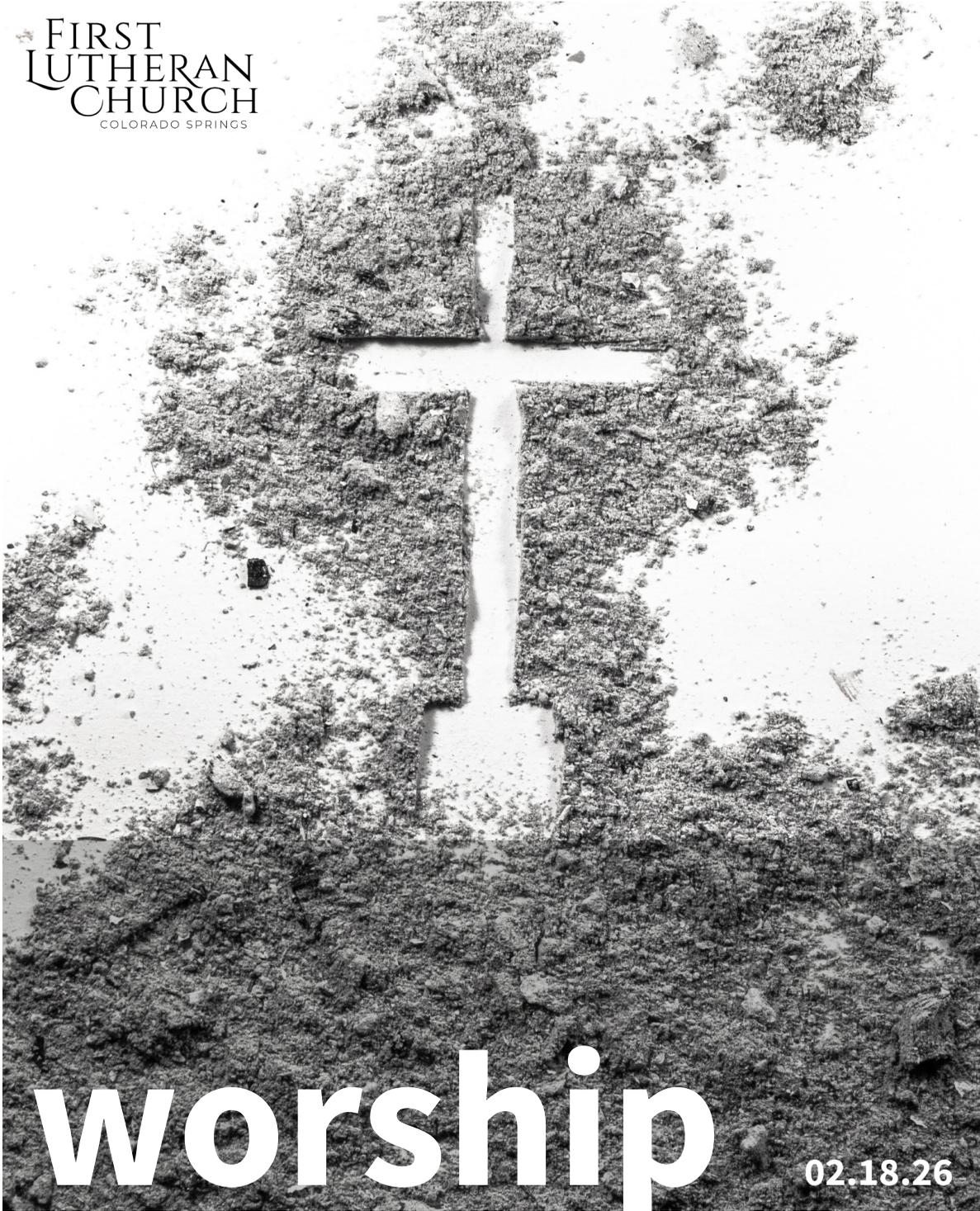


FIRST
LUTHERAN
CHURCH
COLORADO SPRINGS



worship

02.18.26

Welcome to First Lutheran Church!

Today, as since 1892, we welcome members and guests to glorify God and exalt his name.

NEW HERE? HAVE A QUESTION?

Visit the Welcome Center in the Gathering Place, just north of the Sanctuary. First-time visitors receive a special gift.

HOLY COMMUNION

We celebrate Holy Communion at every worship service; all who believe in Jesus as Lord and Savior are welcome at his table. To receive a blessing instead, simply cross your arms over your chest. Our children celebrate First Communion in Grade 3. Earlier participation in communion is at the discretion of parents or guardians.

NEED HEARING ASSISTANCE?

Assistive Listening Devices are available and may be used with headphones or with a neck loop for T-Coil-equipped hearing aids. Please leave the devices in the Sanctuary after the service.

CHILD CARE

All ages are welcome in worship; our professionally-staffed child care center is, however, an option for young children during services. The center is near the elevator on the main level.

A PLACE FOR LIFELONG LEARNING

Our **Sunday School** program meets at 9:30 a.m. downstairs in Fellowship Hall. Children may be dropped off as early as 9:15 a.m. Adults are invited to join our quarterly Adult Education classes.

JOIN US FOR COFFEE

Following the worship service, please join us in the Gathering Place for coffee, treats, and fellowship.

CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP

Our newest service takes place at 10:15 a.m. in the Worship Center on the second level – a distinctively Lutheran approach to contemporary worship. During the sermon, **First Kids** is offered in the Fireside Room for children aged Preschool through Grade 2.

ONLINE WORSHIP: YOUTUBE

Never miss a service on our YouTube channel! Search for *First Lutheran Colorado Springs* and click **SUBSCRIBE** to be notified when we upload or stream new videos.

DOWNLOAD OUR APP

With the First Lutheran app, you can watch online services and live streams, manage your giving, update your contact information, sign up for events, and more. Navigate to your app store and download *Church by MinistryOne*. Search for **FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH** or use our ZIP code, 80907.

Ash Wednesday

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2026
12 AND 7 P.M.

 · Hymn found in the red hymnal
 · Hymn found in the bulletin

PRELUDE

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Everyone **And also with you.**

INVITATION TO LENT

Please stand as you are able.

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 loving God and our neighbor. I invite you, therefore, to the discipline of Lent: self-examination and repentance, prayer and fasting, sacrificial giving and works of love, all strengthened by the gifts of Word and Sacrament. Let us begin our journey through these forty days to the great Three Days of Jesus' death and resurrection.

OPENING HYMN  No. 335 *Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross*

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.**

You may be seated.

FIRST READING: JOEL 2:1, 2, 12 – 17
In the black pew Bible · Page 594

After the reading:

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 51:1 – 10

Please join in reading responsively.

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

**Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,
and cleanse me from my sin!**

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

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.

**Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity,
and in sin did my mother conceive me.**

**Behold, you delight in truth in the inward being,
and you teach me wisdom in the secret heart.**

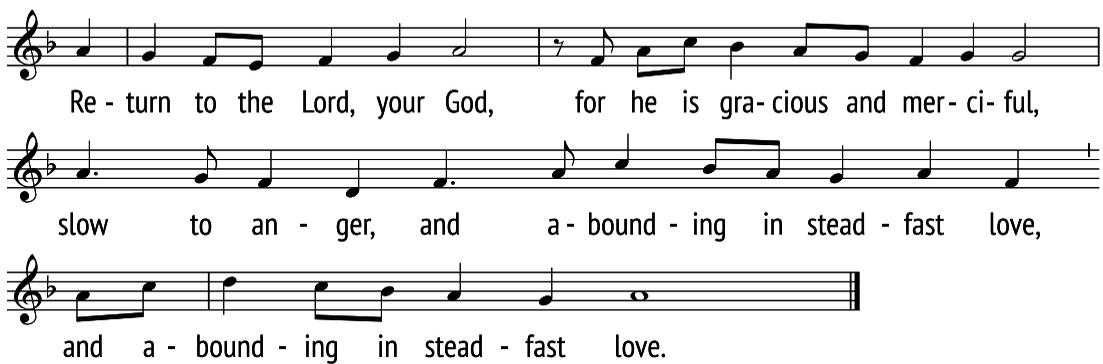
Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.
Let me hear joy and gladness;
let the bones that you have broken rejoice.
**Hide your face from my sins,
and blot out all my iniquities.**
**Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.**

SECOND READING: 2 CORINTHIANS 5:16 – 6:2
In the black pew Bible · Page 937.

After the reading:
The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Please stand for the gospel.

LENTEN SENTENCE: *Return to the Lord Your God*



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and mer - ci - ful,
slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love,
and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

GOSPEL READING: MATTHEW 6:1 – 18
In the black pew Bible · Page 853

Before the reading:

The holy gospel according to Matthew,
the sixth chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord!

After the reading:

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ!

You may be seated.

SERMON: PASTOR TRAVIS NORTON

Following the sermon, please stand for the hymn.

HYMN OF THE DAY  No. 759 *My Faith Looks up to Thee*

THE NICENE CREED

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

You may be seated as the ushers come forward to receive our tithes and offerings.

We extend a special welcome to all who are new to First Lutheran today! Please text **GUEST** to **719.988.3524** to let us know about yourself.

If you already support First Lutheran, thank you! Gifts of any size make a difference to the ministries and outreach of our congregation. Scan the QR code, text **GIVE** to **719.988.3524**, or place your offering in the plate as it is passed.



NOON ■ OFFERING MUSIC: *Oh God, You Are My God*

Oh God, you are my God; earnestly I seek you.

*My soul thirsts for you, and my flesh yearns for you
in a dry and weary land where there is no water.*

I remember you at night, through the watches of the night.

In the shadow of your wings I sing because you help me.

My soul clings to you, and your hand upholds me.

You alone, you alone, you alone, you alone.

7 P.M. ■ OFFERING MUSIC: *Surely He Has Borne Our Griefs*

Surely he has borne our griefs!

Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows,
carried our sorrows!

Surely he was wounded for us, crushed for our iniquities,
for our iniquities!

The chastisement of our peace fell upon him,
and with his stripes we are healed,
with his stripes we are healed!

Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows,
carried our sorrows!

Surely he was wounded for us, crushed for our iniquities,
for our iniquities!

Like a lamb that is led to the slaughter,
yet he opened not his mouth,
and yet he opened not his mouth!

Surely he has borne our griefs!

Surely he was wounded for us, crushed for our iniquities,
for our iniquities!

CONFESSION OF SIN AND ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who through our Lord Jesus Christ brings us out of captivity into freedom, out of the wilderness into the promised land, out of death into life.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.
We take a moment for silent confession.

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,
have mercy on us.

For self-centered living, and for failing to walk with humility and gentleness:
holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,
have mercy on us.

For longing to have what is not ours, and for hearts that are not at rest within ourselves: holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,
have mercy on us.

For misuse of human relationships, and for unwillingness to see the image of God in others: holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,
have mercy on us.

For jealousies that divide families and nations, and for rivalries that create strife and warfare: holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,
have mercy on us.

For reluctance in sharing the gifts of God, and for carelessness with the fruits of creation: holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,
have mercy on us.

For hurtful words that condemn, and for angry deeds that harm: holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,
have mercy on us.

For idleness in witnessing to Jesus Christ, and for squandering his gifts of love and grace: holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,
have mercy on us.

In the mercy of Almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. Through the Holy Spirit God cleanses us and gives us the power to proclaim the mighty acts of the One who called us out of darkness into his marvelous light. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE 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.

INTRODUCTION TO THE IMPOSITION OF ASHES AND COMMUNION

ASHES ARE IMPOSED AND BREAD AND WINE ARE SHARED

AT COMMUNION

- + *All who believe in Jesus as Lord and Savior are welcome at his table.*
- + *Please follow the lead of the ushers in going forward via the center aisle.*
- + *Extend your hands, and allow the bread to be placed in your hand.
Take either the wine or white grape juice from the center of the tray.*
- + *Place your empty glass in the tray and return via the side aisle.*
- + *Gluten-free wafers are available.*
- + *If you are unable to come forward, please alert an usher so we may serve you at your seat.*

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

 *O Sacred Head, Now Wounded*
The hymn may be found on the next page.

 *No. 338 Beneath the Cross of Jesus*

Please stand for the blessing.

COMMUNION BLESSING

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

1. O sa - cred head, now wound - ed, with grief and
 2. What thou, my Lord, hast suf - fered was all for
 3. What lan - guage shall I bor - row to thank thee,

shame_ weighed down, now scorn - ful - ly sur - round - ed
 sin - ners' gain; mine, mine was the trans - gres - sion,
 dear - est Friend, for this, thy dy - ing sor - row,

with thorns thine on - ly crown: how pale_ thou art with
 but thine the dead - ly pain. Lo! here_ I fall, my
 thy pit - y with - out end? O make_ me thine for -

an - guish, with sore a - buse and scorn! How does_ that
 Sav - ior; 'tis I de - serve thy place. Look on_ me
 ev - er, and should I faint - ing be, Lord, let_ me

vis - age lan - guish, which once was bright as morn!
 with thy fav - or, as - sist me with thy grace.
 nev - er, nev - er out - live my love to thee.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Merciful God, accompany our journey through these forty days of Lent. 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, 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.**

BENEDICTION

CLOSING HYMN  No. 629 *Abide with Me*

SENDING

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!

POSTLUDE

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Save the Date For ...

GALLERY OF LIVING ART 2026



MARCH 13, FRIDAY

Gallery of Living Art • 7:30 p.m.

MARCH 14, SATURDAY

Jr. Gallery of Living Art • 11 a.m.
Gallery of Living Art • 2 and 5 p.m.

MARCH 15, SUNDAY

Gallery of Living Art • 3 p.m.

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

1515 NORTH CASCADE AVE.

COLORADO SPRINGS,

COLORADO 80907

719.632.8836

FLCCS.NET

PASTORAL TEAM

The Rev. Travis Norton, *Senior Pastor*
The Rev. Carrie Baylis, *Associate Pastor*
The Rev. Michaela Eskew, *Associate Pastor*