

# FOR US



**Ash Wednesday Service**  
Wednesday, February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2026

# Ash Wednesday

## Theme of the Day

*This Ash Wednesday, we introduce our Lent sermon series, which is based on the ancient hymn "O Love, How Deep" (LSB 544). This hymn, written in the fifteenth century, contemplates the love of God in becoming man, taking on our life, dying our death, and rising again, all for us. But for us to understand and appreciate this love, we must first examine ourselves and our lives to see how we have failed in thought, word, and deed. While we may try to get credit for our so-called good works, we all still die with nothing to show for them. But God's love is not like our love. Our love is self-centered and fickle. God's love is steady, deep, and beyond all understanding. This love of God will have no end.*

## Ash Wednesday Address

P: Dear brothers and sisters of our Lord Jesus Christ, on this day the Church begins a holy season of prayerful and penitential reflection. Our attention is especially directed to the holy sufferings and death of our Lord Jesus Christ.

From ancient times the season of Lent has been kept as a time of special devotion, self-denial, and humble repentance born of a faithful heart that dwells confidently on His Word and draws from it life and hope.

Let us pray that our dear Father in heaven, for the sake of His beloved Son and in the power of His Holy Spirit, might richly bless this Lententide for us so that we may come to Easter with glad hearts and keep the feast in sincerity and truth.



# 419 Savior, When in Dust to Thee

LSB 419 sts. 1-3



1 Sav - ior, when in dust to Thee Low we bow the a -  
2 By Thy help - less in - fant years, By Thy life of  
3 By Thine hour of dire de - spair, By Thine ag - o -



dor - ing knee; When, re - pen - tant, to the skies  
want and tears, By Thy days of deep dis - tress  
ny of prayer, By the cross, the nail, the thorn,



Scarce we lift our weep - ing eyes; O, by all Thy  
In the sav - age wil - der - ness, By the dread, mys -  
Pierc - ing spear, and tor - turing scorn, By the gloom that



pains and woe Suf - fered once for us be - low, Bend - ing  
te - rious hour Of the in - sult - ing tempt - er's pow'r, Turn, O  
veiled the skies O'er the dread - ful sac - ri - fice, Lis - ten

Text and tune: Public domain

## Invocation

P: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

## Confession and Psalm

*Psalm 51:1-15, 17*

P: As we focus on the overwhelming grace of God and His love, we must admit our sinful condition before we approach Him. Let us confess our failings to God, our heavenly Father.

The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit;

C: a broken and contrite heart, O God, You will not despise.

P: Have mercy on me, O God, according to Your steadfast love;

C: according to Your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.

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

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

P: Against You, You only, have I sinned and done what is evil in Your sight,  
C: **so that You may be justified in Your words and blameless in Your judgment.**

P: It is only with God's help that we can rise above our sin.

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

P: Behold, You delight in truth in the inward being,  
C: **and You teach me wisdom in the secret heart.**

P: Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;  
C: **wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.**

P: Let me hear joy and gladness;  
C: **let the bones that You have broken rejoice.**

P: The joy and gladness we long for can be ours only from God, for He alone knows what we have done.

Hide Your face from my sins,  
C: **and blot out all my iniquities.**

P: Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
C: **and renew a right spirit within me.**

P: Cast me not away from Your presence,  
C: **and take not Your Holy Spirit from me.**

P: As we approach God's throne of grace, let us ask for what we do not deserve and seek His presence, help, and even joy.

Restore to me the joy of Your salvation,  
C: **and uphold me with a willing spirit.**

P: Then I will teach transgressors Your ways,  
C: **and sinners will return to You.**

P: The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit;  
C: **a broken and contrite heart, O God, You will not despise.**

# Imposition of Ashes

Those who desire to receive ashes are ushered forward at this time while the congregation sings. Those who do not wish to receive ashes may remain seated. As he makes the sign of the cross with the ashes, the pastor reminds the penitent, "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

## 609 Jesus Sinners Doth Receive

LSB 609



1 Je - sus sin - ners doth re - ceive; Oh, may all this  
 2 We de - serve but grief and shame, Yet His words, rich  
 3 Sheep that from the fold did stray No true shep - herd  
 4 I, a sin - ner, come to Thee With a pen - i -



say - ing pon - der Who in sin's de - lu - sions live  
 grace re - veal - ing, Par - don, peace, and life pro - claim;  
 e'er for - sak - eth; Wea - ry souls that lost their way  
 tent con - fes - sion. Sav - ior, mer - cy show to me;



And from God and heav - en wan - der! Here is hope for  
 Here our ills have per - fect heal - ing. Firm - ly in these  
 Christ, the Shep - herd, gent - ly tak - eth In His arms that  
 Grant for all my sins re - mis - sion. Let these words my



all who grieve: Je - sus sin - ners doth re - ceive.  
 words be - lieve: Je - sus sin - ners doth re - ceive.  
 they may live: Je - sus sin - ners doth re - ceive.  
 soul re - lieve: Je - sus sin - ners doth re - ceive.

5 Oh, how blest it is to know:  
 Were as scarlet my transgression,  
 It shall be as white as snow  
 By Thy blood and bitter passion;  
 For these words I now believe:  
 Jesus sinners doth receive.

6 Now my conscience is at peace;  
 From the Law I stand acquitted.  
 Christ hath purchased my release  
 And my ev'ry sin remitted.  
 Naught remains my soul to grieve:  
 Jesus sinners doth receive.

7 Jesus sinners doth receive;  
 Also I have been forgiven;  
 And when I this earth must leave,  
 I shall find an open heaven.  
 Dying, still to Him I cleave:  
 Jesus sinners doth receive.

## Absolution

P: Because of God's great love and mercy in sending His Son to die and rise for you, and as a called and ordained servant of His, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen. Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, O God of my salvation, and my tongue will sing aloud of Your righteousness. O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare Your praise.

## Prayer of the Day

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

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*

<sup>12</sup>"Yet even now," declares the LORD,  
"return to me with all your heart,  
with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;  
<sup>13</sup>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.

<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 elders;  
gather the children,  
even nursing infants.  
Let the bridegroom leave his room,  
and the bride her chamber.  
<sup>17</sup>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?'"  
<sup>18</sup>Then the LORD became jealous for his land  
and had pity on his people.  
<sup>19</sup>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."

## Epistle Reading

*2 Corinthians 5:20b—6:10*

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

<sup>1</sup>Working together with him, then, we appeal to you not to receive the grace of God in vain. <sup>2</sup>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. <sup>3</sup>We put 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 commend ourselves in every way: by great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, <sup>5</sup>beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; <sup>6</sup>by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, the Holy Spirit, genuine love; <sup>7</sup>by truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; <sup>8</sup>through honor and

dishonor, through slander and praise. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; <sup>9</sup>as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold, we live; as punished, and yet not killed; <sup>10</sup>as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, yet possessing everything.

## Gospel Lesson

*Matthew 6:1–6, 16–21*

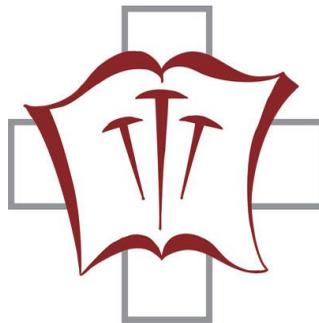
<sup>1</sup>[Jesus said:] “Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them, for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven.

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

<sup>5</sup>“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. <sup>6</sup>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. . . .

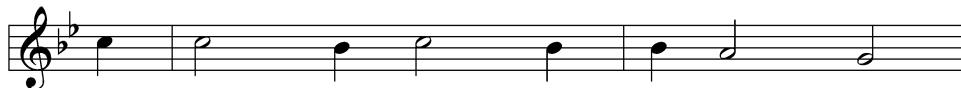
<sup>16</sup>“And when you fast, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. <sup>17</sup>But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, <sup>18</sup>that your fasting may not be seen by others but by your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

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



# 544 O Love, How Deep

LSB 544 sts. 1, 5-6



1 O love, how deep, how broad, how high,  
5 For us by wick - ed - ness be - trayed,  
6 For us He rose from death a - gain;



Be - yond all thought and fan - ta - sy,  
For us, in crown of thorns ar - rayed,  
For us He went on high to reign;



That God, the Son of God, should take  
He bore the shame - ful cross and death;  
For us He sent His Spir - it here



Our mor - tal form for mor - tals' sake!  
For us He gave His dy - ing breath.  
To guide, to strength - en, and to cheer.

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## Sermon

## Offering

*Thank you for your continued support of the ministry Mt. Olive Lutheran Church.  
If you are a guest (or if your contact info has changed), please fill out a Connect Card  
found in the pew rack and place it in the offering plate.*



# Prayer

*Psalm 51:12, 15*

P: Let us bring our requests to God, whose love knows no bounds.

For all who do not know our loving Lord, that He would bring the news of Christ to their ears, strengthen them in faith, and urge them to live in love, let us pray to the Lord.

C: **O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare Your praise.**

P: For the church, that God would open doors of opportunity for leaders and members to proclaim the Gospel, that schisms within it be mended, that the faithful be protected in body and soul, and that all people of faith find joy in their ministry, let us pray to the Lord.

C: **Grant them, O God, to be strengthened with power through Your Spirit.**

P: Where there is conflict and warfare between nations, that God would move leaders and citizens to seek peace with their neighbors and calm within their borders, let us pray to the Lord.

C: **Dwell in their hearts, O Christ, through faith.**

P: Where the old and young are forgotten, the sick and grieving ignored, and the needs of any are not met, that God would prosper the work of farmers and ranchers, relief agencies and civic leaders to provide for their needs, let us pray to the Lord.

C: **Grant that all caregivers reflect God's love and be gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.**

P: For each of us, that our service to God, our concern for one another, and the mission He puts before us be joyful endeavors we seek for the growth of the church and glory of God, let us pray to the Lord.

C: **Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit. Amen.**

## 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.



# Luther's Evening Prayer

I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

## Benediction

P: Our loving Father—whose love is so deep, broad, and beyond all thought—His ✠ Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, and the Holy Spirit, accompany you now and always.

C: Amen.

## 418 O Lord, throughout These Forty Days

LSB 418



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, Since we have known God's love.  
Eas - ter dawns, We join in heav - en's praise.

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# Holy Week at Mt. Olive

## Palm Sunday (March 29<sup>th</sup>)

10:00am - Worship (*Preschool Singing*)

## Maundy Thursday (April 2<sup>nd</sup>)

7:00pm - Worship with Holy Communion

## Good Friday (April 3<sup>rd</sup>)

7:00pm - Tenebrae Service

## Easter Sunday (April 5<sup>th</sup>)

8:30-9:45am - Easter Breakfast

10:00am - Easter Worship

*There will be an Easter egg hunt  
after the Easter Sunday service.*

17<sup>th</sup> & Douglas in Forest Grove  
(across from Rogers Park)



## Acknowledgments

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