

Ash Wednesday Worship Services

February 18, 2026 – 12 noon, 6:30 p.m.

**ASH WEDNESDAY
FEBRUARY 18, 2026**



Out of the Depths I Cry to You



1 Out of the depths I cry to you; O Lord God, hear me call - ing.
2 All things you send are full of grace; you crown our lives with fa - vor.
3 In you a - lone, O God, we hope, and not in our own mer - it.
4 My soul is wait - ing for you, Lord, as one who longs for morn - ing;



In - cline your ear to my dis - tress in spite of my re - bel - ling.
All our good works are done in vain with - out our Lord and Sav - ior.
We rest our fears in your good Word and trust your Ho - ly Spir - it.
no watch - er waits with great - er hope than I for your re - turn - ing.



Do not re - gard my sin - ful deeds. Send me the grace
We praise you for the gift of faith; you save us from
Your prom - ise keeps us strong and sure; we trust the cross,
I hope as Is - rael in the Lord, who sends re - demp -



my spir - it needs; with - out it I am noth - ing.
the grip of death; our lives are in your keep - ing.
your sig - na - ture, in - scribed up - on our tem - ples.
tion through the Word. Praise God for grace and mer - cy!

Gathering

Prelude: “As Winter Days Grow Longer” &

“Savior, When in Dust to You” – Arr. Biery, Willan, Thomas

Welcome - *Pastor ? — on Center stand*

Opening Song: (12) *ELW* #600 “Out of the Depths I Cry to You”

(6:30) “Worthy is the Lamb”- ECHO Band

Greeting & Prayer of the Day

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

P: Let us pray. (*Pause for Silent Reflection*)

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.

All: Amen.

sit

Invitation to Lent: *Pastor IN FRONT of Altar*

P: 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 - *3 Pastors@Center FACING Altar (12p - kneeling)*

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

Most holy and merciful God,

All: 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.



P: 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.

All: Have mercy on us, O God.

P: 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.

All: Have mercy on us, O God.

P: Our past unfaithfulness, the pride, envy, hypocrisy, and apathy that have infected our lives, we confess to you.

All: Have mercy on us, O God.

P: Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people, we confess to you.

All: Have mercy on us, O God.

P: Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to share the faith that is in us, we confess to you.

All: Have mercy on us, O God.

P: Our neglect of human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty, we confess to you.

All: Have mercy on us, O God.

P: Our false judgments, our uncharitable thoughts towards our neighbors, and our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us, we confess to you.

All: Have mercy on us, O God.

P: Our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us, we confess to you.

All: Have mercy on us, O God.

P: Restore us, O God, and let your anger depart from us.

All: Hear us, O God, for great is your mercy.

Blessing of the Ashes *Pastor @ Altar*

P: 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.

All: Amen.

Imposition of Ashes *2 Pastors @ Font (6:30) one Pr. goes upstairs*

P: "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return."



1 Just as I am, with - out one plea, but that thy blood was
 2 Just as I am, though tossed a - bout with man - y_a con - flict,
 3 Just as I am, thou wilt re - ceive, wilt wel - come, par - don,
 4 Just as I am; thy love un - known has bro - ken ev - 'ry



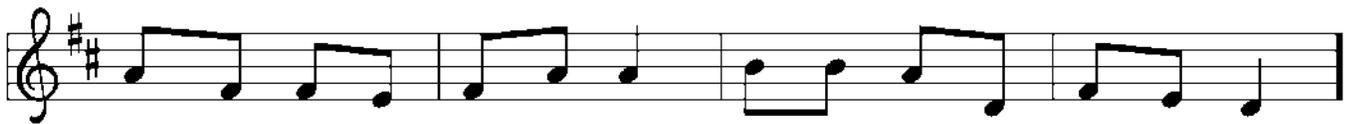
shed for me, and that thou bidd'st me come to thee,
 man - y_a doubt, fight - ings and fears with - in, with - out,
 cleanse, re - lieve; be - cause thy prom - ise I be - lieve,
 bar - rier down; now to be thine, yea, thine a - lone,



O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

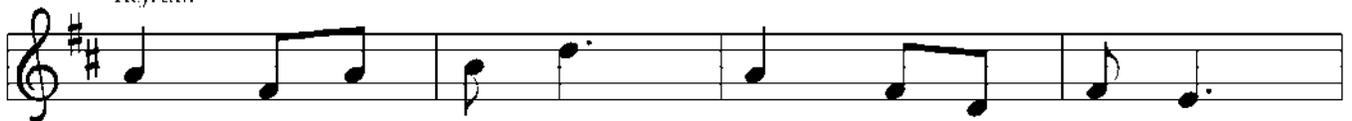


1 Je - sus loves me! this I know, for the Bi - ble tells me so;
 2 Je - sus loves me! he who died heav - en's gates to o - pen wide;
 3 Je - sus loves me! he will stay close be - side me all the way;



lit - tle ones to him be - long, they are weak, but he is strong,
 he will wash a - way my sin, let his lit - tle child come in.
 when at last I come to die, he will take me home on high.

Refrain



Yes, Je - sus loves me, yes, Je - sus loves me,



yes. Je - sus loves me, the Bi - ble tells me so.

Hymns during Imposition of Ashes:

ELW #592: Just as I Am

ELW #595 Jesus Loves Me!

P: Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation,

All: that we may show forth your glory in the world.

P: By the cross and passion of your Son, our Savior,

All: bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.

P: 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.

All: Amen.

- Word -

Introduction to the Readings: *12 Lector / 6:30 Youth @ the Ambo*

L: Lent calls us into honesty and humility. Isaiah says that fasting and devotion are not about show, but about justice, mercy, and walking humbly with God. Jesus instructs us in practicing faith based on a trusting relationship to God, rather than an outward show. The first reading is from Isaiah, chapter 58

The First Reading: Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 *NRSVue*

L: 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—² 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.

¹² Yet even now, says the Lord, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; ¹³ 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.

¹⁴ 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?

CONTINUED 

- ¹⁵ Blow the trumpet in Zion; consecrate a fast; call a solemn assembly;
¹⁶ 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.
¹⁷ 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?'"

L: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Stand

Gospel Acclamation p.189



Let your stead-fast love come to us, O Lord.



Let your stead-fast love come to us, O Lord.



Save us as you prom-ised; we will trust your word.



Let your stead-fast love come to us, O Lord.

P: The Holy Gospel According to St. Matthew, the 6th chapter.

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

The Gospel: Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21 *NRSVue Steve - Ambo*

P: ¹ "Beware of practicing your righteousness 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.

CONTINUED

As the Winter Days Grow Longer



1 As the win - ter days grow long - er, draw - ing short the hours of night;
2 As the vines burst in - to blos - som, fra - grant in the morn - ing air,
3 As we jour - ney through this sea - son, pil - grims through a thirst - y land,



as our ea - ger ex - pec - ta - tion waits for Eas - ter's dawn - ing light—
lift - ing spir - its with their sweet - ness, lur - ing hearts to thank - ful prayer—
quench us with your liv - ing pres - ence; guide us with your lov - ing hand.



yearn - ing peo - ple, here we gath - er, turn - ing watch - ful eyes to you:
Lent - en peo - ple, here we gath - er, seek - ing lives re - fresh - ed from sin.
Wan - d'ring peo - ple, here we gath - er, called to rest a - long our way.



God who bless - es earth with spring - time, shine with - in our world a - new!
God who bless - es earth with spring - time, bloom with - in our hearts a - gain!
God who bless - es earth with spring - time, grant us sab - bath joy this day!

³ But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴ so 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. ⁶ 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.

¹⁶ “And whenever you fast, do not look somber, like the hypocrites, for they mark their faces to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ¹⁷ But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, ¹⁸ 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.

⁹ “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal, ²⁰ but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sit

Sermon: Pastor Steve Knudson *Pastor On Center*

Stand

(12:00) Hymn of the Day: ACS #924 "As the Winter Days Grow Longer"

(6:30) Echo Praise Band: “Pure”

(12) Lector/Pastor @Altar

(6:30) Joel / Pastor @ Band Positions

Prayers of the Church →

L: Lord, in your mercy,

All: hear our prayer.

Offering: *12-Pastor 6:30 - Pastor*

(Sit) P: You may be seated.

We give God our thanks and praise in response to God's mercy and abundance. We invite you to place your gratitude card along with any offering you have in the plate at this time or make an offering electronically. Would the ushers please come forward.

Offertory Music: (12:00) "Create in Me a Clean Heart" by Mueller;
Hunter Moore, vocalist;
(6:30) "Promises" Echo Praise Band

Lector — Go to Ambo before Prayer; remain up front for communion.

Stand — Offertory Hymn: ELW #188 "Create in Me A Clean Heart"

All: 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 unto me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with your free Spirit.

Offertory Prayer: *Lector @ Ambo*

L: Let us Pray.

God our provider, you have not fed us with bread alone, but with words of grace and life. Bless us and these your gifts, which we receive from your bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

Sit

- Meal -

The Great Thanksgiving: (responses are spoken) *Pastor @ Altar*

P: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Words of Institution

P: 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.

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

The Lord's Prayer

All: 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 Holy Communion

P: You may be seated. All who come forward will receive the bread and wine.

Gluten free bread and juice are available upon request.

The table is set and all are welcome.

Please follow the direction of the ushers to come forward.

“Lamb of God” p.191



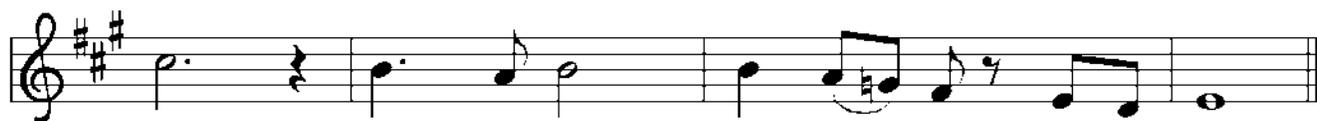
Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the

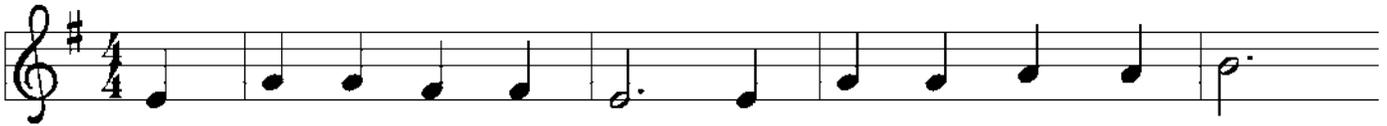


world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the



world; grant us peace, grant us peace, Lamb of God.

Lord Jesus, Think on Me



1 Lord Je - sus, think on me, and purge a - way my sin;
2 Lord Je - sus, think on me, by anx - ious thoughts op - pressed;
3 Lord Je - sus, think on me, nor let me go a - stray;
4 Lord Je - sus, think on me, that, when the flood is past,



from self - ish pas - sions set me free and make me pure with - in.
let me your lov - ing ser - vant be and taste your prom - ised rest.
through dark - ness and per - plex - i - ty point out your cho - sen way.
I may the e - ter - nal bright - ness see and share your joy at last.

As the Winter Days Grow Longer



1 As the win - ter days grow long - er, draw - ing short the hours of night;
2 As the vines burst in - to blos - som, fra - grant in the morn - ing air,
3 As we jour - ney through this sea - son, pil - grims through a thirst - y land,



as our ea - ger ex - pec - ta - tion waits for Eas - ter's dawn - ing light—
lift - ing spir - its with their sweet - ness, lur - ing hearts to thank - ful prayer—
quench us with your liv - ing pres - ence; guide us with your lov - ing hand.



yearn - ing peo - ple, here we gath - er, turn - ing watch - ful eyes to you:
Lent - en peo - ple, here we gath - er, seek - ing lives re - freshed from sin.
Wan - d'ring peo - ple, here we gath - er, called to rest a - long our way.



God who bless - es earth with spring - time, shine with - in our world a - new!
God who bless - es earth with spring - time, bloom with - in our hearts a - gain!
God who bless - es earth with spring - time, grant us sab - bath joy this day!

**Special Music: (6:30) Anthem: "Seek First the Kingdom" ... McDonald;
Adult Choir**

**Communion Hymn: ELW #599 "Lord Jesus, Think on Me"
(6:30) ACS #924 "As the Winter Days Grow Longer"**

Lector—go to the ambo as Pastor covers communion elements.

Stand The Communion Blessing PASTOR @ ALTAR

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you,
and keep you in his grace.

All: Amen.

Prayer after Communion Lector @ Ambo

L: 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.

All: Amen.

- Sending -

Benediction:

P: Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

All: Amen.

(12) Closing Hymn: ELW #609 (sts. 1,2,4,5) "Chief of Sinners Though I Be" →

Dismissal Lector @ Ambo

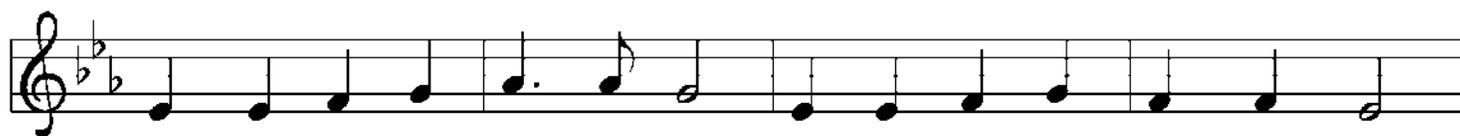
L: Go into the world to serve God with gladness!

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.

All: Thanks be to God.

Postlude: "Out of the Depths I Cry to You" (Psalm 130) – Arr. Max Drischner

Chief of Sinners though I Be



1 Chief of sin - ners though I be, Je - sus shed his blood for me,
2 Oh, the height of Je - sus' love! High - er than the heav'ns a - bove,
3 On - ly Je - sus can im - part balm to heal the wound - ed heart,
4 Chief of sin - ners though I be, Christ is all in all to me;
5 O my Sav - ior, help af - ford by your Spir - it and your word!



died that I might live on high, lives that I might nev - er die.
deep - er than the depths of sea, last - ing as e - ter - ni - ty.
peace that flows from sin for - giv'n, joy that lifts the soul to heav'n,
all my wants to him are known, all my sor - rows are his own.
When my way - ward heart would stray, keep me in the nar - row way;



As the branch is to the vine, I am his, and he is mine.
Love that found me—won - drous thought—found me when I sought him not.
faith and hope to walk with God in the way that E - noch trod.
He sus - tains the hid - den life safe with him from earth - ly strife.
grace in time of need sup - ply while I live and when I die.

Text: William McComb, 1793–1870

Music: GETHSEMANE. Richard Redhead, 1820–1901