



Ash Wednesday

Wednesday, February 18, 2026

Advent Lutheran Church

www.adventharleysville.org



Advent Lutheran Church
470 Landis Road
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Prelude

Prepare your hearts for worship in a quiet time and space during the prelude.

GATHERING

PSALM 51: 1-17 (*Sung responsively: Odd – Piano side; Even - Pulpit side*)

¹Have mercy on me O God according to your | steadfast love;
in your great compassion blot out | my offenses.

²**Wash me through and through | from my wickedness,
and cleanse me | from my sin.**

³For I know | my offenses,
and my sin is ev- | er before me.

⁴**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.**

⁵Indeed I was born | steeped in wickedness,
a sinner from my | mother's womb.

⁶**Indeed you delight in truth | deep within me,
and would have me know wisdom | deep within.**

⁷Remove my sins with hyssop and I | shall be clean;
wash me and I shall be pur- | er than snow.

⁸**Let me hear | joy and gladness;
that the body you have broken | may rejoice.**

⁹Hide your face | from my sins,
and blot out | all my wickedness.

¹⁰**Create in me a clean | heart O God,
and renew a right spir- | it within me.**

¹¹Cast me not away | from your presence,
and take not your Holy Spir- | it from me.

¹²**Restore to me the joy of | your salvation
and sustain me with your boun- | tiful Spirit.**

¹³Let me teach your ways | to offenders,
and sinners shall be re- | stored to you.

¹⁴**Rescue me from bloodshed O God of | my salvation,
and my tongue shall sing | of your righteousness.**

¹⁵O Lord o- | pen my lips,
and my mouth shall pro- | claim your praise.
¹⁶**For you take no delight in sacrifice or | I would give it.**
You are not pleased | with burnt offering.
¹⁷The sacrifice of God is a | troubled spirit;
a troubled and broken heart O God you will | not despise.

***Greeting and Prayer of the Day**

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

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray.

**C: 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.**

(Please be seated)

WORD

First Reading: Joel 2:1-2, 12-14

¹ 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?

L: This is the Word of the Lord. C: **Thanks be to God.**

*** Gospel Acclamation**



We are turn - ing, Lord, to hear you; you are mer - ci - ful and kind -



slow to an - ger, rich in bless - ing, and with love to us in - clined.

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 6th Chapter.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

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

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹“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.

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.”

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

Sermon

Pastor Mark

***Hymn of the Day:** *Our Father, We Have Wandered*

Hymn# 606

***Invitation to Lent**

***Ash Wednesday Confession**

P: Most holy and merciful God,

**C: 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.

C: 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.

C: 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.

C: Have mercy on us, O God.

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

C: 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.

C: 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.

C: Have mercy on us, O God.

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

C: 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.

C: Have mercy on us, O God.

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

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

Imposition of Ashes

Those who desire to receive ashes come forward to the pastor or worship assistant. Ashes will be placed on the forehead of each person, as these words are spoken.

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

(After all who desire ashes have received them, we conclude the confession. Please stand)

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

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

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

C: 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.

C: Amen.

*** Prayers of Intercession**

*** The Peace**

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

Congregation is invited to share the peace with others by saying "The peace of the Lord be with you"

MEAL

Offering *Lord, You Can Open; Haugen*

***Offertory:** *Oh, What Shall I Render*



1 Oh, what shall I ren - der in thanks to my Lord
2 My hands take the cup of sal - va - tion you give;
for all the good gifts by which I am re - stored?
I'll praise you, O God, for as long as I live.
No trea - sure I ten - der could ev - er re - pay
My thanks will rise up as I call on your name,
God's mer - cy and faith - ful - ness, new ev - 'ry day.
with all of your peo - ple your good - ness pro - claim.

Offertory Prayer

P: Almighty and ever-living God, you have made all things, 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.

C: Amen.

***Communion Liturgy**

P: *Those of you worshiping with us online are invited to share communion with us. I invite you to have your bread and your wine or grape juice before you as we gather to receive communion. What we share is not a private ceremony, but an act of worship within this community gathered by a God who transcends time and space. It is "for you" – Christ promises to be there for you. Trust that. And this sacrament is also for all people; we celebrate in the assembly. We are one community in worship.*

***Dialog**

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

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

C: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

***Preface** It is indeed right..join their unending hymn

***Holy, Holy, Holy**



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,



heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san - na in the high - est.



Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -



san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

***Eucharistic Prayer**

P: Blessed are you, O God of the universe

... as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P: O God of resurrection and new life....

... Grace our table with your presence.

C: Come, Holy Spirit.

P: Reveal yourself to us

... burning with justice, peace, and love.

C: Come, Holy Spirit.

P: With your holy ones of all times and places...

... blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever.

C: Amen.

* Lord's Prayer

P: Lord, remember us in your reign, and teach us to pray:

**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.**

Communion

Those worshiping in-person are invited to come forward as the ushers direct you. You may receive bread and dip it into the wine or grape juice; or you may pick up one of the sealed wafer/grape juice packets or a sealed gluten free wafer and hear the words of promise before returning to your seat to open it.

Those worshiping online are invited to use your own bread and wine or grape juice at this time, saying to each other, or to yourself, "The body of Christ given for you," and "The blood of Christ shed for you." For all of us, Christ promises to be present in, with, and under the bread and wine/juice.

Children who have not yet received their first communion may come forward (in person) for a blessing, or someone in the room (worshiping online) may pause to provide that blessing, saying "Remember, God loves you" or "You are a beloved child of God."

Lamb of God



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

*** Post Communion Blessing**

P: Now may the body and blood of our savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God's Grace.

C: Amen

*** Post Communion Prayer**

A: Embodied God, at your table, we have tasted the goodness of Jesus. With the eyes of our hearts open to your promise, empower us to hear the needs of our neighbors and touch the world with your love. **Amen.**

SENDING

***Benediction**

P: Almighty God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **C: Amen.**

***Sending Hymn:** *Savior, When in Dust to You*

Hymn# 601

*** Dismissal**

A: 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.

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

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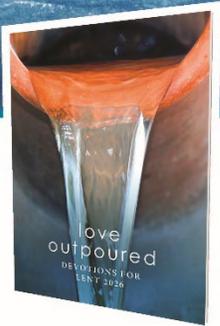
Sexton – Susan Underkoffler

Lay Eucharist Ministers – Joan Kelley, Carrie Ryan, Diana Shearer,
Erica Heck, Betty Keck, Jo Gilbert

Join us Wednesdays during Lent, Feb. 25, March 4, 11, 18 and 25 at 6:30pm for Soup Suppers and at 7:30pm for Holden Evening Prayer.

You are also invited to join us for a Lenten Bible Study on Wednesday morning at 10am or Wednesday nights at 5:30pm, followed by the Soup Supper.

Also, to deepen your Lenten experience, consider this devotional available in the Narthex.



Free Lenten Devotionals Available for Pickup Today!

Love Outpoured: Devotions for Lent 2026 provides devotional messages from Ash Wednesday to the Vigil of Easter. Featuring images, scriptures, stories, questions and prayers, these pocket-sized devotionals are perfect for audiences of all ages.

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