



Ash Wednesday
February 18, 2026
Lent I — Day 1

Imposition of Ashes

Hymn: O Lord, Throughout These Forty Days (LSB #418)

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

C: **Amen**

P: Dear brothers and sisters of our Lord Jesus Christ, on this day the Church begins a holy season of prayerful, honest reflection about how we live our lives as the children of God. Our attention is 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 motivated by a faithful heart that dwells confidently on God's Word and draws from it life and hope. We pray that our dear Father in heaven, for the sake of His beloved Son and in the power of His Holy Spirit, would richly bless this Lenten season for us that we may come to Easter with glad hearts and keep the feast in sincerity and truth. Let us begin by confessing our sins to God our Father:

C: **We confess to You, O Lord, that our lives have not truly reflected what our mouths have spoken. We have proclaimed love for You, but have been loveless. We have boasted of our faithfulness, and have been faithless. We have sinned against You by failing to live as Your redeemed and beloved children. Although we deserve only punishment, we fervently seek Your forgiveness in Christ, our Lord.**

P: Take heart. Do not be afraid. God desires all to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. It is God Himself who has given His Son Jesus Christ to die for you and for all people. And it is God Himself who raised Christ Jesus from the dead that you might have eternal life. Be confident in what He speaks to you today—I, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto you, and by the command and authority of our Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen**

Old Testament: Joel 2:12-19 ESV

"Yet even now," declares the LORD,
"return to Me with all your heart,
with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;
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.

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?

Blow the trumpet in Zion;
consecrate a fast;
call a solemn assembly;
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.
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?'"
Then the LORD became jealous for His land
and had pity on His people.
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."

L: This is the Word of the LORD.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle: 2 Peter 1:2-11 ESV

May grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.
His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us to His own glory and excellence, by which He has granted to us His precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire. For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love. For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. For whoever lacks these qualities is so nearsighted that he is blind, having forgotten that he was cleansed from his former sins. Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to make your calling and election sure, for if you practice these qualities you will never fall. For in this way there will be richly provided for you an entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Holy Gospel: Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21 ESV

L: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the sixth chapter.

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

[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.
"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. But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.
"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. 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. . . .

“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. But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, 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.

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

L: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Statement of Faith: Apostles' Creed

Hymn: Chief of Sinners Though I Be (LSB #611)

Message

Offering from God's People

Stewardship Prayer

Almighty God, we thank You for all the gifts You have given us. Thank You for Jesus, the perfect steward of Your gifts, showing that giving of self is the most fundamental part of following Him. May the offerings of our time, talents, and material resources be made in the same spirit of sacrifice that Jesus taught us by His life and death for us. In His name we pray, Amen.

Hymn: O Lord, Hear My Prayer (LSB #780)

O Lord, hear my prayer,
O Lord, hear my prayer;
When I call answer me.
O Lord, hear my prayer,
O Lord, hear my prayer;
Come and listen to me.

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Prayers

P: O Lord, we remember this day that we are dust
C: **and to dust we shall return.**
P: O Lord, we remember this day that life alone is nothing
C: **without life together,**
P: and that life together is nothing
C: **without life in You.**
P: O Lord, we remember that life in our hands is meaningless,
C: **while life in Your hands is filled with all good things.**
P: O Father, we commit our spirit to You.
C: **Our lives are in Your hands.**
P: O Father, we commit to You the life of the world.
C: **Our world is in Your hands.**
P: O Father, we commit to You the church, Your people everywhere, and this congregation.
C: **Our community is in Your hands.**
P: O Father, we commit to Your hands the sick and suffering . . .
We commit to Your hands those who grieve . . .
We commit all these lives to Your gracious mercy.
C: **Our friends are in Your hands.**
P: All these burdens and cares, and all that weighs upon our hearts, we lift up to You,
C: **from our hands to Your hands,**

P: in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

P: O God, You desire not the death of sinners, but rather that they turn from their wickedness and live. We implore You to have compassion on the frailty of our mortal nature, for we acknowledge that we are dust and to dust we shall return. Mercifully pardon our sins that we may obtain the promises You have laid up for those who are repentant; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

Preface

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 Him thanks and praise.**

Prayer of Thanksgiving

P: Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen**

P: Lord remember us in Your Kingdom, and teach us to pray:

Lord's Prayer

Luke 11:2-4

Words of Institution

Distribution Hymns

1. Glory Be to Jesus (LSB #433)
2. Jesus, Thy Blood and Righteousness (LSB #563)
3. Beautiful Savior (LSB #537)

Dismissal & Post-Communion Prayer

Benediction

Numbers 6:24-26

P: The LORD bless you and keep you.

The LORD make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The LORD look upon you with favor and give you peace.

C: **Amen**

Hymn: Abide with Me (LSB #878)

Silent Prayer

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Matthew D. Priem | Musician: Teresa Henny/Julie Hall | Elder: Doug Bolton/Kyle Krull

Acknowledgments

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