



February 18, 2026

Ash Wednesday

Rev. Ken Bersche

Maggie Kent, Secretary

Prelude

Processional Hymn *Music: The Lutheran Hymnal, Hymn 166*

“Savior, When in Dust”

Please Stand

- ♪ Savior, when in dust to Thee Low we bow th’ adoring knee; When, repentant, to the skies
Scarce we lift our weeping eyes; O, by all Thy pains and woe Suffered once for us below,
Bending from Thy throne on high, Hear our penitential cry!
- ♪ By Thy helpless infant years, By Thy life of want and tears, By Thy days of deep distress
In the savage wilderness, By the dread, mysterious hour Of th’ insulting tempter’s pow’r,
Turn, O turn a fav’ring eye; Hear our penitential cry!
- ♪ By Thine hour of dire despair, By Thine agony of prayer, By the cross, the nail, the thorn,
Piercing spear, and torturing scorn, By the gloom that veiled the skies
O’er the dreadful sacrifice, Listen to our humble sigh; Hear our penitential cry!
- ♪ By Thy deep expiring groan, By the sad sepulchral stone, By the vault whose dark abode
Held in vain the rising God, O, from earth to heav’n restored, Mighty, reascended Lord,
Bending from Thy throne on high, Hear our penitential cry!

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 419—Text: Robert Grant, 1779–1838, alt.; Text: Public domain

Invocation

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Matthew 28:19b

Amen.

Confession of Sins

Our faith in God is tested when it seems He is not listening to us. The problem is not how God answers but in our limited confession and our failure to totally trust Him for all we need. But God is listening and will answer! Let us now go to our gracious God in confession, expecting Him to hear our cries:

Out of the depths I cry to You, O Lord!

O Lord, hear my voice!

Let Your ears be attentive to the voice of my pleas for mercy!

If You, O Lord, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand?

But with You there is forgiveness, that You may be feared.

I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in His word I hope;

My soul waits for the Lord more than watchmen for the morning, more than watchmen for the morning.

O Israel, hope in the Lord!

For with the Lord there is steadfast love, and with Him is plentiful redemption.

And He will redeem Israel from all his iniquities.

Psalm 130

O Almighty God, merciful Father, I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

Imposition of Ashes *Please Be Seated*

Symbolizing our repentance, we come forward to receive a cross of ashes on your forehead. Anyone who wishes to come forward may do so to receive a cross of ashes on their forehead or on their hand.

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

Absolution

In His great mercy, God sent His Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who took all our sins to the cross. In His stead and by His command, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen. Thanks be to God.

Prayer

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

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.

Amen.

Old Testament Reading

Exodus 2:11–25

¹¹One day, when Moses had grown up, he went out to his people and looked on their burdens, and he saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew, one of his people. ¹²He looked this way and that, and seeing no one, he struck down the Egyptian and hid him in the sand. ¹³When he went out the next day, behold, two Hebrews were struggling together. And he said to the man in the wrong, “Why do you strike your companion?” ¹⁴He answered, “Who made you a prince and a judge over us? Do you mean to kill me as you killed the Egyptian?” Then Moses was afraid, and thought, “Surely the thing is known.” ¹⁵When Pharaoh heard of it, he sought to kill Moses. But Moses fled from Pharaoh and stayed in the land of Midian. And he sat down by a well.

¹⁶Now the priest of Midian had seven daughters, and they came and drew water and filled the troughs to water their father's flock. ¹⁷The shepherds came and drove them away, but Moses stood up and saved them, and watered their flock. ¹⁸When they came home to their father Reuel, he said, “How is it that you have come home so soon today?” ¹⁹They said, “An Egyptian delivered us out of the hand of the shepherds and even drew water for us and watered the flock.” ²⁰He said to his daughters, “Then where is he? Why have you left the man? Call him, that he may eat bread.” ²¹And Moses was content to dwell with the man, and he gave Moses his daughter Zipporah. ²²She gave birth to a son, and he called his name Gershom, for he said, “I have been a sojourner in a foreign land.”

²³During those many days the king of Egypt died, and the people of Israel groaned because of their slavery and cried out for help. Their cry for rescue from slavery came up to God. ²⁴And God heard their groaning, and God remembered his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob. ²⁵God saw the people of Israel—and God knew.

The Epistle

2 Corinthians 5:20–6:10

²⁰Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

¹Working together with him, then, we appeal to you not to receive the grace of God in vain. ²For 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. ³We put no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, ⁴but as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: by great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, ⁵beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; ⁶by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, the Holy Spirit, genuine love; ⁷by truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; ⁸through honor and dishonor, through slander and praise. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; ⁹as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold, we live; as punished, and yet not killed; ¹⁰as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, yet possessing everything.

Gradual Hymn

“My Faith Looks Up to Thee”

- ♪ My faith looks up to Thee, Thou Lamb of Calvary, Savior divine.
Now hear me while I pray; Take all my guilt away;
O let me from this day Be wholly Thine!
- ♪ May Thy rich grace impart Strength to my fainting heart; My zeal inspire!
As Thou hast died for me, Oh, may my love to Thee
Pure, warm, and changeless be, A living fire!
- ♪ While life's dark maze I tread And griefs around me spread, Be Thou my guide;
Bid darkness turn to day, Wipe sorrow's tears away,
Nor let me ever stray From Thee aside.
- ♪ When ends life's transient dream, When death's cold, sullen stream Shall o'er me roll,
Blest Savior, then, in love, Fear and distrust remove;
O bear me safe above, A ransomed soul!

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 702—Text: Ray Palmer, 1808–87; Text: Public domain

Passion History of Our Lord *Please Stand*

Matthew 26:31–46

³¹Then Jesus said to them, “You will all fall away because of me this night. For it is written, ‘I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.’ ³²But after I am raised up, I will go before you to Galilee.” ³³Peter answered him, “Though they all fall away because of you, I will never fall away.” ³⁴Jesus said to him, “Truly, I tell you, this very night, before the rooster crows, you will deny me three times.” ³⁵Peter said to him, “Even if I must die with you, I will not deny you!” And all the disciples said the same.

³⁶Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to his disciples, “Sit here, while I go over there and pray.” ³⁷And taking with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, he began to be sorrowful and troubled. ³⁸Then he said to them, “My soul is very sorrowful, even to death; remain here, and watch with me.” ³⁹And going a little farther he fell on his face and prayed, saying, “My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will.” ⁴⁰And he came to the disciples and found them sleeping. And he said to Peter, “So, could you not watch with me one hour? ⁴¹Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.” ⁴²Again, for the second time, he went away and prayed, “My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done.” ⁴³And again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy. ⁴⁴So, leaving them again, he went away and prayed for the third time, saying the same words again. ⁴⁵Then he came to the disciples and said to them, “Sleep and take your rest later on. See, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. ⁴⁶Rise, let us be going; see, my betrayer is at hand.”

Nicene Creed

The Hymn *Please Be Seated*

“Go to Dark Gethsemane”

- ♪ Go to dark Gethsemane, All who feel the tempter’s pow’r;
Your Redeemer’s conflict see, Watch with Him one bitter hour;
Turn not from His griefs away; Learn from Jesus Christ to pray.
- ♪ Follow to the judgment hall, View the Lord of life arraigned;
Oh, the wormwood and the gall! Oh, the pangs His soul sustained!
Shun not suff’ring, shame, or loss; Learn from Him to bear the cross.
- ♪ Calv’ry’s mournful mountain climb; There, adoring at His feet,
Mark that miracle of time, God’s own sacrifice complete.
“It is finished!” hear Him cry; Learn from Jesus Christ to die.
- ♪ Early hasten to the tomb Where they laid His breathless clay;
All is solitude and gloom. Who has taken Him away?
Christ is ris’n! He meets our eyes. Savior, teach us so to rise.

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 436—Text: James Montgomery, 1771–1854; Text: Public domain

Proclamation of the Word

“Out of Egypt, I Have Called My Son”

Exodus 2:23–25

Response Hymn

“Drawn to the Cross, Which Thou Hast Blessed”

- ♪ Drawn to the cross, which Thou hast blessed With healing gifts for souls distressed,
To find in Thee my life, my rest, Christ crucified, I come.
- ♪ Thou knowest all my griefs and fears, Thy grace abused, my misspent years;
Yet now to Thee with contrite tears, Christ crucified, I come.
- ♪ Wash me and take away each stain; Let nothing of my sin remain.
For cleansing, though it be through pain, Christ crucified, I come.
- ♪ And then for work to do for Thee, Which shall so sweet a service be
That angels well might envy me, Christ crucified, I come.

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 560—Text: Genevieve M. Irons, 1855–1928; Text: Public domain

Prayer of the Church *Please Stand Each petition is concluded with the following:*

Lord, in Your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Preface

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

2 Timothy 4:22

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Colossians 3:1

Let us give thanks to Lord our God.

It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

Psalm 136

Proper Preface

Sanctus

Holy, holy, holy Lord,

Lord God of power and might: Heaven and earth are full of Your glory.

Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest!

Lord's Prayer

Words of Our Lord

The Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Amen.

Agnus Dei

O Christ,

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

O Christ,

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

O Christ,

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us Your peace.

Distribution Hymn *Please Be Seated*

“Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence”

♪ Let all mortal flesh keep silence And with fear and trembling stand;
Ponder nothing earthly-minded, For with blessing in His hand
Christ our God to earth descending Comes our homage to demand.

♪ King of kings yet born of Mary, As of old on earth He stood,
Lord of lords in human vesture, In the body and the blood,
He will give to all the faithful His own self for heav'nly food.

♪ Rank on rank the host of heaven Spreads its vanguard on the way
As the Light of Light, descending From the realms of endless day,
Comes the pow'rs of hell to vanquish As the darkness clears away.

♪ At His feet the six-winged seraph, Cherubim with sleepless eye,
Veil their faces to the presence As with ceaseless voice they cry:
“Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, Lord Most High!”

*Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 621—Text: Liturgy of St. James, 5th cent.; tr. Gerard Moultrie, 1829–85, alt.;
Text: Public domain*

Benediction

The Lord bless you and keep you.

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

The Lord look on You with favor and + give You peace.

Numbers 6:24–26

Amen.

Recessional Hymn

“Go, My Children, with My Blessing”

♪ Go, My children, with My blessing, Never alone. Waking, sleeping, I am with you;
You are My own. In My love’s baptismal river I have made you Mine forever.
Go, My children, with My blessing— You are My own.

♪ Go, My children, sins forgiven, At peace and pure. Here you learned how much I love you,
What I can cure. Here you heard My dear Son’s story; Here you touched Him, saw His glory.
Go, My children, sins forgiven, At peace and pure.

♪ Go, My children, fed and nourished, Closer to Me; Grow in love and love by serving,
Joyful and free. Here My Spirit’s power filled you; Here His tender comfort stilled you.
Go, My children, fed and nourished, Joyful and free.

♪ I the Lord will bless and keep you And give you peace; I the Lord will smile upon you
And give you peace: I the Lord will be your Father, Savior, Comforter, and Brother.
Go, My children; I will keep you And give you peace.

*Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 922—Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1919–2008
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Postlude

Door Offering