



Ash Wednesday

Wednesday, February 18, 2026 – 7:00 p.m.

St. Luke's Lutheran Church, Waukesha, WI

www.stlukeslutheran.org office@stlukeslutheran.org (262) 542-2545

**Helping people make life-changing connections with God
through Jesus Christ.**

Ash Wednesday

Wednesday, February 18, 2026 – 7:00 p.m.

Notes for Worship

- Hymnals: ELW – cranberry; ACS – purple.
- Individually wrapped gluten-free communion wafers are available upon request.
- We invite children of all ages to be in worship with us. Children are welcome to use the Pray-Ground in front of the church on the piano side as a comfortable space to experience worship. If you feel your child(ren) are being too disruptive, you are welcome to move into the Chapel.

GATHERING

We gather in silence.

Psalm 51

Verses 1 – 9: Cantor

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

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

For I know my offenses and my sin is ever before me.

*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.*

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

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

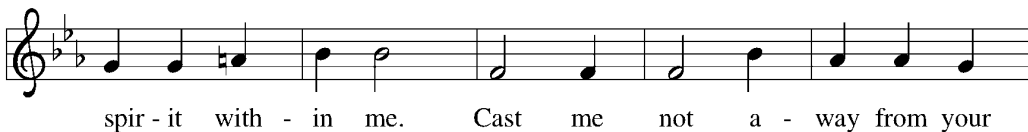
*Remove my sins with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be purer than snow.*

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

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

Refrain (All): *Create in Me a Clean Heart*

ELW 188





pres-ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re -
 store un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,
 and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

Verses 13 – 17: Cantor

Let me teach your ways to offenders, and sinners shall be restored to you.

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

O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.

For you take no delight in sacrifice, or I would give it.

You are not pleased with burnt offering.

*The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit; a troubled and broken heart,
 O God, you will not despise.*

Refrain (All): *Create in Me a Clean Heart*

ELW 188

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, ... the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty and ever-living God, ... with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

WORD

FIRST READING

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

'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—

²a 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.

¹²Yet even now, says the Lord,
return to me with all your heart,
with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;
¹³rend your hearts and not your clothing.

Return to the Lord, your God,
for the Lord is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love,
and relents from punishing.

¹⁴Who knows whether the Lord will not turn and relent,
and leave behind a blessing,
a grain offering and a drink offering
for the Lord, your God?

¹⁵Blow the trumpet in Zion; sanctify a fast;
call a solemn assembly; ¹⁶gather the people.
Sanctify the congregation; assemble the aged;
gather the children, even infants at the breast.
Let the bridegroom leave his room, and the bride her canopy.

¹⁷Between 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?'"

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING

2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

^{20b}We entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹For our sake God made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

⁶As we work together with God, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. ²For God says,

“At an acceptable time I have listened to you,
and on a day of salvation I have helped you.”

See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation! ³We are putting no obstacle in anyone’s way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, ⁴but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, ⁵beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; ⁶by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, ⁷truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; ⁸in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; ⁹as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see—we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; ¹⁰as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ACS pg. 34



Noth-ing in all cre - a - tion can sep-a-rate us from the love of God.



Noth-ing in all cre - a - tion can sep-a-rate us from the love of God.

GOSPEL

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said: “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.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor Hooper

HYMN OF THE DAY *Savior, When in Dust to You*

ELW 601



1 Sav-ior, when in dust to you low we bow in hom-age due;
2 By your help-less in-fant years, by your life of want and tears,
3 By your hour of dire de-spair, by your ag-o-ny of prayer,
4 By your deep ex-pir-ing groan, by the sad se-pul-chral stone,



when, re-pen-tant, to the skies scarce we lift our weep-ing eyes;
by your days of deep dis-tress in the sav-age wil-der-ness,
by the cross, the nail, the thorn, pierc-ing spear, and tor-turing scorn,
by the vault whose dark a-bode held in vain the ris-ing God,



oh, by all your pains and woe suf-fered once for us be-low,
by the dread, mys-te-rious hour of the in-sult-ing tempt-er's pow'r,
by the gloom that veiled the skies o'er the dread-ful sac-ri-fice,
oh, from earth to heav'n re-stored, might-y, re-as-cend-ed Lord,



bend-ing from your throne on high, hear our pen-i-ten-tial cry!
turn, oh, turn a fa-v'ring eye; hear our pen-i-ten-tial cry!
lis-ten to our hum-ble sigh; hear our pen-i-ten-tial cry!
bend-ing from your throne on high, hear our pen-i-ten-tial cry!

INVITATION TO LENT

CONFESSION OF SIN

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

Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.

Congregation may be seated or kneel.

Most holy and merciful God,

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.

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.

Have mercy on us, O God.

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.

Have mercy on us, O God.

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

Have mercy on us, O God.

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

Have mercy on us, O God.

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

Have mercy on us, O God.

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

Have mercy on us, O God.

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

Have mercy on us, O God.

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

Have mercy on us, O God.

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

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

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

Please come to the Baptismal Font to receive the imposition of ashes. You may respond to the words "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return" with a quiet "Amen."

Silence for meditation and reflection

Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation,
that we may show forth your glory in the world.

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

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

Almighty God have mercy on us... keep us in eternal life.

Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Hear us, O God,

Your mercy is great.

MEAL

OFFERING *Dust, Remember You Are Splendor*

Anne Krentz Organ
Voices of Faith



1. Point your QR reader at the left QR graphic where you can login and track your giving. Or visit stlukeslutheran.org and click the Online Giving tab on the right side of the page.
 2. Point your QR reader at the right QR graphic to make an **online one-time** gift. Or visit omella.com/o/izfds.



FEBRUARY MISSION: Healing Hearts: Healing Hearts of Waukesha County offers a peer-to-peer support program for children, youth, and families who are grieving the loss of a loved one due to death, divorce, separation, incarceration, military deployment, or immigration.

OFFERING PRAYER

O God, maker of heaven and earth, ... to his saving work. We ask this in Jesus' name.
Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

Blessed are you... to age.

Praise to you...

In the night...

Again, after supper...

With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

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

O God of resurrection and new life: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine. Bless this feast. Grace our table with your presence.

Come, Holy Spirit.

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread. Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world. Breathe new life into us. Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love.

Come, Holy Spirit.

With your holy ones of all times and places, with the earth and all its creatures, with sun and moon and stars, we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven,

hallowed be your name,

your kingdom come,

your will be done,

on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins

as we forgive those

who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial

and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power,

and the glory are yours,

now and forever. Amen.

COMMUNION

All who are baptized are welcome to receive Holy Communion, regardless of church affiliation. Receive our Lord in the bread and wine of this meal. Juice and individually wrapped, gluten-free wafers are available from the server by request.

COMMUNION HYMNS *Be Thou My Vision*

ELW 793



1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
 2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;
 3 Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise,
 4 Light of my soul, af - ter vic - to - ry won,



naught be all else to me, save that thou art:
 I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord.
 thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways:
 may I reach heav - en's joys, O heav - en's Sun!



thou my best thought both by day and by night,
 Thou my soul's shel - ter, and thou my high tow'r,
 thou and thou on - ly, the first in my heart,
 Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,



wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.
 raise thou me heav'n - ward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.
 great God of heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.
 still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

HYMN *Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling*

ELW 608



1 Soft - ly and ten - der - ly Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing for
2 Why should we tar - ry when Je - sus is plead - ing, plead - ing for
3 Oh, for the won - der - ful love he has prom - ised, prom - ised for



you and for me. See, on the por - tals he's wait - ing and watch - ing,
you and for me? Why should we lin - ger and heed not his mer - cies,
you and for me! Though we have sinned, he has mer - cy and par - don,

Refrain



watch - ing for you and for me.
mer - cies for you and for me? "Come home, come home!
par - don for you and for me.



You who are wea - ry, come home." Ear - nest - ly, ten - der - ly,



Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing, "O sin - ner, come home!"

TABLE BLESSING

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God of our salvation, ... love for all creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

SENDING

BLESSING

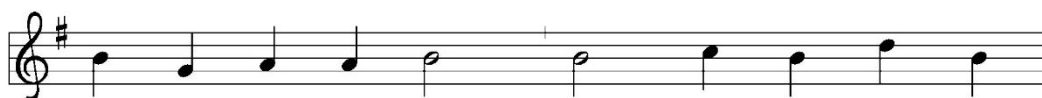
Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity: ... sustains creation, † bless you now and always.
Amen.

SENDING HYMN *The Glory of These Forty Days*

ELW 320



1 The glo - ry of these for - ty days we cel - e -
2 A - lone and fast - ing Mo - ses saw the lov - ing
3 So Dan - iel trained his mys - tic sight, de - liv - ered
4 Then grant, O God, that we may, too, re - turn in



brate with songs of praise; for Christ, through whom all
God who gave the law; and to E - li - jah,
from the li - ons' might; and John, the Bride - groom's
fast and prayer to you. Our spir - its strength - en



things were made, him - self has fast - ed and has prayed.
fast - ing, came the steeds and char - i - ots of flame.
friend, be - came the her - ald of Mes - si - ah's name.
with your grace, and give us joy to see your face.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Believe the good news
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE *Vater unser im Himmelreich, BWV 636* *Our Father in Heaven*

J.S. Bach

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Friendship Pads

Please be sure to sign in on the friendship pads located in each pew.

Hospitality Thank You

February's Mt. Meru Coffee Hour is sponsored by Jean Binner. In memory of her husband Richard and son, Ricky.

Lent, Holy Week, and Easter Worship Schedule

Wednesday midweek worship from February 25 to March 25 at 7:00 p.m.

Maundy Thursday worship, April 2 at 7:00 p.m.

Good Friday worship, April 3 at 7:00 p.m.

No 5:00 p.m. worship Saturday, April 4.

Easter Sunday worship, April 5, at 8:15 and 10:30 a.m.

Lenten Meals

In our life together, community is important. Beginning February 25, we will again be having soup suppers served each Wednesday from 5:45-6:30 p.m. before the evening worship at 7:00 p.m. Please come and enjoy the fellowship. We look forward to seeing you and worshipping together.

Saturday Social

Join the Youth Saturday, February 28, for dinner, conversation and a little laughter after the 5:00 p.m. service. February's meal is Spaghetti Dinner, gluten free will be available. Sign up at Sign Up Central.

Greece Trip Information Meeting Sunday, March 1

Pastor Jordan will host an information session on Sunday, March 1, between services 9:30 a.m. This will be an opportunity to review flight details, discuss transportation, and answer any questions you may have.

Serving Tonight:

Presiding:

Pastor Hooper

Preaching:

Pastor Hooper

Music:

Michael Schaner

Assisting Minister:

Chris Jackson

Lector:

Jennifer Thorstad

Acolyte:

DevinReigh Endries

Altar Care:

Jennifer Thorstad

Worship Tech:

Gavin Harris

Communion Assistant:

Lori Chandler

Kathy Fontaine

Ushers:

Randy Martin

John Christiansen

Wendy Bacon

Steve Wiley