

# The Lutheran Church of The Redeemer

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Ash Wednesday

February 18, 2026 – 7:00 pm

A warm welcome to The Lutheran Church of The Redeemer!

Friends in Christ, today is Ash Wednesday and 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.

Whether you are a long-time member, a newcomer to our parish, or simply exploring your faith, we are delighted to have you join us. We are a family of faith dedicated to sharing God's love and grace through worship, fellowship, and service.

We invite you to join us for our worship services, participate in our ministries, and become a part of our vibrant parish. May you feel the presence of the Holy Spirit among us and find a spiritual home here at Redeemer.

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The Lutheran Church of The Redeemer is a Christian community of diverse people called and guided by the Holy Spirit to nurture with God's love those within and beyond our congregation.

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A place where God is at work!  
All are welcome. No exceptions.

..... † **GATHERING** † .....

*The assembly gathers in silence. Please remain seated during the Kyrie.*

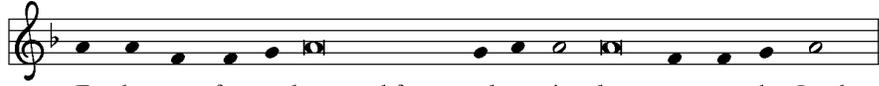
**THE KYRIE**



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal - va - tion, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace of the whole world, for the well - being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this ho - ly house, and for all who of - fer here their wor - ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men.

<We stand..>

**GREETING**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray. Loving God,

**Your son came, and like a good shepherd, gave his life for your sheep. Receive our humble gratitude for this act of sacrifice and courage. Amen.**

<We sit.>

..... ✚ **WORD** ✚ .....

**READING**

**Psalm 23**

*Pew Bible page 435*

*The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters; he restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name's sake. Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and mercy<sup>l</sup> shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord my whole life long.*

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

<We stand.>

**GOSPEL**

The Holy Gospel according to John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

**John 10:1-18**

*Pew Bible page 872*

*"Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers." Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.*

*So again Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and bandits, but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved and will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.*

*"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own, and my own know me, just as the Father knows me, and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father."*

<At the conclusion of the reading>

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

<We sit.>

SERMON

Rev. Matthew Titus

<We stand.>

HYMN OF THE DAY

Savior, When in Dust to Thee

Insert

1. Sav - iour, when in dust to thee Low we bend the a - dor - ing knee;  
2. By thy help - less in - fant years, By thy life of want and tears,

When, re - pent - ant, to the skies, Scarce we lift our weep - ing eyes;  
By thy days of sore dis - tress In the sav - age wil - der - ness,

O by all thy pains and woe Suf - fered once for man be - low,  
By the dread mys - ter - ious hour Of the in - sult - ing tempt - er's power;

Bend - ing from thy throne on high, Hear our sol - emn lit - a - ny!  
Turn, O turn a fa - voring eye, Hear our sol - emn lit - a - ny! A - men.

3 By thine hour of dire despair,  
By thine agony of prayer;  
By the cross, the nail, the thorn,  
Piercing spear, the torturing scorn;  
By the gloom that veiled the skies  
O'er the dreadful sacrifice;  
Listen to our humble cry,  
Hear our solemn litany!

4 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 heaven restored,  
Mighty, re-ascended Lord,  
Listen, listen to the cry  
Of our solemn litany! Amen.

<We sit.>

## INVITATION TO LENT

On Ash Wednesday we begin our forty-day journey toward Easter with a day of fasting and repentance. Marking our foreheads with dust, we acknowledge that we die and return to the earth. At the same time, the dust traces the life-giving cross indelibly marked on our foreheads at baptism. While we journey through Lent to return to God, we have already been reconciled to God through Christ. We humbly pray for God to make our hearts clean while we rejoice that “now is the day of salvation.” Returning to our baptismal call, we more intentionally bear the fruits of mercy and justice in the world.

## PSALM

*Psalm 51 is one of confession and repentance.*

*We read it responsively, by whole verse, as we prepare ourselves for confession.*

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 wickedness.

**Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
and renew a right spirit within.**

Cast me not away from your presence,  
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

**Restore to me the joy of your salvation  
and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.**

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.**

## CONFESSION OF SIN

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another. Kneeling as we are able.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

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

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. **Amen.**

*You may come forward, as you are able, to receive the ashes.*

<We sit.>

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, 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.

**Amen.**

<We stand.>

## HYMN

### Forgive Our Sins As We Forgive

*ELW Hymn 605*

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, let us pray for the world and its needs.

<We kneel.>

*Each petition ends with, "Hear Us, O God" and we respond with, "Your mercy is great."*

Receive our prayers, O God, through Jesus Christ, our strength and salvation.

**Amen.**

<We stand.>

## SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*You are invited to share the peace however you and those around you are comfortable.*

<We sit.>

..... ✝ MEAL ✝ .....

## RECEPTION OF THE OFFERING

### MUSICAL OFFERING

#### Out of the Depths

Richard Frist

Dr. Kevin Dove, flute

<We stand.>

## OFFERTORY

### What Shall I Render

What shall I ren - der to the Lord for all his ben - e - fits to me?  
I will of - fer the sac - ri - fice of thanks - giv - ing  
and will call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal -  
va - tion and will call on the name of the Lord.  
I will pay my vows to the Lord now in the  
pres - ence of all his peo - ple, in the courts of the Lord's house,  
in the midst of you, O Je - ru - sa - lem.

## OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray. O God, maker of heaven and earth, your steadfast love embraces all creation. You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth and bring forth its bounty. Through these gifts of bread and wine, draw us into the death and life of your Son, who calls us to bear witness to his saving work. We ask this in Jesus' name.

**Amen.**

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

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.**

## PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty, and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise ... *here the minister continues with the preface for the day, concluding* ... we praise your name and join their unending hymn.

## HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:



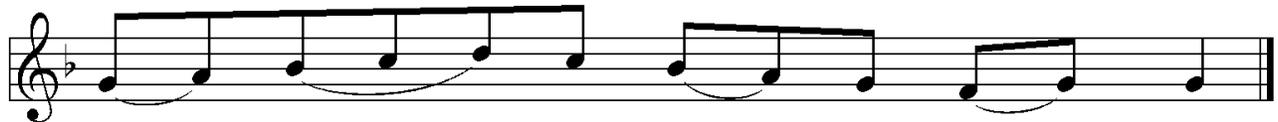
Heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.



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.

## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Blessed are you, ...

... as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died.**

**Christ has risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

... Grace our table with your presence.

**Come, Holy Spirit.**

... Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love.

**Come, Holy Spirit.**

... we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom 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.**

**INVITATION TO THE MEAL**

Come to the table.

Feast on God’s goodness and mercy.

<We sit.>

**COMMUNION**

*Participation in Holy Communion is open to all the baptized. We come in faith, trusting Christ is truly present in the bread and wine – given for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen us for proclaiming God’s love in the world. You are invited to come forward to receive the bread and wine. You may dip the bread into the chalice. If you are unable to come forward, communion will be brought to you. Gluten-free wafers are available upon request.*

<We stand.>

**THE TABLE BLESSING**

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

**Amen.**

**POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

God of our salvation,

we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls, reconciles us to you, and strengthens us for the journey. Through the body and blood of your Son, may we become Christ’s body in the world, bearing witness to your love for all creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

..... ✝ **SENDING** ✝ .....

**BLESSING**

Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity:  
God, who calls all things into existence,  
Jesus Christ, who redeems us,  
and the Holy Spirit

✝ bless you now and forever.

**Amen.**

**DISMISSAL**

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

**VOLUNTARY**

*Deep Were His Wounds*

Leland Sateren

**You are invited to continue the journey through Lent with us!  
We will gather on Wednesday evenings for a meal and brief worship service  
beginning at 6:15pm in the Family Life Center**

Join us for this intentional time of break and contemplation on  
February 25, March 4, 8, 11, and 25

Holy Week Services will be held on Maundy Thursday (April 2)  
and Good Friday (April 3) at 7:00pm

Easter Sunday services will be held on April 5 at 7:00am and 10:30am



**The Rev. Matthew Titus, Pastor · Haley McBride-Stuhr, Office Assistant & Bookkeeper  
Dr. Huger Caughman, Jr., Organist · Nicholas Todd Shumate, Choir Director  
A/V Team: Annette Belcher, Wayden Caughman, Nikki Chapman, and Matt Bowers**

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**Evangelical  
Lutheran Church  
in America**