

Ash Wednesday

18 February A+D 2026



St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church U. A. C. & Rainbow Preschool

145 S. 6th Street
Waterford, Wisconsin
Missouri Synod

Church

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Enter in silence

The Imposition of Ashes

Using the right thumb, the pastor places the ashes on the forehead of each person in the sign of the cross, saying:
Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.

Hymn: 419 Savior, When in Dust to Thee

Stand

P Dear brothers and sisters of our Lord Jesus Christ, on this day the Church begins a holy season of prayerful and penitential reflection. Our attention is especially 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 born of a faithful heart that dwells confidently on His Word and draws from it life and hope.

Let us pray that our dear Father in heaven, for the sake of His beloved Son and in the power of His Holy Spirit, might richly bless this Lententide for us so that we may come to Easter with glad hearts and keep the feast in sincerity and truth.

Kneel/Stand

The Litany

P O Lord,
C have mercy.
P O Christ,
C have mercy.
P O Lord,
C have mercy.
P O Christ,
C hear us.
P God the Father in heaven,
C have mercy.
P God the Son, Redeemer of the world,
C have mercy.
P God the Holy Spirit,
C have mercy.
P Be gracious to us.
C Spare us, good Lord.
P Be gracious to us.
C Help us, good Lord.

- P** By the mystery of Your holy incarnation; by Your holy nativity; by Your baptism, fasting, and temptation; by Your agony and bloody sweat; by Your cross and passion; by Your precious death and burial; by Your glorious resurrection and ascension; and by the coming of the Holy Spirit, the Comforter:
- C** **Help us, good Lord.**
- P** In all time of our tribulation; in all time of our prosperity; in the hour of death; and in the day of judgment:
- C** **Help us, good Lord.**
- P** We poor sinners implore You
- C** **to hear us, O Lord.**
- P** To prosper the preaching of Your Word; to bless our prayer and meditation; to strengthen and preserve us in the true faith; and to give heart to our sorrow and strength to our repentance:
- C** **We implore You to hear us, good Lord.**
- P** To draw all to Yourself; to bless those who are instructed in the faith; to watch over and console the poor, the sick, the distressed, the lonely, the forsaken, the abandoned, and all who stand in need of our prayers; to give abundant blessing to all works of mercy; and to have mercy on us all:
- C** **We implore You to hear us, good Lord.**
- P** To turn our hearts to You; to turn the hearts of our enemies, persecutors, and slanderers; and graciously to hear our prayers:
- C** **We implore You to hear us, good Lord.**
- P** Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God,
- C** **we implore You to hear us.**
- P** Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,
- C** **have mercy.**
- P** Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,
- C** **have mercy.**
- P** Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,
- C** **grant us Your peace.**
- P** O Christ,
- C** **hear us.**
- P** O Lord,
- C** **have mercy.**
- P** O Christ,
- C** **have mercy.**
- P** O Lord,
- C** **have mercy. 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.

Corporate Confession and Absolution

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

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

C Amen.

P I will go to the altar of God,

C to God my exceeding joy.

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C who made heaven and earth.

Sit

P Beloved in the Lord, it is our intention to receive the Holy Supper of our Lord Jesus Christ, in which He strengthens our faith by giving us His body to eat and His blood to drink. Therefore, it is proper that we diligently examine ourselves, as St. Paul urges us to do, for this holy Sacrament has been instituted for the special comfort of those who are troubled because of their sin and who humbly confess their sins, fear God's wrath, and hunger and thirst for righteousness.

But when we examine our hearts and consciences, we find nothing in us but sin and death, from which we are incapable of delivering ourselves. Therefore, our Lord Jesus Christ has had mercy on us. For our benefit He became man so that He might fulfill for us the whole will and law of God and, to deliver us, took upon Himself our sin and the punishment we deserve.

So that we may more confidently believe this and be strengthened in the faith and in holy living, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread, broke it, and gave it to His disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you." It is as if He said, "I became man, and all that I do and suffer is for your good. As a pledge of this, I give you My body to eat."

In the same way also He took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins." Again, it is as if He said, "I have had mercy on you by taking into Myself all your iniquities. I give Myself into death, shedding My blood to obtain grace and forgiveness of sins, and to comfort and establish the new testament, which gives forgiveness and everlasting salvation. As a pledge of this, I give you My blood to drink."

Therefore, whoever eats this bread and drinks this cup, confidently believing this Word and promise of Christ, dwells in Christ and Christ in him and has eternal life.

We should also do this in remembrance of Him, showing His death—that He was delivered for our offenses and raised for our justification. Giving Him our most heartfelt thanks, we take up our cross and follow Him and, according to His commandment, love one another as He has loved us. For we are all one bread and one body, even as we are all partakers of this one bread and drink from the one cup. For just as the one cup is filled with wine of many grapes and one bread made from countless grains, so also we, being many, are one body in Christ. Because of Him, we love one another, not only in word, but in deed and in truth.

May the almighty and merciful God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, by His Holy Spirit, accomplish this in us.

C Amen.

P Having heard the Word of God, let us confess our sins to Him, imploring Him for the sake of His Son Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

Kneel/Stand

C 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.

P God be merciful to you and strengthen your faith.

C Amen.

P Do you believe that the forgiveness I speak is not my forgiveness but God's?

C Yes.

P Let it be done for you as you believe.

The pastor may absolve all the penitents corporately from the altar.

P In the stead and by the command of my 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.

P Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; He will surely do it. Go in † peace.

C Amen.

9 Hide Thy face | from my sins,*
 and blot out all mine in- | iquities.
 10 **Create in me a clean heart, | O God,***
and renew a right spirit with- | in me.
 11 Cast me not away from Thy | presence,*
 and take not Thy holy Spirit | from me.
 12 **Restore unto me the joy of Thy sal- | vation,***
and uphold me with Thy free | Spirit.
 13 Then will I teach transgressors | Thy ways,*
 and sinners shall be converted | unto Thee.
Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy | Spirit;
as it was in the be- | ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

Stand

Holy Gospel

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

P The continuation of the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew.



C Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

At that time Jesus said to His disciples, “Take heed that you do not do your charitable deeds before men, to be seen by them. Otherwise you have no reward from your Father in heaven. Therefore, when you do a charitable deed, do not sound a trumpet before you as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory from men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. But when you do a charitable deed, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, that your charitable deed may be in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will Himself reward you openly. “And when you pray, you shall not be like the hypocrites. For they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the corners of the streets, that they may be seen by men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. “Moreover, “When you fast, do not be like the hypocrites, with a sad countenance. For they disfigure their faces that they may appear to men to be fasting. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. But you, when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, so that you do not appear to men to be fasting, but to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly. 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.”

P The Gospel of the Lord.



C Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

Apostles' Creed

Sit

Hymn of the Day: 607 From Depths of Woe I Cry to Thee

Sermon

Hymn: 434 Lamb of God, Pure and Holy

Stand

Offertory *p. 192 ff*

Prayer of the Church **☩** Amen.

Proper Preface

☩ It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who overcame the assaults of the devil and gave His life as a ransom for many that with cleansed hearts we might be prepared joyfully to celebrate the paschal feast in sincerity and truth. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus - Agnus Dei *p. 195 ff*

Sit

Distribution Hymns:

TLH 152 When o'er My Sins I Sorrow



1 When o'er my sins I sor - row, Lord, I will look to
2 Oh, what a mar - v'lous of - f'ring! Be - hold, the Mas - ter
3 My man - i - fold trans - gres - sion Hence - forth can harm me
4 There - fore I will for - ev - er Give glo - ry un - to



Thee And hence my com - fort bor - row That Thou wast
spares His ser - vants, and their suf - f'ring And grief for
none Since Je - sus' blood - y Pas - sion For me God's
Thee, O Je - sus, lov - ing Sav - ior, For what Thou



slain for me; Yea' Lord, Thy pre - cious blood was spilt
them He bears. God stoop - eth from His throne on high;
grace hath won. His pre - cious blood my debts hath paid;
didst for me. I'll spend my breath in songs of thanks



For me, O most un - wor - thy, To take a - way my guilt.
For me, His guilt - y crea - ture, He deigns as man to die.
Of hell and all its tor - ments I am no more a - fraid.
For Thy sad cry, Thy suf - f'rings, Thy wrongs, Thy guilt-less death. **Amen.**

Text: Justus Gesenius, 1646, cento; (st. 1): tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1863, alt.; (sts. 2-4): tr. composite
Tune: Michael Praetorius, 1609

**418 O Lord, throughout These Forty Days /
609 Jesus Sinners Doth Receive**

Stand

**Nunc Dimittis - Benediction *p. 199 ff*
422 On My Heart Imprint Your Image**

Looking Forward to next Sunday (Invocabit)

Lessons: Genesis 3:1-21, II Corinthians 6:1-10, Matthew 4:1-11
Hymns: 505-942-656-423-562/438/716/724/572-422

Looking forward to Lenten Midweek Vespers I

Lessons: Psalm 118:1-13, Exodus 24:12-18, Matthew 12:38-50
Hymns: 425-758-882

Midweek Vespers services will be held each Wednesday evening during Lent at 6:30 pm with a light meal starting at 5:00 pm.

Acknowledgments

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We Welcome Our Guests Today!

We're glad you've joined us in worship today. Please fill out a Visitor Card (located in the pew rack) and hand it to an usher or place it in the offering plate. We also ask that you read *"Our Practice Concerning Holy Communion"* printed below. Please visit our **Welcome Center** in the narthex and worship with us again soon.

Our Practice Concerning Holy Communion

In keeping with the tradition of the early Church and the Lutheran Confessions, we celebrate the Lord's Supper every Lord's Day. Because Holy Communion is an expression of complete unity of faith and doctrine, only active and repentant members of St. Peter's or a sister Missouri Synod congregation may commune. This is not a judgment of the faith of others, but rather an indication of our obedience to the Lord's command that those who kneel together at His altar be in complete unity regarding what they believe and teach (please read I Cor. 1:10; 10:16-17; 11:17-32). Your respect for our practice concerning the Lord's Supper is appreciated. Please talk to Pastor if you have any questions.

If communing with individual cup, please hold your empty cup until Pastor has passed you with the chalice. And please remember to fill out a Communion card.

The Gathering of the Offerings

God finances His church. The gathering of the offerings is, therefore, not merely collecting money. It is a holy privilege for those who believe in Jesus Christ. This is our opportunity to gratefully respond to God's love and grace by returning a portion of the gifts He has given us. As God's children, we consider it a special honor to build and extend His kingdom through our offerings. St. Paul writes, "God loves a cheerful giver" (II Cor. 9:7b NKJV). Our visitors and guests are in no way compelled to contribute to this offering. We ask nothing of our guests except that they return here often to hear more about God's great love in Jesus Christ, our Lord. If anyone wishes to give electronically, you may scan this QR code to set up an account.



Small Children

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to Me and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 19:14). Jesus wants your little ones present with Him during our worship service. And so do we.

When you're little, it's hard to sit without fidgeting or making some noise. And of course babies join us with their songs, too! We consider their small voices to be a part of our sacred music as they learn with us what it is to be a Christian. We encourage their presence throughout the entire service.

If you feel that your children are being too disruptive, please feel free to take them to the nursery that is located on the other side of the Conference Room. A closed-circuit television will bring the service to you. An usher will be happy to direct you.

"Repetitio est mater studiorum: Repetition is the mother of all learning." The more they're here, the easier it will get.

