



February 18, 2026

Welcome to Grace Lutheran Church! We are brothers and sisters in Christ who are about **“Proclaiming God’s grace through faith and love.”**

If you are a visitor, please make yourself at home and don’t hesitate to ask a question. There will be the celebration of Holy Communion in the **services** today. If you are not a member of Grace and desire to commune, please speak with the pastor **before the service**. If you are physically unable to commune at the altar, the pastor would be happy to serve you in your pew. Please, notify an usher before the service begins.

ASH WEDNESDAY

February 18, 2026

“Honest Repentance”

Today’s Theme: “Law”

Ringing of the Bells

Welcome

Opening Hymn

Lutheran Service Book #418

“O Lord, Throughout These Forty Days”

Invocation & Sentences

Ps. 51:1-2, 7, 10-11

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

C Amen.

P Have mercy on me, O God,

C according to your steadfast love,

P According to your abundant mercy

C blot out my transgressions.

P Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,

C and cleanse me from my sin!

P Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;

C wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

- P** Create in me a clean heart, O God,
C and renew a right spirit within me.
P Cast me not away from your presence,
C and taken not your Holy Spirit from me.

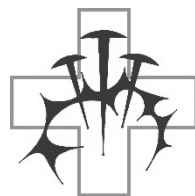
Confession & Absolution

P Let us now confess our sins to our heavenly Father, imploring Him for the sake of His Son, Jesus Christ, to grant us forgiveness.

C Lord, we come before You filled with regrets of things we should not have done, words we wish we could take back, and thoughts we cannot bear to remember. Our sins have infected our relationships with others and our relationship with You, Lord. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so the joy of Your salvation might be restored to us.

P God has promised to hear the penitent cries of His people and for the sake of Jesus, our Savior, grants remission of sins. 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.



Imposition of Ashes



This is a Christian custom on Ash Wednesday to receive the mark of the cross made with ashes upon the forehead. Ashes are a symbol of repentance and of our mortality, especially as we hear the words, “Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.” (Gen. 3:19)

P In repentant humility, the Old Testament figure Job said, “I despise myself, and repent in dust and ashes” (Job 42:6). In ancient times, God’s people often demonstrated sorrow for their sins by putting dust and ashes on their heads, a reminder of the penalty of death decreed in Eden, when God said,

“You are dust, and to dust you shall return” (Genesis 3:19).

Today on Ash Wednesday, as we begin our journey to the cross with Jesus, we remember that we are sinners and that we need a Savior. We receive a mark of ashes in the sign of a cross, remembering that, on the cross, Jesus took onto himself the penalty of death for our sins. You are invited to come forward and receive the mark of ashes.

*Those **wishing** to receive ashes should approach the altar as the pastor invites you forward.*

Sung during the Imposition of Ashes

Hymn

*Lutheran Service Book #419
“Savior, When In Dust to Thee”*

Salutation and Prayer of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P 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, like David before us, 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.

C Amen.

Old Testament Reading

Genesis 1:1-2:3

L The Old Testament Reading for Ash Wednesday is from Genesis, chapters one and two.

¹ In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. ² The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.

³ And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. ⁴ And God saw that the light was good. And God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵ God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

⁶ And God said, “Let there be an expanse in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters.” ⁷ And God made the expanse and separated the waters that were under the expanse from the waters that were above the expanse. And it was so. ⁸ And God called the expanse Heaven. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.

⁹ And God said, “Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear.” And it was so. ¹⁰ God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good.

¹¹ And God said, “Let the earth sprout vegetation, plants yielding seed, and fruit trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind, on the earth.” And it was so. ¹² The earth brought forth vegetation, plants yielding seed according to their own kinds, and trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. ¹³ And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

¹⁴ And God said, “Let there be lights in the expanse of the heavens to separate the day from the night. And let them be for signs and for seasons, and for days and years, ¹⁵ and let them be lights in the expanse of the heavens to give light upon the earth.” And it was so. ¹⁶ And God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. ¹⁷ And God set them in the expanse of the heavens to give light on the earth, ¹⁸ to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. ¹⁹ And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

²⁰ And God said, “Let the waters swarm with swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the expanse of the heavens.” ²¹ So God created the great sea creatures and every living creature that moves, with which the waters swarm, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. ²² And God blessed them, saying, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.” ²³ And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

²⁴ And God said, “Let the earth bring forth living creatures according to their kinds—livestock and creeping things and beasts of the earth according to their kinds.” And it was so. ²⁵ And God made the beasts of the earth according to their kinds and the livestock according to their kinds, and everything that creeps on the ground according to its kind. And God saw that it was good.

²⁶ Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”

²⁷ So God created man in his own image,
in the image of God he created him;
male and female he created them.

²⁸ And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.” ²⁹ And God said, “Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit. You shall have them for food. ³⁰ And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the heavens and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.” And it was so.

³¹ And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

^{2:1} Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. ² And on the seventh day God finished his work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all his work that he had done. ³ So God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it God rested from all his work that he had done in creation.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle Reading

2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

L The Epistle Reading is from 2nd Corinthians, chapters five and six.

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

^{6:1} Working together with him, then, we appeal to you not to receive the grace of God in vain. ² For 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. ³ We put no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry,

⁴ but as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: by great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, ⁵ beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; ⁶ by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, the Holy Spirit, genuine love; ⁷ by truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left;

⁸ through honor and dishonor, through slander and praise. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; ⁹ as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold, we live; as punished, and yet not killed;

¹⁰ as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, yet possessing everything.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Holy Gospel

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Mathew the 6th chapter.

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

¹ “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.

² “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. ³ But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴ so that your giving may be in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

⁵ “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. ⁶ 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.

¹⁶ “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. ¹⁷ But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face,

¹⁸ 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.

¹⁹ “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, ²⁰ but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

The Nicene Creed

Hymn of the Day

Lutheran Service Book #607
“From Depths of Woe I Cry to Thee”

Sermon

Offering

*“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.”*
– Joel 2:12-13a



We encourage you to place your offering in the dropbox in the narthex before service. As the usher brings the offering forward at this time you may also hold it up and place it in the plate as the usher walks by. Please also use this time for prayer and reflection upon what we have heard from the Lord’s Word this morning.

Stand

Prayer of the Church

Responses after each petition:

P ...let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

The prayers conclude:

P We give You thanks, O Lord God, heavenly Father, for looking upon us with compassion and for not counting our sins against us because of Christ alone. Help us to earnestly wear the marks of our repentance and even more earnestly still to believe in Your gift of salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Service of the Sacrament

The Lord's Supper is celebrated at this congregation in the confession and glad confidence that, as he says, our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but his very body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with him and with one another. Our Lord invites to his table those who trust his words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as he forgives and loves us, that they may show forth his death until he comes.

Because those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm and because Holy Communion is a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar, any who are not yet instructed, in doubt, or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, and yet desire to receive the sacrament, are asked first to speak with the pastor.

Preface *(sung)*

LSB p. 194

Proper Preface *(spoken)*

LSB p. 194

Sanctus *"Holy, Holy, Holy"*

LSB p. 195

Lord's Prayer

Pastor will sing the Prayer using LSB #957

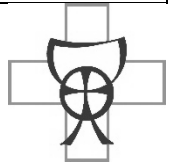
Congregation will sing "For Thine..." using LSB p. 196

The Words of our Lord *(sung by Pastor)*

LSB p. 197

Pax Domini *"The Peace of Our Lord"*

LSB p. 197



Agnus Dei <i>“Lamb of God”</i>	LSB p. 198
Distribution Hymns	
“Jesus Sinners Doth Receive”	LSB # 609
“Chief of Sinners Though I Be”	LSB # 611
Nunc Dimittis <i>“Song of Simeon”</i>	LSB p. 199-200
Thanksgiving	LSB p. 200
Prayer	LSB p. 201
Salutation and Benedicamus	LSB p. 201-202
Benediction	LSB p. 202
Closing Hymn	<i>Lutheran Service Book #606</i> <i>“I Lay My Sins on Jesus”</i>



Grace

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