

# February 18, 2026

## Ash Wednesday

+ GATHERING +

PRELUDE

*SAVIOR, WHEN IN DUST TO THEE, DAVID CHERWIEN*

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

KYRIE

In peace, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.

A musical staff in G major (one flat) with a treble clef. The notes are G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4. The lyrics are "In peace, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy." The word "mer" is underlined.

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

A musical staff in G major with a treble clef. The notes are G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4. The lyrics are "For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord." The word "mer" is underlined.

Lord, have mer - cy.

A musical staff in G major with a treble clef. The notes are G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4. The lyrics are "Lord, have mer - cy." The word "mer" is underlined.

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

A musical staff in G major with a treble clef. The notes are G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4. The lyrics are "For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,". The word "mer" is underlined.

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

A musical staff in G major with a treble clef. The notes are G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4. The lyrics are "and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord." The word "mer" is underlined.

Lord, have mer - cy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,

let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. A - men.

**GREETING**

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

+ **WORD** +

**PSALM 51**

*Have Mercy on Me, O God (S402)*

*Refrain*

The cantor sings each phrase first, then it is repeated by the assembly.

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God,  
 Cre - ate in me a clean

and re - new a right spir - it with - in me.  

 heart, O God, and re -

Cast me not a - way from your  

 new a right spir - it with - in me.

pres - ence, and take not your  

 Cast me not a - way from your pres - ence,

Ho - ly Spir - it from me.  

 and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from

Cantor + Assembly  

 me. Re - store to me the joy of your sal -

va - tion and sus - tain me with your boun - ti - ful Spir - it.

**GOSPEL // John 10:1-18**

The Holy Gospel, according to John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus said, “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.”

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

## SERMON

### HYMN OF THE DAY

*Abide with Me* (ELW 629)

1 A - bide with me, fast falls the e - ven - tide.  
2 Swift to its close ebbs out life's lit - tle day;  
3 I need thy pres - ence ev - 'ry pass - ing hour;  
4 I fear no foe, with thee at hand to bless;  
5 Hold thou thy cross be - fore my clos - ing eyes,

The dark - ness deep - ens; Lord, with me a - bide.  
 earth's joys grow dim, its glo - ries pass a - way;  
 what but thy grace can foil the tempt - er's pow'r?  
 ills have no weight, and tears no bit - ter - ness.  
 shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies;

When oth - er help - ers fail and com - forts flee,  
 change and de - cay in all a - round I see;  
 Who like thy - self my guide and stay can be?  
 Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy vic - to - ry?  
 heav'n's morn - ing breaks, and earth's vain shad - ows flee;

help of the help - less, oh, a - bide with me.  
 O thou who chang - est not, a - bide with me.  
 Through cloud and sun - shine, oh, a - bide with me.  
 I tri - umph still, if thou a - bide with me!  
 in life, in death, O Lord, a - bide with me.

**LADIES' ENSEMBLE**

*SAVIOR, LIKE A SHEPHERD LEAD US*  
 DOROTHY THRUPP & JOEL RANEY

**INVITATION TO LENT**

Friends in Christ, today 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.

## CONFESSION OF SIN

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

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.**

**CHANCEL CHOIR**

*LORD JESUS THINK ON ME*, ARR. GEORGIANN H. TOOLE

## **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.**

*Individuals may come forward and kneel or stand to receive the ashes during the singing of the following hymn.*

*Ministers mark the forehead of each person with a cross of ashes, saying:*

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



1 Dust, re-mem-ber you are splen - dor: in God's im - age you were  
 2 Dust, re-mem-ber you are splen - dor: set a - side the works of  
 3 Dust, re-mem-ber you are splen - dor: strive to walk the nar - row  
 4 Dust, re-mem-ber you are splen - dor: like a wa - tered gar - den



made; God's own breath breathes in your breath - ing;  
 night; put a - way the deeds of dark - ness;  
 way; fol - low Christ in - to the de - sert;  
 grow; light shall warm you like the dawn - ing;



God's own hands shaped you of clay: no - ble, pre-cious, and be-  
 set your face toward God's own light, nev - er - more to yoke and  
 there the Spir - it's call o - bey. Now, the time of your re-  
 riv - ers through your glades shall flow; fruit - ful, pre-cious, and be-



lov - ed, god - li - ness in dust ar - rayed.  
 tram - ple, nev - er - more to press and slight.  
 turn - ing; now, your res - ur - rec - tion day.  
 lov - ed, you shall God's own splen - dor show.

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.**

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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

Guide your church, O God. Accompany all Christians in this season of repentance, and renew our faith in the riches of grace you give to us in baptism. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Heal this earth, O God. Satisfy the needs of every parched place, every diverse ecosystem, every suffering creature. Though all return to dust, grant beauty and purpose to each living thing. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Restore the nations, O God. Let your healing spring up quickly across the world. Give all in authority the will to loose the bonds of injustice and let any who are oppressed go free. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Deliver your people, O God. Comfort any whose hearts are rent by grief, uphold any who are sick, bring food to those who hunger, and give housing to all without shelter. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Bless this assembly, O God. Reconcile us to one another and to you. Strengthen our resolve to fast from evil, open our hands in sharing, and quicken our prayer. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Hold us forever, O God. We thank you for all who now know their treasure in heaven, and for all who on earth proclaimed your abounding, steadfast love. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

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

## PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

+ MEAL +

## 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.**

## THANKSGIVING

It is indeed right, our duty, and our joy ... unending hymn.



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. Ho -



san-na. 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.

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

### LORD'S PRAYER

**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 COMMUNION

Come to the table. Feast on God's goodness and mercy.

*All who wish to meet Jesus are welcome at communion.*

*Gluten-free bread is available upon request.*

*Our tradition at communion is to give our name before receiving the bread and wine so that the sacrament is made more personal.*

## LAMB OF GOD

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace.

## COMMUNION

COMMUNION HYMN

*Ah, Holy Jesus* (ELW 349)

1 Ah, ho - ly Je - sus, how hast thou of - fend - ed that we to  
 2 Who was the guilt - y? Who brought this up - on thee? A - las, my  
 3 Lo, the Good Shep - herd for the sheep is of - fered; the slave hath  
 4 For me, kind Je - sus, was thine in - car - na - tion, thy mor - tal  
 5 There - fore, kind Je - sus, since I can - not pay thee, I do a -

judge thee have in hate pre - tend - ed? By foes de - rid - ed,  
 trea - son, Je - sus, hath un - done thee. 'Twas I, Lord Je - sus,  
 sin - ned, and the Son hath suf - fered; for our a - tone - ment,  
 sor - row, and thy life's ob - la - tion; thy death of an - guish  
 dore thee, and will ev - er pray thee; think on thy pit - y

by thine own re - ject - ed, O most af - flict - ed.  
 I it was de - nied thee; I cru - ci - fied thee.  
 while we noth - ing heed - ed, God in - ter - ced - ed.  
 and thy bit - ter pas - sion, for my sal - va - tion.  
 and thy love un - swerv - ing, not my de - serv - ing.

## **POST COMMUNION BLESSING**

May the body and blood of our Lord,  
Jesus Christ, strengthen you  
and keep you in his grace.

**Amen.**

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Let us pray.

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.**

## **BLESSING**

Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity:

God, who calls all things into existence,

Jesus Christ, who redeems us,

and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation,

✠ bless you now and always.

**Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

*Bless Now, O God, the Journey* (ELW 326)

1 Bless now, O God, the jour - ney that all your peo - ple make,  
 2 Bless so - journ-ers and pil - grims who share this wind-ing way;  
 3 Di - vine e - ter - nal lov - er, you meet us on the road.

the path through noise and si - lence, the way of give and take.  
 your hope burns through the ter - rors, your love sus-tains the day.  
 We wait for lands of prom - ise where milk and hon - ey flow,

The trail is found in des - ert and winds the moun-tain round,  
 We yearn for ho - ly free - dom while of - ten we are bound;  
 but wait-ing not for plac - es, you meet us all a - round.

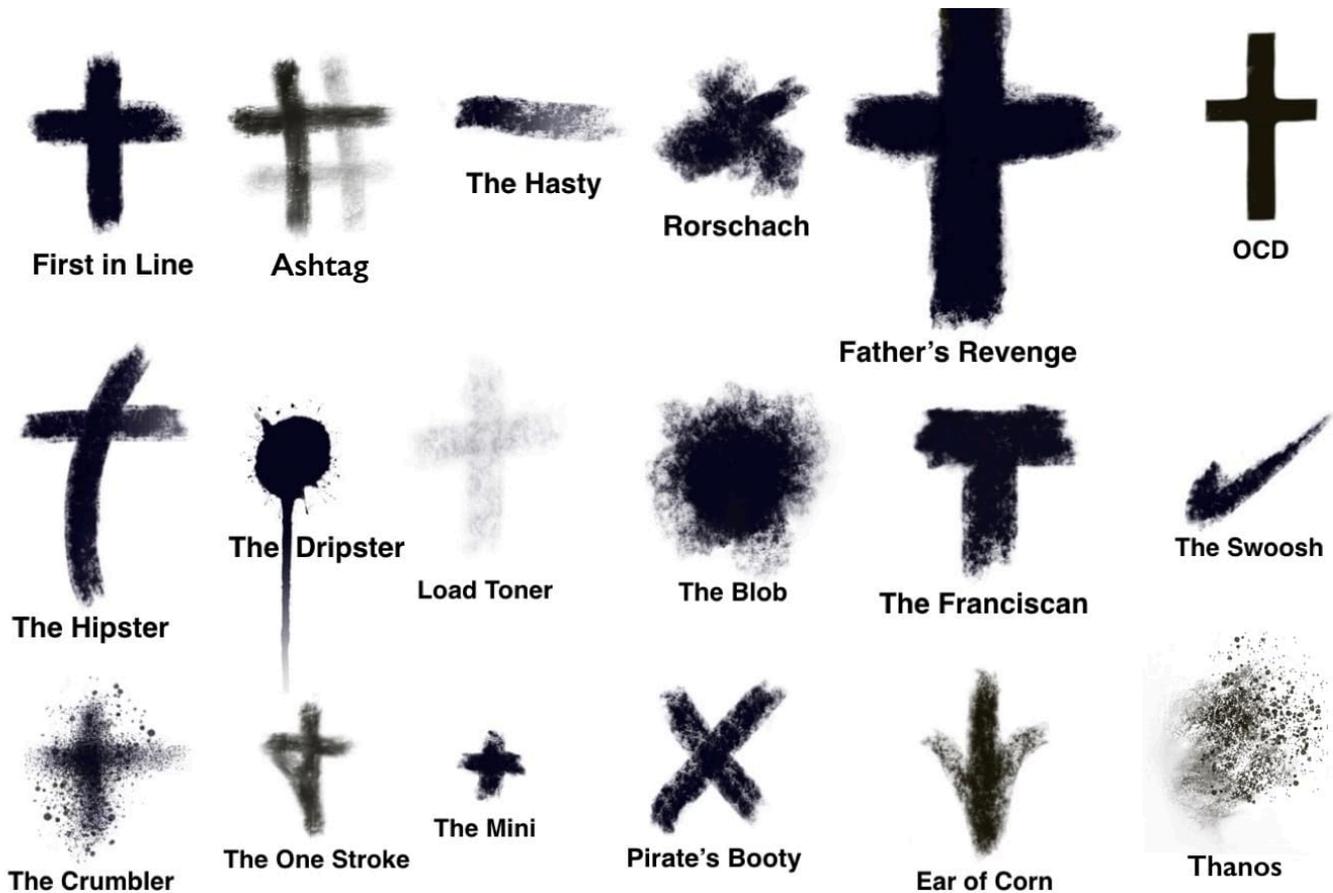
then leads be - side still wa - ters, the road where faith is found.  
 to - geth - er we are seek - ing the road where faith is found.  
 Our cov - e - nant is writ - ten on roads, as faith is found.

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Believe the Good News.  
**Thanks be to God. We will!**

## POSTLUDE

*BLESS NOW, O GOD THE JOURNEY*, BENJAMIN CULLI



PASTOR:

Alex Martini

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRIES:

Karl Segletes

ORGANIST:

Deb Dillane

LITURGIST:

Al Myers

USHERS:

Joyce Bowers & Pat Plummer

TECH TEAM:

Craig Nelson & Kathy Zagoric



**Egg Making Volunteers Needed!** - The ELCW annual egg makers are working each Tuesday and Thursday in February & March from 8 AM until Noon the ELCW. If you are available on any Tuesday or Thursday to help with this St. Peter fundraising project, please join us! It's a great time to socialize with your St Peter friends!

**Easter Eggs for Sale** - Peanut butter, maple walnut, coconut cream & butter cream eggs are available. Order forms are in the office & boardroom. Eggs are just \$1.25 each and can be purchased & picked up at the following times:

Sundays - 8:30 AM - 12 PM

Tuesdays & Thursdays - 9 AM - 12 PM

Wednesday evenings during Lent

Please contact Carolyn King at 717-766-0988 for additional pickup times.

**Lenten Wednesdays** - Join us each Wednesday in Lent for a 6:00 PM Fish Dinner and a 7:00 PM worship service. Please sign up in the hallway to let us know you're coming to the dinner.

**Lenten Prayer Walk** - Join us after the late service on Sunday, February 22, for our first Prayer Walk at the Upper Allen Township Building (100 Gettysburg Pike, Mechanicsburg).