



WELCOME TO GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH OF LILY LAKE, IL

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Wednesday, February 18th, 2026 * 7 PM * INPERSON and ONLINE



ASH WEDNESDAY

Introduction

TODAY'S THEME: 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.

THANK YOU FOR JOINING US FOR THIS EVENING'S WORSHIP

Print out your bulletin or use it on your phone or tablet to follow along.
Announcements are televised or found on our website

Be creative how you worship and remember God during this time. It will calm your soul, give you peace and enliven your spirit.

*Our community gathers in unity with others in-person and a virtual way.
We hope all people find it easy to follow along.*

GOD GATHERS US

Announcements are found on our website

PRELUDE

Behold the Lamb of God

We invite you to read/respond to the texts, pray the prayers, using this as a meditation guide all week long.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God,
who forgives all our sin,
whose mercy endures forever.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt and blots out all offenses.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you:
Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word:
Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For failing to recognize your coming reign,
and for hindering the work of the Spirit: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition,
and for disdaining the living water Christ offers: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For disregarding voices from the margin,
and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world:
Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent,
and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life:
Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound. Through faith, the free gift of God, you have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ. In the name of ✝ Jesus

Christ, your sins are forgiven. The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead dwells in you, pours God's love into your hearts, and gives you life and peace.

C: Amen.

OPENING SONG **Christ, the Life of All the Living** **ELW 339/Red Hymnal**

GREETING & PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

All: And also with you.

P: Let us pray... Almighty and ever-living God,

C: you hate nothing you have made, and you forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create in us new and honest hearts, so that, truly repenting of our sins, we may receive from you, the God of all mercy, full pardon and forgiveness through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

SHARING OF PEACE

P: God has received us, pardoned us and loved us; let us forgive each other in love and share the peace of Christ. Peace be with you.

C: And you also.

Share the peace with each other either by a wave or a bow.

HEARING GOD'S WORD

FIRST READING: **Psalm 51:1-17**

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love. (Ps. 51:1)

- ¹ Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;
in your great compassion blot out my offenses.
- ² Wash me through and through from my wickedness,
and cleanse me from my sin.
- ³ For I know my offenses,
and my sin is ever before me.
- ⁴ 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.
- ⁵ Indeed, I was born steeped in wickedness,

- a sinner from my mother's womb.
- ⁶ Indeed, you delight in truth deep within me,
and would have me know wisdom deep within.
- ⁷ Remove my sins with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be purer than snow.
- ⁸ Let me hear joy and gladness;
that the body you have broken may rejoice.
- ⁹ Hide your face from my sins,
and blot out all my wickedness.
- ¹⁰ Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.
- ¹¹ Cast me not away from your presence,
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.
- ¹² Restore to me the joy of your salvation
and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.
- ¹³ Let me teach your ways to offenders,
and sinners shall be restored to you.
- ¹⁴ Rescue me from bloodshed, O God of my salvation,
and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness.
- ¹⁵ O Lord, open my lips,
and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.
- ¹⁶ For you take no delight in sacrifice, or I would give it.
You are not pleased with burnt offering.
- ¹⁷ The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit;
a troubled and broken heart, O God, you will not despise.

L: Word of God; Word of Life.

All: Thanks be to God.

(Please rise for the reading of the Gospel)

GOSPEL: Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew

ALL: Glory to you O Lord

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus commends almsgiving, prayer, and fasting, but emphasizes that spiritual devotion must not be done for show.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹ "Beware of practicing your righteousness 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. ³ But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴ so 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. ⁶ But 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 somber, like the hypocrites, for they mark their faces to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ¹⁷ But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, ¹⁸ so 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, ²⁰ but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes 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

ALL: Praise to You O Christ!

MESSAGE FOR ALL

Pastor David Mecurio

SONG OF DAY

Lamb of God, Pure and Sinless

ELW 357/Red Hymnal

APOSTLES' CREED

P: With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

OFFERING IS WELCOMED

P: O God,

**C: 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.**

(An offering will be taken before the prayer.)

Offertory Music

The Day You Gave us, Lord, has Ended

PRAYERS OF GOD'S PEOPLE

See list of those Grace is currently praying for at end of this document or online. Please let us know your prayer needs.

Please respond accordingly



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

A brief silence.

P: 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.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: 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.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: Restore the nations, O God. Let your healing spring up quickly across the world. Give all in authority the will to lose the bonds of injustice and let any who are oppressed go free. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: 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.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: 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.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: 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.

C: Your mercy is great.

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

C: Amen.

HOLY COMMUNION

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

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: Lift up your hearts.

ALL: We lift them in the Spirit's love.

P: Let us give thanks to our Triune God.

ALL: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed right that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O God. In mercy for our fallen world you gave your only Son, that all who believe in Him should not perish. We give thanks to you for the salvation you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts that we may receive our Lord with a living faith as he comes to us in his Holy Supper.

P: WORDS OF INSTITUTION

**ALL: 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**

P: These are the gifts of God for the people of God.

All: Thanks be to God

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

Communicants will be released as usual to receive Communion
They will receive ashes as they return after Communion.

TAKE AND EAT OF THE BREAD AND CUP

Communion Song followed by quiet meditation

Lamb of God

Front page 146 ELW /Red Hymnal

Meditation:

A time of silent reflection congregation may use this time to remember Jesus, calm your soul, pray, repent, experience spiritual renewal and/or just listen for God. Isaiah 53:3 We despised him and rejected him; he endured suffering and pain. No one would even look at him – we ignored him as if he were nothing

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P: God of our salvation,

C: 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.

All: Amen.

CLOSING SONG

Abide With Me

ELW 629, v. 1, 4 & 5/Red Hymnal

GOD SENDS US

BLESSING

P: 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.

C: Amen.

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Believe the good news.

All: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

O Sacred Head Now Wounded

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