

## HOLY COMMUNION ELW SETTING - ASH WEDNESDAY FEB. 18, 2026

### WELCOME (Pr Ed)

Psalm 51 “*O My God, Bestow Thy Tender Mercy*” Pergolesi/Hopson

*The assembly stands at the pastor's invitation.*

### GREETING (Pr Ed)

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

### PRAYER OF THE DAY (Pr Ed)

Let us pray.

Almighty and ever-living God, 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.**

*The assembly may be seated as we hear the word of God.*

### WORD

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.*

### FIRST READING: Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 (Pr Lorenzo)

A Reading from Joel:

<sup>1</sup>Blow the trumpet in Zion;  
sound the alarm on my holy mountain!  
Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble,  
for the day of the Lord is coming, it is near—  
<sup>2</sup>a day of darkness and gloom,  
a day of clouds and thick darkness!  
Like blackness spread upon the mountains  
a great and powerful army comes;  
their like has never been from of old,  
nor will be again after them  
in ages to come.

<sup>12</sup>Yet even now, says the Lord,  
return to me with all your heart,  
with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;  
<sup>13</sup>rend your hearts and not your clothing.

Return to the Lord, your God,  
for he is gracious and merciful,  
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love,  
and relents from punishing.

<sup>14</sup>Who knows whether he will not turn and relent,  
and leave a blessing behind him,  
a grain offering and a drink offering  
for the Lord, your God?

<sup>15</sup>Blow the trumpet in Zion;  
sanctify a fast;  
call a solemn assembly;

<sup>16</sup>gather the people.  
Sanctify the congregation;  
assemble the aged;  
gather the children,  
even infants at the breast.

Let the bridegroom leave his room,  
and the bride her canopy.

<sup>17</sup>Between the vestibule and the altar  
let the priests, the ministers of the Lord, weep.  
Let them say, “Spare your people, O Lord,  
and do not make your heritage a mockery,  
a byword among the nations.  
Why should it be said among the peoples,  
‘Where is their God?’ ”

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

## SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 5:20b--6:10 (Pr Lorenzo)

A reading from Second Corinthians:

<sup>20b</sup>We entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. <sup>21</sup>For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

<sup>6:1</sup>As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. <sup>2</sup>For he says,

“At an acceptable time I have listened to you,  
and on a day of salvation I have helped you.”

See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation! <sup>3</sup>We are putting no obstacle in anyone’s way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, <sup>4</sup>but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, <sup>5</sup>beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; <sup>6</sup>by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, <sup>7</sup>truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; <sup>8</sup>in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; <sup>9</sup>as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see—we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; <sup>10</sup>as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

*The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and mer - ci - ful,



slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

## **GOSPEL: Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21 (Pr Julie)**

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said to the disciples:] <sup>1</sup>“Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven.

<sup>2</sup>“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. <sup>3</sup>But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, <sup>4</sup>so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

<sup>5</sup>“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. <sup>6</sup>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.

<sup>16</sup>“And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. <sup>17</sup>But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, <sup>18</sup>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.

<sup>19</sup>“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; <sup>20</sup>but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. <sup>21</sup>For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **SERMON (Pr Julie)**

*The assembly stands at the pastor's invitation.*

**HYMN OF THE DAY “Savior, When in Dust to Thee” ELW 601 CHOIR V2**



1 Savior, when in dust to you low we bow in hom-age due;  
2 By your help-less in-fant years, by your life of want and tears,  
3 By your hour of dire de-spair, by your ag-o-ny of prayer,  
4 By your deep ex-pir-ing groan, by the sad se-pul-chral stone,



when, re-pen-tant, to the skies scarce we lift our weep-ing eyes;  
by your days of deep dis-tress in the sav-age wil-der-ness,  
by the cross, the nail, the thorn, pierc-ing spear, and tor-turing scorn,  
by the vault whose dark a-bode held in vain the ris-ing God,



oh, by all your pains and woe suf-fered once for us be-low,  
by the dread, mys-te-rious hour of the in-sult-ing tempt-er's pow'r,  
by the gloom that veiled the skies o'er the dread-ful sac-ri-fice,  
oh, from earth to heav'n re-stored, might-y, re-as-cend-ed Lord,



bend-ing from your throne on high, hear our pen-i-ten-tial cry!  
turn, oh, turn a fa-v'ring eye; hear our pen-i-ten-tial cry!  
lis-ten to our hum-ble sigh; hear our pen-i-ten-tial cry!  
bend-ing from your throne on high, hear our pen-i-ten-tial cry!

## **INVITATION TO LENT (PR ED)**

*From the baptismal font.*

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.

## **CONFESSIO N OF SIN (PR LORENZO)**

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

*Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.*

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 (PR ED AND PR LORENZO)**

*Pr Ed will offer some instructions for receiving ashes.*

*All may come forward as your row is dismissed to receive the ashes. After receiving the ashes you may kneel or stand at the altar for a moment of prayer before returning to your seat.*

HYMN OF REFLECTION “*Just As I am, Without One Plea*” ELW 592

*After all those who desire ashes have received them, all may kneel or sit in the pews, and the minister continues. (Pr Ed)*

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.**

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

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 (*Pr Ed*)

*The assembly stands at the pastor's invitation.*

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.**

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.**

*We invite you to share a sign of Christ's peace with one another then be seated for a musical offering.*

## MEAL

*God feeds us with the real presence of Jesus Christ.*

*The offering gathered at the beginning of the service for the mission of the church including the care of those in need is presented to the altar. See the back of the bulletin for online giving options.*

**OFFERTORY “There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy” M. Schweizer**

### **OFFERING PRAYER (PR ED)**

Let us pray.

God our provider, you have not fed us with bread alone, but with words of grace and life. Bless us and these your gifts, which we receive from your bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

*The assembly stands at the Pastors invitation.*

### **DIALOGUE (PR LORENZO)**

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 to you, almighty and merciful God,  
through our Savior Jesus Christ.

You call your people to cleanse their hearts  
and prepare with joy for the paschal feast,  
that, renewed in the gift of baptism,  
we may come to the fullness of your grace.

And so, with all the choirs of angels,  
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Music score for 'HOLY, HOLY, HOLY' featuring two staves. The top staff is in treble clef and the bottom staff is in bass clef. The key signature is one flat (B-flat). The music consists of eight lines of musical notation, each line corresponding to a line of lyrics. The lyrics are:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
heav-en and earth are full, full of your glo - ry,  
Ho - san - na in the high - est, 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, ho - san - na in the high - est.

## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE (Pr Lorenzo)

Blessed are you, O God of the universe.  
Your mercy is everlasting  
and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth.  
Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood.  
Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea.  
Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness  
to the land of milk and honey.  
Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one.  
Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ.  
Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

With your holy ones of all times and places,  
with the earth and all its creatures,  
with sun and moon and stars,  
we praise you, O God,  
blessed and holy Trinity,  
now and forever.  
**Amen.**

## LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

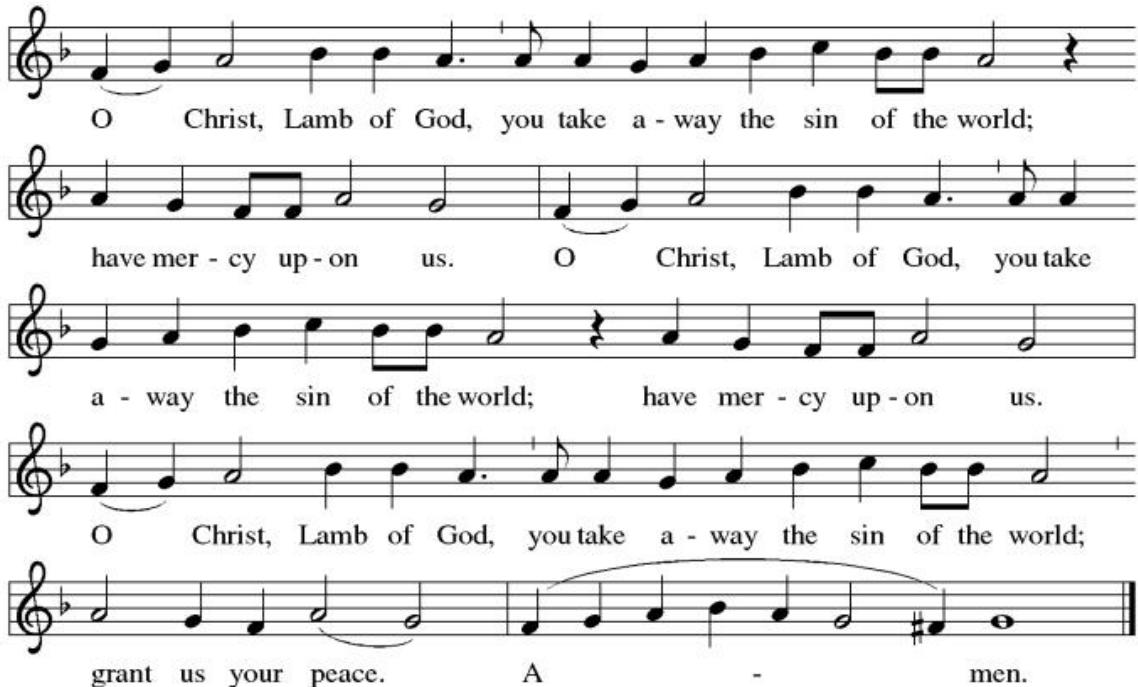
**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen.**

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come to Christ's table.

Feast on God's mercy and love.

## COMMUNION SONG *“O Christ, Lamb of God”* ELW 196



O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;  
have mer - cy up - on us. O Christ, Lamb of God, you take  
a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy up - on us.  
O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;  
grant us your peace. A - men.

## COMMUNION HYMN “*All Things of Dust to Dust Return*” ACS 920 Choir v.1



1 All things of dust to dust re - turn on earth and in the sky.  
2 Lord, mark with dust and ash my brow so I may com-pre-hend  
3 Lord, mark up - on my brow this sign: a stark and bar-ren cross



The hot - test, bright - est suns that burn in time grow dim and die.  
that ev - 'ry mo - ment here and now links me to that same end  
re - mind-ing me that though di - vine you know my pain and loss,



The fish that leap, the birds that soar, the new-born young that play,  
I share with all that breathe and burn, that flare and fade and tire  
and at the touch of dust and ash a - wake my heart to view



the leaves that fill the for - est floor re - vert to dust and clay.  
yet by their wan - ing light dis-cern your own un - dy - ing fire.  
how death it - self is but a flash that dies a - way in you.

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION (PR ED)

Let us pray.

Merciful God, accompany our journey through these forty days. Renew us in the gift of baptism, that we may provide for those who are poor, pray for those in need, fast from self-indulgence, and above all that we may find our treasure in the life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## SENDING

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

*The assembly stands to receive the blessing.*

## BLESSING (Pr Julie)

Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

Amen.

## SENDING HYMN “*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.

## **DISMISSAL (Pr Julie)**

Go forth into the world to serve God with gladness;  
be of good courage;  
hold fast to that which is good;  
render to no one evil for evil;  
strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak;  
help the afflicted; honor all people;  
love and serve God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **POSTLUDE “*O Man, Bewail They Grievous Sins*” J.S. Bach**

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