

# Ash Wednesday

February 18, 2026 · 6:30 pm



**ST. ANDREW'S LUTHERAN CHURCH (ELCA)**

1100 E Murdock Ave. Oshkosh, WI 54901

# Ash Wednesday

P: Pastor   A: Assisting Minister   L: Lector   C: Congregation/All

\* *Invitation to stand*

Prelude – a time to center ourselves in worship

Welcome and Announcements

\* The Apostolic Greeting

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

**C: And also with you.**

Psalm 51

A: Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;  
in your great compassion blot out my offenses.

Wash me through and through from my wickedness,  
and cleanse me from my sin.

For I know my offenses,  
and my sin is ever before me.

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.

Indeed, I was born steeped in wickedness,  
a sinner from my mother's womb.

Indeed, you delight in truth deep within me,  
and would have me know wisdom deep within.

Remove my sins with hyssop, and I shall be clean;  
wash me, and I shall be purer than snow.

Let me hear joy and gladness;  
that the body you have broken may rejoice.

Hide your face from my sins,  
and blot out all my wickedness.

Create in me a clean heart, O God,

and renew a right spirit within me.  
Cast me not away from your presence,  
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.  
Restore to me the joy of your salvation  
and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.  
Let me teach your ways to offenders,  
and sinners shall be restored to you.  
Rescue me from bloodshed, O God of my salvation,  
and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness.  
O Lord, open my lips,  
and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.  
For you take no delight in sacrifice, or I would give it.  
You are not pleased with burnt offering.  
The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit;  
a troubled and broken heart, O God, you will not despise.

## \* Prayer of the Day

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Let us pray.

P: Almighty and ever-living God,

**C: you hate nothing that 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 Invitation to Lent

P: 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 God and neighbor. I invite you, therefore, to the disciplines 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

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

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

P: Most holy and merciful God,

**C: 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.**

P: 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.

**C: Have mercy on us, O God.**

P: 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.

**C: Have mercy on us, O God.**

P: Our past unfaithfulness, the pride, envy, hypocrisy and apathy that have infected our lives, we confess to you.

**C: Have mercy on us, O God.**

P: Our self-indulgent appetites and ways,

and our exploitation of other people, we confess to you.

**C: Have mercy on us, O God.**

P: Our negligence in prayer and worship,

and our failure to share the faith that is in us, we confess to you.

**C: Have mercy on us, O God.**

P: Our neglect of human need and suffering,  
and our indifference to injustice and cruelty, we confess to you.

**C: Have mercy on us, O God.**

P: Our false judgments,  
our uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors,  
and our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us,  
we confess to you.

**C: Have mercy on us, O God.**

P: Our waste and pollution of your creation,  
and our lack of concern for those who come after us, we confess to you.

**C: Have mercy on us, O God.**

P: Restore us, O God, and let your anger depart from us.

**C: Hear us, O God, for your mercy is great.**

#### \* Imposition of Ashes

P: 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 Lord.

**C: Amen.**

*You are invited to come forward to the baptismal font,  
where the pastor will mark the cross upon your forehead.*

*After a time of silence the service continues:*

P: Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation,

**C: that we may show forth your glory in the world.**

P: By the cross and passion of your Son, our Savior,

**C: bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.**

P: 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.

**C: Amen.**

\* Hymn: When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

(ELW #803)



1 When I sur - vey the won - drous cross on which the  
 2 For - bid it, Lord, that I should boast save in the  
 3 See, from his head, his hands, his feet, sor - row and  
 4 Were the whole realm of na - ture mine, that were a



prince of glo - ry died, my rich - est gain I  
 death of Christ, my God; all the vain things that  
 love flow min - gled down. Did e'er such love and  
 pres - ent far too small; love so a - maz - ing,



count but loss and pour con - tempt on all my pride.  
 charm me most, I sac - ri - fice them to his blood.  
 sor - row meet, or thorns com - pose so rich a crown?  
 so di - vine, de - mands my soul, my life, my all.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748

Music: HAMBURG, Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

First Reading: Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

L: A reading from the prophet Joel.

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— 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.

Yet even now, says the LORD, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; 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. 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? Blow the trumpet in Zion; sanctify a fast; call a solemn assembly; 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. 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?'"

L: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## The Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

L: A reading from 2nd Corinthians.

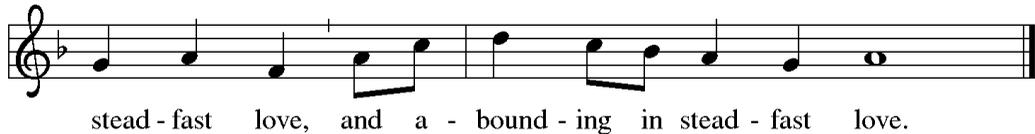
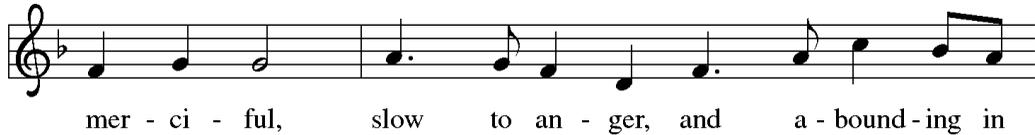
So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. 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! We are putting no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see—we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

L: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

\* Gospel Verse: "Return to the Lord, your God "



\* Gospel: Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

P: The Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 6<sup>th</sup> chapter.

C: **Glory to you O, Lord.**

"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. "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. But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. "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. 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. "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. But when you fast, put oil on your

head and wash your face, 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.

“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes 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 to you, O Christ.

## Sermon

### \* Hymn “Just As I Am, Without One Plea” (ELW #592)



1 Just as I am, with - out one plea, but that thy blood was  
2 Just as I am, though tossed a - bout with man - y\_a con - flict,  
3 Just as I am, thou wilt re - ceive, wilt wel - come, par - don,  
4 Just as I am; thy love un - known has bro - ken ev - 'ry



shed for me, and that thou bidd'st me come to thee,  
man - y\_a doubt, fight - ings and fears with - in, with - out,  
cleanse, re - lieve; be - cause thy prom - ise I be - lieve,  
bar - rier down; now to be thine, yea, thine a - lone,



O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Text: Charlotte Elliott, 1789–1871

Music: WOODWORTH, William B. Bradbury, 1816–1868

## \* The Prayers of Intercession

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

*A brief silence.*

A: 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. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

A: 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. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

A: 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. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

A: Deliver your people, O God. Comfort those whose hearts are rent by grief, uphold those who are sick, bring food to those who hunger, and give housing to all who are without shelter. We ask you to show your presence to all whom we name now in the silence of our hearts . . . Lord, in your mercy.

**C: hear our prayer.**

A: Bless this congregation, 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. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

A: 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. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

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

## \* Sharing the Peace

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: **And also with you.**

## Our Offerings for God's Work

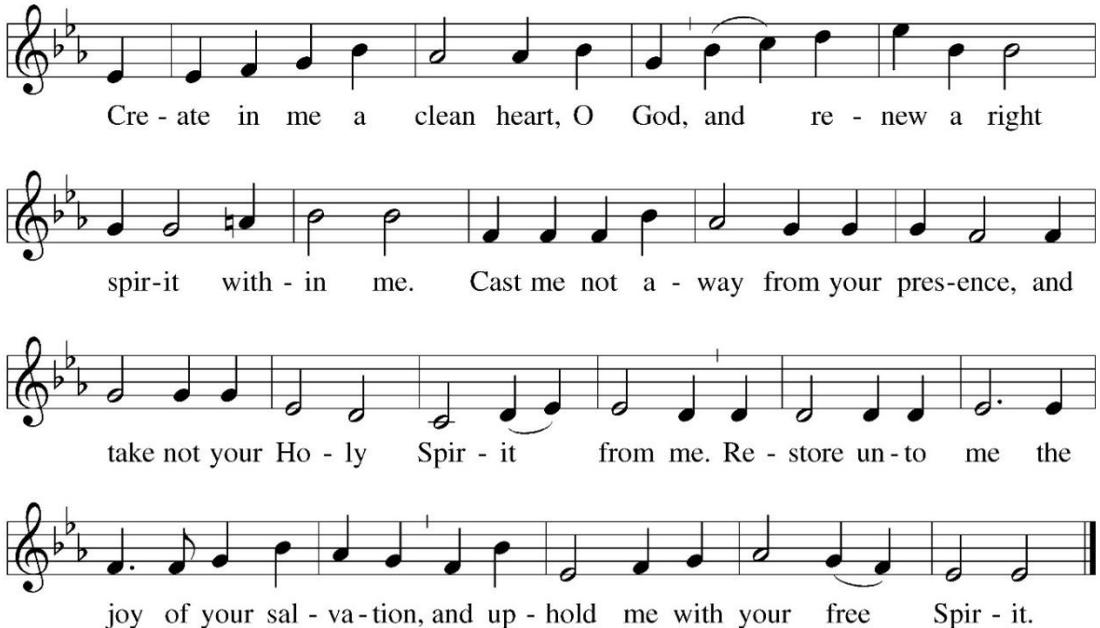
Offerings may be placed in the offering plate at the entrance to the sanctuary, as you enter or leave the church. Thank you.

“As the Winter Days Grow Longer”

Text - Mary Louise Bringle; Tune - Welsh melody

*The St. Andrew's Choir*

## \* Offertory Hymn: “Create in me a Clean Heart” (WOV #732)



Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right  
spir-it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your pres-ence, and  
take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store un - to me the  
joy of your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

Text: Psalm 51:10-12

Music: FRANCKE, J.A. Freylinghausen, 1670-1739

## \* Offertory Prayer

A: O God, 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.

**C: Amen.**

## \* The Great Thanksgiving

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

**C: We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

P: 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 this bread and cup we remember our Lord's Passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**C: Christ has died.  
Christ is risen.  
Christ will come again.**

P: O God of resurrection and new life:  
Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine. Bless this feast. Grace our table with your presence.

**C: Come, Holy Spirit.**

P: Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread.  
Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world.  
Breathe new life into us.  
Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love.

**C: Come, Holy Spirit.**

P: 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.

**C: Amen.**

### \* The Lord's Prayer

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

**C: 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

P: Come to the table.

Feast on God's goodness and mercy.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

- † **All are welcome at this table.** *Please follow the direction of the ushers as you make your way forward to the altar rail.*
- † *You will receive a wafer, then be offered a cup of red wine or white grape juice. Gluten free wafers are also available.*
- † *If it is either your practice or preference to not receive Communion today, please know that you are still welcome to come forward and receive a blessing.*
- † *There is space on both sides of the sanctuary if you would desire to light a candle and observe a quiet moment of reflection as you return to your seat.*
- † *If you need Holy Communion brought to you, please inform one of the ushers.*

***Please stand, as you are able.***

## \* The Blessing

P: May the body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, strengthen and keep you in his grace, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

## \* Prayer After Communion

A: 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.

**C: Amen.**

## \* The Benediction

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.

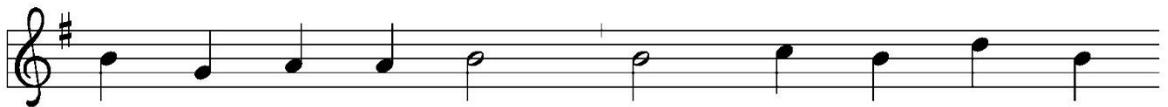
C: Amen.

## Hymn: "The Glory of These Forty Days"

(ELW # 320)



1 The glo - ry of these for - ty days we cel - e -  
2 A - lone and fast - ing Mo - ses saw the lov - ing  
3 So Dan - iel trained his mys - tic sight, de - liv - ered  
4 Then grant, O God, that we may, too, re - turn in



brate with songs of praise; for Christ, through whom all  
God who gave the law; and to E - li - jah,  
from the li - ons' might; and John, the Bride - groom's  
fast and prayer to you. Our spir - its strength-en



things were made, him - self has fast - ed and has prayed.  
fast - ing, came the steeds and char - i - ots of flame.  
friend, be - came the her - ald of Mes - si - ah's name.  
with your grace, and give us joy to see your face.

Text: Latin hymn, 11th cent.; tr. Maurice F. Bell, 1862–1947, alt.

Music: ERHALT UNS, HERR, J. Klug, *Geistliche Lieder*, 1543

Outside USA: Text from *The English Hymnal*, © Oxford University Press 1906, All rights reserved.

## \* Dismissal

A: Marked with the forgiveness of Christ,  
we go forth to love and serve the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

*Our service ends in reverent silence.*

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**St. Andrew's Lutheran Church**  
1100 E. Murdock Avenue, Oshkosh, WI 54901

### **Staff**

Pastor Tabitha Gallatin, Supply Pastor  
Sandy Last, Secretary  
Sue Redman, Secretary  
Kris Selk, Organist and Choir Director

Telephone: 920-235-6616  
Email: [office@standrewsoshkosh.org](mailto:office@standrewsoshkosh.org)  
website: <https://standrewsoshkosh.org>  
Facebook: St Andrews Oshkosh