Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

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February 18, 2026 7:00 pm

Ash Wednesday



Evangelical Lutheran Worship - page 251
Please leave your offering in the plate at the door
You may stand at times marked with an asterisk (*)

Opening

Prelude and Contemplation

Tena Rackow

Welcome and Announcements

Greeting

ELW page 251

P: The Lord be with you.
C: And also with you.

* Prayer of the Day

P: 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

C: Amen.

Readings

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

L: A reading from the Prophet Joel.

2 Blow a trumpet in Zion; sound an alarm on my holy mountain!
Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble,
for the day of the LORD is coming; it is near,

[2] a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness!
Like blackness there is spread upon the mountains
a great and powerful people;
their like has never been before, nor will be again after them
through the years of all generations.
[12] "Yet even now," declares the LORD, return to me with all your heart,
with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;
[13] and rend your hearts and not your garments."
Return to the LORD your God, for he is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love;
and he relents over disaster.
[14] 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?
[15] Blow the trumpet in Zion; consecrate a fast;
call a solemn assembly; [16] gather the people.
Consecrate the congregation; assemble the elders;
gather the children, even nursing infants.
Let the bridegroom leave his room, and the bride her chamber.
[17] Between the vestibule and the altar
let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep
and say, "Spare your people, O LORD,
and make not your heritage a reproach, a byword among the nations.
Why should they say among the peoples, Where is their God?'" [ESV]

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 51:1-17

L: Let us read responsively from Psalm 51.

[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.

Second Reading: *II Corinthians 5:20b--6:10*

L: A reading from Paul's Second Letter to the Corinthians.

[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 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. [ESV]

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

* Gospel Acclamation

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

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

P: The holy Gospel according to Matthew.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

6 "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." [ESV]

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Reflection

Meditation

Pastor Thomas Mosbo

* Hymn *The Glory of These Forty Days* ELW # 320

Invitation to Lent

ELW page 252

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 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 *ELW page 252*

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

Silence for reflection

P: Most holy and merciful Father,

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

ELW page 254

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 Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

People may come forward to receive ashes.

P: Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return,

Once all who have come forward have received the ashes:

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.

Prayer

Prayers of Intercession *ELW page 254*

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

We lift our prayers for

Lynn Lyvers, Jerry, Denny Bergmann, Rene', Paul Fahr, Marilyn Fulfs, Gary Hudik, Virgil Martin, Caroline Jam, Darlene Aurand, Cyndy Schumacher, Virgil Gordon, Jerry Martin, Donna Christen, Richard Frietag, Waylon Andrews, Connor Stadermann, Ryse Stone, Nicole, John, Chuck, Joyce, Terri, Tina, Julie, Jamie, Crystal, Katie, Christian, Anna, Abby, Karla, Jacob and his family, Richard Gordon, Kathy, Charlie, Brad, Sue, Emma, Cindy, Lamar Hail, Connie, Rachel Collins, Pam, Caroline, Tina D., Jim DeMontigny Jr., Linda Kruger-Kleckler, Norman, Vivian, Tina Cheeney, Brenda, Kara Allen, Christine Beyer, Bob Schulz, Kenny Frie, Steve Rothschadl, Gary L. Hartwig, Josh, Hannah, Ray Phillips, Susan, Allison Biddick, Brad Rackow, Kim Choin, Jeannie, Dianne, Nancy, Pat McCluskey, Jim Briggs, Sandi, Tina, Jim, Ronald Schrader, Christine S. and Deanna Jordan. Pray for love, peace, comfort and hope of resurrection for the family and friends of Fern Harnish.

Please respond to each petition with the following:

L: … God, in your mercy,

C: receive our prayer.

P: Merciful God, receive the prayers of your people and draw all things together in your love. 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.

C: Amen.

Lord's Prayer

ELW page 254

P: Let us pray with confidence in the words our Savior gave us:

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.

Blessing

ELW page 255

P: Almighty God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

* Dismissal *ELW page 255*

P: 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.

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude Tena Rackow

Join us each Wednesday
At Evangelical Free Church of Lena during Lent at 1 p.m. in Fellowship Hall as we celebrate with music!

February 25th	Tyger Johnson
March 4th	Freeport Sacred Youth Choir
March 11th	Gone Fishin'
March 18th	Steve Scheffey
March 25th	Ray Nicholas
April 1st	Will Mueller

Service will be 45-60 minutes long.

Attendance February 1st
In-person 26, Online - 84