

Our Savior Lutheran Church



ASH WEDNESDAY

Service of the Word

18 February 2026

Worship: 6.30pm

CALL TO WORSHIP

God is our refuge and strength, a help in trouble.
We will not fear though the Earth should change.

Though the mountains shake in the sea's heart-

Though the waters roar and foam -

Though the mountains tremble with its tumult -

God's love endures forever.

Let us worship God!

HYMN

"Amazing Grace"

#280

[vss. 1,2,3,4,6]

LITANY OF CONFESSION AND PENITENCE

Holy and merciful God, we confess to You and to one another - and to the whole communion of saints in Heaven and on Earth - that we have sinned by our own 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;

...for not listening to Your Call to serve as Christ served, for not being true to the mind of Christ;

Have mercy on us, O God;

...for we lay before You all our past unfaithfulness:

pride, hypocrisy and impatience in our lives;

We confess to You, O God;

...for our self-indulgent appetites and ways and our exploitation of others;

We confess to You, O God;

...for our anger at our own frustration
and our envy of those more fortunate than
ourselves;

We confess to You, O God;

...for our love of worldly goods and comforts
and our indifference towards You
in our daily life and work;

WE CONFESS TO YOU, O GOD;

...for our negligence in prayer and worship
and our failure to commend the faith that is in us;

We confess to You, O God;

...for our lack of our repentance
for the wrongs we have done,
for our neglect of human need and suffering,
our indifference to injustice and cruelty;

Accept our repentance, O God;

...for all false judgments, uncharitable thoughts
toward our neighbors
and for our prejudice and contempt
toward those who differ from us;

Accept our repentance, O God;

...for wasted time, misguided works
and lack of commitment to You,
Your people, Your entire Creation;

Accept our repentance, O God;

...for we need You to restore us;

Favorably hear us, O God,

for Your mercy is great;

Lord, have mercy upon us;

Christ, have mercy upon us;

Lord, have mercy upon us. AMEN

GOD'S PROMISE OF FORGIVENESS

Who is in a position to condemn us?

Only Christ and Christ died for us,

Christ rose for us,

Christ reigns in power for us,

Christ prays for us.

Know that, by the Name of Jesus the Christ,
and by the Power of God, you are forgiven.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

and

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Gracious God...

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 debts as we forgive our debtors and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil; for Thine is the Kingdom and the Power and the Glory forever. AMEN

OUR TITHES, GIFTS AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

DOXOLOGY

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

HYMN "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross" #185

READING FROM THE PROPHETS

Joel 2.1-2, 12-17

Blow the trumpet in Jerusalem! Sound the alarm on My holy mountain! Let everyone tremble in fear because the day of the LORD is upon us. It is a day of darkness and gloom, a day of thick clouds and deep blackness. Suddenly, like dawn spreading across the mountains, a mighty army appears! How great and powerful they are! The likes of them have not been seen before and never will be seen again...That is why the LORD says, "Turn to me now, while there is time! Give Me your hearts. Come with fasting, weeping and mourning. Don't tear your clothing in your grief; instead, tear your hearts." Return to the LORD your God, for He is gracious and merciful. He is not easily angered. He is filled with kindness and is eager not to punish you. Who knows? Perhaps even yet He will give you a reprieve, sending you a blessing instead of this terrible curse. Perhaps He will give you so much that you will be able to offer grain and wine to the LORD your God as before! Blow the trumpet in Jerusalem! Announce a time of fasting; call the people together for a solemn meeting. Bring everyone - the elders, the children and even the babies. Call the bridegroom from his quarters and the bride from her private room. The priests, who minister in the LORD'S presence, will stand between the people and the altar, weeping. Let them pray, "Spare your people, LORD! They belong to you, so don't let them become an object of mockery. Don't let their name become a proverb of unbelieving

foreigners who say, 'Where is the God of Israel? He must be helpless!'"

READING FROM THE GOSPEL

Matthew 6:1-6, 16

"Take care! Don't do your good deeds publicly, to be admired, because then you will lose the reward from your Father in Heaven. When you give a gift to someone in need, don't shout about it as the hypocrites do - blowing trumpets in the synagogues and streets to call attention to their acts of charity! I assure you, they have received all the reward they will ever get; but when you give to someone, don't tell your left hand what your right hand is doing. Give your gifts in secret and your Father, who knows all secrets, will reward you. Now, about prayer. When you pray, don't be like the hypocrites who love to pray publicly on street corners and in the synagogues where everyone can see them. I assure you, that is all the reward they will ever get; but when you pray, go away by yourself, shut the door behind you and pray to your Father secretly, then your Father, who knows all secrets, will reward you...and when you fast, don't make it obvious, as the hypocrites do, who try to look pale and disheveled so people will admire them for their fasting. I assure you, that is the only reward they will ever get; But when you fast, comb your hair and wash your face; then no one will suspect you are fasting, except your Father, who knows what you do in secret and your Father, who knows all secrets, will reward you. Don't store up treasures here on

Earth, where they can be eaten by moths and get rusty and where thieves break in and steal. Store your treasures in Heaven, where they will never become moth-eaten or rusty and where they will be safe from thieves. Wherever your treasure is, there your heart and thoughts will also be.”

SERMON

Pastor Larry

CONFESSION OF FAITH - THE NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, Maker of Heaven and Earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in One Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, True God from True God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through Him all things were made; for us and for our salvation He came down from Heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human; for our sake He was crucified under Pontius Pilate; He suffered death and was buried. On the third day He rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; He ascended into Heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and His kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the Giver of Life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one Baptism for

the forgiveness of sins. We look for the Resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. **AMEN**

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

PRAYER

Almighty God, You have created us out of the dust of the Earth. May these ashes be for us a sign of our mortality and penitence and a reminder that only by Your gracious gift are we given everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Saviour. AMEN

*HYMN

“Whiter Than Snow”

#264

BENEDICTION AND RESPONSE

LET THERE BE PEACE ON EARTH

*Let there be peace on Earth and let it begin with me,
Let there be peace on Earth, Peace that was meant
to be; With God as our Father,
brothers all are we;
Let me walk with my brothers in perfect harmony!*

*Let peace begin with me, let this be the moment
now; With every step I take, let this be my solemn
vow; To take each moment and live each moment in
peace eternally
Let there be peace on Earth
and let it begin with me!*