

*Remember
all are of
the dust,
and all
turn to
dust again*

18TH FEBRUARY 2026

ASH WEDNESDAY

Saint Peter's Lutheran Church

Evansville, Illinois

Saint John's Lutheran Church

Ruma, Illinois

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Divine Service, Setting Three



Prelude & Bell Ringing

Greeting: We gather in this penitential season, we seek especially God's gift of working repentance as we receive the blessings that God has promised, and to thank and praise him for those blessings.

P We begin with the imposition of ashes,

P Dear brothers and sisters of our Lord Jesus Christ, ... so that we may come to Easter with glad hearts and keep the feast in sincerity and truth.

Kneel/Stand

P O Lord,

C have mercy.

P O Christ,

C have mercy.

P O Lord,

C have mercy.

P O Christ,

C hear us.

P God the Father in heaven,

C have mercy.

P God the Son, Redeemer of the world,

C have mercy.

P God the Holy Spirit,

C have mercy.

P Be gracious to us.

C Spare us, good Lord.

P Be gracious to us.

C Help us, good Lord.

P By the mystery of Your holy incarnation;

...by Your glorious resurrection and ascension;

and by the coming of the Holy Spirit, the Comforter:

C Help us, good Lord.

- P** In all time of our tribulation;
 ...and in the day of judgment:
- C** Help us, good Lord.
- P** We poor sinners implore You
- C** to hear us, O Lord.
- P** To prosper the preaching of Your Word;
 ...and to give heart to our sorrow and strength to our
 repentance:
- C** We implore You to hear us, good Lord.
- P** To draw all to Yourself;
 ...to give abundant blessing to all works of mercy;
 and to have mercy on us all:
- C** We implore You to hear us, good Lord.
- P** To turn our hearts to You;
 to turn the hearts of our enemies, persecutors, and
 slanderers;
 and graciously to hear our prayers:
- C** We implore You to hear us, good Lord.
- P** Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God,
- C** we implore You to hear us.
- P** Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the
 world,
- C** have mercy.
- P** Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the
 world,
- C** have mercy.
- P** Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the
 world,
- C** grant us Your peace.
- P** O Christ,
- C** hear us.
- P** O Lord,
- C** have mercy.

P O Christ,

C have mercy.

P O Lord,

C have mercy. Amen.

P O God, You desire not the death of sinners, but rather that they turn from their wickedness and live. We implore You to have compassion on the frailty of our mortal nature, for we acknowledge that we are dust and to dust we shall return. Mercifully pardon our sins that we may obtain the promises You have laid up for those who are repentant; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

P Anyone who would like to receive Ashes may come forward at this time.

Hymn of Ashes: 419 Savior, When in Dust to Thee



CONFESSON AND ABSOLUTION



CONFESSON & ABSOLUTION

LSB184



SERVICE OF THE WORD



INTROIT Psalm 51:1–3, 10–12; antiphon: v. 17

The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit;

a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;

according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.

Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,

and cleanse me from my sin! ►

For I know my transgressions,
and my sin is ever before me.
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 uphold me with a willing spirit.
The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit;
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

GLORIA PATRI LSB 186
KYRIE LSB 186
COLLECT OF THE DAY LSB 189

☐ Almighty and everlasting God, | You despise nothing You have made | and forgive the sins of all who are penitent. | Create in us new and contrite hearts that lamenting our sins | and acknowledging our wretchedness we may receive from You full pardon and forgiveness; | through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, | who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, | one God, | now and forever. |

OLD TESTAMENT READING Joel 2:12–19

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.

¹⁴Who 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?

¹⁵Blow the trumpet in Zion; consecrate a fast; call a solemn assembly; ¹⁶gather 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. ►

¹⁷Between 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?’

¹⁸Then the LORD became jealous for his land and had pity on his people.

¹⁹The LORD answered and said to his people, “Behold, I am sending to you grain, wine, and oil, and you will be satisfied; and I will no more make you a reproach among the nations.” ☩

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL

Hebrews 12:2

Epistle Reading

2nd Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

²¹For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

¹Working together with him, then, we appeal to you not to receive the grace of God in vain. ²For 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. ³We put no obstacle in anyone’s way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, ⁴but as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: by great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, ⁵beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; ⁶by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, the Holy Spirit, genuine love; ⁷by truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; ⁸through honor and dishonor, through slander and praise. ➤

We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; ⁹as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold, we live; as punished, and yet not killed; ¹⁰as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, yet possessing everything.

P This too is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA & VERSE

LSB 190

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 6:1-6,16-21

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the sixth chapter.

¹[Jesus said:] “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. ³But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴so 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. ⁶But 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. ¹⁷But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, ¹⁸that 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, 20but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. 21For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



☐ Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

Nicene Creed

Back flyleaf of the Hymnal

HYMN OF THE DAY

436 Go to Dark Gethsemane

SERMON “You Meant It for Evil; But God Meant It for Good.”

OFFERTORY

LSB 192

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH



SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT



Preface

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Sanctus

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LORD'S PRAYER

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THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

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Pax Domini

LSB 197

Agnus Dei

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Distribution

Distribution Hymn: 421 Jesus, Grant That Balm and Healing

Distribution Hymn: 610 Lord Jesus, Think on Me

Nunc Dimittis

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Thanksgiving

LSB 200

SALUTATION AND BENEDICAMUS

LSB 201

BENEDICTION

LSB 202

CLOSING HYMN

418 Lord Throughout These Forty Days

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