

February 18, 2026

Ash Wednesday



Our Savior's Lutheran Church
8:00 AM Worship 9:00 AM Fellowship
Faith Formation 5:30 PM Wednesdays

Pastor Gary Grinvalds
Organist: Sandy Eltiste

Introduction to the day

On Ash Wednesday we begin our forty-day journey toward Easter with a day of fasting and repentance. Marking our foreheads with dust, we acknowledge that we die and return to the earth. At the same time, the dust traces the life-giving cross indelibly marked on our foreheads at baptism. While we journey through Lent to return to God, we have already been reconciled to God through Christ. We humbly pray for God to make our hearts clean while we rejoice that “now is the day of salvation.” Returning to our baptismal call, we more intentionally bear the fruits of mercy and justice in the world.

* PLEASE STAND
Congregational responses in **bold** print

We gather in silence.....

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who forgives all our sin,
whose mercy endures forever.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt
and blots out all offenses.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Gracious God,

have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you:

Gracious God,

have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word:

Gracious God,

have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For failing to recognize your coming reign,

and for hindering the work of the Spirit: Gracious God,

have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition,

and for disdaining the living water Christ offers: Gracious God,

have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For disregarding voices from the margin,

and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world:

Gracious God,

have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent,

and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life:

Gracious God,

have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound.

Through faith, the free gift of God,

you have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ.
 In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.
 The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead
 dwells in you,
 pours God's love into your hearts,
 and gives you life and peace.
 Amen.

*ENTRANCE HYMN

ELW 600

Out of the Depths I Cry to You



1 Out of the depths I cry to you; O Lord God, hear me call - ing.
 2 All things you send are full of grace; you crown our lives with fa - vor.
 3 In you a - lone, O God, we hope, and not in our own mer - it.
 4 My soul is wait - ing for you, Lord, as one who longs for morn - ing;



In - cline your ear to my dis - tress in spite of my re - bel - ling.
 All our good works are done in vain with - out our Lord and Sav - ior.
 We rest our fears in your good Word and trust your Ho - ly Spir - it.
 no watch - er waits with great - er hope than I for your re - turn - ing.



Do not re - gard my sin - ful deeds. Send me the grace
 We praise you for the gift of faith; you save us from
 Your prom - ise keeps us strong and sure; we trust the cross,
 I hope as Is - rael in the Lord, who sends re - demp -



my spir - it needs; with - out it I am noth - ing.
 the grip of death; our lives are in your keep - ing.
 your sig - na - ture, in - scribed up - on our tem - ples.
 tion through the Word. Praise God for grace and mer - cy!

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. composite
 Music: AUS TIEFER NOT, attr. Martin Luther
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***GREETING**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

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

FIRST READING: Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

Because of the coming Day of the LORD, the prophet Joel calls the people to a community lament. The repentant community reminds God of his gracious character and asks God to spare the people, lest the nations doubt God's power to save.

¹ 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—² 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.

¹² Yet even now, says the LORD, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;¹³ rend your hearts and not your clothing. Return to the LORD your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from punishment. 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 aged; gather the children, even infants at the breast. Let the bridegroom leave his room and the bride her canopy. ¹⁷ 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.

PSALM 51:1-17

¹Have 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.**

³For 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.**

⁵Indeed, 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.**

⁷Remove 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.**

⁹Hide 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.**

¹¹Cast 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.**

¹³Let 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.**

¹⁵O 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.**

¹⁷The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit; a troubled and broken heart, O God, you will not despise.

SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

The ministry of the gospel endures many challenges and hardships. Through this ministry, God's reconciling activity in the death of Christ reaches into the depths of our lives to bring us into a right relationship with God. In this way, God accepts us into the reality of divine salvation.

^{20b}We entreat 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.

^{6:1}As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. ²For he says,

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

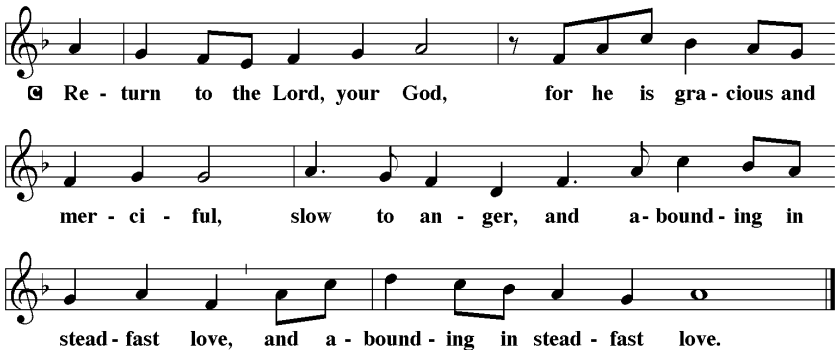
See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation! ³We are putting no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, ⁴but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, ⁵beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; ⁶by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, ⁷truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; ⁸in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; ⁹as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see—we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; ¹⁰as 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.

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

LBW pg 63



☐ 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, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

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



In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus commends almsgiving, prayer, and fasting, but emphasizes that spiritual devotion must not be done for show.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹“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.

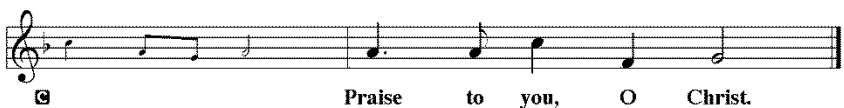
²“So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ³But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

⁵“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. ⁶But 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.

¹⁶“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. ¹⁷But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, ¹⁸so 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.

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

The Gospel of the Lord.



Savior, When in Dust to You



1 Sav-ior, 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!

Text: Robert Grant, 1779-1838, alt.
 Music: ABERYSTWYTH, Joseph Parry, 1841-1903

***INVITATION TO LENT**

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 the 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**

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

Most holy and merciful Father:

**We confess to you and to one another,
and before the whole company of heaven,
that we have sinned by our own 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, 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

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.

All who desire to receive ashes come forward in a single file line as the ushers direct you. After all who desire ashes have received them, the minister leads the congregation in the conclusion of the confession.

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 Lord,

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

***THE PRAYERS**

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 (*places may be named*). 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.

Hold us forever, O God. We thank you for all who now know their treasure in heaven, and for (*Martin Luther and*) all who on earth proclaimed your abounding, steadfast love. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Receive our prayers, O God, through Jesus Christ, our strength and salvation.

Amen.

OFFERING

*OFFERTORY

Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful

Offering Song



Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



bles - sing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be



fed with the bread of life. Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u -



nite them with the prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your



pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

*OFFERTORY PRAYER

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.
Amen.

*DIALOGUE


LBW pg 68



Ⓐ The Lord be with you. ⓐ And al - so with you.



Ⓐ Lift up your hearts. ⓐ We lift them to the Lord.



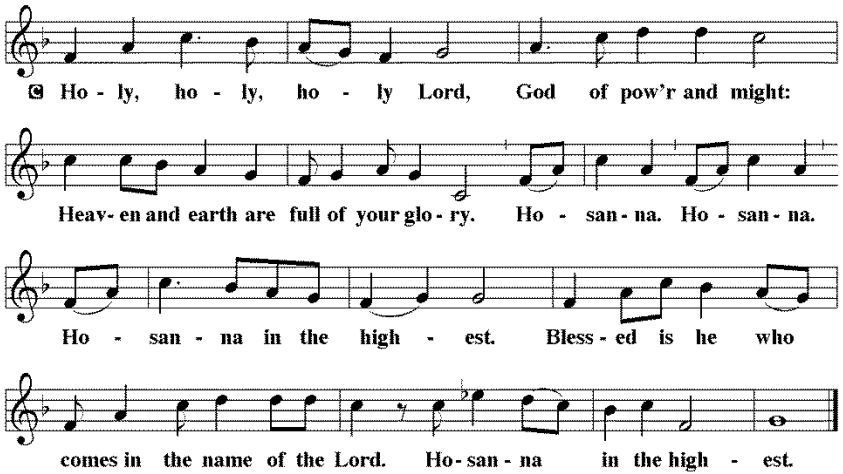
Ⓐ Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



ⓐ It is right to give him 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:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:
 Heav-en and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho - san - na. Ho - san - na.
 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.

***THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

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:

Christ has died. Christ has risen. Christ will come again.

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.

Come, Holy Spirit.

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.

Come, Holy Spirit.

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**

**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 HOLY COMMUNION**

Come to the table.

Feast on God's goodness and mercy.

AGNUS DEI

LBW pg 72

☞ Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

Come, Ye Disconsolate



1 Come, ye dis - con - so - late, wher - e'er ye lan - guish;
 2 Joy of the des - o - late, light of the stray - ing,
 3 Here see the Bread of life; see wa - ters flow - ing



come to the mer - cy - seat, fer - vent - ly kneel.
 hope of the pen - i - tent, fade - less and pure;
 forth from the throne of God, pure from a - bove.



Here bring your wound - ed hearts, here tell your an - guish;
 here speaks the Com - fort - er, ten - der - ly say - ing,
 Come to the feast of love; come, ev - er know - ing



earth has no sor - row that heav'n can - not heal.
 "Earth has no sor - row that heav'n can - not cure."
 earth has no sor - row but heav'n can re - move.

Text: Thomas Moore, 1779–1852, sts. 1–2; Thomas Hastings, 1784–1872, st. 3
 Music: CONSOLATOR, Samuel Webbe Sr., 1740–1816

***BLESSING**

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Amen

***CANTICLE**

LBW pg 73



Lord, now you let your ser- vant go in peace; your word has been ful- filled.



My own eyes have seen the sal- va- tion which you have pre- pared in the



sight of ev- 'ry peo- ple: A light to re- veal you to the



na- tions and the glo- ry of your peo- ple Is- ra- el.



Glo- ry to the Fa- ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho- ly Spir- it,



as it was in the- be- gin- ning, is now, and will be for- ev- er. A- men

***POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

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.
Amen.

***BLESSING**

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.
Amen.

O Lord, throughout These Forty Days



1 O Lord, through-out these for - ty days you prayed and kept the fast;
 2 You strove with Sa - tan, and you won; your faith - ful - ness en - dured;
 3 Though parched and hun - gry, yet you prayed and fixed your mind a - bove;
 4 Be with us through this sea - son, Lord, and all our earth - ly days,



in - spire re - pen - tance for our sin, and free us from our past.
 lend us your nerve, your skill and trust in God's e - ter - nal word.
 so teach us to de - ny our - selves that we may know God's love.
 that when the fi - nal Eas - ter dawns, we join in heav - en's praise.

Text: based on Claudia F. Hernaman, 1838–1898; para. Gilbert F. Doan, b. 1930
 Music: CAITHNESS, *Psalter*, Edinburgh, 1635

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DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Believe the good news.
 Thanks be to God.

We depart in silence.....

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LENTEN SCHEDULE:

Wednesday Lenten Services will be at 7:00 p.m. on the following days:

February 25, 2026

March 4, 2026

March 11, 2026

March 18, 2026

March 25, 2026

Maundy Thursday, April 2, 2026 at 7:30 p.m.

Good Friday, April 3, 2026 at 7:30 p.m.

**EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 5, 2026
8:00 A.M. AT OUR SAVIOR'S**

Please make your Thrivent Choice dollars donations **before March 31st**. You can log onto your Thrivent Account and direct the dollars or call them on the phone at 800-847-4836. **If you wish for your dollars to be designated to a certain ministry or cemetery you must tell your Treasurer the amount you donated and where you want them to go.** When the \$ comes to the treasurers from Thrivent they do not specify who donated what or where you desire it to go. If you don't specify it will go into the general fund. Contact your treasurer if you have any questions.

Remembered in Our Parish Prayers:

Kent Hohensee

Kathleen Remmers

Kai Spann

Maxine Trauernicht