

St. John's Lutheran Church

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The Rev. Carl A. Johnson, Pastor



ASH WEDNESDAY

February 18, 2026

7:00 p.m.

Prayer upon entering God's House:

Forgive us, O Lord, for having thought of the Christian life as an easy way. Whatever the cost may be, help us persist in the way of faith and Christian living. Amen.

PRELUDE

Aberystwyth

arr. Near

*P: In the Name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

*C: Amen.

***PSALM 51:1-13** (Read responsively) (P: Pastor; C: Congregation)

¹Have mercy on me, O God, according to your loving kindness;
in Your great compassion blot out my offenses.

²Wash me through and through from my wickedness,
and cleanse me from my sin.

³For I know my transgressions,
and my sin is ever before me.

⁴Against You only have I sinned
and done what is evil in your sight

⁵And so You are justified when You speak
and upright in Your judgment.

⁶Indeed, I have been wicked from my birth,
a sinner from my mother's womb.

⁷For behold, You look for truth deep within me,
and will make me understand wisdom secretly.

⁸Purge me from my sin, and I will be pure;
wash me, and I shall be clean indeed.

⁹Make me hear of joy and gladness,
that the body You have broken may rejoice.

¹⁰Hide Your face from my sins,
and blot out all my iniquities.

¹¹Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.

¹²Cast me not away from Your holy presence,
and take not Your Holy Spirit from me.

¹³Give me the joy of Your saving help again,
and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.

*C: **Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

*Congregation stands

***THE ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

P: Dearly Beloved, God creates us to experience joy in communion with Him, to love all humanity, and to live in harmony with all of His creation. But sin separates us from God, our neighbors, and creation. Thus, we do not enjoy the life our Creator intended for us. Also, by our sin we grieve our Father who does not desire us to come under His judgment, but to turn to Him and to live.

As disciples of our Lord Jesus Christ, we are called to struggle against everything that leads us away from the love of God and neighbor. Repentance, fasting, prayer, and works of love - the discipline of Lent - help us to wage our spiritual warfare. I invite you, therefore, to commit yourselves to this struggle and to confess your sins, asking our Father for the strength to persevere in your Lenten discipline.

(Silence for reflection)

P: Most Holy and Merciful Father:

C: 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.

P: We have not loved You with our whole heart, 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, Lord.

P: We have been deaf 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, Lord.

P: We confess to You, Lord, all of our past unfaithfulness. The pride, hypocrisy, and impatience in our lives,

C: We confess to You, Lord.

P: Our self-indulgent ways and our exploitation of other people,

C: We confess to You, Lord.

P: Our anger at our own frustration, and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves,

C: We confess to You, Lord.

P: Our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts, and our dishonesty in daily life and work,

C: We confess to You, Lord.

P: Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to commend the faith that is in us,

C: We confess to You, Lord.

P: Accept our repentance, Lord, for the wrong we have done. For our blindness to human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty,

C: Accept our repentance, Lord.

P: For false judgments, for uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and for our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us,

C: Accept our repentance, Lord.

P: For our waste and pollution of Your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us,

C: Accept our repentance, Lord.

P: Restore us, O Lord, and let Your anger depart from us.

C: Hear us, Lord for Your mercy is great. Amen.

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

(Those who desire to receive ashes may come forward. The ministers apply ashes to the forehead of each person with words: "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return." The ashen cross on the forehead is a sign of our repentance.)

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 Lord,

C: Bring us, with all Your saints, to the great joy of His resurrection.

P: Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, does not desire the death of sinners, but rather that they may turn from their wickedness and live. Therefore, we implore Him to grant us true repentance and His Holy Spirit, that those things may please Him which we do on this day, that the rest of our life may be pure and Holy, and that at the last we may come to His eternal joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen

Period of silent meditation

***THE PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray:

Almighty and everlasting 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 obtain from You, the God of all mercy, full pardon and forgiveness; through Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen

THE FIRST LESSON

Joel 2:1–2, 12–17

A The First Lesson is from the second chapter of Joel.

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?’”

A Here ends the reading.

THE PSALMODY (*Read responsively*)

Psalm 51:1–18

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your loving kindness;
in your great compassion blot out my offenses.

**²Wash me through and through from my wickedness,
and cleanse me from my sin.**

³For I know my transgressions,
and my sin is ever before me.

**⁴Against you only have I sinned
and done what is evil in your sight.**

⁵And so you are justified when you speak
and upright in your judgment.

**⁶Indeed, I have been wicked from my birth,
a sinner from my mother's womb.**

⁷For behold, you look for truth deep within me,
and will make me understand wisdom secretly.

**⁸Purge me from my sin, and I shall be pure;
wash me, and I shall be clean indeed.**

⁹Make me hear of joy and gladness,
that the body you have broken may rejoice.

**¹⁰Hide your face from my sins,
and blot out all my iniquities.**

¹¹Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.

**¹²Cast me not away from your presence,
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.**

¹³Give me the joy of your saving help again
and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.

**¹⁴I shall teach your ways to the wicked,
and sinners shall return to you.**

¹⁵Deliver me from death, O God,
and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness, O God of my salvation.

**¹⁶Open my lips, O LORD,
and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

¹⁷Had you desired it, I would have offered sacrifice,
but you take no delight in burnt-offerings.

**¹⁸The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit;
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.**

THE SECOND LESSON

2 Corinthians 5:20b—6:10

A The Second Lesson is from the fifth & sixth chapters of 2 Corinthians.

²⁰ Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. 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.

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.

A Here ends the reading.

***THE LENTEN VERSE** (*Spoken*)

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

***THE GOSPEL**

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

"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.

***HYMN**

"Lord, Teach Us How to Pray Aright"

Hymn 438

SERMON

*PRAYERS, SPOKEN AND SILENT

*THE SHARING OF PEACE

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

ANTHEM

"Come Away"

Medema

*OFFERTORY



☐ What shall I ren-der to the Lord for all his ben - e - fits to me?



I will of-fer the sac-ri- fice of thanks- giv - ing and will call on the



name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal-va-tion and will



call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my vows to the Lord now in the



pres-ence of all his peo - ple, in the courts of the Lord's house,



in the midst of you, O Je - ru - sa - lem.

*OFFERTORY PRAYER

A Let us pray.

A Merciful Father,

C we offer with joy and thanksgiving what You have first given us—our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of Your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of Him who offered Himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

*GREAT THANKSGIVING



☐ The Lord be with you. ☐ And al - so with you.

P Lift up your hearts. G We lift them to the Lord.
 P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
 G It is right to give him thanks and praise.

***EUCHARISTIC PRAYER IV**

P We give You thanks, Father, through Jesus Christ, Your beloved Son, whom You sent in this end of the ages to save and redeem us and to proclaim to us Your will. He is Your Word, inseparable from You. Through Him You created all things, and in Him you take delight. He is Your Word, sent from heaven to a virgin's womb. He there took on our nature and our lot and was shown forth as Your Son, born of the Holy Spirit and of the virgin Mary. It is He, our Lord Jesus, who fulfilled all Your will and won for You a holy people; He stretched out His hands in suffering in order to free from suffering those who trust You.

It is He who, handed over to a death He freely accepted, in order to destroy death, to break the bonds of the evil one, to crush hell underfoot, to give light to the righteous, to establish His covenant, and to show forth the resurrection, taking bread and giving thanks to You, said:

Take and eat; this is my body, broken for you.
 Do this for the remembrance of me.

In the same way He took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This is my blood poured out for you.
 Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, then, His death and resurrection, we lift this bread and cup before You, giving You thanks that You have made us worthy to stand before You and to serve You as Your priestly people.

And we ask You:

Send Your Spirit upon these gifts of Your Church;
 gather into one all who share this bread and wine;
 fill us with Your Holy Spirit to establish our faith in truth,
 that we may praise and glorify You through Your Son Jesus Christ.

Through Him all glory and honor are Yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in Your holy Church both now and forever.

C Amen

*THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

*COMMUNION CANTICLE



C 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, grant us peace.

COMMUNION

*All who are baptized and believe that Christ is truly present
in the Lord's Supper are invited to receive this Sacrament with us.
Gluten-Free Communion Wafers are available, please inform the Pastor of your needs.*

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

Amen.

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

C Amen

*POST COMMUNION CANTICLE



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

A: Almighty God, You gave Your Son both as a sacrifice for sin and a model of the godly life. Enable us to receive Him always with thanksgiving, and to conform our lives to His; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen

*BENEDICTION

P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.



A - men

*CLOSING HYMN

"O Lord, Throughout These Forty Days"

LBW 99

***DISMISSAL**

A: Go in peace, serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

SILENCE FOR MEDITATION

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SERVICE PARTICIPANTS

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TBD

Camera Operator

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STAFF MEMBERS

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Julie Smith

Secretary

Angela B. Clever

Sexton

TBA

Organist/Choir Director/Director of Music

Rebecca Veith

Sr. Choir Accompanist

Elizabeth Cramer

OUR MISSION

St. John's Lutheran Church is a group of people who believe that we are saved by God's grace and who respond to God's love by joyfully serving God, each other, our community and our world. We will humbly and lovingly serve by proclaiming the Gospel, teaching the Word, offering Sacraments, leading others to fellowship, supporting those in need, giving generously of our talents as well as our resources and by thanking and praising God.

GRACE
happens



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