

Celebration Lutheran Church

Pastor: Sarah Toney

Pianist: Susan Gubsch

Ash Wednesday

Worship: 6:30pm

February 18, 2026

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

We Gather for Worship

Gathering Hymn:

You Are Mine

581

1 "I will come to you in the si-lence,
2 "I am hope for all who are hope-less,
3 "I am strength for all the de-spair-ing,
(4) am the Word that leads all to free-dom,
I will lift you from all your fear.
I am eyes for all who long to see. (2) In the
heal-ing for the ones who dwell in shame.
am the peace the world can-not give.
You will hear my voice, I claim you as my choice. Be
shad-ows of the night, I will be your light.
All the blind will see, the lame will all run free, and
I will call your name, em-brac-ing all your pain. Stand
still and know I am here. To stanza 2
Come and rest in me. To refrain
all will know my name. To refrain
up, now walk and live!
Do not be a-fraid, I am with you. I have called you each by
name. Come and fol-low me, I will bring you home; I
love you and you are mine."

Greeting

L: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

L: Loving God,

C: ... we have all we need in you, yet we continue to grasp for more.
Remind us of your sufficient provision, that you provide us with life
– the breath in our lungs and cool water to drink – so that we might
share of your abundance with all in need. Amen.

We Hear God's Word

First Reading: Isaiah 58:1-9

¹ Shout out; do not hold back!

Lift up your voice like a trumpet!

Announce to my people their rebellion,
to the house of Jacob their sins.

² Yet day after day they seek me
and delight to know my ways,
as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness
and did not forsake the ordinance of their God;
they ask of me righteous judgments;
they want God on their side.

³ "Why do we fast, but you do not see?
Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?"
Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day
and oppress all your workers.

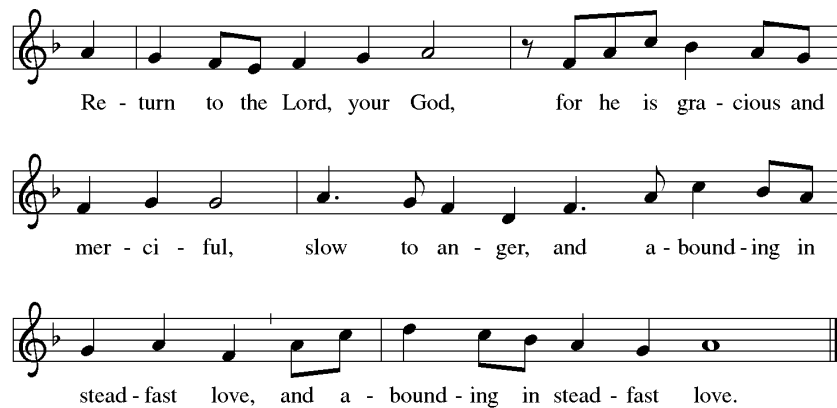
⁴ You fast only to quarrel and to fight
and to strike with a wicked fist.
Such fasting as you do today
will not make your voice heard on high.

⁵ Is such the fast that I choose,
 a day to humble oneself?
 Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush
 and to lie in sackcloth and ashes?
 Will you call this a fast,
 a day acceptable to the Lord?
⁶ Is not this the fast that I choose:
 to loose the bonds of injustice,
 to undo the straps of the yoke,
 to let the oppressed go free,
 and to break every yoke?
⁷ Is it not to share your bread with the hungry
 and bring the homeless poor into your house;
 when you see the naked, to cover them
 and not to hide yourself from your own kin?
⁸ Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,
 and your healing shall spring up quickly;
 your vindicator shall go before you;
 the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard.
⁹ Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer;
 you shall cry for help, and he will say, "Here I am."

Psalms 51:1-17

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. R**

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. R**
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. R**
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. R



Holy Gospel: Matthew 6:1-4, 19-21

L: The gospel according to St Matthew in the 6th chapter

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹ “Beware of practicing your righteousness 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. ³ But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴ so that your alms may be done 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, ²⁰ but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

L: The gospel of our Lord.

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

Hymn of the Day:

Be Thou My Vision

793



Invitation to Lent

Friends in Christ, today with the whole church we enter the time of remembering Jesus' passover from death to life.

We begin this holy season by acknowledging our need for repentance, which asks us to change our minds, hearts, and behavior, and to turn again towards God. This is a time of transformation and renewal with God.

We are created to experience joy in communion with God, to love one another, and to live in harmony with creation. But we are prone to ways that separate us from God and all that is. Too often we do not enjoy the expansive life our Creator intended.

As disciples of Jesus, we are called to reject evil and resist whatever leads us away from love of God and our neighbors. I invite you, therefore, to this journey of Lent – a time of self-reflection, connection, and an expansion of our love for God and all that God made, including ourselves, each other, and all of creation. Let us begin our journey through these forty days that lead us to the power of Jesus' death and resurrection.

Confession

P: Most holy and merciful God,

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.

L: 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: Help us to love, O God.

L: We have been deaf to your call to serve as Christ served us.

C: Help us to love, O God.

L: We confess to you, Lord, our pride, hypocrisy, and impatience.

C: Help us to love, O God.

L: Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of others and the planet,

C: Help us to love, O God.

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

C: Help us to love, O God.

L: Our prioritization of comfort and convenience, and our dishonesty in daily life,

C: Help us to love, O God.

L: Hear our sorrow, Lord, for the wrongs we have done and for the ways we cannot avoid participation in destructive systems of power and domination.

C: Help us to love, O God.

L: For our judgments and unloving thoughts towards others, and for our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us,

C: Help us to love, O God.

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

C: Help us to love, O God.

L: Transform us, Lord, into the humans you would have us be.

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

Imposition of Ashes

L: Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.

Period of Silent Reflection

L: Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation,

C: ... that we may show forth your glory in the world.

L: By the cross and passion of your Son, our Savior,
C: Bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.

L: 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

We Respond to God's Word

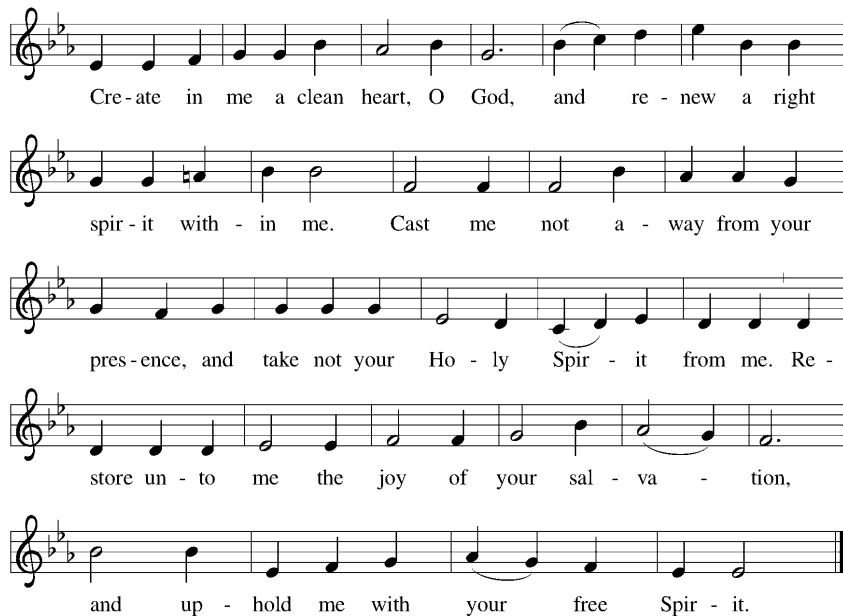
Greeting of Peace

L: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

Offering

Offertory Hymn: Create in Me A Clean Heart # 188



Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your
pres - ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re -
store un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,
and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

L: O God, maker of heaven and earth,

C: ... 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.

We Share Christ's Meal

The Great Thanksgiving

L: The Lord be with you **C: And also with you**

L: Lift up your hearts **C: We lift them up to the Lord**

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Communion Prayers and the story of our Lord's Supper

Lord's Prayer

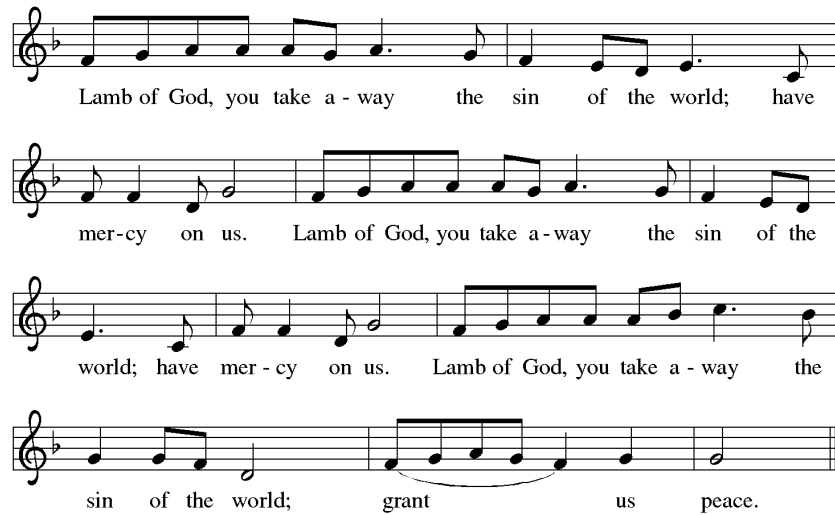
L: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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.

Communion Hymn:

Lamb of God

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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.

Post-Communion Prayer and Blessing

Sending Hymn:

Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service # 712



1 Lord, whose love in hum - ble ser - vice bore the weight of hu - man need,
2 Still your chil - dren wan - der home-less; still the hun - gry cry for bread;
3 As we wor - ship, grant us vi - sion, till your love's re - veal - ing light
4 Called by wor - ship to your ser - vice, forth in your dear name we go,
who up - on the cross, for - sak - en, worked your mer - cy's per - fect deed;
still the cap - tives long for free - dom; still in grief we mourn our dead.
in its height and depth and great-ness dawns up - on our quick - ened sight,
to the child, the youth, the a - ged, love in liv - ing deeds to show;
we, your ser - vants, bring the wor - ship not of voice a - lone, but heart;
As you, Lord, in deep com - pas - sion healed the sick and freed the soul,
mak - ing known the needs and bur - dens your com - pas - sion bids us bear,
hope and health, good - will and com - fort, coun - sel, aid, and peace we give,
con - se - crat - ing to your pur - pose ev - 'ry gift which you im - part.
by your Spir - it send your pow - er to our world to make it whole.
stir - ring us to ar - dent ser - vice, your a - bun - dant life to share.
that your ser - vants, Lord, in free - dom may your mer - cy know and live.

Dismissal

L: Go forth into the world in love to serve God and God's people with gladness. Be of good courage as God transforms your heart to open ever wider to respond to the world with love. Honor, love, and care for all people and God's good Creation, rejoicing in God's glory, Jesus' presence, and the power of the Holy Spirit.

C: Thanks be to God.

We Go to Love as Jesus Loves Us!

Our Focus During Lent

We live in tempestuous times, as did Jesus and the prophets of the Old Testament. Their call during their ministries was always for repentance and to remember that the Lord your God is indeed your God, regardless of what is and was happening in the world. Lent is a special time of renewal in faith and practices when we refocus our lives on Christ.

This Lent, we'll be going back to the basics and asking simple, yet profound questions to find grounding in the ancient practices of the church. What is the nature of sin? What does repentance and living in right relationship with God really mean in our lives? Are we open and willing to suffer the paths that God calls us to, including dying to sin and our limited world views for the sake of God's vision? What is it like to deeply accept God's grace? What does Jesus' death and resurrection teach us about how to live?

Jesus taught us to become like children to enter the Kingdom. So, let's go back to the basics, get curious, ask questions, and watch for God's action in these coming 40 days. What would God have us learn from these holy days of return and renewal?

Lent and Holy Week Schedules

Mid-Week Services at 6:30 pm

February 18 – Ashes and Humility
 25 – Giving Something Up
March 4 – Sin
 11 – Repentance
 18 – Lament
 25 – Righteousness

Holy Week

April 2 – Maundy Thursday
April 3 – Good Friday
April 5 – Easter Sunday