



Ash Wednesday

Faith Lutheran Church ✚ Wednesday, February 18, 2026

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

The assembly gathers in silence. The liturgy begins with the greeting.

GREETING AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Gracious God, out of your love and mercy you breathed into dust the breath of life, creating us to serve you and our neighbors. Summon our prayers and acts of mercy, and empower us to face our mortality with confidence in the mercy of your Beloved, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

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.

Make a new heart, make a new heart in us, today and everyday (2x)

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.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Red Book 177

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.

SERMON

Pastor Aaron Musser

Silence for reflection follows the sermon.

INVITATION TO LENT

CONFESS AND FORGIVENESS

*We confess that we cannot do it all,
Only by our lonesome, only by our lonesome.
There is space between where we put a wall,
Only by our lonesome, only by our lonesome.
Won't you knock down all the walls that we built stable?
Tip them over and restore them into sturdy dinner tables.*

*We confess that we cannot free ourselves,
Only by our lonesome, only by our lonesome.
And despite our best we get overwhelmed,
Only by our lonesome, only by our lonesome.
Won't you knock down all the walls that we built stable?
Tip them over and restore them into sturdy dinner tables.*

*We confess that we cannot find our way,
Only by our lonesome, only by our lonesome.
Please, forgive our sins, reignite our flame,
Only by our lonesome, only by our lonesome.
Won't you knock down all the walls that we built stable?
Tip them over and restore them into sturdy dinner tables.*

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. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

*As each petition ends with God of grace,
The assembly may respond receive our prayer.*

PEACE

La paz de Cristo sea siempre con ustedes.
Y también contigo.
The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING

When We Are Tested (ACS 922)

GREAT THANKSGIVING



And the ta-ble will be wide. And the wel-come will be wide.



And the arms will o - pen wide to ga-ther us in.



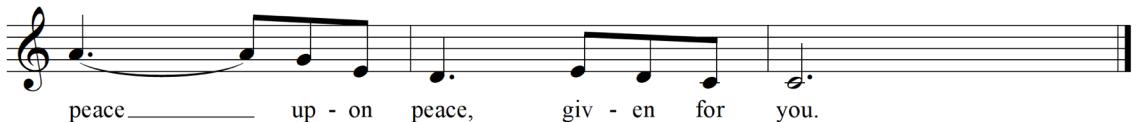
And our hearts will o-pen wide to re - ceive.

COMMUNION SONGS

Grace Upon Grace



Grace up - on grace, mer - cy up - on mer - cy,



peace up - on peace, giv - en for you.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

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.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

BLESSING

DISMISSAL SONG

Prayer of Good Courage

The musical score is in common time, key of G major (two sharps). The vocal line consists of eighth and sixteenth notes. The lyrics are as follows:

first time through [L:] O God, You have called us to ventures where we can not see the
second time through [C:] end, By paths ne-^rver yet tak en, Through per il^s un known.

4 3
9
13
17

Give us good cour-age Not know ing where we go, To
know that your hand is lead-ing us Wher ev er we might go.
A - - - - men.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Trust the good news. **Thanks be to God.**

