



February 18, 2026

Shepherd of the Lakes Lutheran Church

2903 State Hwy 155 PO Box 130 Sayner, Wisconsin 54560

A member congregation of the North American Lutheran Church (NALC)
And Augsburg Lutheran Churches (ALC)

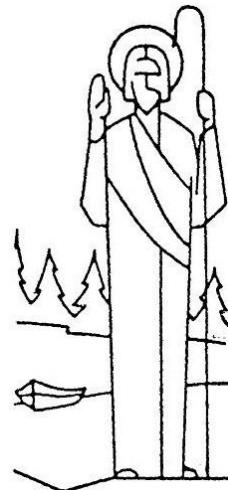
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Sayner, Wisconsin

ASH WEDNESDAY

The Ash Wednesday Liturgy leads us into the penitential season of Lent – a season marked by stripping away the non-essential and the unimportant, by listening in quietness to the groaning of all creation as it confronts its sinfulness, by reflecting on our own sinfulness and on God's gift of forgiveness which comes through his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

We begin the season with a penitential Psalm, an Act of Confession, and the silence of self-examination and renewal. We come before God with contrite hearts. We are then marked with the dust of ashes, and hear the words, "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return." In this act, we confess our need for God and God's forgiveness and breath of new life in us.



OPEN IN SILENCE - PSALM 51

(Read Responsively, please remain seated)

¹Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;
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 offenses,
and my sin is ever before me.

**⁴Against 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.

**⁶Indeed, 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.

**⁸Let 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.

**¹⁰Create 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.

¹⁸**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; as
in the beginning, is now, and will be forever.**

Amen

Brothers and sisters: God created us to experience joy in communion with him, to love all humanity, and to live in harmony with all of God's creation. But sin separates us from God, our neighbors, and creation, and so we do not enjoy the life our Creator intended for us. Also, by our sin we grieve our God, who desires us to turn to him and live. As disciples of the Lord Jesus we are called to struggle against everything that leads us away from 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 confess your sins, asking our Father for strength to persevere in our Lenten discipline.

Silence for reflection and self-examination

Most holy and merciful Father:

**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.**

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, Lord.

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.

Have mercy on us, Lord.

We confess to you, Lord, all our past unfaithfulness. The pride, hypocrisy, and impatience in our lives,

We confess to you, Lord.

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

We confess to you, Lord.

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

We confess to you, Lord.

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

We confess to you, Lord.

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

We confess to you, Lord.

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

Accept our repentance, Lord.

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

Accept our repentance, Lord.

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

Accept our repentance, Lord.

Restore us, good Lord, and let your anger depart from us.

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

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

Those who desire, please come to the altar to receive ashes.

(Upon receiving ashes please be seated for silence and meditation)

Accomplish in us, 0 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, 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 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.

Amen

PRAYER OF THE DAY

(Please join me in the prayer)

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 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.

Amen

OPENING HYMN “Our Father, We Have Wandered” ELW 606

(Please stand as you are comfortable)

Our Father, We Have Wandered

1 Our Fa - ther, we have wan - dered and hid - den from your face;
 2 And now at length dis - cern - ing the e - vil that we do,
 3 O Lord of all the liv - ing, both ban - ished and re - stored,

in fool-ish-ness have squan - dered your leg - a - cy of grace.
 be - hold us, Lord, re - turn - ing with hope and trust to you.
 com-pas-sion-ate, for - giv - ing, and ev - er - car - ing Lord,

But now, in ex - ile dwell - ing, we rise with fear and shame,
 In haste you come to meet us and home re - joic - ing bring,
 grant now that our trans - gress - ing, our faith - less - ness may cease.

as, dis - tant but com - pel - ling, we hear you call our name.
 in glad-ness there to greet us with calf and robe and ring.
 Stretch out your hand in bless - ing, in par - don, and in peace.

Text: Kevin Nichols, 1929–2006

Music: HERZLICH TUT MICH VERLANGEN, Hans Leo Hassler, 1564–1612; arr. Johann Sebastian Bach, 1685–1750
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First Reading Joel 2: 1-2, 12-17

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Second Reading 2 Corinthians 5: 20b-6:10

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Holy Gospel *(Please stand as you are comfortable)*

Matthew 6: 1-6, 16-21

The Gospel of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

(Please be Seated)

MESSAGE

HYMN OF THE DAY

*“Be thou My Vision” ELW 793**Please stand as you are comfortable*

Be Thou My Vision



1 Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
 2 Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word;
 3 Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise,
 4 Light of my soul, after victory won,



naught be all else to me, save that thou art:
 I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord.
 thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways:
 may I reach heav - en's joys, O heav - en's Sun!



thou my best thought both by day and by night,
 Thou my soul's shel - ter, and thou my high tow'r,
 thou and thou on - ly, the first in my heart,
 Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,



wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.
 raise thou me heav'n - ward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.
 great God of heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.
 still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

Text: Irish, 8th cent.; vers. Eleanor H. Hull, 1860–1935, alt.; tr. Mary E. Byrne, 1880–1931
 Music: SLANE, Irish traditional

Prayers of the church.

The Lord's table is prepared in silence.

Prayer

(Please stand as you are comfortable)

God of grace,

Righteous judge of all people, we thank you that in love you sent Jesus Christ into the world not to condemn, but to save. May your mercy cause us to respond to you in loving commitment, that we may discover the true life you offer us.

HOLY COMMUNION

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

Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth.
In mercy for our fallen world you gave your only Son,
that all those who believe in him should not perish,
but have eternal life.

We give thanks to you
for the salvation you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ.
Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts,
that we may receive our Lord with a living faith
as he comes to us in his holy supper.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Words Of Institution

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

(Please be seated)

Distribution

Communion Hymn ***“Just As I Am, Without One Plea” ELW 592***

Just As I Am, without One Plea

1 Just as I am, with - out one plea, but that thy blood was
2 Just as I am, though tossed a - bout with man - y a con - flict,
3 Just as I am, thou wilt re - ceive, wilt wel - come, par - don,
4 Just as I am; thy love un-known has bro - ken ev - 'ry

shed for me, and that thou bidd'st me come to thee,
man - y a doubt, fight - ings and fears with - in, with - out,
cleanse, re - lieve; be - cause thy prom - ise I be - lieve,
bar - rier down; now to be thine, yea, thine a - lone,

O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Text: Charlotte Elliott, 1789–1871
Music: WOODWORTH, William B. Bradbury, 1816–1868

(Please Stand as you are comfortable)

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

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.**

Amen

BENEDICTION

Almighty God, Father, \dagger Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

Amen

CLOSING HYMN

“Lord Jesus, Think on Me” ELW 599

Please stand as you are comfortable

Lord Jesus, Think on Me

1 Lord Je - sus, think on me, and purge a - way my sin;
2 Lord Je - sus, think on me, by anx - ious thoughts op - pressed;
3 Lord Je - sus, think on me, nor let me go a - stray;
4 Lord Je - sus, think on me, that, when the flood is past,

from self - ish pas - sions set me free and make me pure with - in.
let me your lov - ing ser - vant be and taste your prom - ised rest.
through dark - ness and per - plex - i - ty point out your cho - sen way.
I may the e - ter - nal bright - ness see and share your joy at last.

Text: Synesius of Cyrene, 375–430; tr. Allen W. Chatfield, 1808–1896, alt.
Music: SOUTHWELL, W. Daman, *The Psalms of David*, 1579, alt.

DISMISSAL

Marked with the cross of Christ, go forth to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks to be God!