



Ash Wednesday

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. Joel 2:13

St. Paul Lutheran Church and School

Bonduel, Wisconsin

February 18, 2026

Ash Wednesday The Body of Christ



As We Gather

In keeping with the solemn nature of the day:

The altar paraments are black.

We begin with a silent processional.

The organ music is restrained with no pre- or post-service music.

We observe a time of silence before worship begins.

We refrain from singing “Alleluias” today and during Lent.

Imposition of Ashes:

“Remember you are dust and to dust you shall return.” The use of ashes is a sign of mortality and death, and we therefore follow the imposition of ashes with the rite of Confession and Absolution. For those desiring the imposition of ashes upon their forehead or hand, please come forward at the usher’s invitation.

Understanding the Ashes

Ashes? What do ashes symbolize? Ashes remind us of the dust or dirt from which God created Adam. The ashes remind us our bodies will decay and return to dust and ashes when we die. Ashes remind us we are not self-sufficient, that God made us, and it is He who keeps us alive. The ashes remind us that we are not ultimately in control of anything, certainly not of life and death. “You are dust, and to dust you shall return,” the pastor will say to each person who receives the sign of the cross with the imposition of ashes today.

The sign of the cross formed by the ashes reminds us that we sin by what we feel, think, say, do, and fail to do. The cross reminds us that God, who is our Creator, is also our loving and merciful Savior, how devoted Jesus is to saving us from death and eternal damnation, how much Jesus suffered because of our sin and for our salvation, how the Father has washed us with the blood of Jesus through Holy Baptism by the power of the Spirit, and that the One who was crucified rose from the dead, and who when He returns will raise us from the dead to live forever with Him in the new creation.



Silent Processional

Symbolically, with our eyes following the processional cross, we follow Jesus who leads us to His altar of grace, where upon the cross He was sacrificed for the punishment we deserve for our sin.

Introduction

Dear brothers and sisters of our Lord Jesus Christ, on this Ash Wednesday the Church begins a holy season of forty days of prayerful and penitential reflection. Our attention is especially directed to the holy sufferings and death of our Lord Jesus Christ.

From ancient times the season of Lent has been kept as a time of special devotion, self-denial, and humble repentance born of a faithful heart that dwells confidently on His Word and draws from it life and hope.

Let us pray that our dear Father in heaven, for the sake of His beloved Son and in the power of His Holy Spirit, might richly bless this Lententide for us so that we may come to Easter with glad hearts and keep the feast in sincerity and truth.

Silence for reflection.

O God, You desire not the death of sinners, but rather that they turn from their wickedness and live. We implore You to have compassion on the frailty of our mortal nature, for we acknowledge that we are dust and to dust we shall return. Mercifully pardon our sins that we may obtain the promises You have laid up for those who are repentant; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Almighty God, we beseech You to grant us true repentance and Your Holy Spirit, that the rest of our lives may be pure and holy, and that at the last we may come to Your eternal joy; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

Invocation

In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Opening Sentences

Lord God, Ruler of the universe, heaven is Your throne and the earth is Your footstool.

We fall at Your feet and worship You.

Lord Jesus, Savior of the world, sin and death are in subjection under Your feet.

We fall at Your feet and worship You.

Lord Spirit, Guide of our lives, You lead our feet in the way of salvation.

We fall at Your feet and worship You.

Lord Jesus, You have forgiven us much because You have loved us much.

Teach us also to love and forgive ourselves as well as others. Amen.

The Imposition of Ashes

Imposition of Ashes – *Those desiring to receive the sign of the cross with ashes upon the forehead or upon the top of the hand, please come forward at the usher's invitation.*

A Time of Meditation – *Worshippers are encouraged to read and pray the litany, prayer of confession, hymns, or Scripture readings provided in our worship bulletin.*

Hymn **7:00pm** **615** *When in the Hour of Deepest Need*

When in the hour of deepest need
We know not where to look for aid;
When days and nights of anxious thought
No help or counsel yet have brought,

Then is our comfort this alone
That we may meet before Your throne;
To You, O faithful God, we cry
For rescue in our misery.

For You have promised, Lord, to heed
Your children's cries in time of need
Through Him whose name alone is great,
Our Savior and our advocate.

And so we come, O God, today
And all our woes before You lay;
For sorely tried, cast down, we stand,
Perplexed by fears on ev'ry hand.

O from our sins, Lord, turn Your face;
Absolve us through Your boundless grace.
Be with us in our anguish still;
Free us at last from ev'ry ill.

Confession and Absolution

Let us now confess our sins to our heavenly Father, imploring Him for the sake of His Son, Jesus Christ, to grant us forgiveness.

Silence for reflection on the Word of God and for self-examination.

O almighty God, merciful Father,

I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

God be merciful to you and strengthen your faith.

Amen.

Do you believe that the forgiveness I speak is not my forgiveness but God's?

Yes.

Let it be done for you as you believe. In the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; He will surely do it.

Amen.

Hymn **422** *On My Heart Imprint Your Image*

On my heart imprint Your image, Blessed Jesus, King of grace,
That life's riches, cares, and pleasures never may Your work erase;
Let the clear inscription be: Jesus crucified for me,
Is my life, my hope's foundation, and my glory and salvation!

Salutation and Prayer of the Day

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, You despise nothing You have made and forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create in us new and contrite hearts that lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness we may receive from You full pardon and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

First Reading — Joel 2:12–19

“Yet even now,” declares the LORD, “return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; ¹³and 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. ¹⁴Who 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? ¹⁵Blow the trumpet in Zion; consecrate a fast; call a solemn assembly; ¹⁶gather 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. ¹⁷Between 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?’” ¹⁸Then the LORD became jealous for his land and had pity on his people. ¹⁹The LORD answered and said to his people, “Behold, I am sending to you grain, wine, and oil, and you will be satisfied; and I will no more make you a reproach among the nations.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Holy Gospel

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the seventh chapter.

Glory to You, O Lord.

One of the Pharisees asked him to eat with him, and he went into the Pharisee's house and reclined at table. ³⁷And behold, a woman of the city, who was a sinner, when she learned that he was reclining at table in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster flask of ointment, ³⁸and standing behind him at his feet, weeping, she began to wet his feet with her tears and wiped them with the hair of her head and kissed his feet and anointed them with the ointment. ³⁹Now when the Pharisee who had invited him saw this, he said to himself, “If this man were a prophet, he would have known who and what sort of woman this is who is touching him, for she is a sinner.” ⁴⁰And Jesus answering said to him, “Simon, I have something to say to you.” And he answered, “Say it, Teacher.” ⁴¹“A certain moneylender had two debtors. One owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. ⁴²When they could not pay, he cancelled the debt of both. Now which of them will love him more?” ⁴³Simon answered, “The one, I suppose, for whom he cancelled the larger debt.” And he said to him, “You have judged rightly.” ⁴⁴Then turning toward the woman he said to Simon, “Do you see this woman? I entered your house; you gave me no water for my feet, but she has wet my feet with her tears and wiped them with her

hair. ⁴⁵You gave me no kiss, but from the time I came in she has not ceased to kiss my feet. ⁴⁶You did not anoint my head with oil, but she has anointed my feet with ointment. ⁴⁷Therefore I tell you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven—for she loved much. But he who is forgiven little, loves little.” ⁴⁸And he said to her, “Your sins are forgiven.” ⁴⁹Then those who were at table with him began to say among themselves, “Who is this, who even forgives sins?” ⁵⁰And he said to the woman, “Your faith has saved you; go in peace.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.

Nicene Creed *inside back cover of hymnal*

Hymn *Lord Jesus, You Draw Near Us* *(Herzlich Tut Mich Verlangen-R)*

Lord Jesus, you draw near us in garb of human flesh,
An earthly form, to cheer us, to kindle faith afresh.
Your body for us broken on the accursed tree
Becomes a sacred token of glory yet to be.

Draw near us, precious Savior, with footsteps sure and true.
Assure us of your favor; let us draw near to you.
O Word-made-flesh, forever Your name shall be adored.
Oh, let us cherish ever the feet of Christ, our Lord.

The feet of Christ, our brother, approach us from above,
As we draw near each other with Spirit-given love.
May we, such grace receiving, become, with one accord,
In all our daily living the body of the Lord.

Sermon *The Feet of Jesus*

Offering

Prayer of the Church

Let us pray for the whole body of Christ and for all people according to their needs. For all nations and their leaders, that they may follow your footsteps in the paths of peace, let us pray:

Draw near, O Lord, in mercy.

For your body, the church, that we may find ways to wash and anoint your feet by serving those whom you love, let us pray:

Draw near, O Lord, in mercy.

For our congregation, because the faith you have given us has saved us, that we may joyfully love and forgive others so that they may share our faith, let us pray:

Draw near, O Lord, in mercy.

For all who have much to be forgiven, that by your Spirit they may be brought to repentance and receive forgiveness at your feet, let us pray:

Draw near, O Lord, in mercy.

For all who love little, that all pride and arrogance would be recognized as sin also, that they too may be brought to repentance and receive forgiveness at your feet, let us pray:

Draw near, O Lord, in mercy.

For the sick, remembering that as you walked in a crowd a woman who believed and touched the fringe of your garment was healed; that for these also your healing power may flow out of you, let us pray:

Draw near, O Lord, in mercy.

For all who grieve, remembering that the women at the tomb also fell at your feet and worshiped you, for you have walked from life to death to eternal life, let us pray:

Draw near, O Lord, in mercy.

Into your care, O Lord, we entrust all for whom we pray, believing in your mercy, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

For our guests desiring the Lord's Supper...

Holy Communion is the eating and drinking of Christ's crucified and risen body and blood for the forgiveness of our sins, for strength for this life, and for the assurance of everlasting life with Him. It is a miraculous gift full of grace.

The Bible also teaches that anyone who receives the Lord's Supper who does not believe or has not been taught our Lord's teaching, or who is unrepentant, receives Christ's body and blood to his or her harm. Out of love for you, we kindly ask you to speak to one of our pastors before communing if you are not a member of an LCMS congregation.

Distribution Hymns**608****619****636****622****Nunc Dimittis** **page 199****Benediction****Hymn** **420** *Christ, the Life of All the Living* **1-2**

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Serving the Lord in Worship

Pastors Rev. Ryan J. Fehrmann, Rev. Timothy J. Shoup, Rev. Colin Moon**Organist** Mrs. Lorraine Doell

Midweek Lenten Worship

10:00am and 6:00pm

Lenten Theme – The Body of Christ

February 25	<i>The Ears of Christ</i>	Rev. Colin Moon, St. John–Hermansfort and St. Paul–Stony Hill
March 4	<i>The Hands of Christ</i>	Rev. Travis Kleinschmidt St. Jacobi, Shawano
March 11	<i>The Eyes of Christ</i>	Rev. Craig Nehring, Immanuel White Clay Lake and St. Paul, Town of Washington
March 18	<i>The Mouth of Christ</i>	Rev. Andrew Zobel, St. James, Shawano
March 25	<i>The Heart of Christ</i>	Rev. Ryan J. Fehrmann, St. Paul, Bonduel

Join us each week for a soup supper from 5:00-5:45pm in the fellowship hall!

Holy Week and Easter Worship

March 26/29	<i>Palm Sunday</i>	6:00pm, 8:00 and 10:15am
April 2	<i>Maundy Thursday</i>	10:00am and 6:00pm
April 3	<i>Good Friday</i>	1:30 and 6:00pm
April	<i>Easter Sunday</i>	6:00, 8:00, and 10:15am



All Things St. Paul



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Mr. Aaron M. Landgrave, Principal
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