

February 18th, 2026
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WELCOME

HYMN: **Out of Depths I Cry to You**

ELW 600

GREETING

*P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

*C: **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

*P: Let us pray... Gracious God, out of your love and mercy you breathed into dust the breath of life, creating us to serve you and our neighbors. Call forth our prayers and acts of kindness, and strengthen us to face our mortality with confidence in the mercy of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

*C: **Amen.**

READINGS

First Reading

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

L: A reading from the book of Joel the 2nd Chapter.

¹ Blow the trumpet in Zion;
 sound the 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 spread upon the mountains,
 a great and powerful army comes;
their like has never been from of old,
 nor will be again after them
 in ages to come.

¹² Yet even now, says the LORD,
 return to me with all your heart,
with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;

¹³ rend your hearts and not your clothing.

Return to the LORD your God,
 for he is gracious and merciful,

slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love,
and relenting from punishment.

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 aged;

gather the children,
even infants at the breast.

Let the bridegroom leave his room
and the bride her canopy.

¹⁷Between the vestibule and the altar,
let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep.
Let them say, "Spare your people, O LORD,
and do not make your heritage a mockery,
a byword among the nations.

Why should it be said among the peoples,
'Where is their God?'

L: The Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 51:1-17

¹Have 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.**

³For 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.**

⁵Indeed, 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.**

⁷Remove 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.**

⁹Hide 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.**

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.

L: Second Reading.....2 Corinthians 5:20-6:10

L: A reading from Paul's letter to the Corinthians the 5th chapter.

^{20b} We entreat 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.

^{6:1} As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. ² For he says,

“At an acceptable time I have listened to you,
and on a day of salvation I have helped you.”

See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation! ³ We are putting no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, ⁴ but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, ⁵ beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; ⁶ by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, ⁷ truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; ⁸ in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; ⁹ as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see—we are

alive; as punished, and yet not killed; ¹⁰ as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

L: The Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation

Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and mer - ci - ful,
slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

GOSPEL

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

*P: The holy gospel according to St. Matthew, the sixth chapter.

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

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹“Beware of practicing your piety 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. ³But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

⁵“And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ⁶But whenever 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 whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ¹⁷But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, ¹⁸so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is 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; ²⁰but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

*P: The gospel of the Lord. ***C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

Pastor Sue Lynn White

HYMN

Just As I Am, Without One Plea

ELW 592

INVITATION TO LENT

P: Friends in Christ, today with the whole church we enter the time of remembering Jesus' Passover from death to life, and our life in Christ is renewed. We begin this holy season by acknowledging our need for repentance and for God's mercy. We are created to experience joy in communion with God, to love one another, and to live in harmony with creation. But our sinful rebellion separates us from God, our neighbors, and creation, so that we do not enjoy the life our creator intended.

As disciples of Jesus, we are called to a discipline that contends against evil and resists whatever leads us away from love of God and neighbor. I invite you, therefore, to the discipline of Lent – self-examination and repentance, prayer and fasting, sacrificial giving and works of love – strengthened by the gifts of word and sacrament. Let us continue our journey through these forty days to the great Three Days of Jesus' death and resurrection.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

***C: Amen.**

*P: Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt and blots out all offenses.

*P: Gracious God,

***C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

*P: For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you:
Gracious God,

***C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

*P: For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word:
Gracious God,

***C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

*P: For failing to recognize your coming reign,
and for hindering the work of the Spirit: Gracious God,

***C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

*P: For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition,
and for disdaining the living water Christ offers: Gracious God,

***C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For disregarding voices from the margin,
and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world:
Gracious God,

***C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

*P: For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent,
and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life:
Gracious God,

***C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

*P: God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound. Through faith, the free gift of God, you have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ. In the name of ✝ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead dwells in you, pours God's love into your hearts, and gives you life and peace.

***C: Amen.**

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

*P: Let us pray. 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.

***C: Amen**

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

SPECIAL MUSIC

*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 Savior,

***C: bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.**

*P: 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.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

*A: Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, let us pray for the world and its needs.

A brief silence.

Guide your church, O God. Accompany all Christians in this season of repentance, and renew our faith in the riches of grace you give to us in baptism. Hear us, O God.

***C: Your mercy is great.**

Heal this earth, O God. Satisfy the needs of every parched place, every diverse ecosystem, every suffering creature. Though all return to dust, grant beauty and purpose to each living thing. Hear us, O God.

***C: Your mercy is great.**

Restore the nations, O God. Let your healing spring up quickly across the world. Give all in authority the will to loose the bonds of injustice and let any who are oppressed go free. Hear us, O God.

***C: Your mercy is great.**

Deliver your people, O God. Comfort any whose hearts are rent by grief, uphold any who are sick, bring food to those who hunger, and give housing to all without shelter. We especially pray for Guy & Betty Puckett, Jim & Phyllis Cornelison, Jerry Sides, Ernie & Linda Cooper, Phil & Carol Boyette, Brenda H. Trexler, Judy Peeler, Lynn DeBerry, Marcia Ritchie, Jean Holshouser, Phyllis Trexler, Sue Misenheimer, Thelma Barger, Buddy Waller, Ronnie Pierce, Mary Miller, Friends of St. Peter's and those we hold in our hearts or speak aloud now...*(pause)*. Hear us, O God.

***C: Your mercy is great.**

Bless this assembly, O God. Reconcile us to one another and to you. Strengthen our resolve to fast from evil, open our hands in sharing, and quicken our prayer. Hear us, O God.

***C: Your mercy is great.**

Hold us forever, O God. We thank you for all who now know their treasure in heaven, and for all who on earth proclaimed your abounding, steadfast love. Hear us, O God.

***C: Your mercy is great.**

***P:** Receive our prayers, O God, through Jesus Christ, our strength and salvation.

***C: Amen.**

PEACE

***P:** The peace of Christ be with you always.

***C: And also with you.**

***P:** Let us share the peace with one another.

OFFERING

OFFERING HYMN “Create in Me, A Clean Heart”

ELW 186

OFFERING PRAYER

***A:** Let us pray. O God, maker of heaven and earth, 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.

***C: Amen.**

MEAL

Preface Dialogue

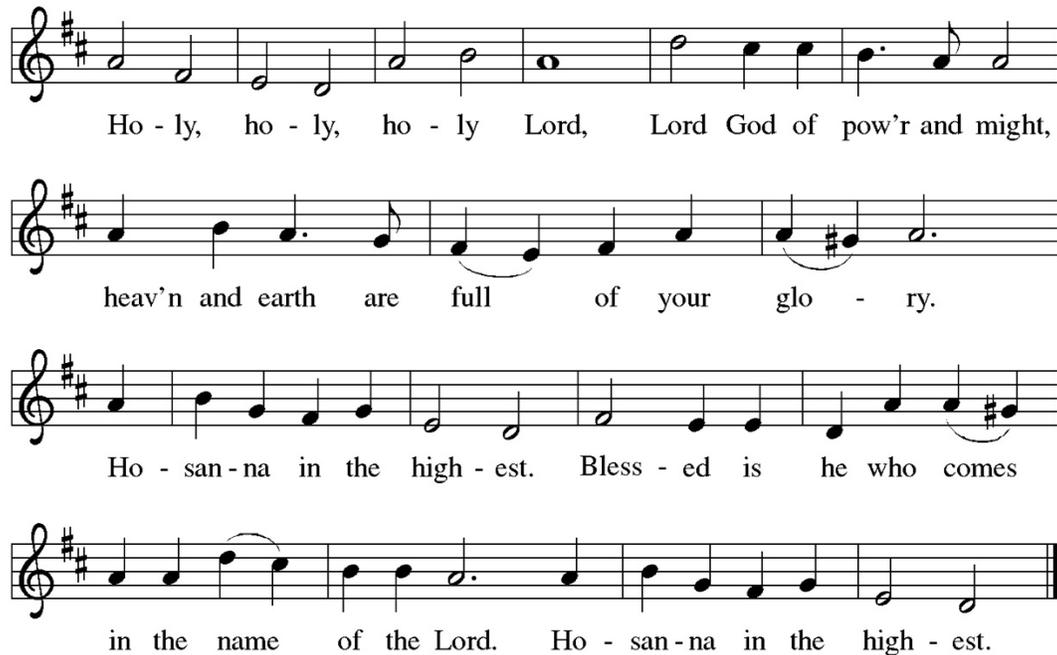
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

*P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...and join their unending hymn:
*C: **Holy, Holy, Holy**



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD'S PRAYER

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

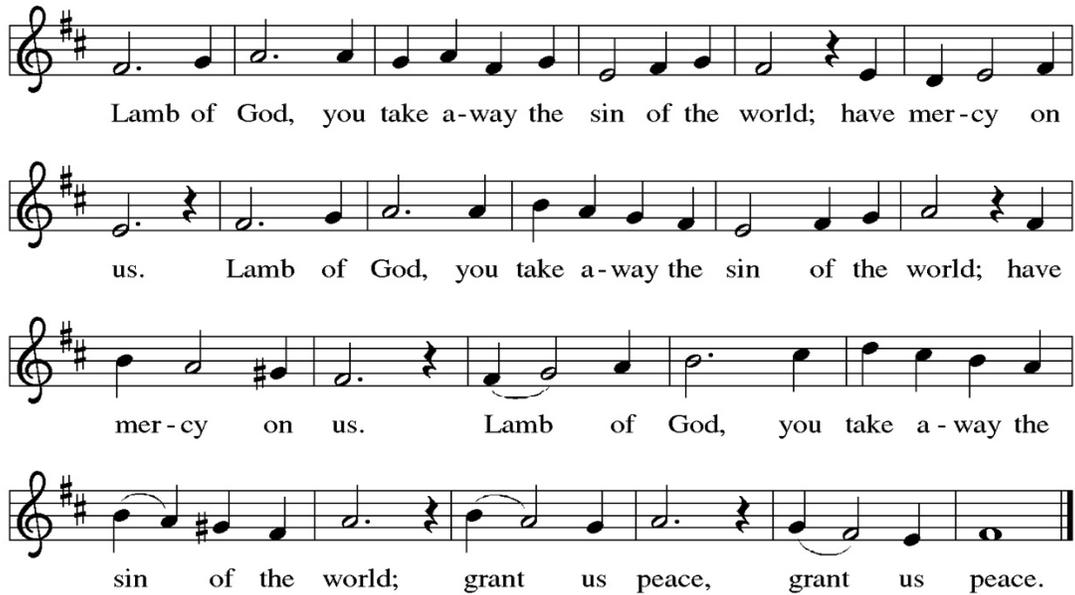
*C: **Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give
us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we
forgive those who trespass against us; and
lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the
kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

*P: Come to the table. Feast on God's goodness and mercy.

*C: **Thanks be to God.**

LAMB OF GOD



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.

SPECIAL MUSIC

*P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. *C: **Amen.**

COMMUNION PRAYER

*A: Let us pray. 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.

*C: **Amen.**

BLESSING

*P: Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity: God, who calls all things into existence, Jesus Christ, who redeems us, and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation, ✚ bless you now and always.

*C: **Amen.**

HYMN

Be Thou My Vision

ELW 793

DISMISSAL

*P: Go in peace. Believe the good news.

*C: **Thanks be to God.**