

# SAVING GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH



## Ash Wednesday

Wednesday, February 18, 2026  
12:00 PM Worship  
6:00 PM Worship

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### GATHERING

*Lent begins with a solemn call to fasting and repentance as we begin our journey to the baptismal waters of Easter. As we hear in today’s readings, now is the acceptable time to return to the Lord. During Lent, the people of God will reflect on the meaning of their baptism into Jesus the Messiah’s death and resurrection. The sign of ashes is a reminder of our human mortality and frailty. What seems like an ending is really an invitation to make each day a new beginning, in which we are washed in God’s mercy and forgiveness. With the cross on our brow, we long for the spiritual renewal that flows from Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.*

### INVOCATION

*In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.*

Opening Hymn    “O Lord, throughout These Forty Days”                      Hymn #99

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### INVITATION TO LENT

We are ambassadors for Christ. God has chosen you to make an appeal on His behalf. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. “For our sake He made Him to be sin who did not know sin, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him” (2 Corinthians 5:21). We appeal to you not to receive the grace of God in vain. For He says: “At an acceptable time I heard you, and on the day of salvation I have helped you. Behold, now is the acceptable time; behold, now is the day of salvation” (2 Corinthians 6:2).

I invite you to enter into the disciplines 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 Resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

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### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*(Please allow a moment of silence for reflection and self-examination)*

Most merciful God,  
    **We confess to You and to one another, and before the whole company of heaven, that we have sinned by our fault, by our own fault, by our own most grievous fault, in through, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone.**

We have no loved You with our whole heart and mind and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.  
    **Have mercy on us.**

We have shut our ears to Your Word and have not been true to Christ. We have grieved Your Holy Spirit.  
    **Have mercy on us.**

We confess our past unfaithfulness, pride, envy, hypocrisy, and apathy that have infected our lives. We have neglected prayer and worship and failed to share our faith in Christ.  
    **Have mercy on us.**

“Relieve the troubles of our hearts, and bring us out of our distress” (Psalm 25:17). Lead us in Your truth, and teach us, for You are the God of our salvation and we wait for You, O Lord.  
Hear us, O God, Your mercy is great.

BLESSING OF THE ASHES

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty and everlasting God, You hate nothing You have made, and You forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create in us new and clean hearts, so that, truly repenting our sins, we may receive from You mercy, full pardon and forgiveness through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

PASTOR’S WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE WORD		
FIRST READING	Joel 2:1-2, 12-17	OT p. 831
(When Reading is concluded, the congregation responds, “Thanks be to God”)		
SECOND READING	2 Corinthians 5:20b, 6:10	NT p. 1055
(When Reading is concluded, the congregation responds, “Thanks be to God”)		
GOSPEL ACCLAMATION		
Return to the Lord, your God, for He is gracious and merciful, Slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, And abounding in steadfast love.		
GOSPEL	Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21	NT p. 883
(Before the Gospel is announced, the congregation says “Glory to you, O Lord”) (After the Gospel is concluded, the congregation says, “Praise to you, O Christ”)		
SERMON	“Let ‘em Talk”	Pastor David Irgens

RESPONSE TO THE WORD		
Hymn	“O Master, Let Me Walk with You”	Hymn #492

RECEPTION OF OFFERING

APOSTLES’ CREED

I believe in God the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin, Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church,  
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen

THE MEAL		
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PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION & IMPOSITION OF ASHES

Hymns	“Children of the Heavenly Father”	Hymn #474
	“Amazing Grace”	Hymn #448

BLESSING AND PRAYER

Let us pray. (A brief moment of silence is kept)

Merciful God,

Guide us on our journey through these forty days. Renew in us the gift of baptism and the healing power of Christ’s body and blood, that we may provide for those who are poor in spirit, pray for those in need, fast from self-indulgence, and above all that we may find our treasure in the life of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

SENDING		
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BENEDICTION

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.  
In the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

**DISMISSAL**  
Go in peace and serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

*Please leave the Sanctuary in si*

**PSALM 51:1-4, 10-12, 15**  
Have mercy on me, O God, according to Your steadfast love; according to Your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.  
**Be merciful, O Lord, for I have sinned.**

For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. “Against You, You alone have I sinned, and done what is evil in Your sight.”  
**Be merciful, O Lord, for I have sinned.**

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Your presence and take not Your Holy Spirit from me.  
**Be merciful, O Lord, for I have sinned.**

Restore to me the joy of Your salvation and sustain in me a willing spirit. O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth shall proclaim Your praise.  
**Be merciful, O Lord, for I have sinned.**

**Pianists:**  
Sierra Link (12:00 PM)  
Shayla Menter (6:00 PM)



A member of Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ  
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[www.saving-gracechurch.com](http://www.saving-gracechurch.com)

Office Hours: Monday – Thursday 9:00 am – 4:00 pm  
**WORSHIP:**

**Sat 3:00 pm, Radio Broadcast on FM 107.1**  
**Sunday 8:30 am & 10:30 am Livestream**

**David Irgens, Senior Pastor, Dan Doran, Associate Pastor**  
**Katherine Altreuter, Office Administrator, Music Director**

**Cheryl Eberhardt, Education Director, Keith Muchow, Videography**

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**LENTEN SEASON 2026**  
**“BE WITH JESUS, BECOME LIKE JESUS, DO AS HE DID”**

**Ash Wednesday, February 18**  
12:00 PM Worship | 6:00 PM Worship

**Wednesdays, February 25 – March 25**  
12:00 PM Worship: *Service of the Word*  
1:00 PM Lunch & Practicing the Way Discussion  
5:00 PM Dinner  
6:00 PM Worship: *Holden Evening Prayer*  
7:00 PM Practicing the Way Discussion

**Palm Sunday, March 28 – 29**  
Saturday: 5:00 PM Traditional Worship  
Sunday:  
8:30 AM Traditional Worship  
10:30 AM Contemporary Worship

**Tuesday, March 31**  
Lenten Worship & Luncheon  
12:00 PM

**Wednesday, April 1**  
Easter Prayer Vigil  
10:00 AM – 5:00 PM  
Seder Meal  
5:30 PM

**Maundy Thursday, April 2**  
12:00 PM Worship | 6:00 PM Worship

**Good Friday, April 3**  
12:00 PM Worship | 6:00 PM Worship

**Easter Weekend, April 4 – 5**  
Saturday: 5:00 PM Traditional Worship  
Sunday:  
7:00 AM Traditional Worship | 8:30 AM Traditional Worship  
10:30 AM Contemporary Worship  
*Easter Breakfast is served from 7:30 – 11:30 AM*