

EPIPHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH
Ash Wednesday, February 18, 2026
Austin Campus, 7 PM (Livestreamed)

Gather

QUIET TIME FOR MEDITATION

INVITATION TO LENT

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Most holy and merciful God,

C: 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 thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone.

P: *(petition)*

C: Have mercy on us, O God.

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. Amen.

OPENING SONG: GOODNESS OF GOD

I love you Lord
Oh your mercy never fails me
All my days I've been held in your hands
From the moment that I wake up until I lay my head
I will sing of the goodness of God

Chorus: All my life you have been faithful
All my life you have been so so good
With every breath that I am able
I will sing of the goodness of God

I love your voice
You have led me through the fire
In the darkest night you are close like no other
I've known you as a Father, I've known you as a friend
I have lived in the goodness of God (*Chorus*)

Bridge: Your goodness is running after, it's running after me
Your goodness is running after, it's running after me
With my life laid down, I'm surrendered now
I give you everything
Your goodness is running after, it's running after me
(*Bridge*) (*Chorus 2X*)

I will sing of the goodness of God

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APOSTOLIC GREETING

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

C: **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

FIRST READING: JOEL 2:1-2, 12-17

¹Blow 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—

²a 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.

¹²Yet even now, says the LORD, return to me with all your heart,

with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;

¹³rend your hearts and not your clothing.

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

slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing.

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; sanctify a fast;

call a solemn assembly; ¹⁶gather the people.

Sanctify 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?””

A: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING: 2 CORINTHIANS 5:20–6:10

^{20b}We entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹For 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. ²For 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! ³We are putting no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, ⁴but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, ⁵beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; ⁶by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, ⁷truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; ⁸in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; ⁹as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see—we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; ¹⁰as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

A: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

P: The holy gospel according to St. Luke.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL READING: LUKE 14:15-24

¹⁵ One of the dinner guests, on hearing this, said to him, "Blessed is anyone who will eat bread in the kingdom of God!" ¹⁶ Then Jesus said to him, "Someone gave a great dinner and invited many. ¹⁷ At the time for the dinner he sent his slave to say to those who had been invited, 'Come, for everything is ready now.' ¹⁸ But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said to him, 'I have bought a piece of land, and I must go out and see it; please accept my regrets.' ¹⁹ Another said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I am going to try them out; please accept my regrets.' ²⁰ Another said, 'I have just been married, and therefore I cannot come.' ²¹ So the slave returned and reported this to his master. Then the owner of the house became angry and said to his slave, 'Go out at once into the streets and lanes of the town and bring in the poor, the crippled, the blind, and the lame.' ²² And the slave said, 'Sir, what you ordered has been done, and there is still room.' ²³ Then the master said to the slave, 'Go out into the roads and lanes, and compel people to come in, so that my house may be filled. ²⁴ For I tell you, none of those who were invited will taste my dinner.' "

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

SONG OF THE DAY: *BEAUTIFUL THINGS*

All this pain
I wonder if I'll ever find my way
I wonder if my life could really change at all

All this earth
Could all that is lost ever be found
Could a garden come up from this ground at all

Chorus: You make beautiful things
You make beautiful things out of the dust
You make beautiful things
You make beautiful things out of us

All around
Hope is springing up from this old ground
Out of chaos life is being found in you (*Chorus 2X*)

Bridge: You make me new
You are making me new (*Repeat*) (*Chorus 2X*)

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PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH (*after each petition...*)

A: Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

Meal

SHARING THE PEACE

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

OFFERING: DUST WE ARE AND SHALL RETURN

From dust we've come and dust we are
And shall return
Be still my soul and let it go
Just let it go

Chorus: Glory to God
Glory to God in the highest (*Repeat*)

Naked we came and shall return
Into the grave
Be still my soul and let it go
Just let it go (*Chorus*)

Be still my soul
Lord make me whole
Lord make me whole (*Sing 3X*)

Glory to God (*4X*)

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OFFERING PRAYER

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: **We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

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

C: **Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P: Blessed are you, O God of the universe....

P: With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P: O God of resurrection and new life:

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine.
Bless this feast. Grace our table with your presence.

C: Come, Holy Spirit.

P: Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread.

Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world. Breathe new life into us.
Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love.

C: Come, Holy Spirit.

P: With your holy ones of all times and places,

with the earth and all its creatures, with sun and moon and stars,

we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever. Amen.

THE 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 COMMUNION AND IMPOSITION OF ASHES

COMMUNION SONG: AMAZING GRACE (MY CHAINS ARE GONE)

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me
I once was lost but now I'm found, was blind but now I see

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved
How precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed

Chorus: My chains are gone, I've been set free
My God, my Savior has ransomed me
And like a flood his mercy reigns
Unending love, amazing grace

The Lord has promised good to me, his word my hope secures
He will my shield and portion be as long as life endures (*Chorus 2X*)

The earth shall soon dissolve like snow, the sun forbear to shine
But God who called me here below will be forever mine
Will be forever mine, you are forever mine

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POST-COMMUNION BLESSING AND PRAYER

Send

BENEDICTION

CLOSING SONG: GRAVES INTO GARDENS

I searched the world but it couldn't fill me
Man's empty praise and treasures that fade are never enough
Then you came along and put me back together
And every desire is now satisfied here in your love

Chorus: Oh there's nothing better than you
There's nothing better than you
Lord, there's nothing, nothing is better than you

I'm not afraid to show you my weakness
My failures and flaws Lord you've seen them all and you still call me friend
'Cause the God of the mountain is the God of the valley
There's not a place your mercy and grace won't find me again (*Chorus 2X*)

Bridge: You turn mourning to dancing
You give beauty for ashes
You turn shame into glory
You're the only one who can *(Repeat)*

You turn graves into gardens
You turn bones into armies
You turn seas into highways
You're the only one who can *(Repeat)*

You're the only one who can

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SENDING

A: Go in peace. Believe the good news.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Serving in Worship

Presiding Minister: Pastor Corey Wagonfield
Assisting Minister: Jane Lane
Praise Team: Gabe Ferraiuolo, Mary Groom, Dick Lane,
Anastasia Rodgers, Robyn Zimmann
Sound: Ed Wasser
Stream Team: Anthony Brown, Ryan Pearson

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