



**Ash Wednesday  
February 18, 2026**

**Christ the King Lutheran Church**

Ministers: All the Baptized  
Pastor Timothy Anderson

**LARGE PRINT BULLETINS AND LISTENING DEVICES  
are here for you on the table in the Narthex**

**GATHERING HYMN**

***As the Winter Days Grow Longer***

**Insert**

**PSALM 51: Psalm 51:1-18**

<sup>1</sup> Have mercy on me, O God, according to your lovingkindness;  
in your great compassion blot out my offenses.

**C: <sup>2</sup> Wash me through and through from my wickedness,  
and cleanse me from my sin.**

<sup>3</sup> For I know my transgressions,  
and my sin is ever before me.

**C: <sup>4</sup> Against you only have I sinned  
and done what is evil n your sight.**

<sup>5</sup> And so you are justified when you speak  
and upright in your judgment.

**C: <sup>6</sup> Indeed, I have been wicked rom my birth,  
a sinner from my mother’s womb.**

<sup>7</sup> For behold, you look for truth deep within me,  
and will make me understand wisdom secretly.

**C: <sup>8</sup> Purge me from my sin, and I shall be pure;  
wash me, and I shall be clean indeed.**

<sup>9</sup> Make me hear of joy and gladness,  
that the body you have broken may rejoice.

**C: <sup>10</sup> Hide your face from my sins,  
and blot out all my iniquities.**

<sup>11</sup> Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
and renew a right spirit within me.

**C: <sup>12</sup> Cast me not away from your presence,  
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.**

<sup>13</sup> Give me the joy of your saving help again  
and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.

**C: <sup>14</sup> I shall teach your ways to the wicked,**

**and sinners shall return to you.**

<sup>15</sup> Deliver me from death, O God,  
and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness, O God of my salvation.

**C: <sup>16</sup> Open my lips, O Lord,  
and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

<sup>17</sup> Had you desired it, I would have offered sacrifice,  
but you take no delight in burnt-offerings.

**C: <sup>18</sup> The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit;  
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.**

**C: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the  
beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen**

**EXHORTATION**

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 his 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 Father, who does not desire us to come under his judgment, but 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 your Lenten discipline.

*Silence for reflection and self-examination.*

**CONFESSION**

Most holy and merciful Father:

**C: 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.

**C: 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.

**C: Have mercy on us, Lord.**

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

**C: we confess to you, Lord.**

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

**C: we confess to you, Lord.**

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

**C: we confess to you, Lord.**

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

**C: we confess to you, Lord.**

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

**C: 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,

**C: accept our repentance, Lord.**

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

**C: accept our repentance, Lord.**

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

**C: accept our repentance, Lord.**

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

**C: Hear us, Lord, for your mercy is great. Amen**

*Those who desire to receive ashes come forward and kneel before the altar.*

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

*After all who desire ashes have received them, the minister leads the congregation in the conclusion of the confession.*

Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation,

**C: that we may show forth your glory in the world.**

By the cross and Passion of your Son, our Lord,

**C: 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 on 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.

**C: Amen**

*Silence for reflection.*

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

Let us pray. . . .

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 Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen**

## **FIRST LESSON: Joel 2:1-2, 12-17**

<sup>1</sup> 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—

<sup>2</sup> 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.

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

<sup>13</sup> 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.

<sup>14</sup> Who 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?

<sup>15</sup> Blow the trumpet in Zion; consecrate a fast; call a solemn assembly;

<sup>16</sup> gather 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.

<sup>17</sup> Between 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?’ ”

Here ends the reading.

**SECOND LESSON: 2 Corinthians 5:20b—6:10**

<sup>20b</sup> We entreat you on behalf of Christ: be reconciled to God. <sup>21</sup> For our sake God made the one who knew no sin to be sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

<sup>6:1</sup> As we work together with him, we entreat you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. <sup>2</sup> For he says,

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

Look, now is the acceptable time; look, now is the day of salvation! <sup>3</sup> We are putting no obstacle in anyone’s way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, <sup>4</sup> but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: in great endurance, afflictions, hardships, calamities, <sup>5</sup> beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; <sup>6</sup> in purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, <sup>7</sup> truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; <sup>8</sup> in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors and yet are true, <sup>9</sup> as unknown and yet are well known, as dying and look—we are alive, as punished and yet not killed, <sup>10</sup> as sorrowful yet always rejoicing, as poor yet making many rich, as having nothing and yet possessing everything.

Here ends the reading.

**ACCLAMATION** *Alleluia* **ELW p.205**

**GOSPEL: Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21**

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew.

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

[Jesus said to the disciples:] <sup>1</sup> “Beware of practicing your righteousness before others in order to be seen by them, for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven.

<sup>2</sup> “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. <sup>3</sup> But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, <sup>4</sup> so that your alms may be done in secret, and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

<sup>5</sup> “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. <sup>6</sup> But 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.

<sup>16</sup> “And whenever you fast, do not look somber, like the hypocrites, for they mark their faces to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. <sup>17</sup> But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, <sup>18</sup> so 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.

<sup>19</sup> “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal, <sup>20</sup> but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal.

<sup>21</sup> For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON**

**HYMN** *Lord Jesus, Think on Me* **ELW 599**

**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 catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen**

**THE PRAYERS**

Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

**OFFERING** *Come, Follow Me* **Choir**

**OFFERTORY PRAYER**

Let us pray.

Blessed are you,  
**O Lord our God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts. With them we offer ourselves to your service and dedicate our lives to the care and redemption of all that you have made, for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

**DIALOGUE**

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

Lift up your hearts.  
**C: We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**C: It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

**PREFACE**

It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord. You bid your people cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast. Renew our zeal in faith and life, and bring us to the fullness of grace that belongs to the children of God. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**HOLY, HOLY, HOLY** **ELW p. 207**  
**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heav’n 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, hosanna in the highest.**

**THANKSGIVING**

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.  
**C: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.  
Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

**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.**

**COMMUNION**

<b>COMMUNION HYMN</b>	<b><i>Just As I Am Without One Plea</i></b>	<b>ELW 502</b>
	<b><i>Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling</i></b>	<b>ELW 608</b>

**POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

Let us pray.  
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.  
**C: Amen**

**BLESSING**

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.  
**C: Amen**

<b>SENDING HYMN</b>	<b><i>The Glory of These 40 Days</i></b>	<b>ELW 320</b>
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**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.  
**C: Thanks be to God.**

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