

Ash Wednesday

O Love How Deep, How Broad, How High

High Love, Down in the Dust

February 18, 2026
11:00 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.

AS WE GATHER

God is “rich in mercy” (*Ephesians 2:4*) and “abounding in merciful love.” (*Exodus 34:6*) The enormity of God’s mercy drove St. Paul to his knees, fervently praying that others, too, might “have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge.” (*Ephesians 3:18-19*) Such love and mercy stirred the souls of God’s Old Testament people as well, who exulted: “As high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him...The steadfast love of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting.” (*Psalm 103:11, 17*) Oh, how deep, how broad, how high is the love of our God!

PRELUDE

“People, Cry Over Your Many Sins”

J. S. Bach

WELCOME

ENTRANCE HYMN

419 Savior, When in Dust to Thee

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ~~the~~ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

CONFESSiON

Pastor: Dear brothers and sisters of our Lord Jesus Christ, on this day the church begins a holy season 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.

Pastor: O Lord,

People: **Have mercy,**

Pastor: O Christ,

People: **Have mercy,**

Pastor: O Lord,

People: **Have mercy,**

Pastor: Out of the depths I cry to You, O Lord!

People: **O Lord, hear my voice! Let Your ears be attentive to my cry for mercy!**

Pastor: If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

People: **But with You there is forgiveness, therefore You are feared.**

Pastor: I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in His word I put my hope;

People: **My soul waits for the Lord more than watchmen wait for the morning, more than watchman wait for the morning.**

Pastor: O Israel, put your hope in the Lord!

People: **For with the Lord there is steadfast love, and with Him is full redemption. And He will redeem Israel from all their sin.**

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

Pastor: Come forward as you so desire to receive a cross of ashes on your forehead in token of your sincere repentance before God.

Each person in attendance is invited to come forward in single file and receive the sign of the cross in ashes upon their forehead. If you do not wish to receive the ashes, you may spend the time in silent meditation or prayer, or come forward to receive the words of God first spoken in the Garden of Eden: "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

ABSOLUTION

Psalm 103

Pastor: "The Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love. He will not always accuse, nor will He harbor His anger forever. He does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities. For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is His love for those who fear Him; as far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us. As a father has compassion on his children, so the Lord has compassion on those who fear Him." At the command of Christ and by the power of His cross, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✕ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen. Thanks be to God!**

HYMN

611 Chief of Sinners Though I Be

2 Oh, the height of Jesus' love,
Higher than the heav'ns above,
Deeper than the depths of sea,
Lasting as eternity!
Love that found me—wondrous thought!
Found me when I sought Him not.

3 Only Jesus can impart
Balm to heal the wounded heart,
Peace that flows from sin forgiv'n,
Joy that lifts the soul to heav'n,
Faith and hope to walk with God
In the way that Enoch trod.

5 O my Savior, help afford
By Your Spirit and Your Word!
When my wayward heart would stray,
Keep me in the narrow way;
Grace in time of need supply
While I live and when I die.

Text: Public domain

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Leader: Let us pray.

Almighty and merciful Father, You freely forgive those who, as David of old, acknowledge and confess their sins. Create in us pure hearts, and wash away all our sins in the blood of Your dear Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

⁷ The LORD God formed the man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being. ⁸ Now the LORD God had planted a garden in the east, in Eden; and there he put the man he had formed. ⁹ And the LORD God made all kinds of trees grow out of the ground--trees that were pleasing to the eye and good for food. In the middle of the garden were the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.."

¹⁷ To Adam he said, "Because you listened to your wife and ate from the tree about which I commanded you, 'You must not eat of it,' "Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat of it all the days of your life. ¹⁸ It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field. ¹⁹ By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return." ²⁰ Adam named his wife Eve, because she would become the mother of all the living. ²¹ The LORD God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them. ²² And the LORD God said, "The man has now become like one of us, knowing good and evil. He must not be allowed to reach out his hand and take also from the tree of life and eat, and live forever." ²³ So the LORD God banished him from the Garden of Eden to work the ground from which he had been taken. ²⁴ After he drove the man out, he placed on the east side of the Garden of Eden cherubim and a flaming sword flashing back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM

Psalm 51:1-13

Leader: Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions.

People: Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.

Leader: For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me.

People: Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are proved right when you speak and justified when you judge.

Leader: Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me.

People: Surely you desire truth in the inner parts; you teach me wisdom in the inmost place.

Leader: Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.

People: Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones you have crushed rejoice.

Leader: Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquity.

People: Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.

Leader: Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me.

People: Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.

Leader: Then I will teach transgressors your ways,
People: and sinners will turn back to you.

^{20b} We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. ²¹ God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

¹ As God's fellow workers we urge you not to receive God's grace in vain. ² For he says, "In the time of my favor I heard you, and in the day of salvation I helped you." I tell you, now is the time of God's favor, now is the day of salvation.

³ We put no stumbling block in anyone's path, so that our ministry will not be discredited. ⁴ Rather, as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: in great endurance; in troubles, hardships and distresses; ⁵ in beatings, imprisonments and riots; in hard work, sleepless nights and hunger; ⁶ in purity, understanding, patience and kindness; in the Holy Spirit and in sincere love; ⁷ in truthful speech and in the power of God; with weapons of righteousness in the right hand and in the left;

⁸ through glory and dishonor, bad report and good report; genuine, yet regarded as impostors; ⁹ known, yet regarded as unknown; dying, and yet we live on; beaten, and yet not killed; ¹⁰ sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; poor, yet making many rich; having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand

Leader: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the
sixth chapter:
People: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 6:1-6; 16-21

¹ "Be careful not to do your 'acts of righteousness' before men, to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven. ² "So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by men. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full. ³ But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴ so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

⁵ "And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by men. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full. ⁶ But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

¹⁶ "When you fast, do not look somber as the hypocrites do, for they disfigure their faces to show men they are fasting. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full. ¹⁷ But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, ¹⁸ so that it will not be obvious to men that you are fasting, but only to your Father, who is unseen; and your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

(continued on next page)

¹⁹ "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. ²⁰ But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Leader: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

HYMN

544 O Love, How Deep

SERMON

High Love, Down in the Dust

Please stand

NICENE CREED

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

OFFERING

ANTHEM

Were You There?

Arr. John Barnard

*Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?*

*Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?
Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?*

*Were you there when they rolled the stone away?
Were you there when they rolled the stone away?
Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they rolled the stone away?*

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Leader: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: For peace and salvation, for reconciliation and unity, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: For endurance and encouragement, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: For pastors, teachers, and all ministers and leaders in Your Church, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: For those who labor in difficult or dangerous vocations, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: For favorable weather and the nourishment of Your creation, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: For those who have not known the light of Christ or have fallen away into the darkness of the world, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: For all those who suffer illness and grief, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: For all the faithful who have gone before us and are with Christ, let us give thanks to the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Leader: O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

❖ SACRAMENT ❖

In the Lord's Supper we receive Christ's body and blood in and with the bread and wine. The two great blessings of the Lord's Supper are the forgiveness of sins and strength to live an improved Christian life. In response to the Lord's command we are to examine ourselves privately prior to partaking of the Sacrament. There are three basic questions on which we should examine ourselves, all of which we should be able to answer in the affirmative if we are to partake of the Sacrament worthily: 1) Am I truly sorry for my sins? 2) Do I believe Jesus Christ is my Savior? 3) Do I promise with God's help to live a Christian life? If you agree with the above statement, we invite you to the Sacrament.

PREFACE

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

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

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

People: **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

(continued on next page)

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who overcame the assaults of the devil and gave His life as a ransom for many that with cleansed hearts we might be prepared joyfully to celebrate the paschal feast in sincerity and truth. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:

SANCTUS



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:
Heav-en and earth are full of Your glo - ry. Ho - san-na. Ho -
san-na. 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.

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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Pastor: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: Take, eat; this is my body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of me.

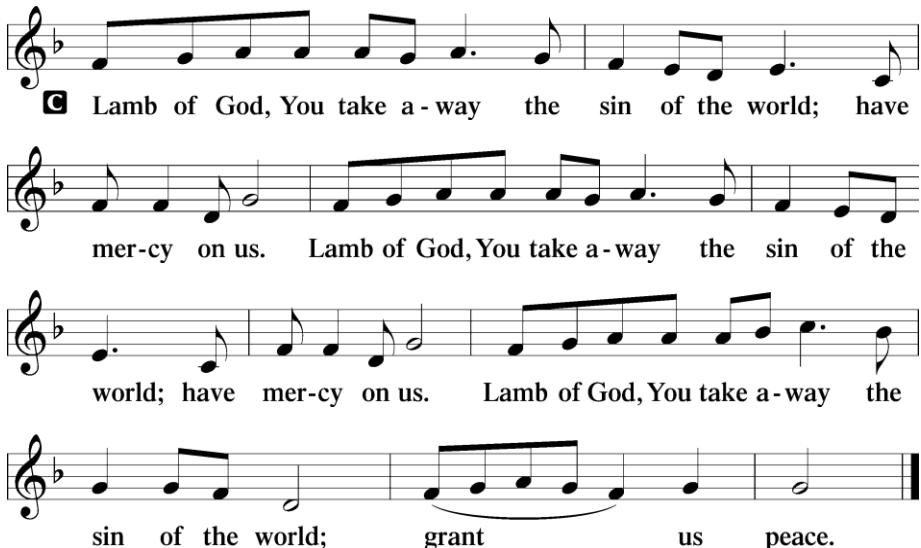
In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: Drink of it, all of you; this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

PEACE OF THE LORD

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

People: And also with you.

AGNUS DEI



C 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.

If you wish to take communion in the pew, please raise your hand when the communion assistant comes down the aisle.

When the wine is distributed, individual glasses will be offered first, then the common cup. Communicants may take whichever is preferred. If taking the individual glass, please keep the glass visible so that the communion assistant with the common cup will know who has already communed.

Non-alcoholic wine is available in the center of the communion tray for those who have a sensitivity to the alcohol in wine.

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

563 Jesus, Thy Blood and Righteousness
915 Today Your Mercy Calls Us

Please stand

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

BENEDICTION

Pastor: 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.

People: **Amen.**

RECESSITIONAL HYMN

423 Jesus Refuge of the Weary

POSTLUDE

“All People Must Die”

J. S. Bach

Scriptures taken from the Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved worldwide. www.zondervan.com Hymns used by permission. OneLicense.net #A-725523 Lutheran Service Builder License no. VVPKL-GBOIT-LYVDV-EKAFZ.

Serving at Chapel

Preacher: Theodore Laesch

Liturgists: 11:00 a.m. Ellory Glenn
6:30 p.m. Charles Wallace

Organist & Accompanist: Rev. Arthur Eichhorn

Director: Matt McEuen

Duet: 11:00 a.m. Mark Petersen,
Patrice Skellett

Choir: 6:30 p.m. Choral Singers

Acolyte: 6:30 p.m. Anna Zvirgzdins