



# Welcome

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February 18, 2026

*Ash*  
Wednesday

Pastor Brian Roloff

# OPENING HYMN: #430 Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted (vs.1-4)

V1. Stricken, smitten, and afflicted,  
see him dying on the tree!  
'Tis the Christ, by man rejected;  
yes, my soul, 'tis he, 'tis he.  
'Tis the long-expected Prophet,  
David's son, yet David's Lord;  
proofs I see sufficient of it:  
'tis the true and faithful Word.

V2. Tell me, as you hear him groaning,  
was there ever grief like his,  
friends through fear his cause disowning,  
foes insulting his distress?  
Many hands were raised to wound him,  
none would intervene to save;  
but the deepest stroke that pierced him  
was the stroke that justice gave.

V3. If you think of sin but lightly  
nor suppose the evil great,  
here you see its nature rightly,  
here its guilt may estimate.  
Mark the sacrifice appointed,  
see who bears the awful load;  
'tis the Word, the Lord's anointed,  
Son of Man and Son of God.

V4. Here we have a firm foundation,  
here the refuge of the lost:  
Christ, the rock of our salvation,  
is the name of which we boast;  
Lamb of God, for sinners wounded,  
sacrifice to cancel guilt!  
None shall ever be confounded  
who on him their hope have built.

# INVOCATION

P: We gather in the name of the  
Father and of the Son and of  
the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

# INSTRUCTION FOR THE BEGINNING OF LENT



P: Brothers and sisters in Christ, God created us to know joy in communion with him, to love all humanity, and to live in harmony with all creation. But sin separates us from God, our neighbors, and creation, and so we do not enjoy the life our Creator intended for us. By our sin we grieve our Father, who does not desire us to come under his judgment but to turn to him and live.

P: Therefore, God in his mercy has sent our Lord Jesus Christ to take our place under the law, to suffer for us, and to die the death we deserve. God made Jesus, who had no sin, to be sin for us so that in him, we might become the righteousness of God.



P: During the forty days of Lent, we fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of God. The time of Lent reminds us that to know Christ and the power of his resurrection, we must also know the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death. As disciples of the Lord Jesus, we are called to struggle against everything that leads us away from love of God and our neighbor.

P: I invite you, therefore, to confess your sins, ask our Father for forgiveness, and commit yourselves to this struggle. Let us pause now for a time of reflection and self-examination.

*Silence for reflection and self-examination*

# CONFESSION OF SINS



P: Most holy and merciful Father, we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart and mind and strength. We have not loved our neighbor as ourselves. We have not forgiven others as we have been forgiven.

C: Have mercy on us, Lord.

P: We have been deaf to your call to serve as Christ served us. We have not been true to the mind of Christ. By negligence in worship and lack of prayer we have grieved your Holy Spirit.

C: Have mercy on us, Lord.

P: All our past unfaithfulness, the pride, hypocrisy, and impatience in our lives.

C: We confess to you, O Lord.

P: Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, our manipulation of other people. Our anger when our selfish aims are denied and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves.

C: We confess to you, O Lord.

P: Our love of worldly goods and comforts and our dishonesty in daily life and work.

C: We confess to you, O Lord.

P: Forgive us, Lord,

C: For our blindness to human  
suffering and our  
indifference to injustice  
and cruelty.



P: Forgive us, Lord,

C: For all uncharitable  
thoughts and for our  
prejudice and contempt for  
those who differ from us.

P: Forgive us, Lord,

C: For what we think or say or  
do that is at variance with  
your will.

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

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

*Please be seated*

# IMPOSITION OF ASHES



Those who desire to receive the sign of ashes may come forward. Children may come forward at their parents' discretion. Participation is entirely optional.

The Pastor will make a cross on the worshipper's hand or forehead, while speaking the words:

*“Remember that you are dust  
and to dust you shall return.”*

Those who prefer that the cross be on the back of their hand are asked to extend their hand.



*"Remember  
that you are dust  
and to dust you  
shall return."*

After all who desire have received  
ashes, the minister says:

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 suffering of your  
Son, O Lord,

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

# ANNOUNCEMENT OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS



P: The Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, does not desire the death of sinners but rather that they turn from their wickedness and live. Therefore, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.



P: During these days of Lent, let us implore God to give us renewal and his Holy Spirit. May we continue to abide in the true faith and at the last be received by him through the merits of Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

# Passion Reading



## Part One

Jesus' Readiness to  
Suffer and Die

Now the Feast of Unleavened Bread, called the Passover, was approaching. Jesus said to his disciples, “As you know, the Passover is two days away and the Son of Man will be handed over to be crucified.”

Then the chief priests, the teachers of the law, and the elders of the people assembled in the palace of the High Priest, whose name was Caiaphas. They plotted to arrest Jesus in some sly way and kill him. “But not during the feast,” they said, “or there may be a riot among the people.”

Then Satan entered Judas, called Iscariot, one of the Twelve. Judas went to the chief priests and the officers of the temple guard and discussed with them how he might betray Jesus. They were delighted and agreed to give him money.

Judas asked, “What are you willing to give me if I hand him over to you?” They counted out for him thirty silver coins. He consented, and watched for an opportunity to hand Jesus over to them when no crowd was present.

On the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread, when it was customary to sacrifice the Passover lamb, Jesus sent two of his disciples, Peter and John, saying, “Go and make preparations for us to eat the Passover.”

“Where do you want us to prepare for it?” they asked.

He replied, “Go into the city. As you enter the city, a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him to the house that he enters. Say to the owner of the house he enters, ‘The Teacher says, my appointed time is near. I am going to celebrate the Passover with my disciples at your house.’



“Where is the guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?’ He will show you a large upper room, furnished and ready. Make preparations for us there.”

The disciples left, went into the city, and found things just as Jesus had told them. So the disciples did as Jesus had directed them and prepared the Passover.

In the evening at the proper hour, Jesus and his apostles reclined at the table. And he said to them, “I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. For I tell you, I will not eat it again until it finds fulfillment in the kingdom of God.”

A dispute arose among them as to which of them was considered to be greatest. Jesus said to them, "The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them; and those who exercise authority over them are given the title Benefactor. But you are not to be like that. Instead, the greatest among you should be like the youngest, and the one who rules like the one who serves. For who is greater? ...

“The one who is at the table or the one who serves? Is it not the one who is at the table? But I am among you as one who serves. You are those who have stood by me in my trials. And I confer on you a kingdom, just as my Father conferred one on me, so that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom and sit on thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.”

It was just before the Passover Feast. Jesus knew that the time had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he now showed them the full extent of his love.

The evening meal was being served, and the devil had already prompted Judas Iscariot, son of Simon, to betray Jesus. Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God, so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist.

After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him.



He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, “Lord, are you going to wash my feet?”

Jesus replied, “You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand.”

“No,” said Peter, “you shall never wash my feet.”

Jesus answered, “Unless I wash you, you have no part with me.”

“Then, Lord,” Simon Peter replied, “not just my feet but my hands and my head as well.”

Jesus answered, “A person who has had a bath needs only to wash his feet; his whole body is clean. And you are clean, though not every one of you.” For he knew who was going to betray him, and that was why he said not every one was clean.

When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. “Do you understand what I have done for you?” he asked them. “You call me ‘Teacher’ and ‘Lord,’ and rightly so, for that is what I am. Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another’s feet.

“I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. I tell you the truth, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. Once you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.”

Jesus took the cup, gave thanks, and said, “Take this and divide it among you. For I tell you I will not drink again from the fruit of the vine from now until that day when I drink it anew with you in my Father’s kingdom. I am not referring to all of you; I know those I have chosen. But this is to fulfill the Scripture:

“ ‘He who shares my bread has lifted up his heel against me.’ I am telling you now before it happens, so that when it does happen you will believe that I am he. I tell you the truth, whoever accepts anyone I send accepts me; and whoever accepts me accepts the one who sent me.”

# SEASONAL RESPONSE



All: All we like sheep have  
gone astray, and the Lord  
has laid on him the  
iniquity of us all. By his  
wounds we are healed.

# HYMN: #395 What Grace Is This (vs.1-6)

V1.

What grace is this! My Lord and King  
has set his face to suffering.  
My God eternal dies to bring  
eternal life to me.



V2.       What grace is this—  
              that very God  
would stoop to lift a cross of wood  
and walk a road of rock and blood,  
              a sinner's road, for me.

V3.       What grace is this!  
          Though Lord of all,  
          he yields to Pontius Pilate's law  
and lets the Roman hammers draw  
          a rush of blood for me.

V4.

What grace is this!

Rude agonies!

With common thieves

he hangs and bleeds.

The sinless Son bears each misdeed;

he pays for all, for me.

V5.       What grace is this!  
          Once wrapped in cloths  
          and gently laid in manger-trough,  
          he's taken, dead, from wretched cross  
          and wrapped again for me.

V6.       What grace is this?  
              How can it be?  
          He wears this raw humility  
              to lift me to eternity.  
      Such grace – sweet grace – for me.

Sermon Text



Zechariah 12:10

“And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and supplication. They will look on me, the one they have pierced, and they will mourn for him as one mourns for an only child, and grieve bitterly for him as one grieves for a firstborn son.”





# Sermon Theme



Look at the One Who  
Was Pierced By Us and  
For Us

“They will look  
on me, the one  
they have  
pierced...”









“...they will mourn for  
him as one mourns for  
an only child, and  
grieve bitterly for him  
as one grieves for a  
firstborn son.”









“I will pour out on the  
house of David and the  
inhabitants of Jerusalem  
a spirit of grace and  
supplication. They will  
look on me, the one  
they have pierced...”







# Sermon Theme



Look at the One Who  
Was Pierced By Us and  
For Us



REFLECTION 



**More Precious Than Silver**

*(Choir)*



Give

# Supporting Us...

2 Corinthians 9:7 *Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give... for God loves a cheerful giver.*

***If you feel encouraged to support our ministry you can give electronically today.*** You can also set up recurring offerings automatically just scan the QR.

If you already support us place this card in the offering plate as a sign of your commitment.

***Thanks for your generosity!***



Scan Me

# EVENING PRAYER



P: O God our Father, by your mercy and might, the world turns safely into darkness and returns again to light. We place into your hands our unfinished tasks, our unsolved problems, and our unfulfilled hopes, knowing that only what you bless will prosper.

P: To your great love and protection,  
we commit each other and all those  
we love, knowing that you alone are  
our sure defender; through Jesus  
Christ our Lord.

C: A m e n .

# THE LORD'S PRAYER *(sung)*

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come, your will be done on earth  
as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive  
those who sin against us.

Lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory  
are yours now and forever. Amen.

# THE SACRAMENT

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them up to the Lord.

P: The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit;

C: A broken and contrite heart,  
O God, you will not despise.

# WORDS OF INSTITUTION:

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

P: Then he took the cup, gave thanks, gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: A m e n .



# DISTRIBUTION

Communicant members of Ascension Lutheran are invited to receive the Lord's Supper. If you have never communed with us before, we ask that you first speak with our pastor to learn how you can establish a communing fellowship with us. We are eager to help anyone to take this step.

***Please Note: The center cups of the individual trays contain white grape juice. Gluten-free wafers are labeled at the center of the tray.***

# DISTRIBUTION HYMN: #404

Jesus, Grant That Balm and Healing (vs.1-5)

V1. Jesus, grant that balm and healing  
in your holy wounds I find,  
ev'ry hour that I am feeling  
pains of body and of mind.  
Should some evil thought with-in  
tempt my treach'rous heart to sin,  
show the peril, and from sinning  
keep me ere its first beginning.

V2.

Should some lust or sharp temptation  
fascinate my sinful mind,  
let me think about your passion,  
and new courage I shall find.  
Or should Satan press me hard,  
let me then be on my guard,  
saying, "Christ for me was wounded,"  
that the tempter flee confounded.

V3. If the world my heart entices  
with the broad and easy road,  
with seductive, sinful vices,  
let me weigh the awful load  
you were willing to endure.  
Help me flee all thoughts impure,  
mastering each wild temptation,  
calm in prayer and meditation.

V4.

Ev'ry wound that pains or grieves me  
by your wounds, Lord, is made whole;  
when I'm weak, your cross revives me,  
granting new life to my soul.

Yes, your comfort renders sweet  
ev'ry bitter cup I meet;  
for your all-atoning passion  
has procured my soul's salvation.

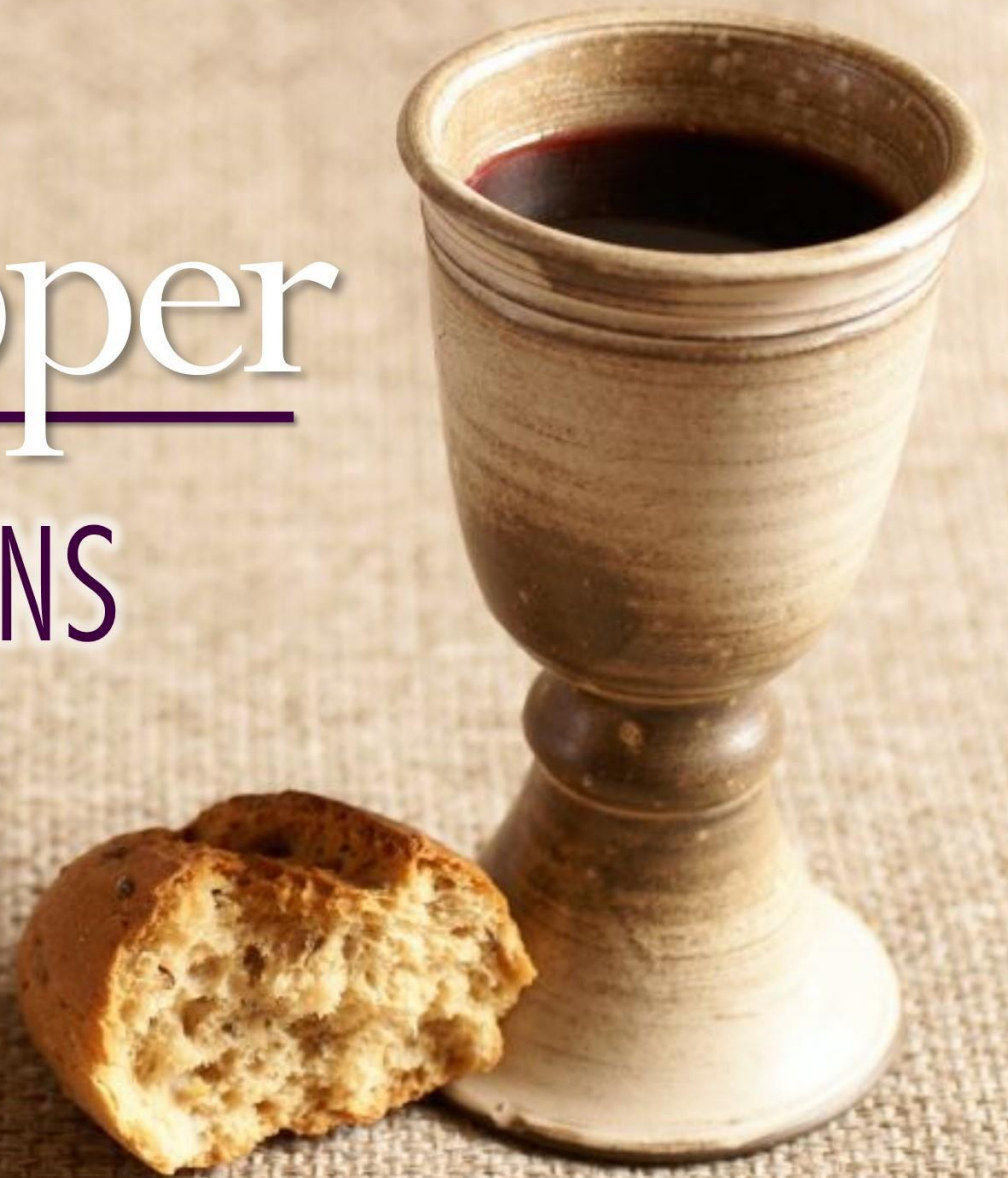
V5. O my God, my rock and tower,  
grant that in your death I trust,  
knowing death has lost its power  
since you crushed it in the dust.

Savior, let your agony  
ever help and comfort me;  
when I die be my protection,  
light and life and resurrection.



*The Blessings of*  
The Lord's Supper

RECEIVE FORGIVENESS OF SINS  
LIFE AND SALVATION



# PRAYER



P: We give you thanks, O Lord, for the foretaste of the heavenly banquet you have given us in this sacrament. Through this gift you have fed our faith, nourished our hope, and strengthened our love.



P: By your Spirit, help us to live as your holy people until that day when you will receive us as your guests at the wedding supper of the Lamb, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

# BLESSING



P: The almighty and merciful  
Lord, the Father, the Son, and  
the Holy Spirit, bless us and  
keep us.

C: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN: #400 Sweet the Moments,  
Rich in Blessing (vs.1-5)

V1.

Sweet the moments, rich in blessing,  
which before the cross we spend,  
life and health and peace possessing  
from the sinner's dying friend.

V2.

Here we rest in wonder, viewing  
all our sins on Jesus laid;  
here we see redemption flowing  
from the sacrifice he made.

V3.

Here we find the dawn of heaven  
while upon the cross we gaze,  
see our trespasses forgiven,  
and our songs of triumph raise.

V4.

Oh, that, near the cross abiding,  
we may to the Savior cleave,  
naught with him our hearts dividing,  
all for him content to leave!

V5.

Lord, in loving contemplation  
fix our hearts and eyes on you  
till we taste your full salvation  
and your unveiled glory view.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS





# CONNECTION CARD

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Please take a moment and fill out the info on the connection card, located under the Worship Today button on our app or on our website. There is a tablet in entryway or scan the QR code.

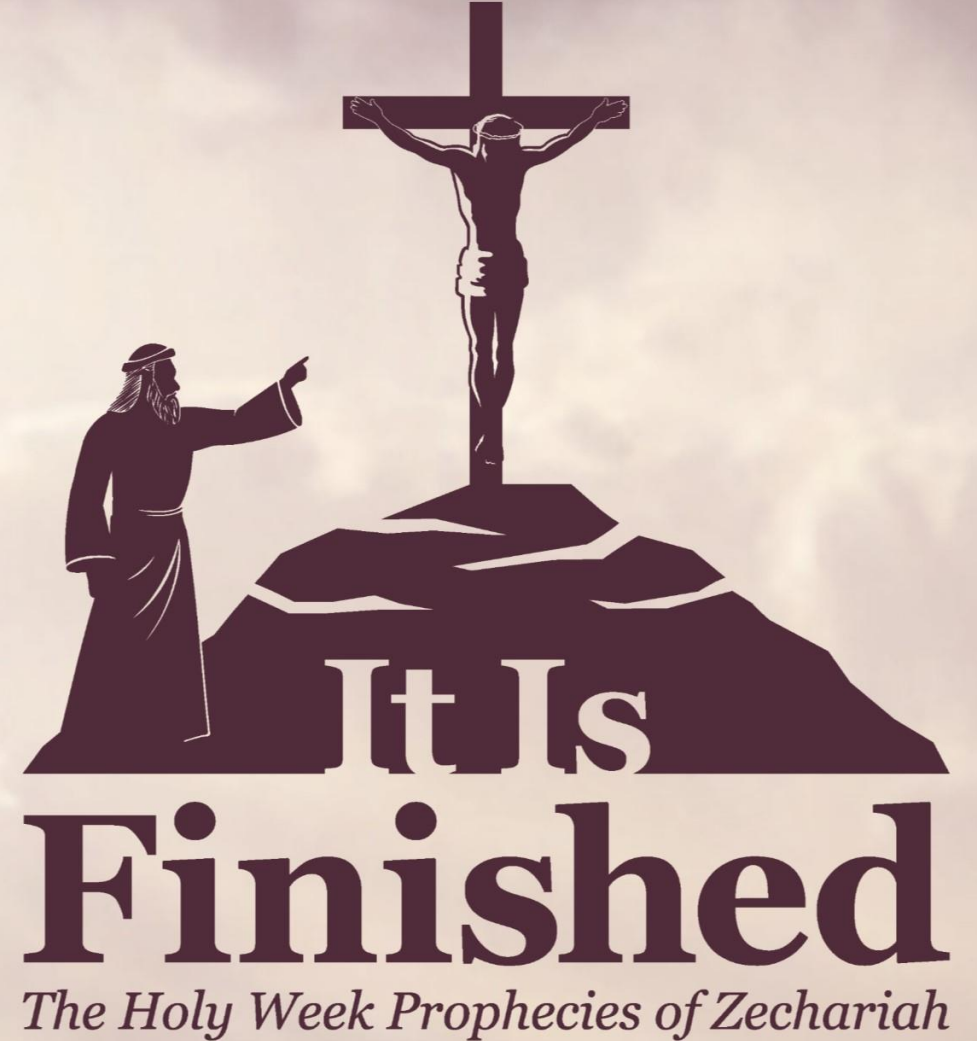
Please fill out and submit.

# Lent Worship

Pastor John Stelljes

"Gone in a Single Day"

2.25.26 | 7:00pm



# THANKS FOR SERVING



- † Pianist: Marcia Michalik
- † Choir
- † AV Team
- † Catechism Class – Serving Soup
- † Flock #1: Tim Russow

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