



# Ash Wednesday

**“The Lord ...is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.”**

2 Peter 3:9



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A member of the WELS (Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod)

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# Welcome!

**We are glad that you have joined us for worship.**

Brian Roloff, Pastor | [pastorroloff@AscensionPlymouth.com](mailto:pastorroloff@AscensionPlymouth.com)

Jennifer Tripp, Preschool Director/Teacher

Andrea Cherney, Teacher

**February 18, 2026**

As we celebrate Holy Communion, let's rejoice in the various types of unity that we enjoy in this sacrament.



- ◆ According to Christ's own promise we receive his true body and blood along with the bread and wine for the forgiveness of all our sins (Matthew 26:26-28). We are united with him in the Lord's Supper.
- ◆ This meal not only unites believers with the Lord but also with one another (1 Corinthians 10:16-17). Holy Communion declares that unity.
- ◆ When Christians commune together they are jointly proclaiming the gospel of Jesus (1 Corinthians 11:26).

What wonderful unity we find in the Lord's Supper. How we want to treasure and foster this unity. On the night on which Jesus gave us this meal he prayed that all his followers would come to complete agreement with one another on the basis of God's Word (John 17:11,17).

Out of love for the Lord and love for one another, we want what our Savior wants for us – genuine unqualified unity. For this reason we respectfully ask that only those who have expressed their full agreement with the teachings of our national church body (the Wisconsin Synod) or the Evangelical Lutheran Synod come forward to receive the sacrament.

We eagerly desire everyone to share in this divine meal with us. Please speak to the pastor about how we can work together to establish this blessed fellowship.

**WORSHIP THEME: Look to the One Who Was Pierced**

OPENING HYMN: #430 Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted

(vs. 1-4)

INVOCATION

INSTRUCTION FOR THE BEGINNING OF LENT

*Silence for reflection and self-examination*

CONFESSiON OF SINS

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

ANNOUNCEMENT OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

## PASSION READING #1

### **Jesus' Readiness to Suffer and Die**

#### SEASONAL RESPONSE

HYMN: #395 *What Grace Is This*

(vs.1-6)

SERMON TEXT: Zechariah 12:10

THEME: Look at the One Who Was Pierced By You and For You

REFLECTION: More Precious Than Silver

(Choir)

#### OFFERING

#### EVENING PRAYER

#### LORD'S PRAYER

(Sung)

#### THE SACRAMENT

#### WORDS OF INSTITUTION & DISTRIBUTION

DISTRIBUTION HYMN: #404 *Jesus, Grant That Balm and Healing* (vs.1-5)

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

#### PRAYER

#### BLESSING

CLOSING HYMN: #400 *Sweet the Moments, Rich in Blessing*

(vs. 1-5)

#### CONNECTION CARD ON OUR APP



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 QR Code on the left if you prefer to use that. Please fill out any information and submit.

#### THE OFFERING

Dear guests, we're glad you're here to listen to the message about Jesus.

If members or guests would like to give an offering electronically, they can do so by using the QR Code on the right or download our App, which is available at any app store. Collection boxes are also located by the sanctuary doors.



#### THANKS TO THOSE WHO SERVED:

- † Pianist: Marcia Michalik
- † Choir
- † AV Team
- † Flock 1 - Tim Russow

## **EXPLANATION OF THE IMPOSITION OF ASHES**

Tonight our service includes an ancient church practice or rite known as the “Imposition of Ashes.” To help us prepare we want to answer a few questions.



### *What happens in this rite?*

- Worshippers who desire to participate will be invited to come forward down either side aisle.
- 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.
- The worshipper will then return to their seat.

### *Why do we offer this rite?*

- We offer it because a study of scripture reveals that using ashes as a sign of repentance was common in Biblical times. (See 2 Samuel 13:19; Esther 4:1; Job 2:8; Jeremiah 6:26)
- We offer it because for centuries the Christian church has used this rite.
- We offer it because many believers grew up in churches that used this rite. They have found it to be a meaningful part of their Lenten preparation.
- We offer it because a number of our sister congregations have found it to be helpful.
- We offer it because the symbolism is rich.

### *Who may participate?*

- All worshippers are invited to participate.
- Children may come forward at their parents’ discretion.
- Participation is entirely optional.
- Participation does not make one’s repentance more real or sincere. It is like folding your hands in prayer – neither good nor bad. If you find this rite to be a devotional aid, please participate. If not, then please respectfully wait while others come forward.