



SAINT MARTIN LUTHERAN CHURCH

Ash Wednesday Worship

FEBRUARY 18, 2026, 7:00 PM

*Welcome to the worship of
our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!*

THE DAY: *Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent, and we are called in the book of Joel today to return to the Lord with all our heart. We mark this 40 days journey with Jesus, mindful of his journey to Jerusalem and his passion, death, and resurrection. Today we will focus on Psalm 51, remembering God's mercy and steadfast love. Along with the psalmist, throughout Lent we also call out to the Lord to create in me a clean heart, and to renew a right spirit within me.*

PRELUDE

Please silence electronic devices during this quiet time of preparing our hearts for worship.

Stand

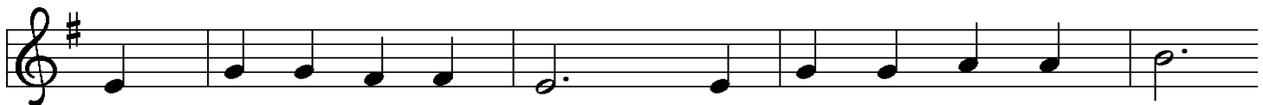
The Procession begins.

THE APOSTOLIC GREETING

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

G And also with you.

KYRIE



- 1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.
- 2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.
- 3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.



We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.
Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

G And also with you.

P 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 receive from you, the God of all mercy, full pardon and forgiveness through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

G Amen.

Sit

FIRST LESSION

Joel 2: 1-2, 12-17

Because of the coming Day of the Lord, the prophet Joel calls the people to a community lament. The repentant community reminds God of his gracious character and asks God to spare the people, lest the nations doubt God's power to save.

L A reading from the Prophet Joel, the 2nd Chapter, beginning at the 1st verse.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

G Thanks be to God.

PSALMODY

Psalm 51:1-17



¹ Have mercy on me, O God, according to your | steadfast love;
in your great compassion blot out | my offenses.

² **Wash me through and through | from my wickedness,
and cleanse me | from my sin.**

³ For I know | my offenses,
and my sin is ev- | er before me.

- ⁴ Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil | in your sight;
so you are justified when you speak and right | in your judgment.**
- ⁵ Indeed, I was born | steeped in wickedness,
a sinner from my | mother's womb.
- ⁶ Indeed, you delight in truth | deep within me,
and would have me know wisdom | deep within.**
- ⁷ Remove my sins with hyssop, and I | shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be pur- | er than snow.
- ⁸ Let me hear | joy and gladness;
that the body you have broken | may rejoice.**
- ⁹ Hide your face | from my sins,
and blot out | all my wickedness.
- ¹⁰ Create in me a clean | heart, O God,
and renew a right spir- | it within me.**
- ¹¹ Cast me not away | from your presence,
and take not your Holy Spir- | it from me.
- ¹² Restore to me the joy of | your salvation
and sustain me with your boun- | tiful Spirit.**
- ¹³ Let me teach your ways | to offenders,
and sinners shall be re- | stored to you.
- ¹⁴ Rescue me from bloodshed, O God of | my salvation,
and my tongue shall sing | of your righteousness.**
- ¹⁵ O Lord, o- | pen my lips,
and my mouth shall pro- | claim your praise.
- ¹⁶ For you take no delight in sacrifice, or | I would give it.
You are not pleased | with burnt offering.**
- ¹⁷ The sacrifice of God is a | troubled spirit;
a troubled and broken heart, O God, you will | not despise.
**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the | Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forev- | er. Amen**

SECOND LESSON

2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

The ministry of the gospel endures many challenges and hardships. Through this ministry, God's reconciling activity in the death of Christ reaches into the depths of our lives to bring us into a right relationship with God. In this way, God accepts us into the reality of divine salvation.

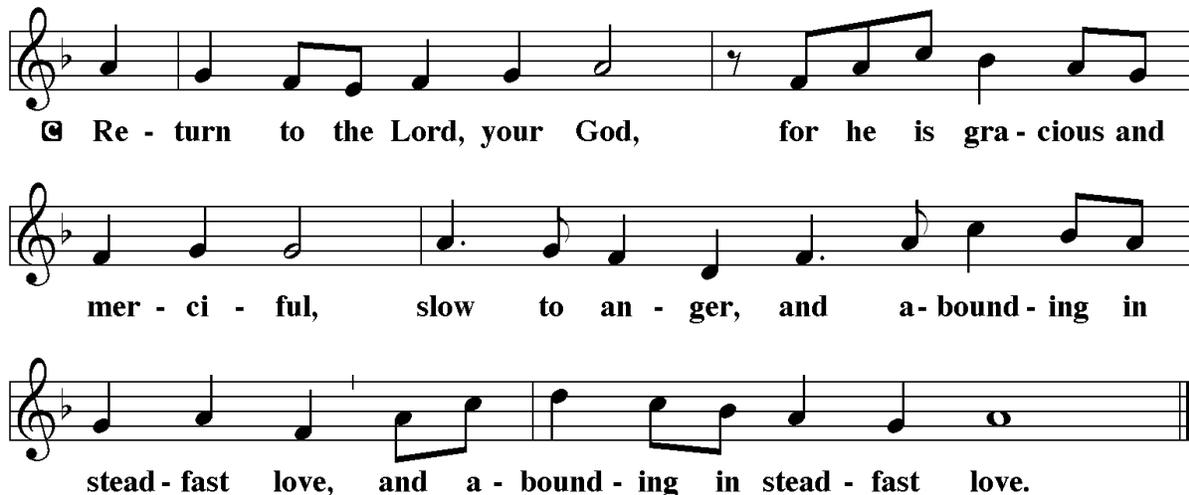
L A reading from 2nd Corinthians, the 5th chapter, beginning at the 20th verse.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

G Thanks be to God.

Stand

LENTEN VERSE



G Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and
mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in
stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 6: 1-6, 16-21

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus commends almsgiving, prayer, and fasting, but emphasizes that spiritual devotion must not be done for show.

P The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. Matthew, the 6th chapter, beginning at the 1st verse.

G Glory to you, O Lord.

P The Gospel of the Lord.

G Praise to you, O Christ.

Sit

HOMILY

“Create in Me”

Pastor Beatty

Silence for reflection may follow.

Stand

HYMN OF THE DAY

ELW #712

LORD WHOSE LOVE IN HUMBLE SERVICE

INVITATION TO LENT

P Friends in Christ, today with the whole church we enter the time of remembering Jesus’ Passover from death to life, and our life in Christ is renewed.

We begin this holy season by acknowledging our need for repentance and for God’s mercy. We are created to experience joy in communion with God, to love one another, and to live in harmony with creation. But our sinful rebellion separates us from God, our neighbors, and creation, so that we do not enjoy the life our creator intended.

As disciples of Jesus, we are called to a discipline that contends against evil and resists whatever leads us away from love of God and neighbor. I invite you, therefore, to the discipline of Lent—self-examination and repentance, prayer and fasting, sacrificial giving and works of love—strengthened by the gifts of word and sacrament. Let us continue our journey through these forty days to the great Three Days of Jesus’ death and resurrection.

Sit

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

P Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth. May these ashes be a sign of our mortality and penitence, reminding us that only by the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ are we given eternal life; through the same Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

G Amen.

You may come forward to receive ashes.

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

P Lord God, as we begin the journey of these forty days, may the ashes on our foreheads be a reminder of our mortality and frailty, and also of the promise of our baptism in Christ. Renew us, guide us, and inspire us as ambassadors for Christ on the road ahead, following the way of the cross ever closer to you.

G Amen.

Sit

OFFERING

The ushers collect our gifts of tithes and offerings, the ministers make ready the bread and wine.

Stand

OFFERTORY PRAYER

A The Lord be with you,

G And also with you.

A Merciful Father,

G we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us ourselves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P In the night in which he was betrayed,...

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,...

Do this for the remembrance of me.

G Amen.

P Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us together to pray.

C **LORD'S PRAYER** *(Sung)*

Our Fa - ther in heav-en, hal-low-ed be your
name, your king-dom come, your will be done on
earth as in heav-en. Give us to-day our
dai - ly bread. For - give us our sins as
we for-give those who sin a - gainst us.
Save us from the time of trial and de -
liv-er us from e - vil, for the king - dom, the pow'r and the
glo - ry are yours, now and for ev - er.

Music: David Haas, © 1986, GIA Publications, Inc.

Sit

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

AGNUS DEI

L 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. A - men

COMMUNION HYMNS

ETERNAL LORD OF LOVE, BEHOLD YOUR CHURCH
SAVIOR, WHEN IN DUST TO YOU

ELW #321

ELW #601

Stand

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

P Now may the body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen ✝ you and keep you in God's grace.

G Amen.

BENEDICTION

P Life is short, and we do not have much time
To gladden the hearts of those who journey with us.
So be swift to love, and make haste to be kind;
Living in the name of the Father,
and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

G Amen.

SENDING HYMN

O CHRIST, OUR HOPE

ELW #604

DISMISSAL

A Love The Lord!

G Live The Mission!
Together!

POSTLUDE





WELCOME TO ALL

We are grateful that you chose to worship with us today. Our values are those of the North American Lutheran Church (NALC). We are *Christ Centered, Mission Driven, Traditionally Grounded, and Congregationally Focused*. Learn more about the NALC at <https://thenalc.org/>.

We extend a special welcome to visitors. Before you leave, please fill out a blue visitor card and be sure to take one of our Saint Martin brochures; both are available on the ushers' table at the rear of our sanctuary. We invite visitors to join together with us in the ground floor Fellowship Hall and Courtyard areas and to consider Saint Martin as a new church home.



INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION

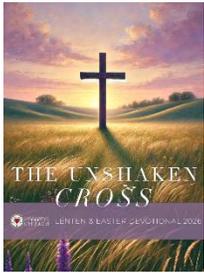
By invitation of our Lord, all baptized Christians are welcome to the Lord's table and do not need to be a member of Saint Martin in order to receive the Holy Sacrament. Unbaptized adults and children not yet communing are invited forward with crossed arms for Pastor to offer a special blessing.

We believe that Christ is truly present in the bread and wine. In his body and blood we are forgiven, we are strengthened and nourished, and we are assured of his promise of everlasting life. This meal is a foretaste of the feast to come in heaven. Come, let us eat together.

Our ushers will invite you forward. The host (bread) will be placed in your hand. A gluten-free option is available upon request. Intinct (dip) the host in the first chalice held by the worship assistant or receive the wine by Common Cup from the second chalice.

LENTEN DEVOTIONS

Join us in reflection this Lent and Easter season.



What does it mean that the cross is unshaken? The cross stands unshaken because it is rooted in God’s eternal victory through Jesus Christ—a victory that cannot be undone, weakened, or diminished. In seasons when life feels uncertain, the cross reminds us that our hope rests not in the steadiness of our faith, but in the steadfast love and faithfulness of Christ, from which nothing can separate us.

This devotional was created with contributions from 28 authors throughout the North American Lutheran Church, each bringing their own reflections and insights. The daily readings follow the lectionary provided in the “NALC Devoted to Prayer” daily prayer and reading guide, an adapted version of the daily lectionary in the *Lutheran Book of Worship*.

May this devotional deepen reflection and strengthen your trust in Christ during this season of repentance and hope. For details on how to access the devotional electronically or to receive it as a daily email or text message, please visit: <https://thenalc.org/en-us/lent>.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Sundays

Choir practice: 9:00 am

Children’s and Adult Sunday Schools: 9:30 am

Worship with Holy Communion: 10:30 am

Fellowship Hour, immediately following Worship

Preparation For Next Sunday

FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7, Psalm 32

Romans 5:12-19, Matthew 4:1-11