

ASH
WEDNESDAY



*Remember that
You are dust, and to
dust You shall return.*

St. Peter's Lutheran Church & School

7710 East State Boulevard
Fort Wayne, Indiana 46815
749-5816

February 18, 2026 – 12:00pm & 7:00pm

Rev. Danny Eggold, Senior Pastor
Rev. Adam McDowell, Associate Pastor
Rev. Nathan Widener, Associate Pastor & Director of Community of Care
Rev. James Sharp, Missionary to Puerto Rico
Tim Degen, Director of Music & Organist
Chris Brune, Principal
Barb Christian, Preschool Director

ASH WEDNESDAY

February 18, 2026 – 12:00pm & 7:00pm

✠ THE IMPOSITION OF ASHES ✠

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

PRELUDES DURING THE IMPOSITION OF ASHES

“Jesus, Grant That Balm and Healing”

arr. Ruth Mackie

“Savior, When in Dust to Thee”

arr. Anne Krentz Organ

“Savior, When in Dust to Thee”

arr. Matthew Machemer

“To Thee, Omniscient, Lord of All”

arr. J.S. Bach

RINGING OF THE BELL

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN

“Savior, When in Dust to Thee”

#419

PSALMODY

Psalm 51

P Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;
according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.

C **Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,
and cleanse me from my sin!**

P For I know my transgressions,
and my sin is ever before me.

C **Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight,
so that you may be justified in your words and blameless in your judgment.**

P Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity,
and in sin did my mother conceive me.

C **Behold, you delight in truth in the inward being,
and you teach me wisdom in the secret heart.**

P Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

C **Let me hear joy and gladness;
let the bones that you have broken rejoice.**

P Hide your face from my sins,
and blot out all my iniquities.

C **Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.**

P Cast me not away from your presence,
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

C **Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
and uphold me with a willing spirit.**

P Then I will teach transgressors your ways,
and sinners will return to you.

C **Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God,
O God of my salvation,
and my tongue will sing aloud of your righteousness.**

P O Lord, open my lips,
and my mouth will declare your praise.

C **For you will not delight in sacrifice, or I would give it;
you will not be pleased with a burnt offering.**

P The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit;
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

C **Do good to Zion in your good pleasure;
build up the walls of Jerusalem;**

P then will you delight in right sacrifices,
in burnt offerings and whole burnt offerings;
then bulls will be offered on your altar.

C **Glory be 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.**

LENTEN EXHORTATION

P 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.

CONFESSION

P 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.**

P 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.**

P 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.**

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

C **We confess to You, Lord.**

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

C **We confess to You, Lord.**

P Our anger at our own frustration, and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves,
C **We confess to You, Lord.**

P Our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts, and our dishonesty in daily life and work,
C **We confess to You, Lord.**

P Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to commend the faith that is in us,
C **We confess to You, Lord.**

P 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.**

P 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.**

P For our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us,
C **Accept our repentance, Lord.**

P Restore us, good Lord, and let your anger depart from us.
C **Hear us, Lord, for your mercy is great. Amen.**

(Silence for reflection and self-examination.)

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 Passion of your Son, our Lord,
C **bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.**

P In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for His sake God forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ, He gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit. May the Lord,

who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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

C Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Joel 2:12-19

¹²“Yet even now,” declares the LORD, “return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; ¹³and rend your hearts and not your garments.” Return to the LORD your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love; and he relents over disaster. ¹⁴Who 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? ¹⁵Blow the trumpet in Zion; consecrate a fast; call a solemn assembly; ¹⁶gather the people. Consecrate the congregation; assemble the elders; gather the children, even nursing infants. Let the bridegroom leave his room, and the bride her chamber. ¹⁷Between the vestibule and the altar let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep and say, “Spare your people, O LORD, and make not your heritage a reproach, a byword among the nations. Why should they say among the peoples, ‘Where is their God?’” ¹⁸Then the LORD became jealous for his land and had pity on his people. ¹⁹The LORD answered and said to his people, “Behold, I am sending to you grain, wine, and oil, and you will be satisfied; and I will no more make you a reproach among the nations.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

(12:00)

“A Prayer for Mercy”...Allen Pote

Junior Choir

Kyrie eleison, Christe eleison,
Kyrie eleison, Lord have mercy on us.

When we make mistakes by doing things we should not do;
O Lord forgive us, help us be true.
When we face decisions and knowingly choose the wrong;
O Lord forgive us, help us be strong.

Kyrie eleison, Christe eleison,
Kyrie eleison, Lord have mercy on us.

Kyrie eleison, Christe eleison, Kyrie eleison.

(7:00)

“Create in Me”...John Roth

Adult Choir

Martha Hoepfner, Flute
Heather Sittler, Oboe

Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from your presence; and take not your Holy Spirit from me.
Restore to me the joy of your salvation; and uphold me with your free spirit.

Cast me not away from your presence; and take not your Holy Spirit from me.
Restore to me the joy of your salvation; and uphold me with your free spirit.

EPISTLE READING

2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

^{20b}We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹For our sake He made Him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.

¹Working together with Him, then, we appeal to you not to receive the grace of God in vain. ²For He says, “In a favorable time I listened to you, and in a day of salvation I have helped you.” Behold, now is the favorable time; behold, now is the day of salvation. ³We put no

obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, ⁴but as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: by great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, ⁵beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; ⁶by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, the Holy Spirit, genuine love; ⁷by truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; ⁸through honor and dishonor, through slander and praise. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; ⁹as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold, we live; as punished, and yet not killed; ¹⁰as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, yet possessing everything.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

HOLY GOSPEL READING

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the sixth chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

¹[Jesus said:] “Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them, for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven. ²“Thus, when you give to the needy, sound no trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be praised by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. ³But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴so that your giving may be in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you. ⁵“And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. ⁶But when 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.

¹⁶“And when you fast, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. ¹⁷But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, ¹⁸that your fasting may not be seen by others but by your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you. ¹⁹“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and

where thieves break in and steal, ²⁰but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

NICENE CREED

C 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.

SERMON HYMN **“Jesus, Grant That Balm and Healing”** **#421**
(7:00 – Stanzas 2 & 4 will be sung by the choir.)

SERMON **“Good News in the Ashes”**
Text: Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21 – Pastor Danny Eggold

**RITUAL OF FRIENDSHIP and
GATHERING OF OUR OFFERINGS**

VOLUNTARY
“To Thee, Omniscient, Lord of All” arr. Dietrich Buxtehude

OFFERTORY PRAYER

P Let us pray together:
C Holy God, you provide us with every gift of creation, and you quench our thirst with living water. Receive these tokens of your goodness to us. May our lives be bread for the hungry and streams in the wilderness, signs of the abundance of your grace in Jesus Christ. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P The Lenten journey leads us to repentance and new life. Let us turn our hearts to God, who is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.
P Let us pray for the whole church, that strengthened by the disciplines of Lent, we turn from sin to find joy and abundant new life in forgiveness. Lord, in Your mercy,
C Hear our prayer.

P Let us pray for the nations of the world, that leaders seek peace and justice for all people over desires for personal power or status. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **Hear our prayer.**

P Let us pray for our sisters and brothers in need, that God would give healing and God's people would respond with mercy and compassion toward others. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **Hear our prayer.**

P Let us pray for those who are preparing for baptism, that they experience God's abundant grace in this season of enlightenment and renewal. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **Hear our prayer.**

P Let us give thanks for the witness of the faithful departed, who encourage us until the day we join the great cloud of witnesses. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **Hear our prayer.**

P Merciful and gracious God, hear our prayers, restore us to the joy of your salvation, and uphold us with your Holy Spirit, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C **Amen.**

PREFACE

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

C **We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

PROPER PREFACE

P 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 saying:

SANCTUS



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth a - dored;



Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.



Sing ho - san-na in the high-est, sing ho-san - na to the Lord;



Tru - ly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

LORD'S PRAYER

P Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

C 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.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

THE PEACE OF OUR LORD

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

AGNUS DEI

C 1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
You take the sin of the world a - way;
You take the sin of the world a - way;
O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,
Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

DISTRIBUTION ANTHEM and HYMNS

(7:00) “Let Evening Fall”...Tony Alonso

Adult Choir
Heather Sittler, Oboe

Let evening fall gently around us,
Christ’s love surrounds us, warmth through the night.
Love laid before us, hopes and dreams too,
Prayer now upholds us, closer to You.

Let evening fall gently within us,
Now sacred silence brings us to You.
Put to rest chaos, crying, and pain,
Gently sustain us, speaking our name.

Let evening fall gently upon us.
Sunlight has faded, day’s work is done.
Now You protect us, held in Your sight
In holy darkness till morning’s light.

“To Thee, Omniscient Lord of All” #613

“Jesus, I Will Ponder Now” #440

“Lord Jesus, Think on Me” #610

“Sunday’s Palms are Wednesday’s Ashes” *(Tune: “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”)*

Sunday’s palms are Wednesday’s ashes as another Lent begins;
thus we kneel before our Maker in contrition for our sins.
We have marred baptismal pledges, in rebellion, gone astray;
now, returning, seek forgiveness; grant us pardon, Lord, this day!

We have failed to love our neighbors, their offences to forgive,
have not listened to their troubles nor have cared just how they live;
we are jealous, proud, impatient, loving over much our things;

may the yielding of our failings be our Lenten offerings.

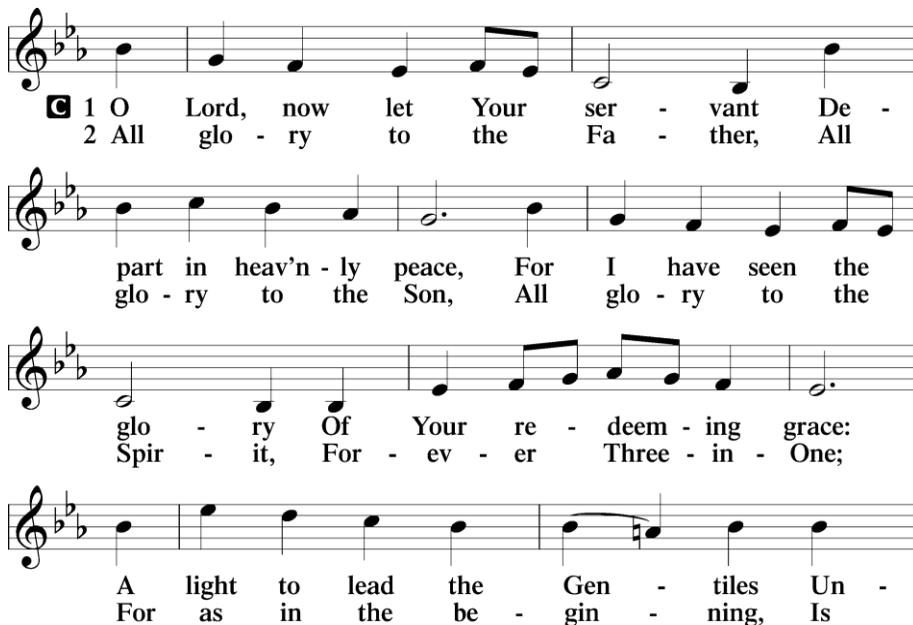
We are hasty to judge others, blind to proof of human need;
and our lack of understanding demonstrates our inner greed;
we have wasted earth's resources; want and suffering we've ignored;
come and cleanse us, then restore us; make new hearts within us, Lord!

DISMISSAL

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart ✠ in peace.

C Amen.

NUNC DIMITTIS



C 1 O Lord, now let Your ser - vant, De -
2 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, All
part in heav'n - ly peace, For I have seen the
glo - ry to the Son, All glo - ry to the
glo - ry Of Your re - deem - ing grace:
Spir - it, For - ev - er Three - in - One;
A light to lead the Gen - tiles Un -
For as in the be - gin - ning, Is



to Your ho - ly hill, The glo - ry of Your
now, shall ev - er be, God's tri - une name re -
peo - ple, Your cho - sen Is - ra - el.
sound - ing Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

- P** We bless you, O God, for the free gift of righteousness and peace in Jesus Christ, whose body and blood have nourished us here. Lead us out from this house of prayer to the places you will show us, so that we will be a blessing to others in the name of Christ, our redeemer.
- C** Amen.

BENEDICTION

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

CLOSING HYMN “Come to Calvary’s Holy Mountain” #435

POSTLUDE

“Come to Calvary’s Holy Mountain” arr. Donald Johns