

Ash Wednesday
February 18, 2026



Christ Lutheran Church
29 S. George Street, York, Pa. 17401

Our Mission:
Reflect God's love in the heart of York

Our Vision:
To be a vibrant congregation in the heart of York praising God,
connecting people to Christ,
and serving the people of York and the world

*Companions with the Itete Hospital of the
Konde Diocese,
Evangelical Lutheran Church of Tanzania*

Prelude

Our Father in the Heave Who Art

12:15

(J.S. Bach)

7:00

Psalm 51:1-18 (*Spoken antiphonally. The pastor begins the psalm.*)

¹Have mercy on me, O God, according to your loving-kindness; in your great compassion blot out my offenses.

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

³For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.

⁴Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight.

⁵And so you are justified when you speak and upright in your judgment.

⁶Indeed, I have been wicked from my birth, a sinner from my mother's womb.

⁷For behold, you look for truth deep within me, and will make me understand wisdom secretly.

⁸Purge me from my sin, and I shall be pure; wash me, and I shall be clean indeed.

⁹Make me hear of joy and gladness, that the body you have broken may rejoice.

¹⁰Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.

¹¹Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

¹²Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

¹³Give me the joy of your saving help again and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.

¹⁴I shall teach your ways to the wicked, and sinners shall return to you.

¹⁵Deliver me from death, O God, and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness, O God of my salvation.

¹⁶Open my lips, O Lord, and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.

¹⁷Had you desired it, I would have offered sacrifice, but you take no delight in burnt-offerings.

¹⁸**The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit; a broken and contrite 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 forever. Amen.

Confession

P: Brothers and sisters: We were created to experience joy in communion with God, to love all humanity, and to live in harmony with all of 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 judgment, but to turn 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 disciplines of Lent--help us to wage our spiritual warfare. Therefore, may we commit ourselves to this struggle and confess our sins, asking our Father for strength to persevere in our Lenten disciplines.

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.

Music during the Imposition

Blessed Jesus, At Your Word

12:15

(J.S. Bach)

7:00

The Imposition of Ashes

The minister applies ashes with the following words:

P: Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.

After the imposition of ashes, the following is said:

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: Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, does not desire the death of sinners, but rather that they may turn from their wickedness and live. Therefore we implore him to grant us true repentance and his Holy Spirit, that those things may please him that we do on this day, that the rest of our life may be pure and holy, and that at the last we may come to his eternal joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

Prayer of the Day

P: 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. **Amen.**

First Lesson: Joel 2:1–2, 12–17

¹ Blow the trumpet in Zion; sound the alarm on my holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble, for the day of the LORD is coming, it is near—² a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness! Like blackness spread upon the mountains, a great and powerful army comes; their like has never been from of old, nor will be again after them in ages to come. ¹² Yet even now, says the LORD, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; ¹³ rend your hearts and not your clothing. Return to the LORD your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from punishment. ¹⁴ Who knows whether he will not turn and relent and leave a blessing behind him, a grain of offering and a drink offering for the LORD your God? ¹⁵ Blow the trumpet in Zion; consecrate a fast; call a solemn assembly; ¹⁶ gather the people. Consecrate the congregation; assemble the aged; gather the children, even infants at the breast. Let the bridegroom leave his room and the bride her canopy. ¹⁷ Between the vestibule and the altar, let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep. Let them say, “Spare your people, O LORD, and do not make your heritage a mockery, a byword among the nations. Why should it be said among the peoples, ‘Where is their God?’ ”

A: The Word of the Lord. C: Thanks be to God.

Second Lesson: 2 Corinthians 5:20b–6:10

^{20b} We entreat you on behalf of Christ: be reconciled to God. ²¹ For our sake God made the one who knew no sin to be sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. ^{6:1} As we work together with him, we entreat you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. ² For he says, “At an acceptable time I have listened to you, and on a day of salvation I have helped you.” Look, now is the acceptable time; look, now is the day of salvation! ³ We are putting no obstacle in anyone’s way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, ⁴ but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in

every way: in great endurance, afflictions, hardships, calamities,⁵ beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger;⁶ in purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love,⁷ truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left;⁸ in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors and yet are true,⁹ as unknown and yet are well known, as dying and look—we are alive, as punished and yet not killed,¹⁰ as sorrowful yet always rejoicing, as poor yet making many rich, as having nothing and yet possessing everything.

A: The Word of the Lord. C: **Thanks be to God.**

Verse

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.

The Holy Gospel: Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

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

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said to the disciples:¹ “Beware of practicing your righteousness before others in order to be seen by them, for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven.

² “So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward.³ But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing,⁴ so that your alms may be done in secret, and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

⁵ “And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward.⁶ But whenever 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 whenever you fast, do not look somber, like the hypocrites, for they mark their faces to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ¹⁷ But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, ¹⁸ so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret, and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

¹⁹ “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal, ²⁰ but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord. C: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

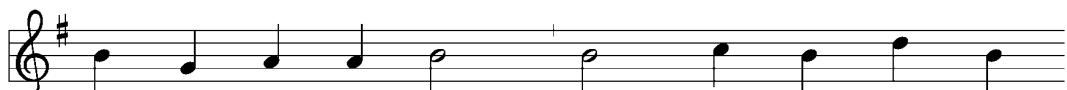
Homily

Hymn of the Day “The Glory of These Forty Days”

ELW 320



1 The glo - ry of these for - ty days we cel - e -
2 A - lone and fast - ing Mo - ses saw the lov - ing -
3 So Dan - iel trained his mys - tic sight, de - liv - ered
4 Then grant, O God, that we may, too, re - turn in



bate with songs of praise; for Christ, through whom all
God who gave the law; and to E - li - jah,
from the li - ons' might; and John, the Bride - groom's
fast and prayer to you. Our spir - its strength-en



things were made, him - self has fast - ed and has prayed.
fast - ing, came the steeds and char - i - ots of flame.
friend, be - came the her - ald of Mes - si - ah's name.
with your grace, and give us joy to see your face.

Text: Latin hymn, 11th cent.; tr. Maurice F. Bell, 1862–1947, alt.

Music: ERHALT UNS, HERR, J. Klug, *Geistliche Lieder*, 1543

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Prayers

A: Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, let us pray for the world and its needs.

A brief silence.

A: Hear us O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

The prayers conclude:

A: Receive our prayers, O God, through Jesus Christ, our strength and salvation.
Amen.

The Peace

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

C: And also with you.

Offertory Prayer

A: Let us pray...**O God, maker of heaven and earth, your steadfast love embraces all creation. You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth and bring forth its bounty. Through these gifts of bread and wine, draw us into the death and life of your Son, who calls us to bear witness to his saving work. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.**

The Great Thanksgiving

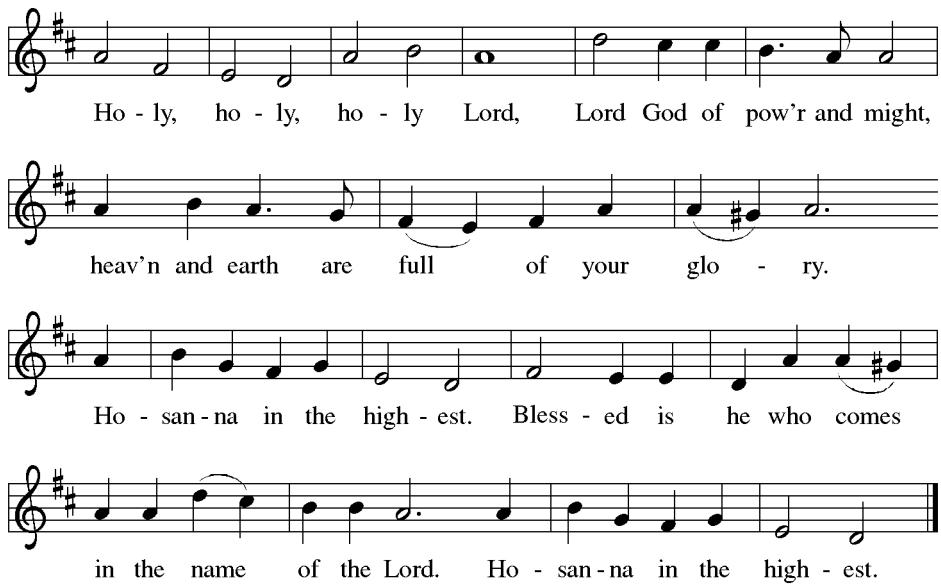
The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Preface and Sanctus

P: It is indeed right, our duty. . . We praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.
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.

Eucharistic Prayer

P: Blessed are you, O God of the universe. Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth. Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood. Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea. Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness to the land of milk and honey. Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one. Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ. Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

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

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

O God of resurrection and new life: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine. Bless this feast. Grace our table with your presence.

Come, Holy Spirit.

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread. Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world. Breathe new life into us. Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love.

Come, Holy Spirit.

With your holy ones of all times and places, with the earth and all its creatures, with sun and moon and stars, we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever.

Amen.

Lord's Prayer

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

C: 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. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever.

Amen.

Fraction and Agnus Dei

P: Taste and see that the Lord is good.

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.

Hymns during distribution

“Be Thou My Vision”

ELW 793



1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;
3 Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise,
4 Light of my soul, af - ter vic - to - ry won,



naught be all else to me, save that thou art:
I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord.
thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways:
may I reach heav - en's joys, O heav - en's Sun!



thou my best thought both by day and by night,
Thou my soul's shel - ter, and thou my high tow'r,
thou and thou on - ly, the first in my heart,
Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,



wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.
raise thou me heav'n - ward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.
great God of heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.
still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

Text: Irish, 8th cent.; vers. Eleanor H. Hull, 1860–1935, alt.; tr. Mary E. Byrne, 1880–1931
Music: SLANE, Irish traditional

All who are baptized are invited to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion. Approach the chancel rail by way of the side aisles, beginning in the rear of the nave. Dip the host in the first cup or drink from the common cup. Worshipers may stand or kneel at the chancel rail to receive the sacrament. Return to your pew by way of the center aisle. Gluten-free wafers are available.

“Just as I Am, without One Plea”

ELW 592



1 Just as I am, with - out one plea, but that thy blood was
2 Just as I am, though tossed a - bout with man - y a con - flict,
3 Just as I am, thou wilt re - ceive, wilt wel - come, par - don,
4 Just as I am; thy love un - known has bro - ken ev - ery



shed for me, and that thou bidd'st me come to thee,
man - y a doubt, fight - ings and fears with - in, with - out,
cleanse, re - lieve; be - cause thy prom - ise I be - lieve,
bar - rier down; now to be thine, yea, thine a - lone,



O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Text: Charlotte Elliott, 1789–1871

Music: WOODWORTH, William B. Bradbury, 1816–1868

Post-Communion Blessing

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **C: Amen.**

Post-Communion Prayer

A: God of our salvation, we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls, reconciles us to you, and strengthens us for the journey. Through the body and blood of your Son, may we become Christ's body in the world, bearing witness to your love for all creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **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.

All leave in silence.