



**A WARM WELCOME TO ADVENT LUTHERAN CHURCH
ON THIS ASH WEDNESDAY
FEBRUARY 18, 2026**

**ADVENT LUTHERAN CHURCH
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INTRODUCTION

On Ash Wednesday we begin our forty-day journey toward Easter with a day of fasting and repentance. Marking our foreheads with dust, we acknowledge that we die and return to the earth. At the same time, the dust traces the life-giving cross indelibly marked on our foreheads at baptism. While we journey through Lent to return to God, we have already been reconciled to God through Christ. We humbly pray for God to make our hearts clean while we rejoice that “now is the day of salvation.” Returning to our baptismal call, we more intentionally bear the fruits of mercy and justice in the world.

PRELUDE

“Jesus Keep Me Near the Cross”

arr. Carter

Jean Pontious

You may remain seated or stand.

HYMN

“Your Heart, O God, Is Grieved”

Leader

1 O God, Father in heav - en, have mer - cy up - on us.
2 O Son of God, redeemer of the world, have mer - cy up - on us.
3 O God, Holy Spir - it, have mer - cy up - on us.

All

Your heart, O God, is grieved, we know, by ev - 'ry
Your arms ex - tend, O Christ, to save from sting of
O lav - ish Giv - er, come to aid the chil - dren

e - vil, ev - 'ry woe; up - on your cross - for -
 death and grasp of grave; your scars be - fore the
 that your word has made. Now make us grow and

sak - en Son our death is laid, and peace is won.
 Fa - ther move his heart to mer - cy at such love.
 help us pray; bring joy and com - fort, come to stay.

Text: Jiří Tranovský, 1591–1637; tr. Jaroslav J. Vajda, b. 1919

Music: *Tranoscius*, 1636; arr. Michal Kutzky, 1828–1899

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ZNÁME TO, PANE BOŽE NÁŠ

Irregular

GREETING

P Behold, now is the acceptable time;

C **now is the day of salvation.**

P The grace, mercy and peace of God be with you all.

C **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray together the prayer of the day.

C **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.

Sit

WE HEAR THE WORD

The pericopes readings for this day are: Joel 2:1-2, 12-17; Psalm 51:1-17; 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10; Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

FIRST READING: Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

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—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.

Yet even now, says the LORD, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; 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. Who 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?

Blow the trumpet in Zion; consecrate a fast; call a solemn assembly; 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.

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?’ ”

After the reading:

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

PSALM 51: 1-17 (read responsively)

- A** Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; in your great compassion blot out my offenses.
- C** **Wash me through and through from my wickedness, and cleanse me from my sin.**
- A** For I know my offenses, and my sin is ever before me.

C **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.**

A Indeed, I was born steeped in wickedness, a sinner from my mother's womb.

C **Indeed, you delight in truth deep within me, and would have me know wisdom deep within.**

A Remove my sins with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be purer than snow.

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

A Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my wickedness.

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

A 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 sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.**

A Let me teach your ways to offenders, and sinners shall be restored to you.

C **Rescue me from bloodshed, O God of my salvation, and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness.**

A O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.

C **For you take no delight in sacrifice, or I would give it. You are not pleased with burnt offering.**

A The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit; a troubled and broken heart, O God, you will not despise.

SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

We entreat you on behalf of Christ: be reconciled to God. 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.

As we work together with him, we entreat you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. 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! We are putting no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: in great endurance,

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

After the reading:

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

You may remain seated or stand.

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 6th chapter.
C Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

[Jesus said to the disciples:] “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. “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. But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your alms may be done in secret, and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

“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. 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.

“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. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, 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.

“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal, but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where

neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

After the reading:

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

MESSAGE

PASTOR DAVID HINKELMAN

SPECIAL MUSIC

“Create in Me”

By Purifoy

Advent Choir

Offering is taken and the offering plates will be passed. You may put your donation in one of the pew envelopes and put in the offering plates, or use the “Online Donator” card, found in the pew rack. You can also support Advent’s Ministries by using this QR code:



You may remain seated or stand

CONFSSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P Most holy and merciful God,

C **we confess to you and to one another, and before the whole company of heaven, that we have sinned by our fault, by our own fault, by our own most grievous 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, O God.**

P We have shut our ears 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, O God.**

P Our past unfaithfulness, the pride, envy, hypocrisy, and apathy that have infected our lives, we confess to you.

C **Have mercy on us, O God.**

P Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, our exploitation of other people, we confess to you.

C **Have mercy on us, O God.**

P Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to share the faith that is in us, we confess to you.

C **Have mercy on us, O God.**

P Our neglect of human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty, we confess to you.

C **Have mercy on us, O God.**

P Our false judgments, our uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us, we confess to you.

C **Have mercy on us, O God.**

P Restore us, O God, and let your anger depart from us.

C **Hear us, O God, for your mercy is great.**

Sit

THE IMPOSITION OF ASHES

The custom of Christians putting ashes on their foreheads to signify their penitence relates to the Old Testament custom of using ashes to indicate sorrow and mourning.

P Remember that you are dust, and to dust we would return if not for God's grace.

When all have received ashes, the minister continues

You may remain seated or stand

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 Savior,

C **bring us with all your saints to the joy of His resurrection.**

P Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life.

C **Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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 Guide your church, O God. Accompany all Christians in this season of repentance, and renew our faith in the riches of grace you give to us in baptism. Lead and support our Bishop Suzanne and her staff as well as our national Bishop Rev. Yehiel Curry. Hear us, O God.

C **Your mercy is great.**

A Heal this earth, O God. Satisfy the needs of every parched place, every diverse ecosystem, every suffering creature. Though all return to dust, grant beauty and purpose to each living thing. Hear us, O God.

C **Your mercy is great.**

A Restore the nations, O God. Let your healing spring up quickly across the world, especially in Tanzania, Sudan, Ukraine, Gaza, Israel, Russia, and the United States. Give all in authority the will to loose the bonds of injustice and let any who are oppressed go free. Hear us, O God.

C **Your mercy is great.**

A Deliver your people, O God. Comfort any whose hearts are rent by grief, uphold any who are sick, bring food to those who hunger, and give housing to all without shelter. We take a moment now to pray for those in need of healing; family members, friends, co-workers, casual acquaintances and those we know by name, either out loud, or silently in our hearts (**pause**). Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A Bless this assembly, O God. Reconcile us to one another and to you. Strengthen our resolve to fast from evil, open our hands in sharing, and quicken our prayer. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A God who brought Advent into mission, be present in our call committee. Bless them with wisdom, insight and patience. Reassurance us, as we await your Spirits revelation, concerning our next called pastor. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A Hold us forever, O God. We thank you for all who now know their treasure in heaven, and for Martin Luther and all who on earth proclaimed your abounding, steadfast love. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

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

C Amen.

COMMUNION

P The Lord is with you.

C **And is 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 our thanks and praise.**

P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy.... And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and remember.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P 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.

LORD'S PRAYER

A 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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P Come to the table. Feast on God's goodness and mercy.

DISTRIBUTION

This communion bread is free from: Gluten, Dairy, Nuts, Egg and Yeast.

Grape juice is available by request at the chancel rail.

*Please place your empty communion cup in the baskets
provided on the first row of chairs.*

**If you would like to receive communion at your seat,
please let an usher know.**

POST COMMUNION

P And now may the body of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, and His most holy and precious blood, strengthen you and preserve you and keep you to true faith unto life everlasting. May we depart in peace and may the Lord be with you.

C Amen

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.

C Amen.

WE ARE SENT OUT TO SERVE

BENEDICTION

P Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity: God, who calls all things into existence, Jesus Christ, who redeems us, and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation,  bless you now and always.

SENDING HYMN

“Jesus Keep Me Near the Cross”

1 Je - sus, keep me near the cross, there's a pre - cious foun - tain;
4 Near the cross I'll watch and wait, hop - ing, trust - ing ev - er,

free to all, a heal - ing stream flows from Cal - v'ry's moun - tain.
till I reach the gold - en strand just be - yond the riv - er.

Refrain

In the cross, in the cross be my glo - ry ev - er;

till my ran - somed soul shall find rest be - yond the riv - er.

DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Worship God, Follow Jesus, Serve Others, and Make Disciples.

C **Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE

ACOLYTE	Andrena Samuel
ASSISTING MINISTER	Brent Welch
PASTOR	Interim Pastor David Hinkelmann

This Week at Advent

Thur Feb 19	Bell Choir rehearsal	6:40pm
	Advent Choir rehearsal	7:30pm
Sat Feb 21	Building Use – Singing Buckeyes	9am-2pm
Sun Feb 22	Worship Service	8:30am
	Sunday School/Adult Learning	9:45am
	Worship Service	11:00am
	Confirmation/Sr. High	12:15pm

Looking Ahead:

Weds in Lent	Soup Suppers & Worship Service	6:30 pm/7:15 pm
Mon March 30	Holy Monday Worship Service	7:00 pm
Tue March 31	Holy Tuesday Worship Service	7:00 pm
Wed April 1	Holy Wednesday Worship Service	7:00 pm
Thur April 2	Maundy Thursday Worship Services	12 Noon & 7:00 pm
Fri April 3	Good Friday Worship Services	12 Noon & 7:00 pm
Sun April 5	Easter Sunday! Worship	8:30 am & 11:00 am
Sun May 3	Advent's 60 th Anniversary Celebration!	

Commemorations This Week:

Wed Feb 18, 2026: Martin Luther, renewer of the church, died 1546

Though he began his adult church life as a simple Augustinian monk, Luther challenged the abuses he saw in the church, and his work eventually led to the Protestant Reformation. Luther's accomplishments included liturgical reform, translation of the Bible, and creation of the Small and Large Catechisms.