

HAVE MERCY ON ME O GOD  
ACCORDING TO YOUR STEADFAST  
LOVE BLOT OUT MY TRANSGRESSIONS  
WASH ME THOROUGHLY AND CLEANSSE  
ME FROM MY SIN + RESTORE TO ME  
THE JOY OF YOUR SALVATION

PSALM 51:1,2,12



# ASH WEDNESDAY

FEBRUARY 18, 2026

12:00 P.M. & 6:15 P.M.

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH  
NORTHFIELD, MINNESOTA

## OUR WORSHIP TODAY

*Ash Wednesday is a solemn day of prayer that begins the forty-day season of Lent. During Lent we prepare for the celebration of the Three Days of Jesus' death and resurrection. On Ash Wednesday we confess our sin in a litany of penitence. We receive the sign of ashes as an external mark of our mortality. Ashes are an ancient symbol of repentance and mourning. We recall God's words to Adam and Eve following their disobedience: "You are dust, and to dust you shall return." The use of ashes also calls to mind the words of the funeral liturgy, "ashes to ashes, dust to dust." By honestly facing our need for forgiveness and healing, we turn to the springtime of God's mercy and grace.*

## GATHERING IN GOD'S PRESENCE

**Prelude** — “Song of Peace”

Jean Langlais

### Welcome and Announcements

**\*Gathering Hymn** — ELW No. 321              “Eternal Lord of Love, Behold Your Church”

### \*Greeting

- ¶ The Lord be with you.  
¶ And also with you.

## \*Prayer of the Day

¶ Gracious God, out of your love and mercy you breathed into dust the breath of life, creating us to serve you and our neighbors. Call forth our prayers and acts of kindness, and strengthen us to face our mortality with confidence in the mercy of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. ¶ **Amen.**

## Imposition of Ashes

*All who desire to receive ashes on their foreheads may come forward. As the sign of the cross is made with ashes, the words “Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.” are spoken as a reminder of our brokenness before God.*

*After receiving ashes, you may return to your seat.*

*When all have received ashes, the liturgy continues.*

¶ Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation,  
¶ **C that we may show forth your glory in the world.**  
¶ By the cross and passion of your Son, our Savior,  
¶ **C bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.**

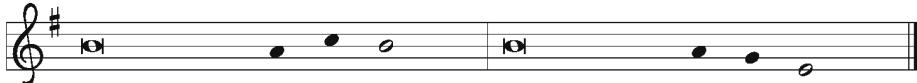
# HEARING GOD'S WORD

## First Reading — Joel 2:12-17

<sup>12</sup>Yet even now, says the LORD, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; <sup>13</sup>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. <sup>14</sup>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? <sup>15</sup>Blow the trumpet in Zion; consecrate a fast; call a solemn assembly; <sup>16</sup>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. <sup>17</sup>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?’ ”

¶ The word of the Lord.  
¶ **Thanks be to God.**

## Psalmody — Psalm 51:1-4, 10-13



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

<sup>2</sup>**Wash me through and through from my wickedness,  
and cleanse me from my sin.**

<sup>3</sup>For I know my offenses,  
and my sin is ever before me.

<sup>4</sup>**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.**

<sup>10</sup>Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
and renew a right spirit within me.

<sup>11</sup>**Cast me not away from your presence,  
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.**

<sup>12</sup>Restore to me the joy of your salvation  
and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.

<sup>13</sup>**Let me teach your ways to offenders,  
and sinners shall be restored to you.**

## \*Gospel Acclamation

KAS DZIEDĀJA

We are turning, Lord to hear you; you are merciful and  
kind— slow to anger, rich in blessing, and with love to us inclined.

## \*Gospel — Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

**P** The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 6<sup>th</sup> chapter.

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

[Jesus said to the disciples:] <sup>1</sup>“Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven. <sup>2</sup>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. <sup>3</sup>But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what

your right hand is doing,<sup>4</sup>so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.<sup>5</sup>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.<sup>6</sup>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.

<sup>16</sup>And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward.<sup>17</sup>But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face,<sup>18</sup>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.<sup>19</sup>Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal;<sup>20</sup>but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal.<sup>21</sup>For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

- ¶ The Gospel of the Lord.
- ¶ Praise to you, O Christ.

**Homily**

Pastor Jonathan Davis

## RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

**Hymn of the Day** — ACS No. 920

“All Things of Dust to Dust Return”

### Invitation to Lent

#### \*Confession of Sin

- ¶ Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,  
who brings us safely through the sea,  
who gives us water from the rock,  
who leads us into the land of milk and honey.
- ¶ Amen.
- ¶ Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.
- ¶ **Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,  
have mercy on us.**

- ¶ For self-centered living,  
and for failing to walk with humility and gentleness:
- ¶ **Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,  
have mercy on us.**
- ¶ For longing to have what is not ours,  
and for hearts that are not at rest with ourselves:
- ¶ **Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,  
have mercy on us.**
- ¶ For misuse of human relationships,  
and for unwillingness to see the image of God in others:
- ¶ **Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,  
have mercy on us.**
- ¶ For jealousies that divide families and nations,  
and for rivalries that create strife and warfare:
- ¶ **Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,  
have mercy on us.**
- ¶ For reluctance in sharing the gifts of God,  
and for carelessness with the fruits of creation:
- ¶ **Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,  
have mercy on us.**
- ¶ For hurtful words that condemn,  
and for angry deeds that harm:
- ¶ **Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,  
have mercy on us.**
- ¶ For idleness in witnessing to Jesus Christ,  
and for squandering the gifts of love and grace:
- ¶ **Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,  
have mercy on us.**
- ¶ In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. Through the Holy Spirit, God cleanses us and gives us the power to proclaim the mighty acts of the one who called us out of hiding into his marvelous truth. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
- ¶ **Amen.**

## \*Prayers of Intercession

*After each petition:*

**L** Lord, in your mercy,  
**C** hear our prayer.

## \*Peace

**P** The peace of Christ be with you always.

**C** And also with you.

*You are invited to share God's peace with those around you.*

## Offering of Our Gifts

*Music at the Offering:*

(12:00) "Give Me Jesus"

Spiritual, arr. Moses Hogan

*Lacy Williams, soprano*

(6:15) "To Dust"

Karen Marrolli

*Let my crying come to dust. Let my grief be turned to ashes. Let my heart be cleansed with flame. Kyrie eleison. Let my mourning turn to song. Let my sorrow turn to sunrise. Let my broken spirit rest. Kyrie eleison. Let your healing waters rise. Let your deserts bloom with bounty. Let your Spirit come. Christe eleison.*

*Let our crying come to dust. Let our grief be turned to ashes. Let our hearts be cleansed with flame. Kyrie eleison.* – Karen Marrolli

*St. John's Chorale*

## \*Offering Hymn — "Create in Me a Clean Heart"

FRANCKE

*For music, see ELW No. 188.*

**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 unto me the joy of your salvation,  
and uphold me with your free Spirit.**

## \*Offering Prayer

- L** Let us pray.
- C** Holy God, you abide with your creation and in Jesus Christ you gather us at your table. As you stayed with your disciples for an evening meal, so now stay with us. As we receive these gifts of bread and wine, open our hearts to share what we have received, the abiding love of Jesus, our Savior. Amen.

## SHARING THE LORD'S SUPPER

### \*Great Thanksgiving

- 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 our thanks and praise.
- P** It is indeed right . . . we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

*Sung first in English, then Spanish.*

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, my heart, my heart a - dores you.  
San - to, san - to, san - to, mi co - ra - zón te\_a - do - ra.

My heart is glad to say the words: You are ho - ly, God.  
Mi co - ra - zón te sa - be de - cir: San - to\_e-res Se - ñor.

Text and music: Argentine traditional

## \*Eucharistic Prayer

- ¶ Our hearts burn within us as we proclaim the mystery of faith:  
¶ Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.
- ¶ Like a mother hen, hold us close . . . into our deepest night, come, Lord Jesus.  
¶ Come, Lord Jesus.
- ¶ Come, Holy Spirit, make here . . . in rest for the weary, come, Holy Spirit.  
¶ Come, Holy Spirit.

## \*The Lord's Prayer

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.

*All God's children are welcome at the table.  
Communion will be received standing at stations in the front of sanctuary;  
ushers will direct you forward. Gluten-free wafers are available in the center.  
After you have been served the bread you will be offered wine or grape juice.  
The grape juice is white and is located in the center of the tray.  
If you are unable to come forward, let an usher know,  
and communion will be brought to you.*

## Music During Communion

**Anthem** — “Lamb of God”

F. Melius Christiansen

*Lamb of God most holy! Who on the cross didst suffer, patient still and lowly,  
thyself to scorn didst offer; our sins by thee were taken, or hope had us forsaken:  
Have mercy on us, O Jesu!*

– Nikolaus Decius

**Hymn** — ELW No. 480

“O Bread of Life from Heaven”

## \*Post-Communion Blessing

# DEPARTING TO SERVE GOD'S WORLD

## \*Blessing

- ¶ Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,  
bless you now and forever.  
C Amen.

## \*Dismissal

- ¶ Go forth into the world to serve God with gladness; be of good courage;  
hold fast to that which is good; render to no one evil for evil; strengthen  
the fainthearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honor all people;  
love and serve God, rejoice in the power of the Holy Spirit.  
C Thanks be to God.

**Postlude** — “We Thank You, Lord Jesus Christ” BWV 623

J. S. Bach



## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Cover art by Judy Swanson.

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## **SERVING AT ST. JOHN'S TODAY:**

|                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| Presiding           | Pastor Pam Fickenscher  |
| Preaching           | Pastor Jonathan Davis   |
| Assisting Ministers | (12:00) Dennis Rinehart<br>(6:15) Ralph Yernberg  |
| Organist            | Nathan Proctor  |
| Soloist             | (12:00) Lacy Williams   |
| Choir               | (6:15) St. John's Chorale   |
| Piano               | (6:15) David Sims   |
| Communion Service   | Angie Gehring   |
| Ushers              | (12:00) Angie Gehring, Larry Enfield, Rick Hillard, John Ophaug<br>(6:15) Jonathan Norrie, Wyatt Norrie,<br>Chris Tacheny, Andrew Tachney |

## **LENTEN WEDNESDAY WORSHIP: WHEN HAVE YOU FELT CALLED?**

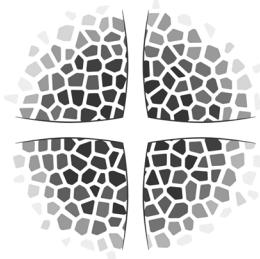
When people speak of a calling, it is often in large-scale, life-altering terms, like a career or a decades-long responsibility. But God calls in many ways, sometimes to actions that are smaller and less noticed by the world, and sometimes in the midst of circumstances we never would choose. This Lenten season we are inviting five members of St. John's to reflect on the notion of calling and to share how they have felt called in their lives.

*To this end we always pray for you, asking that our God will make you worthy of his call and will fulfill by his power every good resolve and work of faith, so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you and you in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.*

– 2 Thessalonians 1:11-12

Lenten Vespers—taken from the Holden Evening Prayer liturgy—will take place each Wednesday at 6:15 p.m. from February 25 through March 25.

- February 25: Paul Beck
- March 4: Gordy Turpin-Moore
- March 11: Rusty Kluver
- March 18: Susan Lohmann
- March 25: Anika Rychner



# St. John's

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Pam Fickenscher, *Senior Pastor*  
Jonathan Davis, *Associate Pastor*  
Julie Brehmer, *Director of Children's Ministry*  
Steve Harner, *Facility Manager*  
Leah H. Garlie, *Office Manager / Finance Manager*  
Angie Gehring, *Shared Ministry Coordinator*  
Sally Lindell, *Faith Community Nurse*  
Arielle Loy, *Alleluia Choir Director and Early Childhood Specialist*  
Kristin Partlo, *Director of Ministry with Youth & Families*  
Nathan Proctor, *Organist and Director of Worship, Music & Arts*  
Arturo Rosas, *Custodial Associate*  
David Sims, *Director of Rejoice Ringers*

Call the church office or check the website for a complete listing of staff emails.

*St. John's Lutheran Church stands on the  
ancestral homelands of the Wahpekute band of the Dakota nation.  
We respect and are grateful for the generations of native people who have cared for this land.*