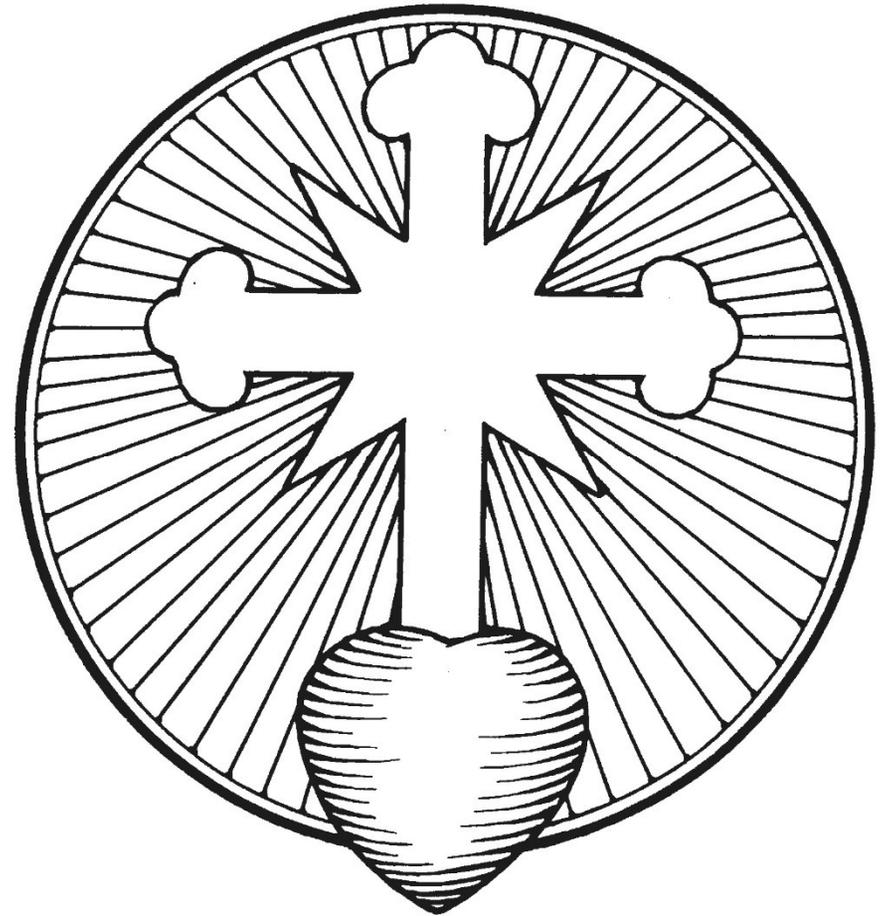


About Tonight's Service

The Ash Wednesday Liturgy marks the beginning of a penitential discipline that climaxes in the liturgy of the Triduum, the great "three days": Holy (Maundy) Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday (the last of which days Pilgrim does not yet observe with a service, such as the historic Easter Vigil). Tonight, the mood is one of penitence and reflection on the quality of our faith and life. Our goal is participation in the Lenten discipline, which, by its focus on the mystery of Christ's redeeming us, should strengthen us by bringing us anew the gift of our Baptism.

The Liturgy of this Divine Service is less joyous and more reflective and penitential in nature than other services. The solemn character of the service is reflected even in the austere dress of the chancel furnishings and the vestments of the pastor. In the service itself, there is less music and more silence than usual, which is appropriate and preferred on this penitential occasion. (For example, there is no pre-service or post-service music, and the Psalm is spoken.) The "Alleluia" is put away for all of Lent.

Although the corporate general confession before Divine Services at Pilgrim is not followed by public "absolution", Pastor Galler is available to hear private confession, general or particular, and to effect individual Holy Absolution: come during his scheduled study hours or contact him to set up another time. To be sure, the baptized faithful are already forgiven and live in a state of grace with constant forgiveness for their venial (non-mortal) sins, and forgiveness is also worked by the read and preached Gospel and by the Lord's Supper, for which we are worthy and well-prepared by having faith in Jesus's words, "Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins."



***Where your treasure is,
your heart will be also.***

The black and white line-art drawing on the front cover is by Lutheran Artist Edward Riojas of Our Savior Lutheran Church, Grand Rapids, Michigan, and is part of a package purchased from Higher Things and donated to Pilgrim for such uses. Most liturgical elements in the service are adapted from *Lutheran Service Book* (© 2006 Concordia Publishing House), reprinted from *Lutheran Service Builder* (license #110005153). An additional element is from *The (Proposed) Book of Common Prayer: According to the Use of the Episcopal Church* (©1977 Kingsport Press). Scripture passages used are from *The Holy Bible, English Standard Version* (© 2001 Crossway Bibles, a division of Good News Publishers, used by permission, all rights reserved).



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WELCOME TO PILGRIM'S ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE! Tonight, with the use of ashes, we especially mourn and are reminded of our sin, which separates us from God and causes our earthly death, but we also receive God's forgiveness of sins and eternal life through His Word and Sacrament. We invite you to join us throughout the season of Lent and for every season of the Church Year!

AS YOU ARRIVE, please move down the pew towards the wall, in order to leave room for others. If you arrive late, please wait for an appropriate time to enter the sanctuary, such as during a hymn. Please also remember to turn off your cell phones and/or any other electronic devices. Thank you!

ORDER OF SERVICE: To your right you will find today's order of service. The right side of that outline indicates from where the item listed comes: either in this bulletin or the hymnal, *Lutheran Service Book*, with the Psalms towards the front, its liturgical pages towards the middle, and its hymns towards the back. The Δ symbol before a hymn stanza indicates that it especially gives glory to the Triune God; we stand before singing the stanza and, in most cases, conclude the stanza by singing "Amen.", if an "Amen" is not already included.

HOLY COMMUNION: At Pilgrim we value your presence among us and love and care about our guests and visitors! However, due to the sad divisions that exist in the world and even in Christianity, we cannot commune everyone at the Lord's Table here. We respectfully ask that guests and visitors who desire to commune first speak with the pastor well before the service. All those present but not communing still may approach the rail for a blessing: come forward and kneel with those who are communing, but fold your arms over your heart and place your hands on the opposite shoulders. For more information about the ancient practice of Closed Communion, see <http://www.pilgrimlc.org/closed-communion>.

INDIVIDUAL CUPS: The top of the tray contains several individual cups of highly-diluted wine. If you receive the blood of Christ in an individual cup, please be sure to wait to consume it until Pastor comes by with the chalice, so that he knows you are receiving it in that fashion. If the supply of individual cups is depleted, please accept the blood of Christ from the chalice.

ASH WEDNESDAY 2026 FEBRUARY 18
DIVINE SERVICE, SETTING ONE (*Lutheran Service Book*, pp.151-166)

+++ IN THE NAME OF JESUS +++

Please be silent before the service.

PREPARATION

Stand

Invocation 151

P In the Name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Psalm 51 (antiphon: v.17) 51

(The antiphon indicated begins and ends the Psalm.

Pastor and people alternate by half-verses.

All speak the *Gloria Patri*.)

Sit

Pastor's Exhortation

Silence for reflection and self-examination

Stand

Imposition of Ashes

P Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth: Grant that these ashes may be to us a sign of our mortality and penitence, so that we may remember that it is only by your gracious gift that we are given everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

C Amen.

(The congregation may be seated. A representative of the congregation imposes the ashes on the Pastor, and then all those who desire ashes may come forward to the Baptismal Font to receive the ashes from him, before returning to their seats. The words spoken are from Genesis 3:19. You may meditate on Psalm 90, while sitting silently in the pew during the imposition. Note well: Receiving ashes is neither commanded nor forbidden by God and so generally is a matter of Christian freedom and voluntary: those who do receive ashes should not look down on those who do not receive ashes, and those who do not receive ashes should not be suspect of those who do receive ashes.)

Stand or kneel

Confession 151

- P** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.
- C** **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

Declaration of Grace 151

- 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.**

Sit

Time for Silent Meditation

(Contemplate how to make your sanctification real in your own individual life.)

SERVICE OF THE WORD

Stand

The Collect of the Day 156

- P** Almighty and everlasting God, You despise nothing You have made and forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create in us new and contrite hearts that lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness we may receive from You full pardon and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Sit

Old Testament: Joel 2:12-19 156

Psalm 103:8-14

- P** The LORD is merciful and gracious,
C **slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**
- P** He will not always chide,
C **nor will He keep His anger forever.**
- P** He does not deal with us according to our sins,
C **nor repay us according to our iniquities.**
- P** For as high as the heavens are above the earth,
C **so great is His steadfast love toward those who fear Him;**
- P** as far as the east is from the west,
C **so far does He remove our transgressions from us.**
- P** As a father shows compassion to his children,
C **so the LORD shows compassion to those who fear Him.**
- P** For He knows our frame;
C **He remembers that we are dust.**

Epistle: 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10 156

Stand

Alleluia and Verse: Lent 157

- P** Return to the Lord, your God, for He is gracious and merciful,
C **slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.**

Holy Gospel: Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21 157

Hymn of the Day: "From Depths of Woe I Cry to You" 607

Sit

Sermon: 1 Corinthians 15:44b-49
"Bearing the image of the man of dust and the Man of Heaven"

Stand

Nicene Creed 158

Prayer of the Church: Litany (Musical Setting) **Litany Booklet**

(Where petitions are grouped, sing the indicated response after each petition.

The Lord's Prayer is omitted at this point in the Divine Service.

The following Versicle and Response are used before the Collect.)

- P** O Lord, do not deal with us according | to our sins.
C **Do not reward us according to our in- | iquities.**

Sit

Stand

Offering & Offertory 159-160
(Offerings placed in the Box in the Narthex before the Service are brought forward here.)

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

Preface, Sanctus, Prayer of Thanksgiving, (left column) 160-163
The Words of Our Lord, Proclamation of Christ, (Prayer of Remembrance,) Lord's Prayer, Pax Domini, & Agnus Dei

Sit

Distribution (& Distribution Hymns): 164
 " Savior, When in Dust to Thee" 419
 " Before the Throne of God Above" 574
 " Forth in Thy Name, O Lord, I Go" 854

Stand

Post-Communion Canticle: "Nunc Dimittis" 165
Post-Communion Collect, & Benediction 166

Please leave in silence to extend the solemnity of the service.

+ + + TO GOD ALONE BE THE GLORY + + +

THE ALTAR CRUCIFIX IS VEILED this year, Pilgrim's Board of Elders decided, beginning on Ash Wednesday. In the past, Pilgrim has veiled the crucifix at other times, such as beginning on Palm Sunday, as is suggested with our three-year lectionary. With the historic one-year lectionary, the Fifth Sunday in Lent, called "Judica", by the first Latin word of its Introit, and sometimes known as "Passion Sunday", marked the beginning of what was called "Passiontide" and was marked by the veiling of crosses in the Church in anticipation of Good Friday. Other congregations veil the cross for all of Lent. Regardless of when it is veiled, the cross is not forgotten, but, with the veil's somewhat transparent material, its outlines are still apparent, while only its finer artistic details are concealed. In that way and others, the veil can be a sign of austerity and restraint, symbolize the rejection of Jesus, intensify our focus on the cross by making us think about beyond what our eyes can see, and remind us that we are not worthy to look on the cross.

SERVING TODAY: The Rev. Dr. Jayson S. Galler, Pastor; Don Gibson, Elder on Duty; and Elaine Navaille, Accompanist.

THANKS to Remo Gualtieri for turning old Palm Sunday palms into new Ash Wednesday ashes.

CATECHESIS: Tomorrow, February 19, Pastor Galler will continue both the youth class starting at 4:15 p.m. via Jitsi and the family class starting at 7:30 p.m. in-person in the Conference Room/Library.

"LOOSE-CHANGE SUNDAY": Please plan to use the large Mite Box in the Narthex this Sunday, February 22, after the Divine Service, in order to contribute your loose change and more, beyond your regular offering, for LWML mites that in part fund District and National mission grants (lists of grant recipients are on the bulletin board above the Mite Box).

THIS SUNDAY: 9:15 a.m. Refreshments; 9:30 a.m. Sunday School and Adult Bible Class ("Romans: The Righteousness of God"); and 10:45 a.m. Divine Service.

Readings: Gen 3:1-21; Ps 32:1-7; Ro 5:12-19; and Mt 4:1-11.

Hymns: LSB 814, 656, 572, 521, 714, and 424.

Prepare yourself for worship in advance by praying about, reading over, and meditating on the appointed Scripture Readings and Hymns.

"SOUP AND SERMON" AT ST. LUKE'S METHODIST CHURCH: Pastor Galler will be the presenter next Wednesday, February 25. Lunch starts at 11:30 a.m. (the church is at 401 E. Main, Kilgore). All are welcome to attend.

MIDWEEK LENT SOUP/SALAD SUPPERS: Again this year Pilgrim will be having 6:00 p.m. Soup/Salad Suppers before the five Midweek Lenten Vespers Services (February 25 and March 4, 11, 18, and 25). If you (and maybe a partner) are willing to provide and serve one of the meals, please use the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the Parish Hall or otherwise get with Inreach Coordinator Joy McHargue.

MIDWEEK LENTEN VESPERS: You are invited and welcome to join us each of the next five Wednesdays in Lent for a shorter Midweek Lenten Vespers Service at 7:00 p.m., including the praying of a penitential Psalm and the Great Litany, the reading of the Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. Matthew, and a special sermon series titled, "St. Matthew's account of Jesus's Passion's fulfilling prophecy". The first week focuses on Psalm 41:9 and Matthew 26:23-24.