

# Historic Zion Lutheran Church

## DIVINE SERVICE FOR ASH WEDNESDAY

7:00 pm ..... Wednesday, February 18, 2026

### RECEIVING OF THE LORD'S SUPPER AT ZION

As intended by Christ and as practiced by the one, holy, catholic and apostolic church throughout her history, "Closed Communion" is observed in this congregation, in which the Lord's Supper is distributed only to those:

- (a) who have been **baptized** in the Name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit;
- (b) who have been **instructed** in the truth of Holy Scripture as taught in the Lutheran Confessions, who have been **confirmed** in this Lutheran faith, and who now confess the same doctrines that are taught in this congregation, holding membership in a congregation of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod;
- (c) who **believe that in this sacrament the real body and blood of Christ are truly distributed to them and orally received by them**, bestowing on them the forgiveness of sins, life and salvation;
- (d) who **sincerely repent** of all their sins, and desire to receive God's forgiveness in this holy meal.

Guests at our services, before receiving the sacrament, are requested to affirm these facts with one of our pastors. Thank you for honoring our practice. If you are looking for a church home, would like to be a member of Zion, or would like to learn more about the Christian Faith, please speak to one of our pastors about our membership classes.

✠ = appropriate to make the baptismal sign of the cross  
When "rise" or "kneel" is indicated, it is appropriate to sit if needed

*The Congregation rises, turns towards the entrance of the nave, and faces the Cross of Christ, the reminder of Christ's promise to come and dwell among His people as they are gathered in His name.*

### Invocation

*In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. .... Amen!*

### Introit



[Antiphon] *The sacrifices of God are a | bro- ken •spirit•; || a broken and contrite heart, O God, | you will not de- | spise.*

Verse 1: **Have mercy on me, O God, according to your | stead- fast love; || according to your abundant mercy | blot out my trans- | gressions•.**

Verse 2: *Wash me thoroughly from my in- | i- qui- ty, || and | cleanse me from my | sin!*

Verse 3: **For I know | my trans- •gressions•, || and my sin is | •ever• be- fore\_\_ | me.**

Verse 4: *Create in me a clean | heart, O God, || and renew a right | •spirit• with- in\_\_ | me.*

Verse 5: **Cast me not away | from your •presence•, || and take not your Holy | Spi- rit from\_\_ | me.**

Verse 6: *Restore to me the joy of | your sal- •vation•, || and uphold me | with a will- ing | •spirit•.*

Gloria: **Glory be to the Father and | to the Son: || and | to the Ho- ly | •Spirit•; As it was in the be- | •ginning•, is now, || and will | be for- •ever•. A- | men!**

[Antiphon] *The sacrifices of God are a | bro- ken •spirit•; || a broken and contrite heart, O God, | you will not de- | spise.*

### Blessing of the Ashes

*The Lord be with you. .... And with your spirit.*

*Let us pray: [ After each petition ]:..., Jesus Christ our Lord. .... Amen.  
[ After the final petition ]:...one God, now and forever.....Amen.*

### Pastoral Address for the Beginning of Lent

*Dear brothers and sisters in Christ: ...*

*Let us humble ourselves before God, confess our sins to Him, and implore His forgiveness.*



*all sick persons and young children; to free those in bondage; and to have mercy on us all:*  
 ..... **We implore You to hear us, good Lord.**  
*To forgive our enemies, persecutors, and slanderers and to turn their hearts, to give and pre-  
 serve to our use the kindly fruits of the earth; and graciously to hear our prayers:*  
 ..... **We implore You to hear us, good Lord.**  
*Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, ..... we implore You to hear us.*  
*Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world, ..... have mercy.*  
*Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world, ..... have mercy.*  
*Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world, ..... grant us Your peace.*  
*O Christ, ..... hear us.*  
*O Lord, ..... have mercy.*  
*O Christ, ..... have mercy.*  
**O Lord, have mercy. Amen.**

**Salutation and Collect**

*The Lord be with you ..... And with your spirit.*  
*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 acknowl-  
 edging our wretchedness we may obtain 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. .... Amen.*

[ Be Seated ] + **The Office of the Word of God +**

**Old Testament Reading** ..... **Joel 2:12-19**  
 [ After the reading ] *This is the word of the Lord. .... Thanks be to God.*

**Epistle of the Day** ..... **2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10**  
 [ After the reading ] *This is the word of the Lord. .... Thanks be to God.*

[ Rise ] **Tract**



1. *Be merciful to . . . . | me, O God, be merciful to  
me, for in . . . . | You my soul takes | •refuge•.*
2. **He does not deal** **Nor repay us**  
**with us according | to our sins** **according to | our in- iq- ui- ties.**
3. *Do not remember* *Let Your com-*  
*against us our* *passion come*  
*former in ——— | iq— ui— ties.* *speedily to meet us,*  
*for we are . . . | brought \_\_\_ ve—ry low.*
4. **Help us, O God, of** **deliver us, and**  
**our salvation, for** **atone for our**  
**the glory . . . . . | of Your Name** **sins, . . . . . | for \_\_\_ Your name’s sake.**

**Holy Gospel** ..... **St. Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21**

[ The Gospel is announced. ]

[ The Gospel is proclaimed. ]



**Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord!**



**Praise be to Thee, O Christ!**

**Confession of Faith (The Nicene Creed)**

**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**

[ Bow ] **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 worshipped 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!

[ Be Seated ]

Hymn of the Day ..... From Depths of Woe ..... Burgundy Hymn 607

## Sermon

## Offerings, Voluntary

[ Rise ] Offertory Hymn Create in Me a Clean Heart, O God

Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right spir-it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from Thy pres - ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re-store un-to me the joy of Thy sal-va - tion; and up - hold me with Thy free spir-it. A - men.

+ The Office of the Sacrament of the Altar +

## Preface

*The Lord be with you.*

*Lift up your hearts.*

And with thy spir - it.

We lift them up un - to the Lord.

*Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God.*

It is meet and right so to do.

## Proper Preface for Lent, Sanctus

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth; Heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo - ry; Ho - san-na Ho - san-na, Ho - san-na in the high-est. Bless-ed is He, Bless-ed is He, Bless-ed is He that

com-eth in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na, Ho-san-na, Ho-san-na in the highest.

[ Kneel ] **Lord's Prayer**

[ Pastor chants: ] *Our Father who art in heaven; . . . . . but deliver us from evil.*

For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glo - ry for-  
 ev - er and ev - er. A - men.

**Words of Institution, Pax Domini**

*The peace of the Lord be with you always!*

A - men.

**Agnus Dei**

1-3. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the world,  
 Stanzas 1 and 2 | Stanza 3  
 have mer-cy up - on us. Grant us Thy Peace. A - - - men!

[ Be Seated ]

**Distribution Hymns** ..... **“As Surely as I Live,”** ..... **Burgundy Hymn 614**  
 [ Rise for stanza 8. ]

**Eucharistic Benediction**

*The Body and Blood of your Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting! ✠ Depart in Peace! ..... Amen!*

**Post-Communion Canticle** ..... **The Nunc Dimittis**

1. Lord now— lettest Thou Thy servant, de- part— in — peace, ac- cord- ing to Thy Word.
2. For mine\_\_ eyes have seen Thy Salvation, which Thou hast pre- pared\_\_ be— fore the face of all\_\_ people.

3. a Light to light-en the Gen- tiles and the Glo- ry of Thy peo- ple Is - - - ra-el.



4. Glo— ry\_\_\_ be to the  
Father, and to\_\_\_ the \_\_\_ Son, and to the Ho- ly Ghost.



5. As it\_\_\_ was in the  
beginning, is  
now, and e—ver shall be, world with-out end. A-men.

### Post Communion Rite

*As often as you eat this bread and drink this cup:*



Ye do show the Lord's death till He\_\_\_ come.

### Prayer of Thanksgiving ... now and forever.



A ——— men.

*The Lord be with you.*



And with thy spir — rit.

*Bless we the Lord.*



Thanks be to God.

### Benediction

*The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give you peace.*



A-men, A-men, A - men.

*The Congregation departs in silence.*

## Readings for Ash Wednesday

### The Old Testament Reading is Joel 2:12-19

“Yet even now,” declares the LORD, “return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;

and 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.

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 elders;

gather the children, even nursing infants.

Let the bridegroom leave his room, and the bride her chamber.

Between 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?’”

Then the LORD became jealous for his land

and had pity on his people.

The 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.”

### The Epistle is 2 Corinthians 5:20b–6:10

We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

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

### **The Gospel is Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21**

[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.

“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. But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

“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. But 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. ...

“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. But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, that 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.

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

## Hymns for the Ash Wednesday

### LSB609 Jesus Sinners Doth Receive

Erdmann Neumeister

1. Jesus sinners doth receive; Oh, may all this saying ponder  
Who in sin's delusions live And from God and heaven wander!  
Here is hope for all who grieve: Jesus sinners doth receive.
2. We deserve but grief and shame, Yet His words, rich grace revealing,  
Pardon, peace, and life proclaim; Here our ills have perfect healing.  
Firmly in these words believe: Jesus sinners doth receive.
3. Sheep that from the fold did stray No true shepherd e'er forsaketh;  
Wearied souls that lost their way Christ, the Shepherd, gently taketh  
In His arms that they may live: Jesus sinners doth receive.
4. I, a sinner, come to Thee With a penitent confession.  
Savior, mercy show to me; Grant for all my sins remission.  
Let these words my soul relieve: Jesus sinners doth receive.
5. Oh, how blest it is to know: Were as scarlet my transgression,  
It shall be as white as snow By Thy blood and bitter passion:  
For these words I now believe: Jesus sinners doth receive.
6. Now my conscience is at peace; From the Law I stand acquitted.  
Christ hath purchased my release And my ev'ry sin remitted.  
Naught remains my soul to grieve: Jesus sinners doth receive.
7. Jesus sinners doth receive; Also I have been forgiven;  
And when I this earth must leave, I shall find an open heaven.  
Dying, still to Him I cleave: Jesus sinners doth receive.

### LSB419 Savior When in Dust to Thee

Robert Grant

1. Savior, when in dust to Thee Low we bow the adoring knee;  
When, repentant, to the skies Scarce we lift our weeping eyes;  
O, by all Thy pains and woe Suffered once for us below,  
Bending from Thy throne on high, Hear our penitential cry!
2. By Thy helpless infant years, By Thy life of want and tears,  
By Thy days of deep distress In the savage wilderness,  
By the dread, mysterious hour Of the insulting tempter's pow'r,  
Turn, O turn a fav'ring eye; Hear our penitential cry!
3. By thine hour of dire despair, By thine agony of prayer,  
By the cross, the nail, the thorn, Piercing spear, and torturing scorn,

By the gloom that veiled the skies O'er the dreadful sacrifice,  
Listen to our humble sigh; Hear our penitential cry!

4. By Thy deep expiring groan, By the sad sepulchral stone,  
By the vault whose dark abode Held in vain the rising God,  
O, from earth to heav'n restored, Mighty, re-ascended Lord,  
Bending from Thy throne on high, Hear our penitential cry!

**LSB607 From Depths of Woe I Cry to Thee**

**Martin Luther**

1. From depths of woe I cry to Thee, In trial and tribulation;  
Bend down Thy gracious ear to me, Lord, hear my supplication.  
If Thou rememb'rest ev'ry sin, Who then could heaven ever win  
Or stand before Thy presence?
2. Thy love and grace alone avail To blot out my transgression;  
The best and holiest deeds must fail To break sin's dread oppression.  
Before Thee none can boasting stand, But all must fear Thy strict demand  
And live alone by mercy.
3. Therefore my hope is in the Lord And not in mine own merit;  
It rests upon His faithful Word To them of contrite spirit  
That He is merciful and just: This is my comfort and my trust.  
His help I wait with patience.
4. And though it tarry through the night And till the morning waken,  
My heart shall never doubt His might Nor count itself forsaken.  
O Israel, trust in God your Lord. Born of the Spirit and the Word,  
Now wait for His appearing.
5. Though great our sins, yet greater still Is God's abundant favor;  
His hand of mercy never will Abandon us, nor waver.  
Our shepherd good and true is He, Who will at last His Israel free  
From all their sin and sorrow.

**LSB614 "As Surely as I Live," God Said**

**George W. Briggs**

1. "As surely as I live," God said, "I would not see the sinner dead.  
I want him turned from error's ways, Repentant, living endless days."
2. And so our Lord gave this command: "Go forth and preach in ev'ry land;  
Bestow on all My pard'ning grace Who will repent and mend their ways.
3. "All those whose sins you thus remit I truly pardon and acquit,  
And those whose sins you will retain Condemned and guilty shall remain.

4. “What you will bind, that bound shall be; What you will loose, that shall be free;  
To My dear Church the keys are giv’n To open, close the gates of heav’n.”
5. The words which absolution give Are His who died that we might live;  
The minister whom Christ has sent Is but His humble instrument.
6. When ministers lay on their hands, Absolved by Christ the sinner stands;  
He who by grace the Word believes The purchase of His blood receives.
7. All praise to You, O Christ, shall be For absolution full and free,  
In which You show Your richest grace; From false indulgence guard our race.
- △ 8. Praise God the Father and the Son And Holy Spirit, Three in One,  
As was, is now, and so shall be World without end, eternally!



# What Doctor Luther Says:

## About Comfort for Sinners from God's Word

[Your] comfort is this, that in your deep anxieties — in which your consciousness of sin, sadness, and despair is so great and strong that it penetrates and occupies all the corners of your heart — you do not follow your consciousness. For if you did, you would say: “I feel the violent terrors of the Law and the tyranny of sin, not only waging war against me again but completely conquering me. I do not feel any comfort or righteousness. Therefore I am not righteous but a sinner. And if I am a sinner, then I am sentenced to eternal death.” But battle against this feeling, and say: “Even though I feel myself completely crushed and swallowed by sin and see God as a hostile and wrathful judge, yet in fact this is not true; it is only my feeling that thinks so. The Word of God, which I ought to follow in these anxieties rather than my own consciousness, teaches much differently, namely, that God is near to the brokenhearted, and saves the crushed in spirit (Ps. 34:18), and that He does not despise a broken and contrite heart’ (Ps. 51:17). And here Paul then teaches that through the Spirit, by faith, those who are justified do not yet feel the hope of righteousness but still wait for it.”

When the Law accuses and sin terrifies you, and you do not feel anything except the wrath and judgment of God, do not despair on that account. But “take the armor of God, the shield of faith, the helmet of hope, and the sword of the Spirit” (Eph. 6:13, 16, 17); and find out by experience what a good and brave warrior you are. By faith take hold of Christ, the Lord of the Law and of sin and of everything that accompanies them. When you believe in Him, you are justified — something that your reason and the consciousness of your heart do not tell you amid your temptation, but only the Word of God. Then, in the conflicts and fears that continually return to plague you, you should patiently look with hope for the righteousness that you have only by faith ....

*Luther's Works, 27:25-6.*