

**Ash Wednesday Worship
February 18, 2026**

Welcome

710 The Lord's My Shepherd, I'll Not Want

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| 1 | The Lord's my shepherd, I'll not want;
He makes me down to lie
In pastures green; He leadeth me
The quiet waters by. | 3 | Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale,
Yet will I fear no ill;
For Thou art with me, and Thy rod
And staff me comfort still. |
| 2 | My soul He doth restore again
And me to walk doth make
Within the paths of righteousness,
E'en for His own name's sake. | 4 | My table Thou hast furnishèd
In presence of my foes;
My head Thou dost with oil anoint,
And my cup overflows. |
| | 5 | | Goodness and mercy all my life
Shall surely follow me;
And in God's house forevermore
My dwelling place shall be. |

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In the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Come, let us draw near to the Lord our God.

I long to dwell in your tent forever and take refuge in the shelter of your wings.

(Psalm 61:4)

Who may ascend the hill of the Lord? Who may stand in his holy place?

**He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not lift up his soul to an idol
or swear by what is false.** (Psalm 24:3-4)

Who can say, "I have kept my heart pure; I am clean and without sin"? (Proverbs 20:9)

**"Woe to me! I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a
people of unclean lips."** (Isaiah 6:5)

Hymn of Confession.....*sung to: Chief of Sinners*

Chief of sinners though I be, Jesus shed His blood for me,
Died that I might live on high, Lives that I might never die.
As the branch is to the vine, I am His, and He is mine.

Words of Forgiveness

(2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:2)

Be reconciled to God. For our sake God made Him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God. So God urges us not to accept His grace in vain. For He says, "At an acceptable time I have listened to you, and on the day of salvation I have helped you." See, now is the acceptable time; now is the day of salvation!

It is my joyful duty as the called and ordained pastor of this congregation to announce the full forgiveness of all our sins, in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Hymn of Forgiveness.....*sung to: Chief of Sinners*

Peace, to soothe our bitter woes, God in Christ on us bestows;
Jesus bought our peace with God With His holy precious blood;
Peace in Him for sinners found In the gospel's joyful sound.

Prayer of the Day

Merciful Father, whose guiding hand has brought us to the completion of this day, we humbly pray for Your Spirit to stay with us and shelter us in quiet hours of the night that we, who are wearied by the changes and chances of this passing world, may rest in Your changeless peace; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen

Old Testament

Psalm 113:1-5

Praise the Lord. Praise, O servants of the Lord, praise the name of the Lord. Let the name of the Lord be praised, both now and forevermore. From the rising of the sun to the place where it sets, the name of the Lord is to be praised.

The Lord is exalted over all the nations, his glory above the heavens. Who is like the Lord our God, the One who sits enthroned on high,

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Epistle

Colossians 1:15-20

For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel

John 10:11-13

[Jesus said:] "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it. The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep."

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.

Object Lesson

Living together in trust and hope, we make confession of our faith in the God who saves us using the words of the Apostles' Creed.

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

739 Precious Lord, Take My Hand

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| 1 Precious Lord, take my hand,
Lead me on, let me stand;
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn.
Through the storm, through the night,
Lead me on to the light.
Take my hand, precious Lord; lead me home. | 2 When my way grows drear,
Precious Lord, linger near,
When my life is almost gone,
Hear my cry, hear my call;
Hold my hand lest I fall.
Take my hand, precious Lord; lead me home. |
| 3 When the darkness appears
And the night draws near
And the day is almost gone,
At the river I stand;
Guide my feet, hold my hand,
Take my hand, precious Lord; lead me home. | |

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Message

Prayers of the Church

Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus
And for all people according to their needs.

After each portion of the prayers:

Lord in Your mercy.
Hear our prayer.

Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, who taught us to pray:

The Lord's Prayer

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.

The Lord, be with you always.
And also with you.

In our catechism we are asked, "What is the Lord's Supper?"
It is the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ under the bread and wine, for Christians to eat and to drink.

And, "What is the benefit of such eating and drinking?"
It is contained in these words, "Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins."

In this Sacrament we receive the forgiveness of sins, life and salvation. Come and receive Christ's true body and blood as we rejoice in our common salvation.

Jesus' Directions for Communion

Invitation

Jesus says, "I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me." (Revelation 3:20)

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

(Revelation 22:20)

Agnus Dei/Lamb of God.....*sung to: My Faith Up to Thee*

O Lamb of God, we pray: Take all our sins away-
Our faith increase. Have mercy on us all,
Strengthen us when we fall,
Answer our fervent call And grant us peace.

Distribution Hymn

718 Jesus, Lead Thou On

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| 1 | Jesus, lead Thou on
Till our rest is won;
And although the way be cheerless,
We will follow calm and fearless.
Guide us by Thy hand
To our fatherland. | 3 | When we seek relief
From a long-felt grief,
When temptations come alluring,
Make us patient and enduring.
Show us that bright shore
Where we weep no more. |
| 2 | If the way be drear,
If the foe be near,
Let not faithless fears o'ertake us;
Let not faith and hope forsake us;
For through many_a woe
To our home we go. | 4 | Jesus, lead Thou on
Till our rest is won.
Heav'nly leader, still direct us,
Still support, console, protect us,
Till we safely stand
In our fatherland. |

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618 I Come, O Savior, to Thy Table

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| 1 | I come, O Savior, to Thy table,
For weak and weary is my soul;
Thou, Bread of Life, alone art able
To satisfy and make me whole: Refrain | 3 | Unworthy though I am, O Savior,
Because I have a sinful heart,
Yet Thou Thy lamb wilt banish never,
For Thou my faithful shepherd art: Refrain |
| 2 | Thy heart is filled with fervent yearning
That sinners may salvation see
Who, Lord, to Thee in faith are turning;
So I, a sinner, come to Thee. Refrain | 4 | Weary am I and heavy laden;
With sin my soul is sore oppressed;
Receive me graciously and gladden
My heart, for I am now Thy guest. Refrain |
| 5 | What higher gift can we inherit?
It is faith's bond and solid base;
It is the strength of heart and spirit,
The covenant of hope and grace. Refrain | | |
| ref | Lord, may Thy body and Thy blood
Be for my soul the highest good! | | |

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Post Communion Collect

We give thanks, almighty God, that You have refreshed us in this gift of grace in this sacrament. Strengthen us for our Lenten journey that, by your grace, we may boldly give witness that You are our Lord; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, now and forever.
Amen.

Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord lift up His countenance on you and give you peace. **Amen.**

The Imposition of Ashes

(Those who want may come forward to receive a cross of ashes on their foreheads.)

722 Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me

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| 1 Lord, take my hand and lead me
Upon life's way;
Direct, protect, and feed me
From day to day.
Without Your grace and favor
I go astray;
So take my hand, O Savior,
And lead the way. | 2 Lord, when the tempest rages,
I need not fear,
For You, the Rock of Ages,
Are always near.
Close by Your side abiding,
I fear no foe,
For when Your hand is guiding,
In peace I go. |
| 3 Lord, when the shadows lengthen
And night has come,
I know that You will strengthen
My steps toward home.
Then nothing can impede me,
O blessed Friend;
So take my hand and lead me
Unto the end. | |

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878 Abide with Me

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| 1 Abide with me, fast falls the eventide.
The darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide.
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, O abide with me. | 4 Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day;
Earth's joys grow dim, its glories pass away;
Change and decay in all around I see;
O Thou who changest not, abide with me. |
| 2 I need Thy presence ev'ry passing hour;
What but Thy grace can foil the tempter's pow'r?
Who like Thyself my guide and stay can be?
Through cloud and sunshine, O abide with me. | 5 I fear no foe with Thee at hand to bless;
Ills have no weight and tears no bitterness.
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory?
I triumph still if Thou abide with me! |
| 3 Come not in terrors, as the King of kings,
But kind and good, with healing in Thy wings;
Tears for all woes, a heart for ev'ry plea.
Come, Friend of sinners, thus abide with me. | 6 Hold Thou Thy cross before my closing eyes;
Shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies.
Heav'n's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee;
In life, in death, O Lord, abide with me. |

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