

Communion Blessing and Prayer

Merciful God,
accompany our journey through these forty days.
Empower us to be brave. Guide us that we may provide for those who are poor, pray for those in need, fast from self-indulgence, and above all that we may find our treasure in the life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

Benediction

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

Sending Hymn **“Blessed Assurance”** **ELW#638**

Dismissal

Go in peace. You have been marked with the cross of Christ.

St. Paul’s Evangelical Lutheran Church
Wilton, WI
Ash Wednesday
February 18, 2026
6:30 PM

Inviting People to Journey with Christ’s
Family In Spreading God’s Love and Mercy

*Remember that you are dust
and to dust you shall return. Genesis 3:19*

Welcome and Announcements

PSALM 51

- ¹ Have mercy on me, O God,
according to your steadfast love;
according to your abundant mercy,
blot out my transgressions.
- ² **Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,
and cleanse me from my sin.**
- ³ For I know my transgressions,
and my sin is ever before me.
- ⁴ **Against you, you alone, have I sinned
and done what is evil in your sight,
so that you are justified in your sentence
and blameless when you pass judgment.**
- ⁵ Indeed, I was born guilty,
a sinner when my mother conceived me.
- ⁶ **You desire truth in the inward being;
therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.**

⁷ Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

⁸ **Let me hear joy and gladness;
let the bones that you have crushed rejoice.**

⁹ Hide your face from my sins,
and blot out all my iniquities.

¹⁰ **Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and put a new and right spirit within me.**

¹¹ Do not cast me away from your presence,
and do not take your holy spirit from me.

¹² Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
and sustain in me a willing spirit.

¹³ Then I will teach transgressors your ways,
and sinners will return to you.

¹⁴ **Deliver me from bloodshed, O God,
O God of my salvation,
and my tongue will sing aloud of your deliverance.**

¹⁵ O Lord, open my lips,
and my mouth will declare your praise.

¹⁶ **For you have no delight in sacrifice;
if I were to give a burnt offering, you would not be
pleased.**

¹⁷ The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit;
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not
despise.

¹⁸ **Do good to Zion in your good pleasure;
rebuild the walls of Jerusalem;**

¹⁹ then you will delight in right sacrifices,
in burnt offerings and whole burnt offerings;
then bulls will be offered on your altar.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.
And also with you
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Words of Institution

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.

Distribution –

Offertory Hymn "Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful"

Offertory Prayer

**God of all creation, In this holy season, help us to turn our minds and hearts back to you. Lead us into repentance and renew our lives with your grace. Help us to remember that we are sinners, but even more, help us to remember your loving mercy. Fill us with generous hearts who are called to serve your world. In your holy name we pray.
Amen.**

Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful *Offering Song*

Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that
we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of
all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble
with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

Be Thou My Vision

ELW#793

Greeting and Prayer of the Day

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you always.
And also with you

Gracious God, out of your love and mercy you breathed into dust the breath of life, creating us to serve you and our neighbors. Change our hearts that we may return to you. Have mercy on us Lord, according to your steadfast love. In the name of Jesus we pray. Amen

Change My Heart, O God

Refrain
Change my heart, O God; make it ev-er true.
End
Change my heart, O God; may I be like you.
You are the pot-ter; I am the clay.
Refrain
Mold me and make me; this is what I pray.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

A Reading from Genesis 2:7-10, 15-17

7 then the LORD God formed man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.

8 And the LORD God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and there he put the man whom he had formed. 9 Out of the ground the LORD God made to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food, the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. 10 A river flows out of Eden to water the garden, and from there it divides and becomes four branches.

15 The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. 16 And the LORD God commanded the man, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden, 17 but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die."

Have mercy on us, O God.

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

Have mercy on us, O God.

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

Have mercy on us, O God.

Our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us, we confess to you.

Have mercy on us, O God.

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

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

Imposition of Ashes

Conclusion of Confession

Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation, that we may show forth your glory in the world.

By the cross and passion of your Son, our Savior, bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.

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.

Amen.

Hymn "Healer of Our Every Ill "

ELW#612

Offering

Sermon

Karen Sparling
Synod Authorized Minister

Invitation to Lent

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

Most holy and merciful God,
**we confess to you and to one another,
and before the whole company of heaven,
that we have sinned by our fault,
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, and mind, and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others as we have been forgiven.

Have mercy on us, O God.

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.

Have mercy on us, O God.

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

Have mercy on us, O God.

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

Have mercy on us, O God.

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

Change My Heart, O God

Refrain

Change my heart, O God; make it ev - er true.

Change my heart, O God; may I be like you.

You are the pot - ter; I am the clay.

Refrain

Mold me and make me; this is what I pray.

A reading from Genesis 3:1-11

1 Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat from any tree in the garden'?" 2 The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, 3 but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.'" 4 But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die, 5 for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and

evil.” 6 So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food and that it was a delight to the eyes and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. 7 Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked, and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

8 They heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. 9 But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, “Where are you?” 10 He said, “I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself.” 11 He said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?”

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Scripture Reading Genesis 3:17-19

And to the man God Said,
 “Because you have listened to the voice of the woman
 and have eaten of the tree
 about which I commanded you,
 “You shall not eat of it”
 cursed is the ground because of you;
 in toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life;
 thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you;
 and you shall eat the plants of the field
 by the sweat of your face
 You shall eat bread
 Until you return to the ground,
 For out of it you were taken;
 You are dust,
 and to dust you shall return

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