

ASH WEDNESDAY
The Weight of the First Sin
February 18, 2026
10:00 am and 6:30 pm



ASH
Wednesday

Zion Lutheran Church
1400 S Duluth Ave
Sioux Falls, SD 57105
605-338-5226
www.zlcsf.org

ORDER OF WORSHIP

WELCOME and REGISTER ATTENDANCE

OPENING WORDS

Pastor: Lent is a season when we are guided to the cross.

Throughout this holy time, we are drawn to Calvary to live in forgiveness, hope, love, peace, trust and perseverance. Each week, the services in this series named The Weight explores how sin's burden, humanity's sorrow, Israel's longing, and the Father's will converge in Jesus. Each week uncovers a dimension of the weight Jesus carried for us—and the freedom He gives in his cross and resurrection. Today's theme is The Weight Of The First Sin. My hope for this series is that the days and weeks of Lent call us to keep the focus of our lives of faith on Jesus, our Lord, to learn more of Him and His loving plan of salvation for us so that we may come to Easter with glad hearts.

OPENING HYMN: LSB 419 Savior, When in Dust to Thee

- 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, reascended Lord,
Bending from Thy throne on high,
Hear our penitential cry!

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INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

Pastor: In ancient times, people might display their sorrow over sin by scattering dust and ashes on their heads, a reminder that in Eden God decreed death as the penalty for sin: "You are dust, and to

dust you shall return” (Genesis 3:19). Yet God also promised that a Savior would come to destroy the power of the tempting serpent who had brought sin and death into God’s creation. In his suffering, the inspired prophet Job spoke of his trust in the Lord’s promise: “I know that my Redeemer lives, and at the last He will stand upon the earth” (Job 19:25). Confident in his Redeemer’s love, Job confessed his sins, “I despise myself, and repent in dust and ashes” (Job 42:6). Remembering that the promised Savior, Jesus our Redeemer, shed His blood on the cross for us, we take onto ourselves a mark of repentance. You are invited to come forward to receive the mark of ashes, a reminder that we, like Job, repent in dust and ashes.

(The Imposition of Ashes: Those who wish to receive ashes are invited to come forward and the pastor will apply ashes to the forehead or back of hand of each person with the words: Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.)

PRAYER

Pastor: Let us pray. O God, we beseech You to have compassion on the frailty of our mortal nature, and, of Your goodness, deign to bless and sanctify the ashes we have received to be a sign of our humility and Your pardon of our sins, that we, who acknowledge that we are dust and to dust we shall return, may by Your mercy worthily receive both the pardon of all our sins and the reward which You promise to those who are penitent; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

People: Amen.

HYMN: LSB 606 I Lay My Sins on Jesus

- 1 I lay my sins on Jesus,
The spotless Lamb of God;
He bears them all and frees us

From the accursèd load.
I bring my guilt to Jesus
To wash my crimson stains
Clean in His blood most precious
Till not a spot remains.

2 I lay my wants on Jesus;
All fullness dwells in Him;
He heals all my diseases;
My soul He does redeem.
I lay my griefs on Jesus,
My burdens and my cares;
He from them all releases;
He all my sorrows shares.

3 I rest my soul on Jesus,
This weary soul of mine;
His right hand me embraces;
I on His breast recline.
I love the name of Jesus,
Immanuel, Christ, the Lord;
Like fragrance on the breezes
His name abroad is poured.

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CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Pastor: Having received the symbol of repentance, let us confess our sins to God our Savior, using the words of the psalmist David.

People: “Have mercy on me, O God, according to Your steadfast love; according to Your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin! Hide Your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.”

Pastor: God has had mercy on us, and for the sake of Christ Jesus our Redeemer, He has forgiven our sins. I announce to you that your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

People: “Restore to me the joy of Your salvation and uphold me with a willing spirit!”

RESPONSORY HYMN: LSB 422

On My Heart Imprint Your Image

On my heart imprint Your image,
Blessèd Jesus, King of grace,
That life’s riches, cares, and pleasures
Never may Your work erase;
Let the clear inscription be:
Jesus, crucified for me,
Is my life, my hope’s foundation,
And my glory and salvation!

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PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray together.

All: Heavenly Father, although we are all too aware of our sins and failures, we repent with humble confidence, knowing that Jesus shed His blood on the cross for us. By Your grace, Your undeserved favor for sinners, You have brought us out of the domain of sin and transferred us into the kingdom of Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, in whom we have forgiveness for our sins. Lead us by Your Spirit to walk in love as Jesus walked, and to bear witness to the fact that our Redeemer lives! Hear our prayer and accept our praise in Jesus’ holy name. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING: Genesis 3:1-15

Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God really say, ‘You must not eat from any tree in the garden?’” The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, but God did say, ‘You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.’” “You will not certainly die,” the serpent said to the woman. “For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”

When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so, they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves. Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden. But the LORD God called to the man, “Where are you?” He answered, “I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so, I hid.” And he said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?” The man said, “The woman you put here with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it.” Then the LORD God said to the woman, “What is this you have done?” The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.” So, the LORD God said to the serpent, “Because you have done this, “Cursed are you above all livestock and all wild animals! You will crawl on your belly, and you will eat dust all the days of your life.

And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.”

Pastor: This Is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE READING: Romans 5:12-19

Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way, death came to all people, because all sinned— To be sure, sin was in the world before the law was given, but sin is not charged against anyone's account where there is no law. Nevertheless, death reigned from the time of Adam to the time of Moses, even over those who did not sin by breaking a command, as did Adam, who is a pattern of the one to come. But the gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died by the trespass of the one man, how much more did God's grace and the gift that came by the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, overflow to the many! Nor can the gift of God be compared with the result of one man's sin: The judgment followed one sin and brought condemnation, but the gift followed many trespasses and brought justification. For if, by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive God's abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ!

Consequently, just as one trespass resulted in condemnation for all people, so also one righteous act resulted in justification and life for all people. For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous.

Pastor: This Is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

HOLY GOSPEL: Matthew 4:1-11

Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. The tempter came to him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread." Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. "If you are the Son of God," he said, "throw yourself down. For it is written: "'He will command his angels concerning you, and they

will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.” Jesus answered him, “It is also written: ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’” Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. “All this I will give you,” he said, “if you will bow down and worship me.” Jesus said to him, “Away from me, Satan! For it is written: ‘Worship the Lord your God and serve him only.’” Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE (6:30 pm only)

SERMON HYMN: LSB 421 (verses 1-2, 4)

Jesus, Grant That Balm and Healing

- 1 Jesus, grant that balm and healing
In Your holy wounds I find,
Ev’ry hour that I am feeling
Pains of body and of mind.
Should some evil thought within
Tempt my treach’rous heart to sin,
Show the peril, and from sinning
Keep me from its first beginning.
- 2 Should some lust or sharp temptation
Fascinate my sinful mind,
Draw me to Your cross and passion,
And new courage I shall find.
Or should Satan press me hard,
Let me then be on my guard,
Saying, “Christ for me was wounded,”
That the tempter flee confounded.

4 Ev'ry wound that pains or grieves me
By Your wounds, Lord, is made whole;
When I'm faint, Your cross revives me,
Granting new life to my soul.
Yes, Your comfort renders sweet
Ev'ry bitter cup I meet;
For Your all-atoning passion
Has procured my soul's salvation.

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THE SERMON

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 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 on 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 worshiped 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.

OFFERING | TREASURE BOX

OFFERING HYMN: LSB 524

How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds

- 1 How sweet the name of Jesus sounds
 In a believer's ear!
 It soothes our sorrows, heals our wounds,
 And drives away our fear.
- 2 It makes the wounded spirit whole
 And calms the heart's unrest;
 'Tis manna to the hungry soul
 And to the weary, rest.
- 3 Dear name! The rock on which I build,
 My shield and hiding place;
 My never-failing treasury filled
 With boundless stores of grace.
- 4 O Jesus, shepherd, guardian, friend,
 My Prophet, Priest, and King,
 My Lord, my life, my way, my end,
 Accept the praise I bring.
- 5 How weak the effort of my heart,
 How cold my warmest thought!
 But when I see Thee as Thou art,
 I'll praise Thee as I ought.
- 6 Till then I would Thy love proclaim
 With ev'ry fleeting breath;
 And may the music of Thy name
 Refresh my soul in death!

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PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Lord and Savior, we begin this season of Lent marked with the ashes of repentance. As we remember Your suffering and death for us, we trust in Your steadfast love and look to You for mercy and forgiveness. Jesus, Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

People: Have mercy on us and hear our prayer.

Pastor: Lord and Savior, through Your death and resurrection, we have been delivered from the domain of sin and death. By grace through faith in Your holy name, we have been brought into Your kingdom. Our sins are washed away in Your blood, and we have forgiveness and eternal life. Jesus, Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

People: Have mercy on us and hear our prayer.

Pastor: Lord and Savior, we pray for those who are suffering in ashes of grief and loss, of illness and sorrow. Bring help and healing to [mention known names of those with health concerns and those who have lost loved ones] and to those we name in our hearts. Comfort them through the promises of Your holy Word and lead us to encourage them in love. Jesus, Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

People: Have mercy on us and hear our prayer.

Pastor: Lord and Savior, You prayed for forgiveness for those who nailed You to the cross. As You have forgiven us, lead us by Your Spirit to forgive others as we have been forgiven and to walk in love as you did. Jesus, Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

People: Have mercy on us and hear our prayer.

Pastor: Lord and Savior, through these 40 days, we will remember Your suffering and death for us. As we praise You for Your saving love, we look forward with joy to the celebration of Your resurrection on Easter morning. When You return on the Last Day, we too will be raised as You were raised, and we will receive the crown of life. Jesus, Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

People: Have mercy on us and hear our prayer.

Pastor: Amen.

PREFACE

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

PROPER PREFACE

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who overcame the assaults of the devil and gave His life as a ransom for many that with hearts cleansed from the ashes of our sin we might joyfully receive the promised treasures of His body and blood in the feast He has prepared. Therefore, with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

SANCTUS

Holy, holy, holy Lord God of pow'r and might: Heaven and earth are full of Your glory. Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

All: 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 WORDS OF OUR LORD

PAX DOMINI

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: Amen.

AGNUS DEI

People (sing): Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMN: LSB 420

“Christ the Life of All the Living” (Verses 1-3, 7)

- 1 Christ, the life of all the living,
Christ, the death of death, our foe,
Who, Thyself for me once giving
To the darkest depths of woe:
Through Thy sufferings, death, and merit
I eternal life inherit.
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,
Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.

- 2 Thou, ah! Thou, hast taken on Thee
 Bonds and stripes, a cruel rod;
Pain and scorn were heaped upon Thee,
 O Thou sinless Son of God!
Thus didst Thou my soul deliver
From the bonds of sin forever.
 Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,
 Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.
- 3 Thou hast borne the smiting only
 That my wounds might all be whole;
Thou hast suffered, sad and lonely,
 Rest to give my weary soul;
Yea, the curse of God enduring,
Blessing unto me securing.
 Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,
 Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.
- 7 Then, for all that wrought my pardon,
 For Thy sorrows deep and sore,
For Thine anguish in the Garden,
 I will thank Thee evermore,
Thank Thee for Thy groaning, sighing,
For Thy bleeding and Thy dying,
 For that last triumphant cry,
 And shall praise Thee, Lord, on high.

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COMMUNION HYMN: LSB 435 Come to Calvary's Holy Mountain"

- 1 Come to Calv'ry's holy mountain,
 Sinners, ruined by the fall;
Here a pure and healing fountain
 Flows for you, for me, for all,
In a full, perpetual tide,
Opened when our Savior died.

- 2 Come in poverty and meanness,
Come defiled, without, within;
From infection and uncleanness,
From the leprosy of sin,
Wash your robes and make them white;
Ye shall walk with God in light.
- 3 Come in sorrow and contrition,
Wounded, impotent, and blind;
Here the guilty, free remission,
Here the troubled, peace may find.
Health this fountain will restore;
They that drink shall thirst no more.
- 4 They that drink shall live forever;
'Tis a soul-renewing flood.
God is faithful; God will never
Break His covenant of blood,
Signed when our Redeemer died,
Sealed when He was glorified.

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CHOIR ANTHEM “If We Truly Believe” (6:30 pm only)

COMMUNION HYMN: LSB 643 Sent Forth by God’s Blessing (10 am only)

- 1 Sent forth by God’s blessing, Our true faith confessing,
The people of God from His dwelling take leave.
The Supper is ended. O now be extended
The fruits of this service in all who believe.
The seed of His teaching, Receptive souls reaching,
Shall blossom in action for God and for all.
His grace did invite us, His love shall unite us
To work for God’s kingdom and answer His call.
- 2 With praise and thanksgiving To God ever-living,
The tasks of our ev’ryday life we will face.

Our faith ever sharing, In love ever caring,
Embracing His children of each tribe and race.
With Your feast You feed us,
With Your light now lead us;
Unite us as one in this life that we share.
Then may all the living With praise and thanksgiving
Give honor to Christ and His name that we bear.

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DISMISSAL

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Let us pray responsively. O God the Father, who in love and mercy sent Your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank You that You have given us pardon and peace in this Supper. Grant us the faith to always trust that because of Your Son's death and resurrection,

People: You have taken the ashes of our sin and given us the beauty of Your forgiveness;

Pastor: through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

BENEDICTION

CLOSING HYMN: LSB 433 Glory Be to Jesus

- 1 Glory be to Jesus,
 Who in bitter pains
 Poured for me the lifeblood
 From His sacred veins!
- 2 Grace and life eternal
 In that blood I find;
 Blest be His compassion,
 Infinitely kind!

- 3 Blest through endless ages
 Be the precious stream
 Which from endless torment
 Did the world redeem!
- 4 Abel's blood for vengeance
 Pleaded to the skies;
 But the blood of Jesus
 For our pardon cries.
- 5 Oft as earth exulting
 Wafts its praise on high,
 Angel hosts rejoicing
 Make their glad reply.
- 6 Lift we, then, our voices,
 Swell the mighty flood;
 Louder still and louder
 Praise the precious blood!