

HOLY WATER

ASH WEDNESDAY: *The Jordan*

Feb. 18, 2026 – 7:00 p.m.
St. Matthew Lutheran Church
4101 Washington Street NE
Columbia Heights, MN 55421

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(In keeping with the solemnity of the day, no prelude or postlude will be offered)

INVOCATION & GOSPEL LESSON:

L: When we are baptized into Christ, we are buried with Him in death and then raised to new life in Him. Our worship begins the way our life in Christ begins in baptism: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

L: Lent is a time of crossing over. Just as the children of Israel crossed over the Jordan River to enter the Promised Land,

C: **We cross over from death to life, entering the Promised Land of new life in Christ.**

L: The Gospel for Ash Wednesday, from Matthew, chapter 6, moves us to repentance.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

L: [Jesus said] “Be careful not to practice your righteousness in front of others to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven. So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. 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. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

“**Lord Jesus, Think On Me**” – Blue Hymnal #231

C: **Lord Jesus, think on me And purge away my sin;
From selfish passions set me free And make me pure within.**

L: “And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

(Sing)

C: **Lord Jesus, think on me, By anxious thoughts oppressed;
Let me your loving servant be And taste your promised rest.**

L: “When you fast, do not look somber as the hypocrites do, for they disfigure their faces to show others they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that it will not be obvious to others that you are fasting, but only to your Father, who is unseen; and your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

**C: Lord Jesus, think on me, Nor let me go astray;
Through darkness and perplexity Point out your chosen way.**

L: “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

**C: Lord Jesus, think on me That, when the flood is past,
I may th’ eternal brightness see And share your joy at last.**

P: Jesus says, “Very truly I tell you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be judged but has crossed over from death to life.” God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called an ordained servant of the Word, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

IMPOSITION OF ASHES:

“Remember that you are dust and to dust you will return.” Genesis 3:19

PRAYER OF THE DAY:

L: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

L: Let us pray.

C: 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, that we may remember that it is only by your gracious gift at the cross that we are given everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Joshua 3:1-17

Early in the morning Joshua and all the Israelites set out from Shittim and went to the Jordan, where they camped before crossing over. After three days the officers went throughout the camp, giving orders to the people: “When you see the ark of the covenant of the LORD your God, and the Levitical priests carrying it, you are to move out from your positions and follow it. Then you will know which way to go, since you have never been this way before. But keep a distance of about two thousand cubits between you and the ark; do not go near it.” Joshua told the people, “Consecrate yourselves, for tomorrow the LORD will do amazing things among you.”

Joshua said to the priests, “Take up the ark of the covenant and pass on ahead of the people.” So they took it up and went ahead of them. And the LORD said to Joshua, “Today I will begin to exalt you in the eyes of all Israel, so they may know that I am with you as I was with Moses. Tell the priests who carry the ark of the covenant: ‘When you reach the edge of the Jordan’s waters, go and stand in the river.’” Joshua said to the Israelites, “Come here and listen to the words of the LORD your God. This is how you will know that the living God is among you and that he will certainly drive out before you the Canaanites, Hittites, Hivites, Perizzites, Girgashites, Amorites and Jebusites. See, the ark of the covenant of the Lord of all the earth will go into the Jordan ahead of you. Now then, choose twelve men from the tribes of Israel, one from each tribe. And as soon as the priests who carry the ark of the LORD—the Lord of all the earth—set foot in the Jordan, its waters flowing downstream will be cut off and stand up in a heap.” So when the people broke camp to cross the Jordan, the priests carrying the ark of the covenant went ahead of them. Now the Jordan is at flood stage all during harvest. Yet as soon as the priests who carried the ark reached the Jordan and their feet touched the water’s edge, the water from upstream stopped flowing. It piled up in a heap a great distance away, at a town called Adam in the vicinity of Zarethan, while the water flowing down to the Sea of the Arabah (that is, the Dead Sea) was completely cut off. So the people crossed over opposite Jericho. The priests who carried the ark of the covenant of the LORD stopped in the middle of the Jordan and stood on dry ground, while all Israel passed by until the whole nation had completed the crossing on dry ground.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

MESSAGE: "The Jordan – The River of Crossing Over"

Part 1: Fishing Francis & Carol Blase

"Wade in the Water" – traditional; verses by Brenda Hugo

The congregation joins in singing the refrain before and after each verse.

Musical score for "Wade in the Water" in G major, 4/4 time. The score consists of three staves. The first staff contains the first line of music with lyrics "Wade in the wa - ter, Wade in the wa - ter, child - dren;" and chords Dm, A7, and Dm above it. The second staff contains the second line of music with lyrics "Wade in the wa - ter, God's gon-na trou-ble the wa - ters. Why don't you" and chords Dm/A, A7, and Dm above it. The third staff contains the third line of music with lyrics "wa - - - ters." and chords A7 and Dm above it. The score includes a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature (C).

Part 2: Pastor Bill Hugo

CONFESSION OF FAITH: 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.

GATHERING OF THE OFFERINGS

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH:

(Prayer response – P: Lord, in your mercy, C: Hear our prayer.)

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

C: 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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

DISTRIBUTION SONGS:

"Savior, When in Dust to You"

Savior, when in dust to you Low we bow in homage due;
When, repentant, to the skies Scarce we lift our weeping eyes;
Oh, by all your pains and woe Suffered once for us below,
Bending from your throne on high, Hear our penitential cry!

By your helpless infant years, By your life of want and tears,
By your days of deep distress In the savage wilderness,
By the dread, mysterious hour Of the insulting tempter's pow'r,
Turn, oh, turn a fav'ring eye; Hear our penitential cry!

By your hour of dire despair, By your 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!

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

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

READING FROM THE PASSION OF OUR LORD

(Time of silence)

BENEDICTION

CLOSING HYMN: "Abide With Me" – Blue Hymnal #490

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, oh, abide with me.

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, oh, abide with me.

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.

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!

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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WORSHIP ASSISTANTS:

Lay Minister: Louise Roberts

Ushers: Craig Affeldt Team

Altar Guild: Carol Blase & Ben Kretschman

Power Point: Sean Allen

Acolyte: Aubree Allen