



Be reconciled to God...

Ash Wednesday Liturgy of Holy Communion and Imposition of Ashes

*Community of Christ Lutheran Church + Whitehouse, Ohio
February 18, 2026 + 12:00pm and 7:00pm*

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Welcome

Pastor Steve Bond

Prelude

Eric Dickey

Invitation to the Lenten Journey

P Beloved in Christ, we were created to experience joy in communion with God, to love all humanity, and to live in harmony with all of God's creation. But sin separates us from God, our neighbors, and the world that God loves, and so we do not fully enjoy the life our Creator intended for us. Also by our sin, we grieve God, who does not desire any to come under judgment, but that we might turn to God and live... I invite you therefore, to commit yourselves to this struggle of discipleship, following closely in the way of Jesus to the cross, and to confess your sins, calling on the living God for the strength to preserve in this Lenten discipline.

Most holy and merciful God,

C **We confess to you, and to one another, and to the whole communion of saints in heaven and on earth, that we have sinned by our fault, by our own fault, by our own most grievous fault—in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.**

P We have not loved you with our whole selves. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others as we have been forgiven.

C **Turn us from our sin, and draw us close to you.**

P Sin has made our hearts bent in on themselves, O God. We have covered our ears to your call to serve as Christ served us. We have grieved your Holy Spirit.

C **Turn us from our sin, and draw us close to you.**

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

C Turn us from our sin, and draw us close to you.

P Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, our longing to have what is not ours, and our crooked way of loving things and using people, we confess to you:

C Turn us from our sin, and draw us close to you.

P Our negligence in prayer and worship, our failure to be your witnesses in the world, and our reluctance to share all that you have given to us, we confess to you:

C Turn us from our sin, and draw us close to you.

P Our false judgments, our uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us, and our indifference toward the suffering of others, we confess to you:

C Turn us from our sin, and draw us close to you.

P Our waste, distortion, and lack of care for your creation, and for those who come after us, we confess to you:

C Turn us from our sin, and draw us close to you.

P Restore us, good Lord, let your anger turn from us, take our sin and nail it to the cross with Christ, that we might become your righteousness for the world.

C Gather us in your mercy, O God, that we may be found in you. Amen

Imposition of Ashes

All who wish to do so are invited to come forward through the center aisle to receive the mark of the cross in ashes as a sign of our mortality, our repentance, and our baptism into Christ's death. The leader at each of the two stations at the front of the aisle will say, "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

P Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation,

C that we may walk the way of Christ and embody your love for the world.

P By the cross and passion of your Son, our Lord,

C gather us with all your saints into your family and the joy of resurrection.

P 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.

C Amen

Lenten Theme Hymn: "You Gather Us, O Christ"



1. You gath-er us, O Christ, and—in your fam - i - ly, the
2. You gath-er us, O Christ, from all of sin's dead ends, though



lost are found, our wounds are bound, and cap—tives are set— free.
once e-stranged, in you we'rechanged, by grace you call us— friends.



You gath-er us, O Christ, here in this ver—y room, so—
You gath-er us, O Christ, though we are ash and dust, we—



all our days we will walk your ways, from cross to emp — ty tomb.
trust that you will— make us new till all— is whole and— just.

Prayer of the Day

P Gracious God, in your love and mercy you breathed into dust the breath of life, creating us to joyfully serve you and our neighbors. Strengthen us to walk the in the way of Jesus. Keep us close to him on the journey from the wilderness to the cross and into life beyond the grip of death. We ask it in the name of the one who has found us and made us belong in your family, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen

The Word

First Lesson—Isaiah 58:1-12

1 Shout out; do not hold back! Lift up your voice like a trumpet!

Announce to my people their rebellion, to the house of Jacob their sins.

2 Yet day after day they seek me and delight to know my ways, as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness and did not forsake the ordinance of their God; they ask of me righteous judgments; they want God on their side.

3 "Why do we fast, but you do not see? Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?" Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day and oppress all your workers.

4 You fast only to quarrel and to fight and to strike with a wicked fist. Such fasting as you do today will not make your voice heard on high.

5 Is such the fast that I choose, a day to humble oneself?

Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush and to lie in sackcloth and ashes?

Will you call this a fast, a day acceptable to the Lord?

6 Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the straps of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke?

7 Is it not to share your bread with the hungry and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

8 Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you; the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard.

9 Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, "Here I am."

If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,

10 if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday.

11 The Lord will guide you continually and satisfy your needs in parched places and make your bones strong and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water whose waters never fail.

12 Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Second Lesson—2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

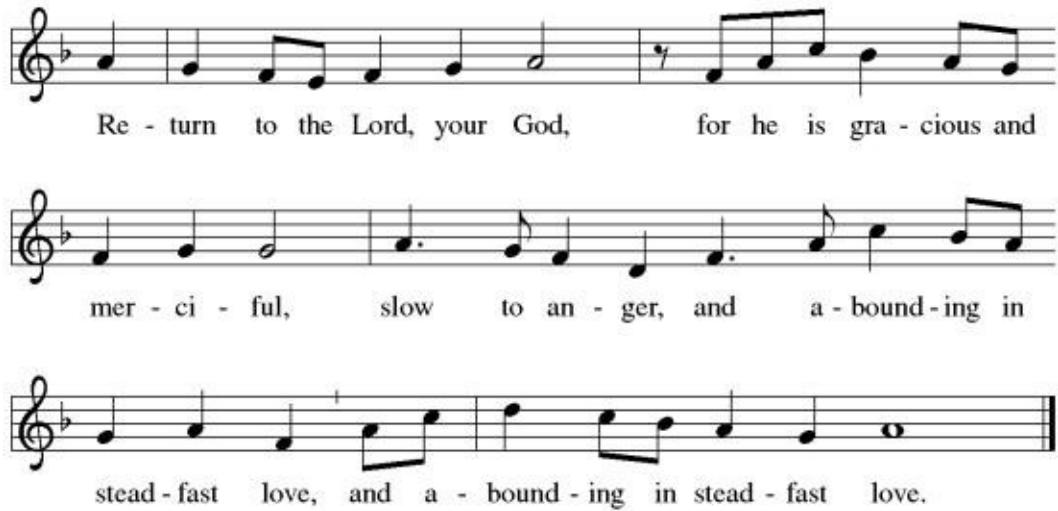
We entreat you on behalf of Christ: be reconciled to God. 21 For our sake God made the one who knew no sin to be sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. 6:1 As we work together with him, we entreat you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. 2 For he says,

*"At an acceptable time I have listened to you,
and on a day of salvation I have helped you."*

Look, now is the acceptable time; look, now is the day of salvation! 3 We are putting no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, 4 but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: in great endurance, afflictions, hardships, calamities, 5 beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; 6 in purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, 7 truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; 8 in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors and yet are true, 9 as unknown and yet are well known, as dying and look—we are alive, as punished and yet not killed, 10 as sorrowful yet always rejoicing, as poor yet making many rich, as having nothing and yet possessing everything.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation: "Return to the Lord..."



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and
mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in
steady - fast love, and a - bound - ing in steady - fast love.

Gospel—Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

P The holy Gospel, according to Matthew, the sixth chapter. **C Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said to the disciples:] 1 "Beware of practicing your righteousness before others in order to be seen by them, for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven. 2 "So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. 3 But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, 4 so that your alms may be done in secret, and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. 5 "And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. 6 But whenever 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. 16 "And whenever you fast, do not look somber, like the hypocrites, for they mark their faces to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. 17 But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, 18 so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret, and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. 19 "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal, 20 but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. 21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

P The Gospel of the Lord. **C Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

Pastor Steve Bond

Hymn of the Day: Let Us Ever Walk With Jesus



1 Let us ev - er walk with Je - sus, fol - low his ex - am - ple pure,
2 Let us suf - fer here with Je - sus, and with pa - tience bear our cross.
3 Let us glad - ly die with Je - sus. Since by death he con - quered death,
4 Let us al - so live with Je - sus. He has ris - en from the dead



through a world that would de - ceive us and to sin our spir - its lure.
Joy will fol - low all our sad - ness; where he is there is no loss.
he will free us from de - struc - tion, give to us im - mor - tal breath.
that to life we may a - wak - en. Je - sus, since you are our head,



On - ward in his foot - steps tread - ing, pil - grims here, our home a - bove,
Though to - day we sow no laugh - ter, we shall reap ce - les - tial joy:
Let us mor - ti - fy all pas - sion that would lead us in - to sin;
we are your own liv - ing mem - bers; where you live, there we shall be



full of faith and hope and love, let us do our Fa - ther's bid - ding.
all dis - com - forts that an - noy shall give way to mirth here - af - ter.
then by grace we all may win un - told fruits of his cre - a - tion.
in your pres - ence con - stant - ly, liv - ing there with you for - ev - er.



Faith - ful Lord, with me a - bide; I shall fol - low where you guide.
Je - sus, here I share your woe; help me there your joy to know.
Je - sus, un - to you I die, there to live with you on high.
Je - sus, if I faith - ful be, life e - ter - nal grant to me.

Nicene Creed

C We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven; was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen

Prayers of Intercession

P Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, let us pray for the world and its needs.

A brief silence.

A Guide your church, O God. Accompany all Christians in this season of repentance, and renew our faith in the riches of grace you give to us in baptism. Merciful God,

C hear our prayer.

A Heal this earth, O God. Satisfy the needs of every parched place, every diverse ecosystem, every suffering creature. Though all return to dust, grant beauty and purpose to each living thing. Merciful God,

C hear our prayer.

A Restore the nations, O God. Let your healing spring up quickly across the world. Give all in authority the will to loose the bonds of injustice and let any who are oppressed go free. Merciful God,

C hear our prayer.

A Deliver your people, O God. Comfort any whose hearts are rent by grief, uphold any who are sick, bring food to those who hunger, and give housing to all without shelter. Merciful God,

C hear our prayer.

A Bless this assembly, O God. Reconcile us to one another and to you. Strengthen our resolve to fast from evil, open our hands in sharing, and quicken our prayer. Merciful God,

C hear our prayer.

A Hold us forever, O God. We thank you for all who now know their treasure in heaven, and for all who on earth proclaimed your abounding, steadfast love. Merciful God,

C hear our prayer.

P Receive our prayers, O God, through Jesus Christ, our strength and salvation.

C Amen.

The Sharing of the Peace

P The peace of the Lord be with you all.

C And also with you.

All are invited to share a sign of Christ's peace.

We Bring Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory Prayer

A O God, maker of heaven and earth, your steadfast love embraces all creation. You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth and bring forth its bounty. Through these gifts of bread and wine, draw us into the death and life of your Son, who has drawn us to himself and gathered us into your family, for it is in his name we pray.

C Amen

The Meal

The Great Thanksgiving

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

Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

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

Distribution of Communion

All are invited to come forward through the center aisle, making a semi-circle around the Table, to receive the bread from the pastor and then the cup from the tray of cups from the assisting minister. There is a gluten-free option for bread for those who have the need, and with the cups, the red is wine and the white does not contain alcohol. Any who do not commune are welcome to come forward to receive a blessing before returning to your places by the outside aisles, depositing empty cups in the wooden bowls on either side.

Hymns during Communion—As the Grains of Wheat



Refrain

As the grains of wheat once scat - tered on the hill were

gath - ered in - to one to be - come our bread; so may all your peo - ple from

The musical notation consists of two staves of music. The top staff is in G major (one sharp) and the bottom staff is in C major (no sharps or flats). The music is in common time. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first line of the hymn is 'As the grains of wheat once scat - tered on the hill were'. The second line is 'gath - ered in - to one to be - come our bread; so may all your peo - ple from'.

all the ends of earth be gath-ered in - to one in you.

1 As this cup of bless-ing is shared with-in our midst, when
2 Let this be a fore-taste of all that is to come when

Refrain

may we share the pres - ence of your love.
all cre - a - tion shares this feast with you.

For the Bread Which You Have Broken

1 For the bread which you have bro-ken, for the wine which you have poured,
2 By this prom - ise that you love us, by your gift of peace re - stored,
3 With the saints who now a - dore you seat-ed at our Fa - ther's board,
4 In your ser - vice, Lord, de - fend us; in our hearts keep watch and ward,

for the words which you have spo-ken, now we give you thanks, O Lord.
by your call to heav'n a - bove us, hal - low all our lives, O Lord.
may the church still wait - ing for you keep love's tie un - bro - ken, Lord.
in the world to which you send us let your king-dom come, O Lord.

Communion Blessing

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C Amen

Prayer after Communion

A God of our salvation, we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls, reconciles us to you, and strengthens us for the journey. Through the body and blood of your Son, make us to be Christ's body in the world, bearing witness to your love for all creation, through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. **C Amen**

Sending

Benediction

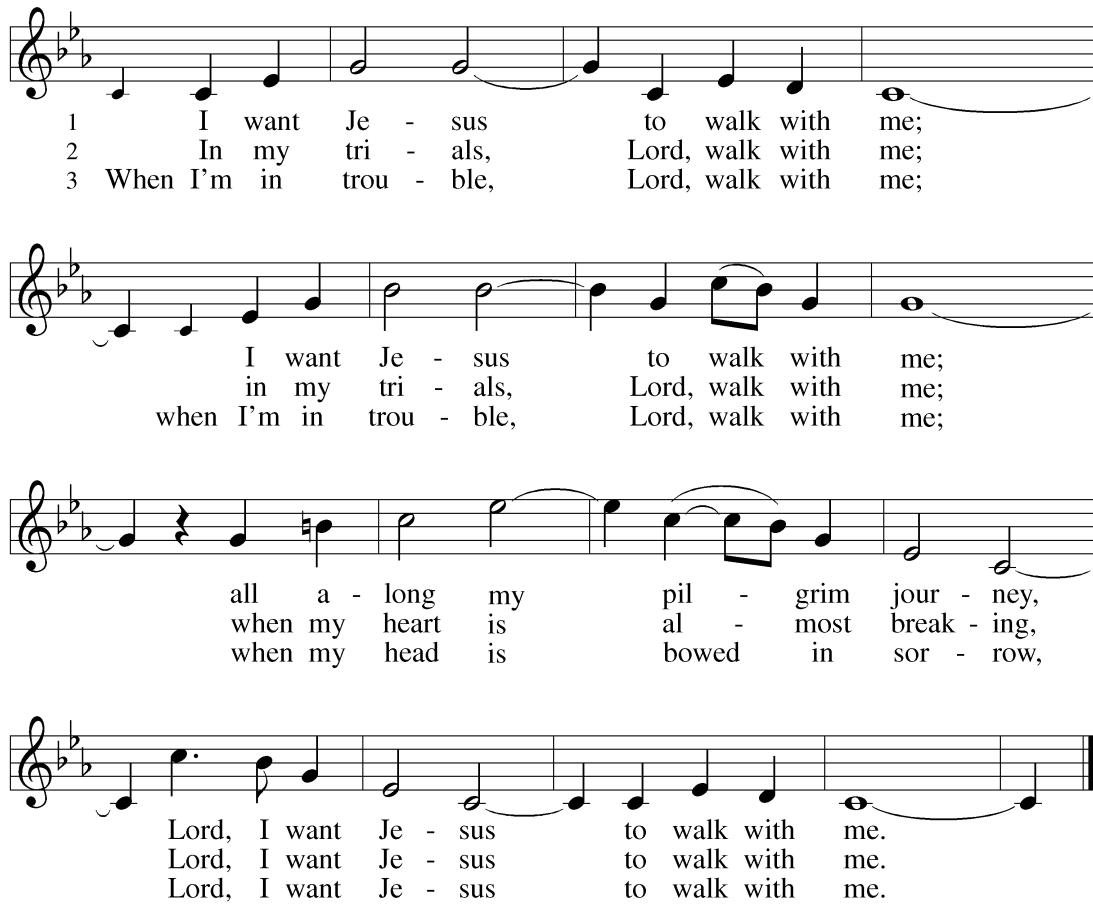
P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

C Amen

Sending Hymn—I Want Jesus to Walk With Me



1 I want Je - sus to walk with me;
2 In my tri - als, Lord, walk with me;
3 When I'm in trou - ble, Lord, walk with me;

I want Je - sus to walk with me;
when I'm in trou - ble,

all a - long my pil - - grim jour - ney,
when my heart is al - - most break - ing,
when my head is bowed in sor - row,

Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.
Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.
Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.

Dismissal

A Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**