



Our Savior's Lutheran Church – Cleveland, MN

Ash Wednesday
February 18, 2026

We are called to let our light shine as instruments of the Holy Spirit so all may know God's love.



There Is Still Room

by Lauren Wright Pittman
Inspired by Luke 14:15-24
Digital drawing with collage

The Good News is... all are invited!

(To view a larger, hi-res image, click [here](#) or on the photo.)

On Ash Wednesday we begin our forty-day journey toward Easter. Marking our foreheads with dust, we acknowledge that we die and return to the earth. At the same time, the dust traces the life-giving cross indelibly marked on our foreheads at baptism. While we journey through Lent to return to God, we have already been reconciled to God through Christ. Returning to our baptismal call, we more intentionally bear the fruits of mercy and justice in the world.

Opening Hymn

“Just as I Am, without One Plea”

Red #592

1 Just as I am, without one plea, but that thy blood was shed for me, and that thou bidd'st me come to thee, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

2 Just as I am, though tossed about with many a conflict, many a doubt, fightings and fears within, without, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

3 Just as I am, thou wilt receive, wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve; because thy promise I believe, O Lamb of God, I come, I come,

4 Just as I am; thy love unknown has broken ev'ry barrier down; now to be thine, yea, thine alone, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Psalm 51:1-17

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.

For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.

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.

Indeed, I was born guilty, a sinner when my mother conceived me.

You desire truth in the inward being; therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit;

a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

Prayer of the Day

God our host, this Lent we do not want to miss your invitation. We do not want to be so caught up in our own business that we miss the holiness right in front of us. So settle our hearts, and open our spirits to hear your word anew. Help us hear your good news today. With hope we pray, Amen.

Gospel: Luke 14:15-24 *Parable of the wedding banquet*

The Holy Gospel according to ... **Glory to you, O Lord.**

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

Message

Hymn of the Day

“All Are Welcome”

Red #641

Confession and Forgiveness

Family of faith, if someone declines our invitations again and again, in our human ways, we tend to stop inviting them. We get the hint. We assume they'd rather be elsewhere.

With God, however, things are different. No matter how many times we overlook or ignore God's outstretched hand, God will never stop reaching for us. So with that good news in mind, let us go to God in prayer.

Gracious God, you invite all of us to your table: the faithful and the doubting, the restless and the hopeless, the addicted and the lonely, the lost and the confused. You invite all of us, regardless of who we are or where we've been, but we fail to do the same. When given the opportunity, we are guilty of casting judgment on our neighbors. We draw lines, assume the worst, create cliques, and accept exclusion. Forgive our harmful ways. This Lent, show us how to love others the way you love us.

With hope we pray, Amen.

Friends, no matter how many times we mess up, no matter how many times we lose our way, no matter how many times we decline God's invitation, God will never stop inviting us to the table. There is and always will be a seat saved for you.

So join me in these good news words:

We are forgiven, again and again. We are invited, again and again.

We are loved, from beginning to end. Thanks be to God, our Inviter. Amen.

Imposition of Ashes

In your mercy you call us to the path of repentance. You remind us in your Word made flesh that we are earth and dust. Come and receive the sign of repentance.

You may come forward and kneel or stand to receive the ashes.

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.**

Prayers of the People

Response: Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Giving Prayer

Jesus, you are the bread of life and the host of this meal. Bless these gifts that we have gathered that all people may know your goodness. Feed us not only with this holy food but with hunger for justice and peace. We pray this in your name. Amen.

Holy Communion

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.

Communion Hymn

“Lamb of God”

Red #191

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, grant us peace, Lamb of God.

Prayer after Communion

Embody God, at your table, we have tasted the goodness of Jesus. With the eyes of our hearts open to your promise, empower us to hear the needs of our neighbors and touch the world with your love. Amen.

Blessing

May God who has called us forth from the dust of the earth, and claimed us as children of the light, strengthen us on our journey into life renewed. The Lord bless us and keep us. The Lord's face shine upon us with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon us with favor and give us \textpm peace. **Amen.**

Closing Hymn

"Change My Heart, O God"

Red #801

1.Change my heart, O God, Make it ever true; Change my heart, O God, May I be like you.

Refrain

You are the Potter, I am the clay; Mold me and make me, This is what I pray.

2. Change my heart, O God, Make it ever true; Change my heart O God, may I be like you.

3. Change my heart, O God, Make it ever true; Change my heart, O God, May I be like you.

Refrain

4. Change my heart, O God, Make it ever true; Change my heart O God, May I be like you.

Dismissal

Marked with the cross of Christ, go forth to love and serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**