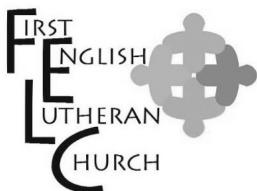


ASH WEDNESDAY
WORD & EUCHARIST | IMPOSITION OF ASHES
7 PM onsite & online
FEBRUARY 18, 2026



God Loves. We Love.
Everyone!
Dios Ama. Amamos.
Todos!

3001 Whitis Avenue
Austin, Texas 78705
info@felcaustin.org
512.478.1933 church
512.478.5424 cdc
www.felcaustin.org

EVERYONE IS WELCOME. THIS MEANS YOU.

Welcome to First English Lutheran Church. We are a congregation of the Southwestern Texas Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). You are invited to fully participate in a community of faith and friendship that gathers for worship, relationship building, personal growth, and service in the community and the world. Following the example of Christ, this congregation welcomes you exactly as you are.

Worship is at the heart of the Christian life. It is in worship that we encounter God, express our adoration, define our identity, and are formed and transformed as the people of God. As we are gathered together, we receive the Word of God, give thanks, and are sent to be living, active images of divine love.

FELC is committed to the work of racial equity, justice, and advocating for marginalized groups. We welcome people in all places on the journey of faith and life. We celebrate differences in age, appearance, economic status, ethnic origin, nationality, race, family configuration, marital or relationship status, political leaning, religious background, and those who are differently abled physically or mentally. Since 1989, FELC has openly welcomed persons of all sexual orientations and gender identities and expressions to full participation in the church and society. For more on our welcome and life, visit www.felcaustin.org.

As we gather, we acknowledge the presence of God's people living on this land long before European conquest. These lands and waters have sustained the Coahuiltecan, Comanche, Jumanos, Lipan Apache, Sana, Tonkawa, and other indigenous peoples for thousands of years. Gathering today to worship on ancestral homelands, we acknowledge and honor our indigenous sisters, siblings, and brothers who continue to care for the land and water and call this land home.

All Gender Restrooms, with infant changing tables, are located in the hallway off of the sanctuary near the fellowship hall. **Hearing assistance devices** are available for the sanctuary, with two options: an earpiece, or a hearing loop for those who use hearing aids; please connect with an usher for a hearing assistance device. **Seat cushions**, for use on our wood pews, are available from an usher.

On Ash Wednesday we begin our forty-day journey toward Easter with a day of fasting and repentance. 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. This returning empowers us to more intentionally bear the fruits of mercy and justice in the world. God transforms minds and hearts.

GATHERING SILENCE

In keeping with the solemnity of this day, we gather in quiet reflection.

All may sit or kneel in prayer. Please be observant of those in front of you and behind you, making space for those kneeling, which includes placing down your kneeler if those in front of you wish to kneel.

We offer responses and acclamations printed in bold. Hymns and Songs are found in the red worship book.

As the Kyrie begins, we stand, as able.

KYRIE **Lord, Have Mercy. Christ, Have Mercy** **Plainsong**

A leader sings each line, and the assembly repeats each line.

Ky - ri - - e e - le - i - son.

Chris - te e - le - i - son.

Ky - ri - - e e - le - i - son.

GREETING

The love of God poured into our hearts, the saving grace of Jesus Christ, and the abundant life of the Holy Spirit are with you now.

And also with you.

WELCOME & INVITATION TO LENT

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Gracious God, out of your love and mercy you breathed into dust the breath of life, creating us to serve you and our neighbors. Call forth our prayers and acts of kindness, and strengthen us to face our mortality with confidence in the mercy of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Be seated.

WORD

ANTHEM

The Crown

Text: Thomas Shepherd, 1665-1739; Music: Leland Saterem, 1913-2007

Must Jesus bear the cross alone,
And all the world go free?
No, there's a cross for everyone,
And there's a cross for me.
O precious cross, O glorious crown. O resurrection day!
When Christ the Lord from heaven comes down
And bears my soul away.

Blow the trumpet in Zion; sound the alarm on my holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble, for the day of the LORD is coming, it is near — ²a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness! Like blackness spread upon the mountains a great and powerful army comes; their like has never been from of old, nor will be again after them in ages to come. ¹²Yet even now, says the LORD, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; ¹³rend your hearts and not your clothing. Return to the LORD, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing. ¹⁴Who knows whether he will not turn and relent, and leave a blessing behind him, a grain offering and a drink offering for the LORD, your God? ¹⁵Blow the trumpet in Zion; sanctify a fast; call a solemn assembly; ¹⁶gather the people. Sanctify the congregation; assemble the aged; gather the children, even infants at the breast. Let the bridegroom leave his room, and the bride her canopy. ¹⁷Between the vestibule and the altar let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep. Let them say, “Spare your people, O LORD, and do not make your heritage a mockery, a byword among the nations. Why should it be said among the peoples, ‘Where is their God?’”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSE: PSALM 51:1-17

Joseph Roff, 1911-1993

We sing the refrain and chant the psalm responsively.

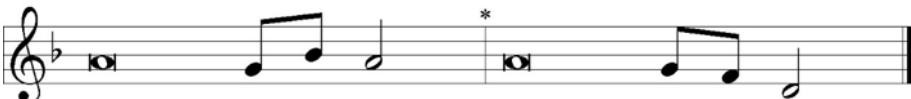
Refrain



Cleanse us, O Lord, from all our sins; wash us and we



shall be clean, clean as new snow.



¹ Have mercy on me O God according to your ¹ steadfast love;
in your great compassion blot out ¹ my offenses.

² Wash me through and through ¹ from my wickedness,
and cleanse me ¹ from my sin.

³ For I know ¹ my offenses,
and my sin is ev- ¹ er before me.

⁴ Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil ¹ in your sight;
so you are justified when you speak and right ¹ in your judgment. *Refrain*

⁵ Indeed I was born ¹ steeped in wickedness,
a sinner from my ¹ mother's womb.

⁶ Indeed you delight in truth ¹ deep within me,
and would have me know wisdom ¹ deep within.

⁷ Remove my sins with hyssop, and I ¹ shall be clean;
wash me and I shall be pur- ¹ er than snow.

⁸ Let me hear ¹ joy and gladness;
that the body you have broken ¹ may rejoice. *Refrain*

⁹ Hide your face ¹ from my sins,
and blot out ¹ all my wickedness.

¹⁰ Create in me a clean ¹ heart, O God,
and renew a right spir- ¹ it within me.

¹¹ Cast me not away¹ from your presence,
and take not your Holy Spir-¹ it from me.

**¹² Restore to me the joy of¹ your salvation
and sustain me with your boun-¹ tiful Spirit. Refrain**

¹³ Let me teach your ways¹ to offenders,
and sinners shall be re-¹ stored to you.

**¹⁴ Rescue me from bloodshed, O God of¹ my salvation,
and my tongue shall sing¹ of your righteousness.**

¹⁵ O Lord o-¹ pen my lips,
and my mouth shall pro-¹ claim your praise.

**¹⁶ For you take no delight in sacrifice, or¹ I would give it.
You are not pleased¹ with burnt offering.**

¹⁷ The sacrifice of God is a¹ troubled spirit;
a troubled and broken heart you will¹ not despise. **Refrain**

SECOND READING

2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

^{20b}We entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. ²For he says, “At an acceptable time I have listened to you, and on a day of salvation I have helped you.” See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation! ³We are putting no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, ⁴but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, ⁵beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; ⁶by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, ⁷truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; ⁸in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; ⁹as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see — we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; ¹⁰as 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.

We stand to welcome Christ in the gospel.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Anne Krentz Organ, b. 1960, based on Romans 8:38-39



Noth-ing in all cre-a-tion can sep-a-rate us from the love of God.



Noth-ing in all cre-a-tion can sep-a-rate us from the love of God.

The gospel is announced, responding with: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

GOSPEL

Matthew 6:1–6, 16–21

[Jesus said to his disciples:] “Beware of practicing your piety 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. ³But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴so 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. ⁶But 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 dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ¹⁷But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, ¹⁸so 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; ²⁰but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

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

SERMON

ANTHEM

Thou Knowest Lord the Secrets of Our Hearts

Text: Book of Common Prayer, 1662; Music: Henry Purcell, 1659-1695

Thou knowest, Lord, the secrets of our hearts;
shut not thy merciful ears unto our prayers;
but spare us, Lord most holy, O God most mighty,
O holy and most merciful Savior, thou most worthy judge eternal,
suffer us not at our last hour, for any pains of death,
to fall from thee. Amen.

CONFESSON OF SIN

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

All may kneel or sit. Extended quiet is kept for reflection and self-examination.

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, 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.**

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. **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 judgment depart from us.

Hear us O God, for your mercy is great.

PRAYER OVER THE ASHES

Palm branches burned from the previous Palm Sunday's are mixed with oil, forming ashes.

Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth. May these ashes be a sign of our mortality and penitence, reminding us that only by the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ are we given eternal life; through the same Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

*Those who desire to receive ashes come forward, beginning with the musicians.
Please form two lines to either station via the center aisle.*

*A minister will mark your forehead with ashes, while saying these words:
Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.*

After those who desire ashes have received them, all may kneel or sit.

Then the ministers continue:

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 Christ's resurrection.

Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through \pm our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life.
Amen.

Be seated.

1 All things of dust to dust re - turn on earth and in the sky.
 2 Lord, mark with dust and ash my brow so I may com-pre-hend
 3 Lord, mark up - on my brow this sign: a stark and bar - ren cross

The hot - test, bright - est suns that burn in time grow dim and die.
 that ev - 'ry mo - ment here and now links me to that same end
 re - mind-ing me that though di - vine you know my pain and loss,

The fish that leap, the birds that soar, the new-born young that play,
 I share with all that breathe and burn, that flare and fade and tire
 and at the touch of dust and ash a - wake my heart to view

the leaves that fill the for - est floor re - vert to dust and clay.
 yet by their wan - ing light dis-cern your own un - dy - ing fire.
 how death it - self is but a flash that dies a - way in you.

We stand, as able.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Following each intercession: Merciful God, **hear our prayer.**

SHARING THE PEACE

May the peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

Everyone returns to their places.

The exchange of peace within the gathered community is an ancient Christian practice. Gentle signs of reconciliation and love renew and build relationships prior to coming to God's table for Eucharist.

MEAL

WELCOME TO COMMUNION & OFFERING

We reflect on our stewardship of the gifts of God entrusted to us for the mission of the church and the care of those in need. God welcomes our generosity. Financial gifts may be shared through the offering plate or online at www.felcaustin.org/information/giving.

All stand as bread, wine, and other gifts are presented and the meal is prepared.

OFFERING SONG

Create in Me a Clean Heart, O God

Richard Hillert, 1923-2010; Psalm 51:10-12



Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your pres - ence, and take
not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store to me the joy of
your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

OFFERING PRAYER

All things come from you, O God, **and we give back to you the gifts that come from you.**
Bless us, O Lord God, and all your gifts, which we receive and share from your bounty;
through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

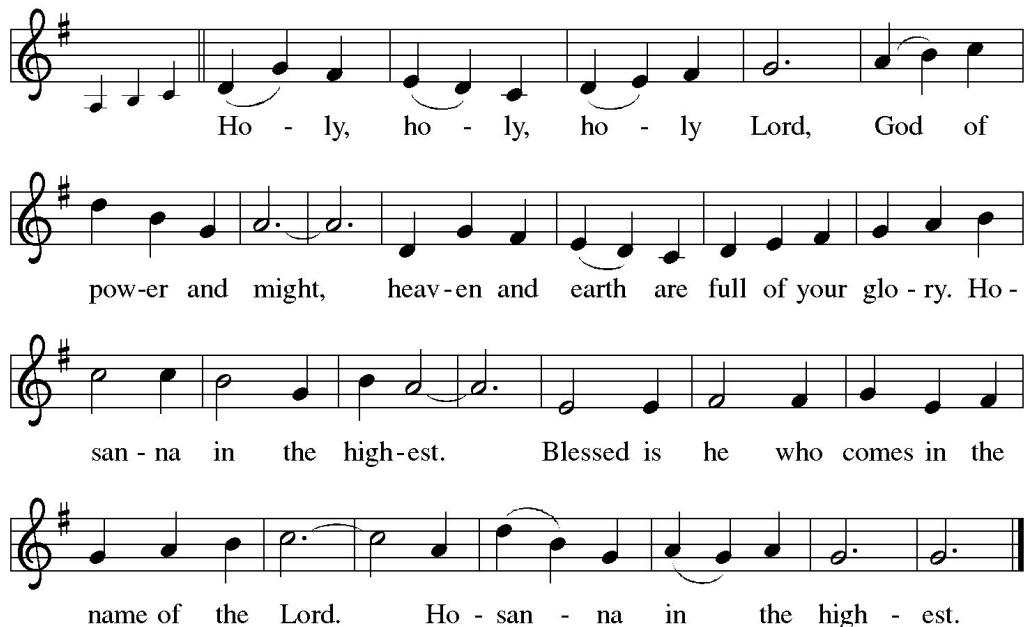
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; You call your people to cleanse our hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that, renewed in the gift and invitation of baptism, we continue to live in the fullness of your grace; And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Sanctus

Thomas Pavlechko, b. 1962



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of
pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy, mighty, and merciful God . . . do this for the remembrance of me.

Let us proclaim together the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Merciful God, pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food and blessing, the body and blood of Jesus Christ; † to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, in the church and in the world, now and forever.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Jesus, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

**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.**

BREAKING THE BREAD

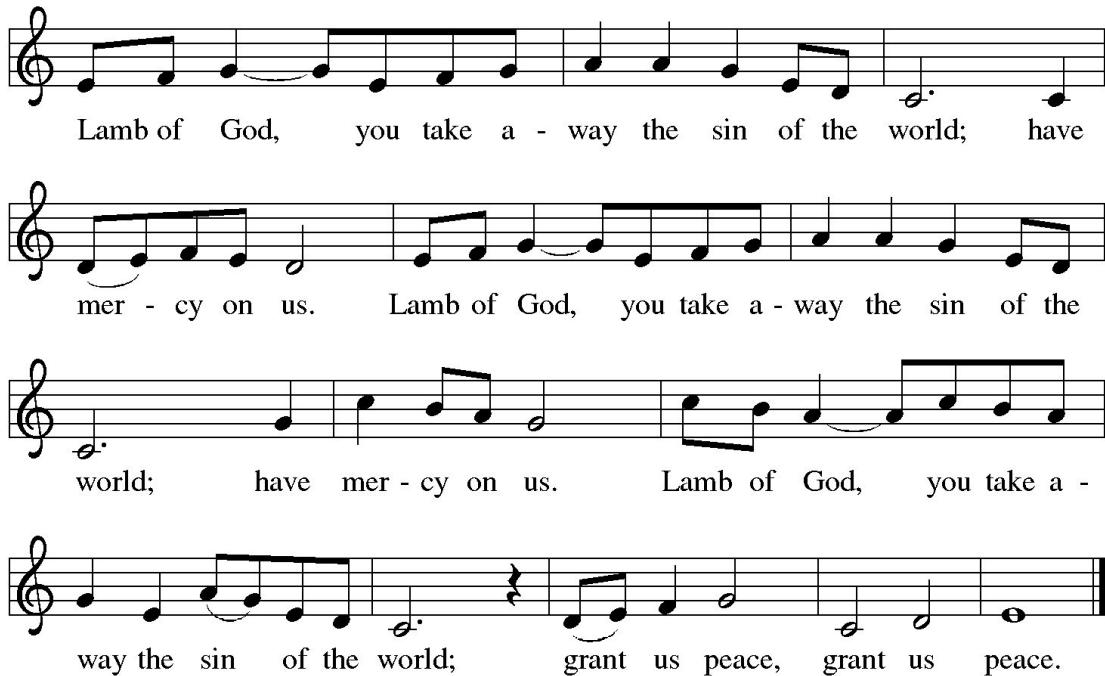
We break this bread to be the body of Christ.

We will love one another as Christ loves us.

Be seated.

AGNUS DEI: LAMB OF GOD

Robert Buckley Farlee, b. 1950



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a -
way the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION & BLESSING

God, in Christ, fully welcomes people of every age to this Meal, which is known by many names: the Lord's Supper, Holy Communion, the Mass, the Sacrament, the Eucharist. We encourage you to participate in ways that are meaningful for you.

Ushers will direct you by the center aisle to a station to receive bread in your hand for you to eat, then proceed to a station and receive a small cup, where wine will be poured and consumed. Gluten-free wafers/ grape juice are available upon request. If you desire not to receive bread or wine, you are invited to a station where a minister will offer a prayer of blessing. Then, return to your seat by a side aisle. We join in prayer, meditation, and music.

If you desire communion or a blessing at your place, let an usher or minister know.

COMMUNION MUSIC

We remain seated as we offer our thanks.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Dear Jesus, in this meal of grace you have blessed and nourished us with your real presence. We thank you, and we pray that your life-giving hope may be known through us in a world of beauty and need. **Amen.**

†SENDING†

We stand as we receive God's blessing and protection.

GOD'S BLESSING

Based on Numbers 6:24-26

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.
The Lord look upon you with favor and † give you peace. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG

On My Heart Imprint Your Image | ELW 811

Text: Thomas Kingo (1634-1703)

Music: Der Am Kreuz, Johann König (1742)

DISMISSAL TO MISSION

As we rest in the love of God, let us live and serve as Christ.

Thanks be to God.

Following the dismissal, everyone may remain in prayer and meditation and also leave quietly.

WELCOME TO FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH

Visit felcaustin.org to learn more about the FELC welcome, worship, music, community life, learning, engagement, racial justice, and reconciliation ministries. To subscribe to a weekly email Newsletter or connect with the staff or ministry leaders, contact office@felcaustin.org.

THE SEASON OF LENT

What is Lent? Lent is an old English term for “spring.” In the annual cycle of the church’s liturgy and spiritual formation, it is the time of year for preparation for new life at Easter, the celebration of the resurrection, so the connection to the season of spring is appropriate. Lent is a more solemn season than Christmas or Easter and it is not a time of excessive negativity, but a time of growing trust in God’s power to renew our lives.

When does Lent begin? Lent always begins on Ash Wednesday, 40 days before Easter, excluding Sundays, connecting it to Jesus’ 40 days and the Israelites 40 years in the wilderness, both times of preparation and renewal.

Why do we receive ashes on Ash Wednesday? The ashes and the whole season of Lent are a time to refocus on our relationship with God and that relationship starts with a dependence on God for our very existence. Ashes are a sign of mortality and renewal.

What are some practices during Lent? The traditional ancient spiritual practices for Lent are prayer, fasting (forgoing certain foods for a time of refocus), and almsgiving (giving to the poor). The themes of Lent are wilderness time, repentance (meaning a turning around of one’s life), following Jesus in the way of the cross, and preparation for baptism or renewal of baptism at the Easter Vigil. The Vigil is the Saturday night service before Easter Day, the most celebratory liturgy in church tradition, and the primary time for baptisms and confirmations.

Are Sundays part of Lent? Sundays are Sundays in Lent and take on a different character than other days because Sunday is always a celebration of the resurrection of Christ.

Why don’t we use “alleluia” during Lent? Lent serves as a reminder that we do not yet experience the reign of God in its fullness. We live in the hope of the resurrection. Alleluia is a Hebrew word of praise and exhilaration. The omission of the alleluia is one symbolic way to enter into the spirit of renewal.

What is the significance of the color purple during Lent? The color purple is an additional symbol of penance. The Scriptures tell us that a purple garment was placed on Jesus during his passion as a mockery. It is fitting that the color be maintained during the days in which we focus on the need for the love of God.

What determines the date of Easter and when Lent begins? The Council of Nicaea (CE 325) set the date of Easter as the Sunday following the 14th day of the paschal full moon, which is the full moon whose 14th day falls on or after the vernal (spring) equinox. That was the date of Passover in the Jewish calendar, and the Last Supper (Holy Thursday) occurred on the Passover. Therefore, Easter was the Sunday after Passover.

SPIRITUAL PRACTICES DURING LENT

As we approach the season of Lent, I would like to share some spiritual practices that have been nourishing for me in this time of repentance or return to God.

Sabbath from Social Media - An intentional break or rest from that style of input to allow more focused time to return to God's intentions in your life daily.

Sacred Pause - A scheduled time each day for 10-15 minutes of prayer, meditation or breathing practice focused on God's presence with you.

Intentional Listening - Hone your listening skills with family and friends with intention focused on hearing their words, the meaning within them, and where they might be sharing Good News or need to hear it.

WORSHIP IN LENT

SUNDAYS IN LENT | FEBRUARY 22; MARCH 1, 8, 15, 22

Faith Formation (9AM) Worship (10AM)
Hospitality (11:15AM)
Onsite & YouTube livestream

WEDNESDAYS IN LENT | FEBRUARY 25; MARCH 4, 11, 18, 25 | 7 PM

A service of quiet reflection in the FELC sanctuary with the liturgy of Holden Evening Prayer.
Onsite & YouTube livestream

FELC LEADERSHIP

STAFF

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Custodial Care
Teresa del Aguila & family
FELC Bookkeeper
Melissa Kruckenberg

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Terry Porter
Worship Ministry
Trish Karli
Learning Ministry
Leigh Northcutt-Benson
Stewardship
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MINISTERS SERVING IN LITURGY | FEBRUARY 18

Ministers
Altar Care
Assisting Minister
Building Open/Close
Lector
Livestream Minister
Music Ministers
Presiding & Preaching
Usher

All the People of God
Teresa Ringness
Shannon Aguirre
Betsy Appleton, Leigh Northcutt-Benson
Anne Wiebe
JP Northcutt-Benson
FELC Choir; Cantor Bryan Rust
Pastor Katie Rode
Terry Porter

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