



Let us praise the Lord.
Thanks be to God.


BLESSING:

The almighty and merciful Lord—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit—bless us and keep us.

Amen.

Be seated

HYMN: 790 *Before the Ending of the Day*




It Is Finished
The Holy Week Prophecies of Zechariah

It Is Finished! is a series that explores the prophecies of Zechariah, offering an enriching look at our Savior Jesus, particularly as these prophecies relate to the events of Jesus' Holy Week passion, death, and resurrection.

Feb 25: *What's He Worth to You?* (11:7-13)
March 4: *Scattered Sheep* (13:7-9)
March 11: *The Truth, the Whole Truth, and Nothing but the Truth* (8:14-17)
March 18: *The Kingly Priest* (6:9-13)
March 25: *Look at the One Who Was Pierced* (12:10-13)

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Ash Wednesday

Emanuel First Evangelical Lutheran Church
February 18th, 2026

Order Of Worship:
Compline, pg. 225

Compline is a word that can be translated as “end.” It was historically a service of mediation and prayer to close, or end the day. The service folder serves as a guide with specific readings and prayers, as well as corresponding pages to follow in the hymnal during the service.

In this Ash Wednesday service, we will also celebrate the Lord’s Supper. If you are a communicant member of another WELS or ELS congregation, we invite you to share this Sacrament with us. If you are not yet a member of our church, we ask you to honor our Biblical practice of close communion and refrain from coming forward until you have completed doctrinal discussions with one of our pastors. (Please read “Attending the Lord’s Supper” for more information. Pamphlets are in the Capitol Ave. entryway.)

OPENING RESPONSES:

M: The Lord Almighty grant us a quiet night and peace at the last.



It is good to give thanks to the Lord,



to herald your love in the morning,



HYMN: 916 *Today Your Mercy Calls Us**Stand***CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION:**

M: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C: the maker of heaven and earth.

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

Silence for personal reflection

Almighty God, our heavenly Father,

we have sinned against you**in our thoughts,****in our words,****in our deeds,****and in all that we have not done.****Forgive us in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.****Deliver and restore us,****that we may rest in peace.**

By the mercy of God we are redeemed by Jesus Christ,

and in him we are forgiven.

Let us rest in his peace until the rising of the sun,

when we shall serve him in newness of life.

Amen.*Be seated***PSALM: 51**

PSALM PRAYER: Lord, we confess our sins to you and plead for your mercy. We acknowledge that sin runs too deep in our nature for us ever to rid ourselves of it, but we thank you that Jesus has done what we could not do, washing us clean of every stain. We plead that your Spirit would give us the strength to live a new life; through Christ our Lord.

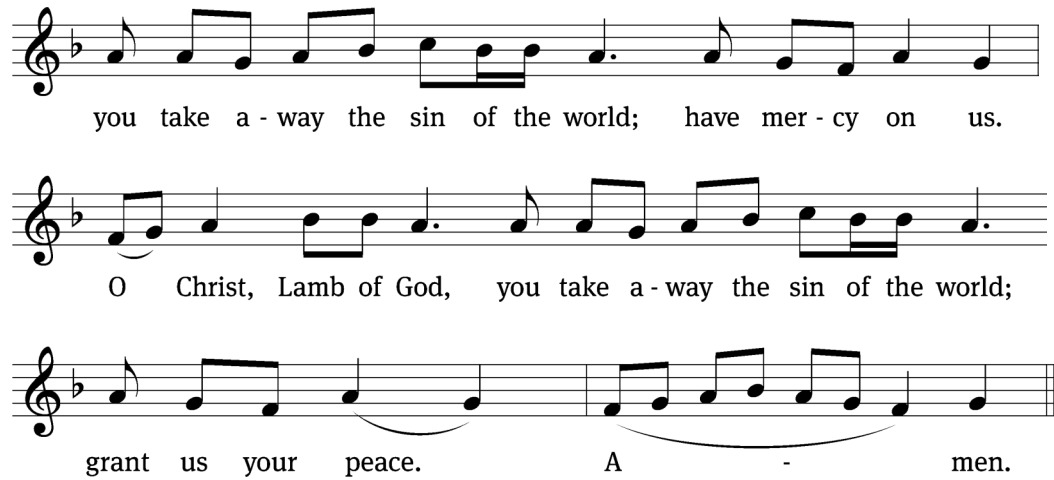
Amen.**ELS CHOIR (3:30):** *Lamb of God* (Hymn 403)**CHOIR ANTHEM (6:30):** *Create in Me a Clean Heart, O God*

The musical score is written on seven staves in a single system. It begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics printed below each staff. The lyrics are: "In peace, Lord, in peace you let your ser - vant now de - part ac - cord - ing to your word. For my eyes have seen your sal - va - tion, which you have pre - pared for ev - 'ry peo - ple, a light to light - en the Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el."

Guide us waking, O Lord,

The musical notation consists of a single staff with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with the lyrics "and guard us sleep - ing" printed below it.

That awake we may watch with Christ



you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.

O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;

grant us your peace. A - men.

Be seated

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS: 656 *As Surely as I Live, God Said*

654 *Jesus Sinners Does Receive*

658 *With All My Heart, I Praise You, Lord*

Stand

SONG OF SIMEON:

Guide us waking, O Lord,



and guard us sleep - ing

That awake we may watch with Christ



and a - sleep we may rest in peace,

FIRST READING: Isaiah 59:12-20

¹²Yes, our rebellious deeds are many before you,
and our sins testify against us.

Our rebellious deeds are with us,
and as for our guilty deeds, we are aware of them.

¹³Those deeds are rebellion and treachery against the LORD.
We turn back from following our God.

We incite oppression and apostasy.

We conceive and mutter deceitful words from our hearts.

¹⁴Justice is turned back,
and righteousness stands far away,
for truth stumbles in the city square,
and honesty cannot enter it.

¹⁵The truth is missing,
and anyone who turns from evil makes himself prey.
The LORD looked and saw something evil—
there was no justice.

¹⁶He saw that there was no one.

He was appalled that there was no one who could intervene.
So his own arm worked salvation for him,
and his own righteousness supported him.

¹⁷He clothed himself with righteousness like armor
and wore a helmet of salvation on his head.

He dressed in garments for vengeance,
and he wrapped himself with zeal like a cloak.

¹⁸He will repay in full what they have earned,
namely, wrath to his foes and full payment to his enemies.
He will repay even the distant coastlands.

¹⁹From the west they will fear the LORD's name,
and from the rising of the sun they will fear his glory,
for he will come like a raging river,
driven by the Spirit of the LORD.

²⁰Then a redeemer will come for Zion
and for those in Jacob who turn from rebellion.

This is the declaration of the LORD.

The Word of the Lord:

Thanks be to God!

SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 7:8-13

⁸For even if I caused you sorrow with my letter, I do not regret it (even though I did regret it, for I see that my letter caused you sorrow—yet only for a little while). ⁹Now I rejoice, not because you were made to feel sorrow, but because this sorrow resulted in repentance. Yes, you were made sorry in a godly way. So you were not harmed in any way by us. ¹⁰In fact, godly sorrow produces repentance, which leads to salvation, leaving no regret. On the other hand, worldly sorrow produces death.

¹¹Yes, look what godly sorrow produced in you: what diligence, what eagerness to clear yourself, what indignation, what alarm, what longing, what zeal, what correction! In every way you proved yourselves to be pure in this matter. ¹²So although I wrote to you, it was not because of the one who did what was wrong, or because of the one who was harmed by it. I wrote instead so that your genuine concern for us would be revealed to you in the sight of God. ¹³For that reason we have been comforted.

The Word of the Lord:

Thanks be to God!

Stand

GOSPEL READING: Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

¹“Be careful that you do not do your righteous works in front of people, so that they will notice. If you do, you have no reward from your Father who is in heaven. ²So whenever you perform acts of mercy, do not sound a trumpet for yourself, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets to be praised by people. Amen I tell you: They have received their reward. ³Instead, when you perform acts of mercy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing. ⁴Then your acts of mercy will be in secret, and your Father who sees what is done in secret will reward you.

⁵“Whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites. They love to stand and pray in the synagogues and on the street corners so that they may be seen by people. Amen I tell you: They have received their reward. ⁶But whenever you pray, go into your private room, close your door, and pray to your Father who is unseen. And your Father, who sees what others cannot see, will reward you.

¹⁶“Whenever you fast, do not make yourself look sad like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces to show everyone that they are fasting. Amen I tell you:

san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he,
 bless - ed is he, bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
 Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION:

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, “Take and eat; this is my + body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

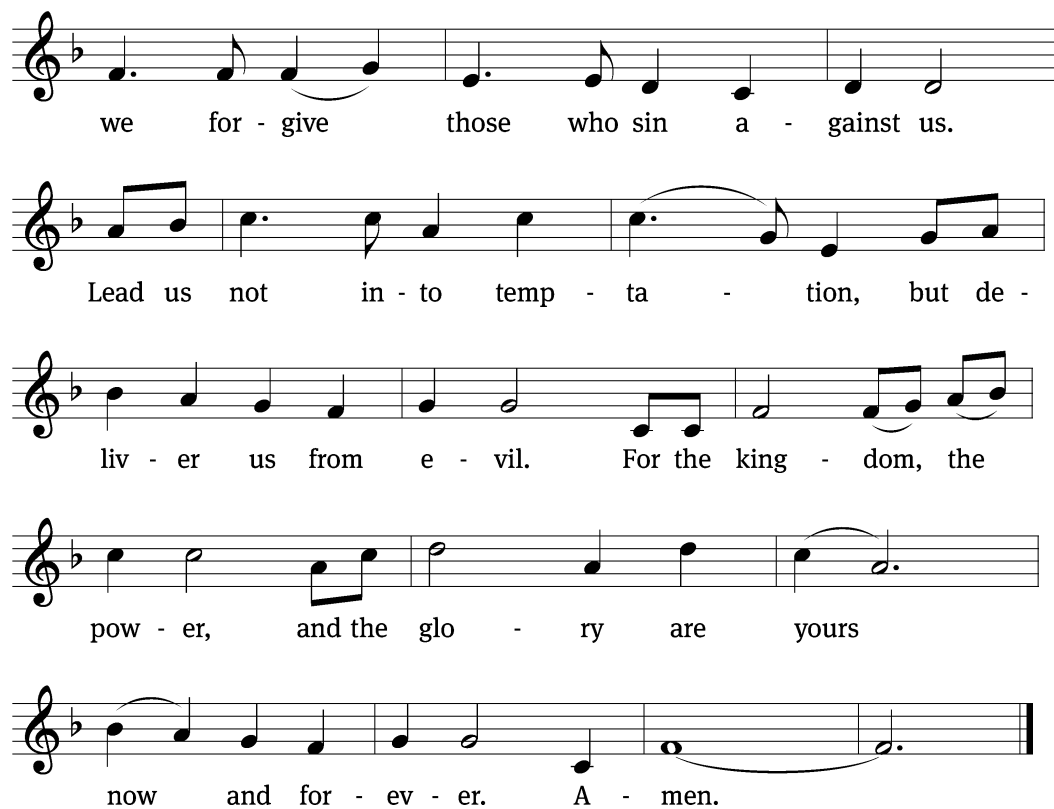
Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you; this is my + blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Amen.

O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD

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



we for - give those who sin a - gainst us.

Lead us not in - to temp - ta - tion, but de -

liv - er us from e - vil. For the king - dom, the

pow - er, and the glo - ry are yours

now and for - ev - er. A - men.

HOLY COMMUNION

(Please regard the note regarding the Lord's Supper on the cover page.)

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of heav - en - ly hosts:

heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na, ho -

They have received their reward. ¹⁷But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, ¹⁸so that it is not apparent to people that you are fasting, but only to your Father who sees what is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

¹⁹Do not store up treasures for yourselves on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. ²⁰But store up treasures for yourselves in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹Because where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All we like sheep have gone astray, and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all. By his wounds we are healed.

Into your hands I commend my spirit.



In - to your hands I com - mend my spir - it.

You have redeemed me, O Lord God of truth.



In - to your hands I com - mend my spir - it.

Glory to the Father and to the † Son and to the Holy Spirit.



In - to your hands I com - mend my spir - it.

Be seated

HYMN: 655 *Before You, God, the Judge of All*

SERMON: RETURN TO ME! (Zechariah 1:1-6)

¹In the eighth month of the second year of Darius, the word of the LORD came to the prophet Zechariah son of Berekiah, the son of Iddo.

²The LORD was very angry with your forefathers. ³Therefore, now you

are to tell this people that this is what the LORD of Armies says to them.

Return to me, declares the LORD of Armies, and I will return to you, says the LORD of Armies. ⁴Do not be like your forefathers, to whom the earlier prophets proclaimed, “This is what the LORD of Armies says. Return, return from your evil ways and from your evil deeds.”

But our forefathers did not listen, nor did they pay attention to me, declares the LORD. ⁵Your forefathers—where are they now? And those prophets—did they go on living indefinitely? ⁶But my words and my statutes, which I commanded to my servants the prophets, caught up with our forefathers, didn’t they?

Then they returned and said, “Because of our ways and our deeds, the LORD of Armies has done to us just as he planned to do to us.”

THE OFFERING

The members of Emanuel Lutheran Church have joined together to do the Lord’s work in this community and around the world. Guests need not feel obligated to participate in this offering which supports our ministry.

Stand

PRAYER:

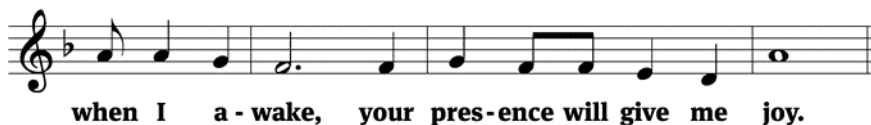
Hear my prayer, O Lord;



Keep me as the apple of your eye;



In righteousness I shall see you;



O Lord, support us all day long, till the shadows lengthen and the evening comes and the busy world is hushed and the fever of life is over and our work is done. Then, in your mercy, grant us a safe lodging and a holy rest and peace at the last; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.



Keep watch, dear Lord, with those who watch or work or weep this night, and give your angels charge over those who sleep. Tend the sick, give rest to the weary, pity the afflicted, soothe the suffering, bless the dying—and all for your love’s sake; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.



LORD’S PRAYER:

