



ASH WEDNESDAY – 6:15 PM
February 18, 2026

Beaver Valley Lutheran Church

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Psalm 51 (read responsively)

P: Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy, blot out my transgressions.

C: Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.

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

C: 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 judgement.

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

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

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

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

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

C: Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and bright spirit within me.

P: Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your Holy Spirit from me.

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

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

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

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

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

P: The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

C: Do good to Zion in your good pleasure; rebuild the walls of Jerusalem,

P: then you will delight in right sacrifices, in burnt offerings and whole burnt offerings; then bulls will be offered on your altar.

Opening Hymn: *Restore in Us, Oh God* ELW #328

Lord's Prayer (Red, page 208)

Invitation To Communion

Come to the banquet, for all is now ready.

Communion

Communion Hymn: *What Feast of Love* ELW #487

Post Communion Blessing

Prayer After Communion

P: Let us pray.

C: O God, our life, our strength, our food, we give you thanks for sustaining us with the body and blood of your Son. By your Holy Spirit, enliven us to be His body in the world, that more and more we will give you praise and serve your earth and its many peoples, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Benediction

P: Merciful God, accompany our journey through these forty days. Renew us in the gift of baptism, that we may provide for those who are poor, pray for those in need, fast from self-indulgence, and above all that we may find our treasure in the life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Closing Hymn: *Now the Day is Over* ELW #570

1. Now the day is over, night is drawing nigh; shadows of the evening steal across the sky.
2. Jesus, give the weary calm and sweet repose; with your tend'rest blessing may our eyelids close.
3. Comfort ev'ry suff'rer watching late in pain; those who plan some evil, from their sin restrain.
4. Through the long night watches may your angels spread their bright wings above me, watching round my bed.
5. When the morning wakens, then may I arise pure and fresh and sinless in your holy eyes.
6. Glory to the Father, glory to the Son, and the you blest Spirit, while the ages run.

Imposition of Ashes

Those wishing to receive the mark of ashes on the forehead may proceed down the center aisle to the front of the sanctuary, and then return by the side aisle. As the sign of the cross is made, the pastor will say, "From dust you came and to dust you shall return."

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

C: that we may show forth your glory in the world.

P: By the cross and passion of your Son, our Savior,

C: bring us with all your saints to the joy of his 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.

Prayers of Intercession

Congregational Response: Hear our prayer.

Offering

Offering Hymn

We Give Thee but Thine Own

ELW #686

Offertory Prayer

Service of Holy Communion

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.

Preface

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, almighty and merciful God, through our savior Jesus Christ. You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace. In the hope of receiving this great gift of love and grace, we come to your table to receive our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, in this very special meal.

Greeting

P: The Lord be with you

C: And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray.

C: Holy God, on this Ash Wednesday, we reflect upon our sin, our failings, and the harms we have caused. Remind us that, although we are dust, we are also your children, and your love never fails. Amen.

First Reading:

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

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—² a 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. ¹² Yet even now, says the LORD, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; ¹³ rend your hearts and not your clothing. Return to the LORD your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from punishment. ¹⁴ Who 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? ¹⁵ Blow the trumpet in Zion; consecrate a fast; call a solemn assembly; ¹⁶ gather the people. Consecrate the congregation; assemble the aged; gather the children, even infants at the breast. Let the bridegroom leave his room and the bride her canopy. ¹⁷ Between 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?'"

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God

Second Reading:

2 Corinthians 5:20-6:10

So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake, he made him to be sin who knew 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. For 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! 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: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors and yet are true, as unknown and yet are well known, as dying and see—we are alive, as punished and yet not killed, as sorrowful yet always rejoicing, as poor yet making many rich, as having nothing and yet possessing everything.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation

Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.

Gospel: Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

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: This is the Gospel of the Lord

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Hymn of the Day

The Glory of These Forty Days

ELW #320

Confession and Forgiveness

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another. Most holy and merciful God,

C: 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.

P: 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.

C: Have mercy on us, O God.

P: 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.

C: Have mercy on us, O God.

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

C: Have mercy on us, O God.

P: Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people, we confess to you.

C: Have mercy on us, O God.

P: Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to share the faith that is in us, we confess to you.

C: Have mercy on us, O God.

P: Our neglect of human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty, we confess to you.

C: Have mercy on us, O God.

P: For our false judgments, our uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and for our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us, we confess to you.

C: Have mercy on us, O God.

P: For our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us, we confess to you.

C: Have mercy on us, O God.

P: Restore us, O God, and let your anger depart from us.

C: Hear us, O God, for your mercy is great.