



Ash Wednesday
February 18, 2026

Spirit of Joy Lutheran Church, Pastor Sarah Bunge
Buffalo Presbyterian Church, Pastor Brian Entz

*Please stand when there is an **
*Please read along with all **Bold** text*

Prelude

Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.
-Matthew 11:28

did you not know what the Holy One can do with dust?
-Jan Richardson

Welcome

***Prayer of the Day**

Holy God, our Source and Creator, you despise nothing you have made and you forgive the sins of all who trust in you. Create in us new and humble hearts, that truly turning from our sins, and acknowledging the brokenness in our lives, we may receive from you, the God of all mercy, forgiveness and wholeness; through your Son, Jesus Christ our redeemer, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

***Hymn**

#415 Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy

Psalm 51:

1 Have mercy on me, God, according to your faithful love!
Wipe away my wrongdoings according to your great compassion!

2 **Wash me completely clean of my guilt;
purify me from my sin!**

3 Because I know my wrongdoings,
my sin is always right in front of me.

**4 I've sinned against you—you alone.
I've committed evil in your sight.
That's why you are justified when you render your verdict,
completely correct when you issue your judgment.**

5 Yes, I was born in guilt, in sin,
from the moment my mother conceived me.

**6 And yes, you want truth in the most hidden places;
you teach me wisdom in the most secret space.**

7 Purify me with hyssop and I will be clean;
wash me and I will be brighter than snow.

**8 Let me hear joy and celebration again;
let the bones you crushed rejoice once more.**

9 Hide your face from my sins;
wipe away all my guilty deeds!

**10 Create a clean heart for me, God;
put a new, faithful spirit deep inside me!**

11 Please don't throw me out of your presence;
please don't take your holy spirit away from me.

**12 Return the joy of your salvation to me
and sustain me with a willing spirit.**

13 Then I will teach wrongdoers your ways,
and sinners will come back to you.

**14 Deliver me from violence, God, God of my salvation,
so that my tongue can sing of your righteousness.**

15 Lord, open my lips,
and my mouth will proclaim your praise.

16 **You don't want sacrifices.
If I gave an entirely burned offering,
you wouldn't be pleased.**

17 A broken spirit is my sacrifice, God.
You won't despise a heart, God, that is broken and crushed.

Period of Silence

Meditation

Pastor Sarah Bunge

Period of Silence

Anthem

"Create in Me"

Agre

Period of Silence

Litany of Confession

Sung Response

#471 O Lord, Hear My Prayer x2

Leader: Let us pray.

People: **Holy and merciful God, 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 own fault in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.**

Sung Response

#471 O Lord, Hear My Prayer x2

Leader: 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.

People: Have mercy on us, O God.

Leader: We have not listened 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.

People: Have mercy on us, O God.

Leader: We confess to you, O God, all our past unfaithfulness: The pride, hypocrisy, and impatience in our lives,

People: we confess to you, O God.

Leader: Our self-indulgent appetites and ways and our exploitation of other people,

People: we confess to you, O God.

Leader: Our anger at our own frustration and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves,

People: we confess to you, O God.

Leader: Our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts, and our dishonesty in daily life and work,

People : we confess to you, O God.

Leader: Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to commend the faith that is in us,

People: we confess to you, O God.

Sung Response

#471 O Lord, Hear My Prayer x2

Leader: Accept our repentance, O God, for the wrongs we have done. For our neglect of human need and suffering and our indifference to injustice and cruelty,

People accept our repentance, O God.

Leader: For all false judgments, for uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and for our prejudice and contempt toward those

who differ from us,

People: accept our repentance, O God.

Leader: For our waste and pollution of your creation and our lack of concern for those who come after us,

People: accept our repentance, O God.

Leader: For the good that we have left undone, the truth we have ignored, and the beauty we have squandered,

People: accept our repentance, O God.

Sung Response

#471 O Lord, Hear My Prayer x2

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

People: Favorably hear us, O God, for your mercy is great.

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

People: That we may show forth your glory in the world.

Leader: By the cross and passion of our Savior,

People: bring us with all your saints to the joy of Christ's resurrection.

Imposition of Ashes

Leader: Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth. May these ashes be for us a sign of our mortality and penitence, and a reminder that only by your gracious gift are we given everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

All: Amen.

People are invited to come forward to receive the imposition of ashes. If you are unable to come forward someone will bring ashes to you. A pastor marks the forehead of each person with the ashes, using the following words from Gen. 3:19:

Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.

As people receive ashes the congregation sings:

#678 Our Darkness Is Never Darkness in Your Sight

***Blessing and Sending**

***Hymn**

#435 There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

Please Leave in Silence

WORSHIP NOTES

All liturgy comes/is adapted from the Book of Common Worship (2018) or is written in house.

#415 Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy Text: Hart, Joseph (1712-1768), Music: Walker's Southern Harmony, 1835 | Public Domain

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#678 Our Darkness Is Never Darkness in Your Sight Text: Taize Community, 1991 Music: Jacques Berthier, 1991 Text and Music ©1991 Les Presses de Taize (admin. GIA Publications, Inc.)

#435 There's a Wideness in God's Mercy | TEXT: Frederick William Faber, 1854, alt. | MUSIC: Dutch melody; arr. Julius Röntgen, c. 1906 | Public domain

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