

Ash Wednesday
The Imposition of Ashes and
Holy Communion



The Lihu'e Evangelical Lutheran
Church of Hawai'i

February 18, 2026

Those Serving Us Today

Rev. David Hendrickson, Pastor
Rhonda Pabo, Organist Tony Kment, Technology
Mershie Shaw Greeter ~ Kathy Stack, Lector

As we begin our Lenten journey, Lihue Lutheran Church welcomes you to this Ash Wednesday service. The order of worship is printed in this bulletin.

The mood of this service is reflective as we contemplate our faith and life. The goal of this service is to enlist our participation in the Lenten discipline. Tonight, we are called to focus upon the reality of our mortality and the mystery of our redemption in the cross of Jesus Christ. As we sense the presence of God's love, even in our frailty and weakness, we are strengthened in our baptismal faith.

Incorporated into the service is the "Imposition of Ashes". The ashes are made by burning the Palm branches used last Palm Sunday. The placing of the ashes on the forehead is a powerful reminder that we are dust and to dust we shall return. If you would like to participate in the Imposition of Ashes you are invited to do so during the confession.

Tonight, we also celebrate the life we have in the cross of Christ, as we share in Holy Communion. All believers are welcome to come and participate in this meal with us.



Ash Wednesday

Order for Worship

*Opening Hymn

In the Cross

1 In the cross of Christ I glo - ry, tow'r - ing
 2 When the woes of life o'er - take me, hopes de -
 3 When the sun of bliss is beam - ing light and
 4 Bane and bless - ing, pain and plea - sure, by the

o'er the wrecks of time. All the light of
 ceive, and fears an - noy, nev - er shall the
 love up - on my way, from the cross the
 cross are sanc - ti - fied; peace is there that

sa - cred sto - ry gath - ers round its head sub - lime.
 cross for - sake me; lo, it glows with peace and joy.
 ra - dianc e stream - ing adds more lus - ter to the day.
 knows no mea - sure, joys that through all time a - bide.

The Exhortation



- P Brothers and sisters: God created us to experience joy in communion with him, to love all humanity, and to live in harmony with all of his creation. But sin separates us from God, our neighbors, and creation, and so we do not enjoy the life our Creator intended for us. Also, by our sin we grieve our Father, who does not desire us to come under his judgment, but to turn to him and live.
- As disciples of the Lord Jesus, we are called to struggle against everything that leads us away from love of God and neighbor. Repentance, fasting, prayer, and works of love - the discipline of Lent - help us to wage our spiritual warfare. I invite, you, therefore, to commit yourselves to this struggle and confess your sins, asking our Father for strength to persevere in your Lenten discipline.
- P Most holy and merciful Father:
- C We confess to you, 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.**
- A 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, Lord.**
- A We have been deaf 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, Lord.**
- P We confess to you, Lord, all our past unfaithfulness. The pride, hypocrisy, and impatience in our lives,
- C we confess to you, Lord.**
- P Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people,
- C we confess to you, Lord.**
- P Our anger at our own frustration, and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves,
- C we confess to you, Lord.**
- P Our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts, and our dishonesty in daily life and work,
- C we confess to you, Lord**
- P Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to commend the faith that is in us,
- C we confess to you, Lord**

P Accept our repentance, Lord, for the wrongs we have done. For our blindness to human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty,

C accept our repentance, Lord.

P For all false judgments, for uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and for our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us,

C accept our repentance, Lord.

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

C accept our repentance, Lord.

P Restore us, good Lord, and let your anger depart from us.

C Hear us, Lord, for your mercy is great. Amen

The Impositions of Ashes:

(Those who desire to receive ashes as a visible symbol are invited to come forward before the altar at this time. The minister applies the ashes to the forehead of each person with the words:

"Remember you are dust, and to dust you shall return".)



1 Wide o - pen are your hands to pay with more than gold
2 Wide o - pen are your arms, a fall - en world to em - brace,
3 Draw all my mind and heart up to your throne on high,



the aw - ful debt of guilt and sin, for - ev - er and of old.
to win to love and end - less rest our way - ward hu - man race.
and let your sa - cred cross ex - alt my spir - it to the sky.



Ah, let me grasp those hands, that we may nev - er part,
Lord, I am sad and poor, but bound - less is your grace;
To these, your might - y hands, my spir - it I re - sign.



and let the pow - er of their blood sus - tain my faint - ing heart.
give me the soul - trans - form - ing joy for which I seek your face.
In life, I live a - lone to you; in death, am yours a - lone.

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 Lord,

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

P Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, does not desire the death of sinners, but rather that they may turn to the love of God and live. Therefore, we implore God to grant us true repentance and the Holy Spirit, that those things we do on this day may be pleasing, that the rest of our life may be pure and holy, and that at the last we may come to his eternal joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

Hymn of the Evening

Beneath the Cross of Jesus



1 Be - neath the cross of Je - sus I long to take my stand;
2 Up - on the cross of Je - sus, my eye at times can see
3 I take, O cross, your shad - ow for my a - bid - ing place;



the shad - ow of a might-y rock with - in a wea - ry land,
the ver - y dy - ing form of one who suf - fered there for me.
I ask no oth - er sun - shine than the sun - shine of his face;



a home with-in a wil - der - ness, a rest up - on the way,
And from my con - trite heart, with tears, two won - ders I con - fess:
con - tent to let the world go by, to know no gain nor loss,



from the burn - ing of the noon - tide heat and bur - dens of the day.
the . . . won - der of his glo - rious love and my un - wor - thi - ness.
my . . . sin - ful self my on - ly shame, my glo - ry all, the cross.

First Lesson

Joel 2: 1-2, 12-17

The context of this reading is a community liturgy of sorrow over sin. The prophet has called the people to mourn a devastating plague and to announce a day of darkness, the day of the Lord. The people are called to repent and to return to God, who is gracious and merciful.

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 – 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.

Yet even now, says the LORD, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; rend 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. 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? Blow the trumpet in Zion; sanctify a fast; call a solemn assembly; gather 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. 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?' "

Psalm 51

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your loving kindness; in your great compassion blot out my offenses.

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

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

Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight.

And so you are justified when you speak and upright in your judgment.

Indeed, I have been wicked from my birth, a sinner from my mother's womb.

For behold, you look for truth deep within me, and will make me understand wisdom secretly.

Purge me from my sin, and I shall be pure; wash me, and I shall be clean indeed.

Make me hear of joy and gladness, that the body you have broken may rejoice.

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

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

Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

Give me the joy of your saving help again and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.

I shall teach your ways to the wicked, and sinners shall return to you.

Deliver me from death, O God, and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness, O God of my salvation.

Open my lips, O Lord, and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Had you desired it, I would have offered sacrifice, but you take no delight in burnt-offerings.

The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

Second Reading

2 Corinthians 5:20b - 6:10

Out of love for humankind, Christ experienced sin and suffering, so that the saving power of God could penetrate the most forbidding and tragic depths of human experience. No aspect of human life is ignored by the presence of God's grace. Because of this, Paul announces that this day is a day of God's grace, an acceptable time to turn toward God's mercy.

We entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For 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. 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!

We are putting no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, 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.

*Holy Gospel

Mathew 6: 1-6, 16-21

In this passage Matthew sets forth a vision of genuine righteousness illustrated by three basic acts of Jewish devotion: almsgiving, prayer, and fasting. Jesus does not denounce the acts—in the New Testament they are signs of singular devotion to God. Rather, he criticizes those who perform them in order to have a sense of self-satisfaction or to gain public approval. Care for the poor, intense prayer, and fasting with a joyous countenance are signs of loving dedication to God.

P The Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew, the sixth chapter.



[Jesus said to the 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.

"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. But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

"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. 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.

"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. But 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.

"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. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

P The Gospel of the Lord.



Sermon

Offering

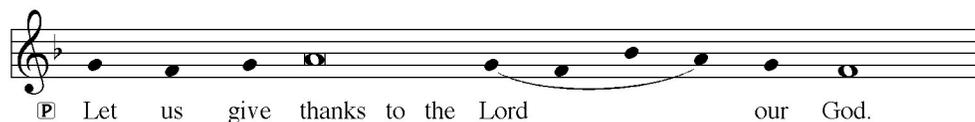
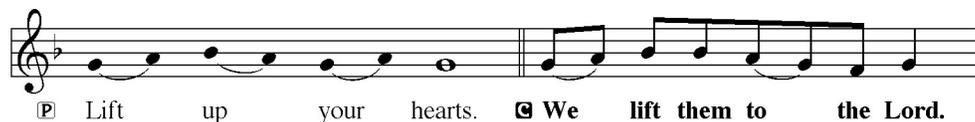


In response to the many requests we've had, we now have a contactless option for both members and visitors to share their offerings. It is still done over our Vanco church giving platform so it can connect to your stewardship account for record keeping. Mahalo!

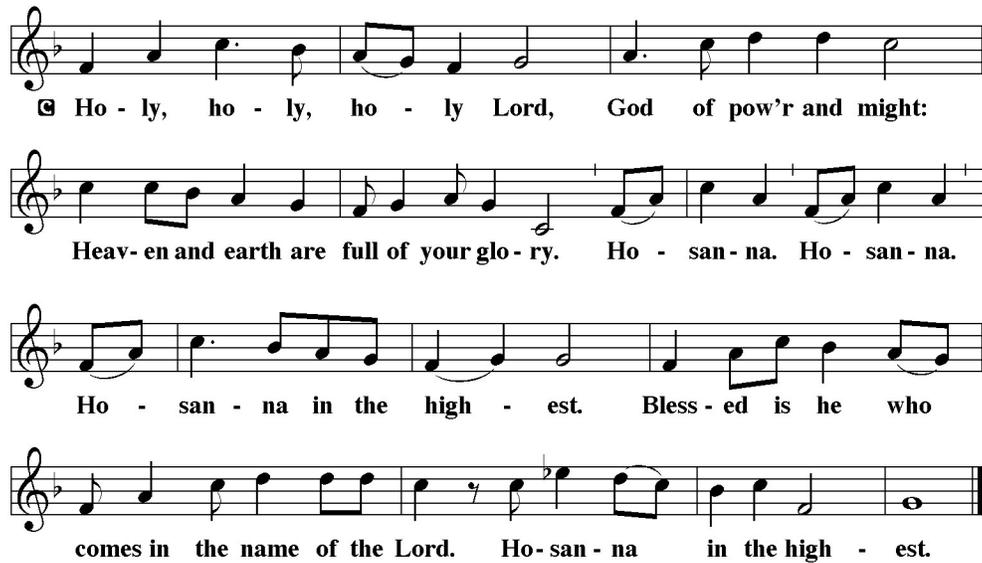
*Offertory Prayer

- P Let us pray, O God, maker of heaven and earth,
C **your steadfast love embraces all creation. You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth and bring forth its bounty. Through these gifts of bread and wine, draw us into the death and life of your Son, who calls us to bear witness to his saving work. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.**

The Great Thanksgiving



- P It is indeed right and salutary . . . we praise your name and join their unending hymn.



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:
 Heav-en and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho - san - na. Ho - san - na.
 Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who
 comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

**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.

Invitation to Communion

Come to the table. Feast on God's goodness and mercy.

The Distribution

All are welcome to share in this meal with us. The wine will be distributed from a chalice with a pouring lip. After receiving the bread, the tray will be presented with empty glasses. Please pick up a glass and wait for the assistant to fill it with wine from the Common Cup. The center circle of cups is pre-filled with grape juice for those who would rather not receive wine.

Communion Hymns

☩ 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.

Just As I Am

1 Just as I am, with - out one plea, but that thy blood was
2 Just as I am, and wait - ing not to rid my soul of
3 Just as I am, though tossed a - bout with man - y a con - flict,
4 Just as I am, poor, wretch - ed, blind; sight, rich - es, heal - ing

shed for me, and that thou bidd'st me come to thee,
 one dark blot, to thee, whose blood can cleanse each spot,
 man - y a doubt, fight - ings and fears with - in, with - out,
 of the mind, yea, all I need in thee to find,

O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

5 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.

6 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.

**Blessing*

P Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity: God, who calls all things into existence, Jesus Christ, who redeems us, and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation, ✚ bless you now and always.

C Amen.

**Closing Prayer*

P Compassionate God, your Son welcomed sinners and ate with them. We give you thanks for the forgiveness and grace we have received in this meal. Make us signs of your love, that all the world may know your mercy and blessing; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen

*Benediction

P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace in the name of Makua, ✚ Keiki Kane, and Uhane Hemolele.

C **Amene.**

*Sending Hymn

Be Thou My Vision



1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;
3 Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise,
4 Light of my soul, af - ter vic - to - ry won,



naught be all else to me, save that thou art:
I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord.
thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways:
may I reach heav - en's joys, O heav - en's Sun!



thou my best thought by day and by night,
Thou my soul's shel - ter, thou my high tow'r,
thou, and thou on - ly, first in my heart,
Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,



wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.
raise thou me heav'n - ward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.
great God of heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.
still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

P Go in peace. Believe the good news.

C **Thanks be to God!**



*You are invited to continue your Lenten Journey with us at
Lihue Lutheran:*

*Wednesday, February 25, 2026
6:00 pm Soup Supper
6:30 pm Study and Reflection
7:00 pm Holden Evening Prayer*



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