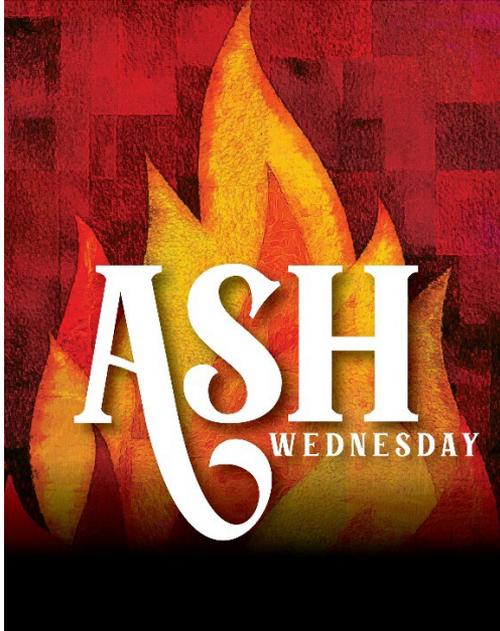


**Welcome to worship at  
The New Hanover Evangelical Lutheran Church**

**Ash Wednesday  
February 18, 2026**



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. We humbly pray for God to make our hearts clean while we rejoice that “now is the day of salvation.” Returning to our baptismal call, we more intentionally bear the fruits of mercy and justice in the world.

**Nicole Young, vicar  
Patricia Nyce, director of music ministry  
Lindsey Waltermeyer, Grace band leader  
Faye Weidner, soloist (noon)  
Carolyn Fleming, soloist (7:00 PM)**

**We love our neighbors with healing and feeding them!**

**All worship can be viewed online at  
[newhanoverlutheran.org](http://newhanoverlutheran.org)**

**[facebook.com/NewHanoverLutheranChurch](https://www.facebook.com/NewHanoverLutheranChurch)  
and on YouTube.**

**May your worship experience strengthen you  
with God's love and grace.**

### **Welcome Statement**

You are always welcome at New Hanover Evangelical Lutheran Church. We are a growing community of believers in Jesus Christ, rooted in God's love and guided by Christ's example. We strive to reach out with compassion, offering a place where you can grow in faith, experience God's grace and feel safe and celebrated. At New Hanover Evangelical Lutheran Church, we want you to gather with us at our table. Rooted in our Lutheran faith and belief that we are all children of God and made in God's image, we welcome all people with dignity and love.

In Romans 15:7, Paul writes, "Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God."

By this belief, we are committed to intentionally following Jesus' example of unconditional hospitality, love and justice. Here, you are not only included, you are respected. We affirm and value people of all races, ethnicities, sexual orientations, gender identities, gender expressions, cultures, ages, abilities, body sizes, relationship statuses and economic or immigration statuses. We are committed to the ongoing work toward racial equity and inclusion in all we do. You are invited to fully participate in our worship, sacraments, leadership positions, gatherings, and ministries. In our identities, we are united by the common faith we hold, and recognize we each offer unique gifts and perspectives. We believe that this transforms lives and deepens the faith of our community.

Christ's door is open to all, so is ours.

Prelude

Lord, Hear My Prayer

"Lord, Hear My Prayer" by Franklin Ritter. © 2004 Lorenz Publishing Co., a Division of the Lorenz Corp. All rights reserved. Streamed with permission under One License #A-701229.

Welcome and Announcements

Please rise as you are able.

Opening Dialogue and Hymn

*Leader*  
*freely*

Come and see, the time is here.

*All*

Now is the day of sal - va - tion.

*Leader*

Turn to us, O sav - ing God.

*All*

Let your light shine in our dark - ness.

*Leader*  
*a tempo*

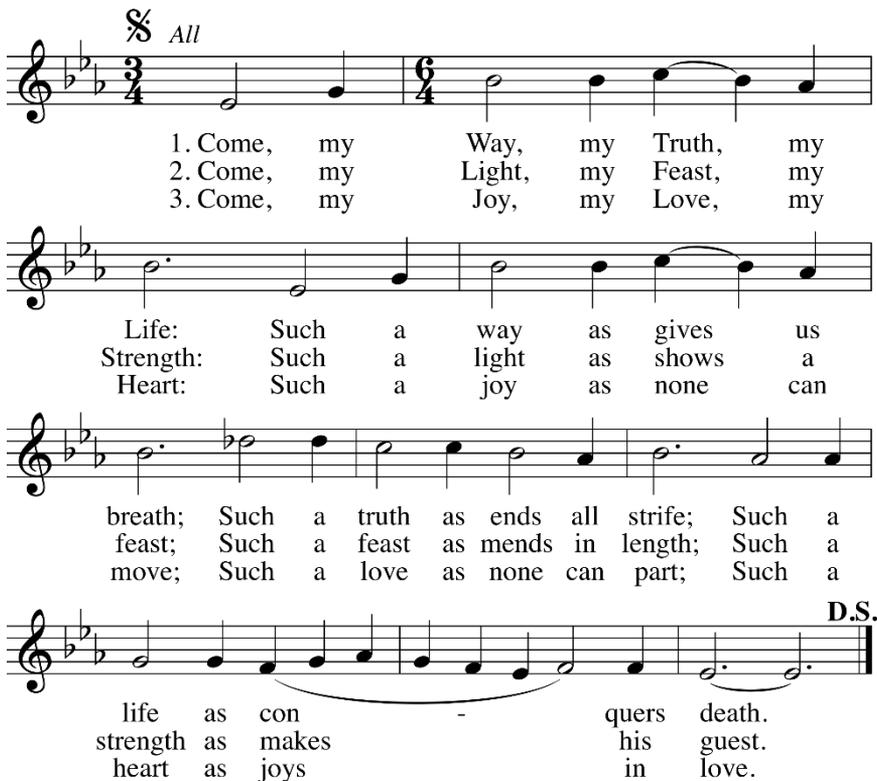
Come, a - bide a - mong us now.

*All*

Bring to the world a - bun - dant

life.

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 *All*

1. Come, my Way, my Truth, my  
 2. Come, my Light, my Feast, my  
 3. Come, my Joy, my Love, my

Life: Such a way as gives us  
 Strength: Such a light as shows a  
 Heart: Such a joy as none can

breath; Such a truth as ends all strife; Such a  
 feast; Such a feast as mends in length; Such a  
 move; Such a love as none can part; Such a

*D.S.*

life as con - quers death.  
 strength as makes his guest.  
 heart as joys in love.

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## Greeting

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

## Prayer of the Day

God's mercy, grace, and peace be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

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.**

Psalm 103



**Antiphon**



Re - turn, re - turn to God, who is



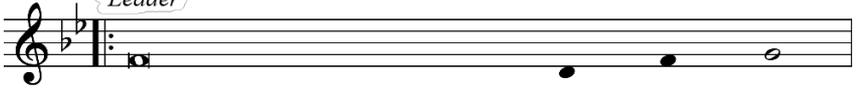
gra-cious and mer-ci-ful, slow to an-ger and a -



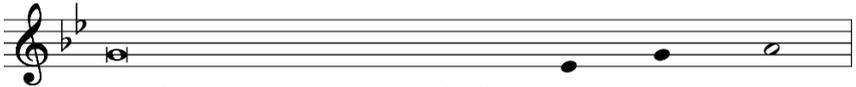
bound - ing in stead - fast love.

**Verses 1 and 2**

*Leader*

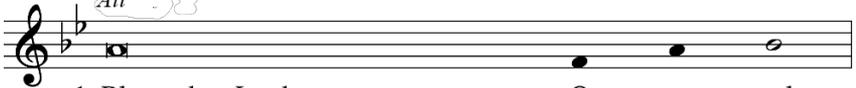


1. Bless the Lord, O my soul,  
2. who forgives all your in - iquity,

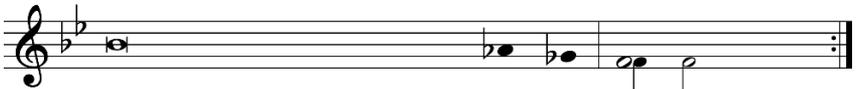


1. and all that is within me bless God's ho - ly name.  
2. who heals all your dis - eases,

*All*



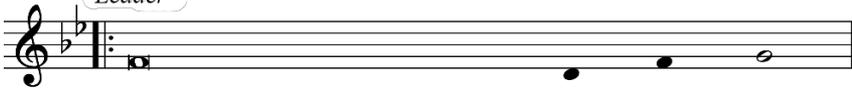
1. Bless the Lord, O my soul,  
2. who redeems your life from the Pit,



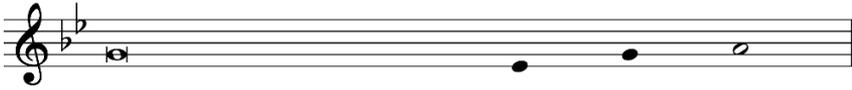
1. and do not forget all God's ben - e - fits, *To Verse 2*  
2. who crowns you with steadfast love and mer-cy. *To Antiphon*

## Verses 3 and 4

*Leader*

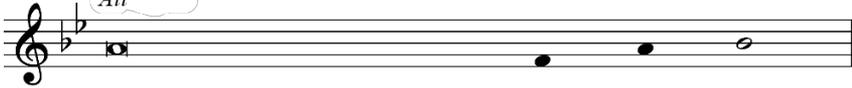


3. God satisfies you with good as long as you live  
4. God knows how we were made,



3. so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.  
4. and remembers that we are dust.

*All*



3. God will not al - ways ac - cuse,  
4. God's love en - dures for - ever.



3. nor will God's anger last for - ever. *To Verse 4*  
4. God's righteousness is ev - er - last - ing. *To Antiphon*

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Gospel Hymn

*What Wondrous Love Is This*

ELW #666

Gospel Reading

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

The holy gospel according to Matthew

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said to the disciples:] <sup>1</sup>“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.

<sup>2</sup>“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. <sup>3</sup>But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, <sup>4</sup>so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

<sup>5</sup>“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. <sup>6</sup>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.

<sup>16</sup>“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. <sup>17</sup>But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, <sup>18</sup>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.

<sup>19</sup>“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; <sup>20</sup>but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. <sup>21</sup>For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Please be seated.*

**Sermon**

### Invitation to Lent

Friends in Christ, today with the whole church we enter the time of remembering Jesus' Passover from death to life, and our life in Christ is renewed.

We begin this holy season by acknowledging our need for repentance and for God's mercy. We are created to experience joy in communion with God, to love one another, and to live in harmony with creation. But our sinful rebellion separates us from God, our neighbors, and creation, so that we do not enjoy the life our creator intended.

As disciples of Jesus, we are called to a discipline that contends against evil and resists whatever leads us away from love of God and neighbor. I invite you, therefore, to the discipline of Lent—self-examination and repentance, prayer and fasting, sacrificial giving and works of love—strengthened by the gifts of word and sacrament. Let us continue our journey through these forty days to the great Three Days of Jesus' death and resurrection.

*Please rise as you are able.*

## Confession of Sin

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

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 anger depart from us.  
**Hear us, O God, for your mercy is great.**

*Please be seated.*

### Imposition of 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.**

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

### Intercessions

With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for everyone in need, here and throughout the world.



#### **Refrain**

*All*



Watch, O Lord, with all those a - wake this night,



Watch, O Lord, with all those who weep; Give your



an-gels and saints charge o-ver all who sleep.

## Verses

*Leader/Cantor* *All*



1. Tend your ail - ing ones:
2. Soothe your suf - f'ring ones: in your love, Lord;
3. Hold your griev - ing ones:
4. Guard your lit - tle ones:

*Leader/Cantor* *All*



- Rest your wea - ry ones:  
Heal af - flict - ed ones: in your love, Lord;  
Raise your fall - en ones:  
Guide your seek - ing ones:

*Leader/Cantor* *All* *To Refrain*



- Bless your dy - ing ones:  
Shield your joy - ous ones: in your love, O Lord of all.  
Mend your bro - ken ones:  
Grant us all your peace:

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## Offertory

### Offertory Prayer

Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

*Please rise as you are able.*

Great Thanksgiving

### Dialogue

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.**

### 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. 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:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

### Thanksgiving at the Table

Blessed are you, O God of the universe. Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth.

Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood.

Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea.

Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness to the land of milk and honey.

Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one.

Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ.

Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's Passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

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

O God of resurrection and new life: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine. Bless this feast. Grace our table with your presence.

**Come, Holy Spirit.**

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread. Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world. Breathe new life into us. Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love.

**Come, Holy Spirit.**

With your holy ones of all times and places, with the earth and all its creatures, with sun and moon and stars, we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever.

**Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Lord, 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.**

*Please be seated.*

Invitation to Communion

Come to the banquet, for all is now ready.

Communion

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

## After Communion Prayer

Let us pray.

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.

**Amen.**

## Nunc Dimittis



*All*

Now Lord, you let your  
ser-vant go in peace: your word has been ful - filled. My  
own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which you have pre -  
pared in the sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple: a  
light to re - veal you to the na - tions, and the  
glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.

Now Lord, you let your ser-vant go in peace.

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## Benediction

*Leader* *freely* *All*

Bless God's ho - ly Name. Thanks be to God.

*Leader*

Almighty God bless us, and direct our days and our deeds in peace.

*All* *a tempo*

A - men, A - men,

A - men.

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## Dismissal

Go forth into the world to serve God with gladness; be of good courage; hold fast to that which is good; render to no one evil for evil; strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honor all people; love and serve God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Postlude

## *Solemn March*

## Felix Mendelssohn

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## Announcements

**Serving Ash Wednesday Noon:** Steve Weidner, head usher; Terry Santangelo, usher; Terry Santangelo, communion assistant

**Ash Wednesday 7:00:** Bill Allen, head usher; Yvonne Peto, usher; Sam Young, acolyte; Barbara Repa, communion assistant

**Sunday:** Steve Weidner, head usher; Brian Flack, usher; Carolyn Fleming, lector; Nikki Young, children's sermon; Sadie Hubley, acolyte

**Altar Guild** members who are serving this month: Vicki Dotterer, Becky Gallagher and Terry Santangelo.

**The Nursery room** is located between the Welcome Center and the Fellowship Hall. Parents are welcome to use the room during worship as needed. The room provides for a comfortable play area in a joyful environment; toys and books are included. The room has access to a changing room and a private nursing room next door.

**Doors leading to fellowship hall and the education wing** remain locked during the worship service for the safety of all.

**Have a pastoral emergency?**

Contact Vicar Nikki Young at 267-329-9697.

## Lent

**You are invited to continue on this Lenten journey at NHEL.C.**

**Wednesday Lenten Dinners and Worship**

February 25<sup>th</sup>, March 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, and 25<sup>th</sup>

Dinner at 5:30 PM

Worship at 6:30 PM, Holden Evening Prayer service

**Holy Week**

Palm Sunday, March 29<sup>th</sup>, Worship at 9:00 AM

Maundy Thursday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>, Worship at 7:30 PM

Good Friday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>, Worship at 7:30 PM

Easter Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup>, Worship at 9:00 AM

## Prayer Requests

**Military:** Shawn Dietz, Kevin Dugan, Jason Bernhard, Craig Geiser, Patrick Mathias, Steven Kane, William Zearfoss, Will Wilson V, Milton Jack Repa, Kyle Woods, Danny Foust

**Grieving:** Family and friends of Kim Capone and Robert Ganovsky

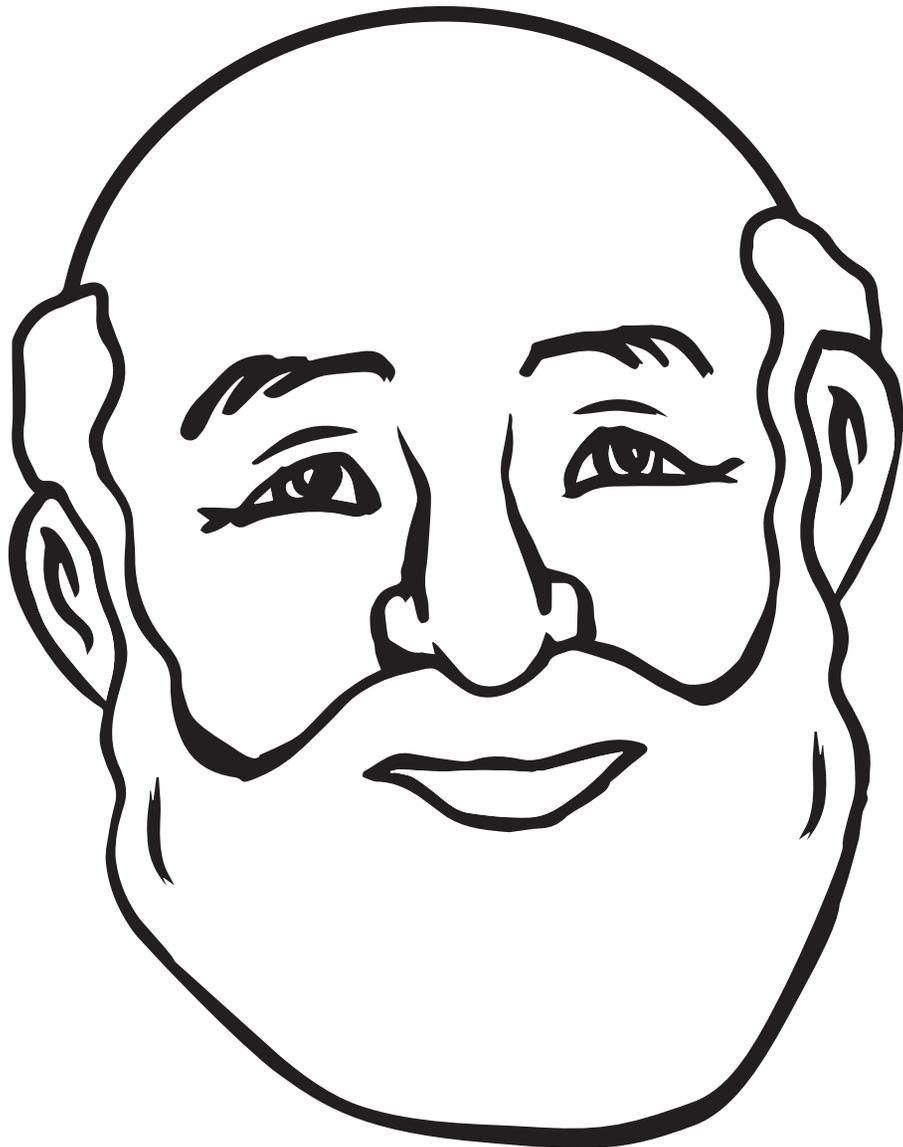
Peace for violence in our area and nationally

Keeley Staples	Logan Conley	Katy Mahon-Miller
Luann Hanley	William Trotter	Kathy Kane
Maxwell Girard	Pat Fryer	Jean Renninger
Pr. Kork Moyer	Julia Hauck	Tony Mancini
Raul Castro	Amy LeVan	Jeffrey Kunsch
Wilma Lahr	Melissa	Mary Lou
Doug Weaver	Dorothy Bingaman	Emily Ocelus
Eric & Wendy Hess	Sue Care	Deb Matthews
Marceline	Anne Eshleman	Daniel Johnson
Chris Fatzinger	Pena family	Kim Frain
Jen Perez	Frank D.	Pam Helfrich
Barb & Tom Faust	Andy Van Dyke	Janet
Pam Abbott	Holli Muffler	Louise Karns
Pr. Jennifer Phelps	Verdie Smith	Helen Foulke
Carla Hausmann	Joan Price	Ralph Borneman
Lucille Powell	Joan Scheffey	Chuck Beck
Rich Freed	Joe	Joe
Casey Flack	Penny Frymoyer	David Helfrich, Sr.
Tara Hauck	Hazel LeVan	David Gottshall
Paul Knauer	Suzanne Dodge	Dave Pollock
Julia Ghazi	Ray Feick	Steve Morriss
Jennifer, Brendt, Declan & Conor Budnick	Vicki Mutter	Linda Adams
Carol Feick	Alice Nester	Linda Adams
Donna Day	John Sander, Candis Peto, Yvonne Peto	Janet Linskey
Dennis and Sandy Rothermel		



Today we receive a cross of ashes on our forehead.

Once you receive the ashes, carefully retrace the cross on your forehead and then make an ash cross on this forehead below.

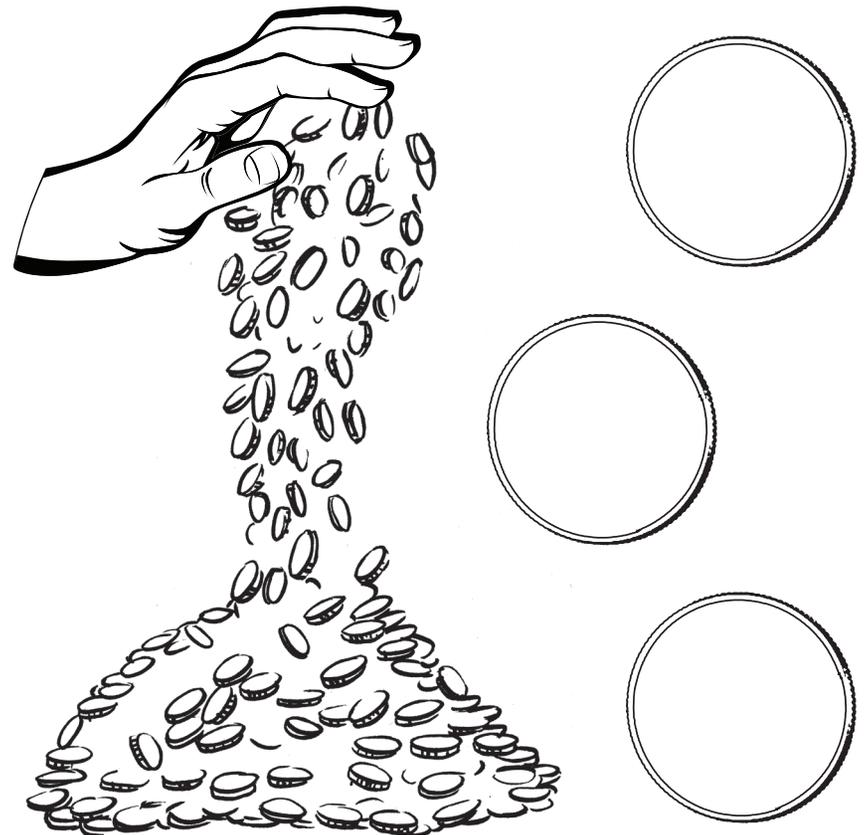


## PRE-READER

Ash Wednesday

- Today is **Ash Wednesday**.
- Ash Wednesday is the beginning of **Lent**.
- During Lent, we remember the **price Jesus paid** for our sins.

Today we remember that Jesus loved us so much that he died for us. He paid a big price! On each of the coins below, draw a big heart.

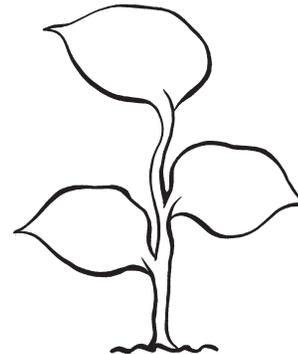
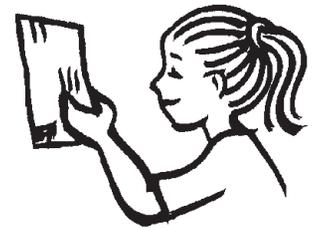
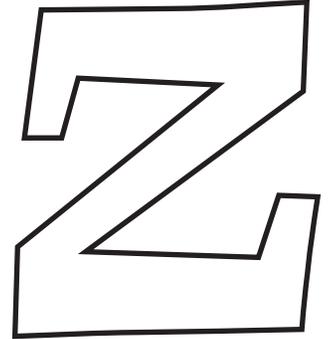




**Jesus tells us that our greatest treasure will be in heaven!**

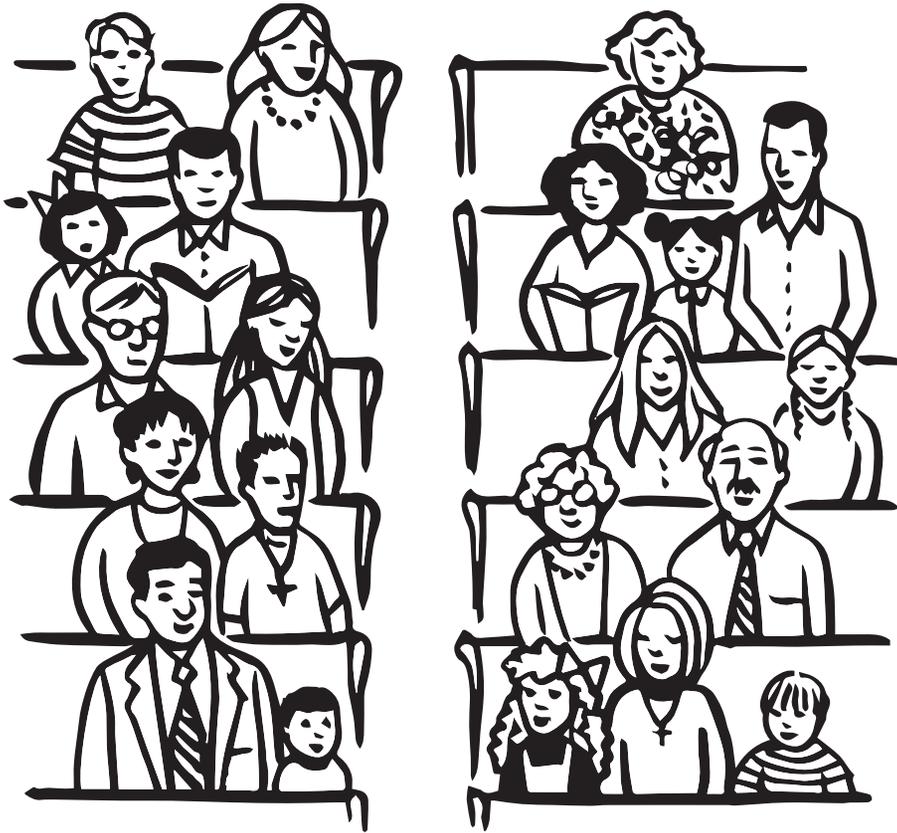
Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent.

**In the sets below, circle the picture that shows the beginning of something.**



## Sea of Faces

After you get the cross of ashes on your forehead, take a look around the room. This is a powerful sight: a sea of faces marked by crosses. In the picture below, make the congregation look like yours does by adding a cross to every forehead.



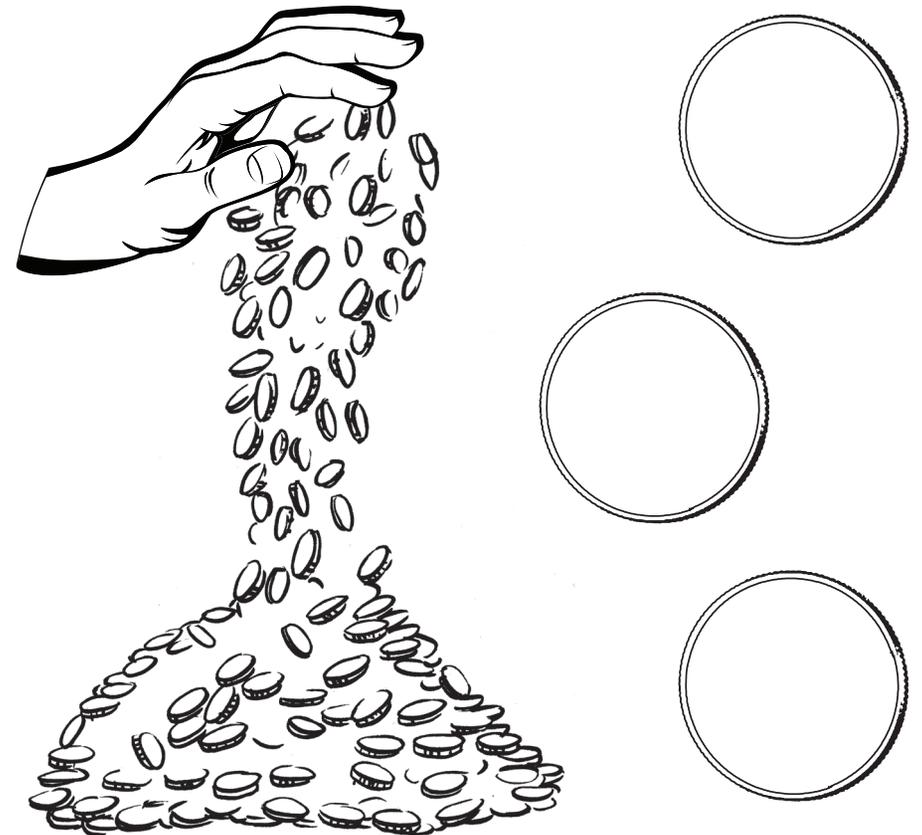
# READER

Ash Wednesday

- Today is **Ash Wednesday**.
- Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the **season of Lent**.
- Today we reflect on the **price Jesus paid** for us to show how much **he loves us**.

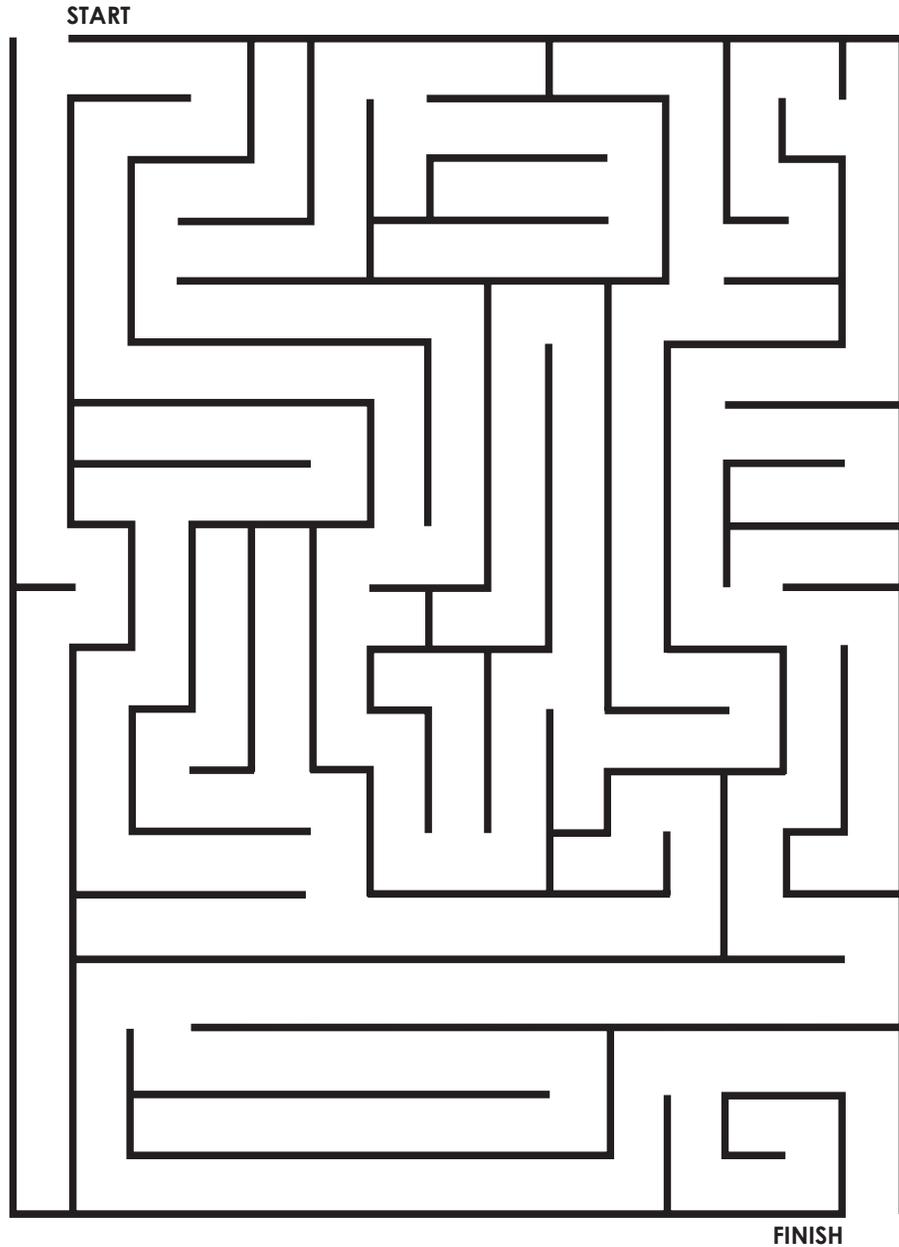
## Jesus Paid the Price

Today we remember that Jesus loved us so much that he died for us. He paid a big price! On each of the coins below, draw different kinds of hearts.



# Journey to the Cross

During Lent, we remember Jesus' journey to the cross. Complete this maze to help you remember this journey.



# The Next Church Season

Have you heard of Pentecost? Do you remember Advent? These are examples of church seasons. Today marks the beginning of a new church season called Lent. Add dates to this calendar in the small boxes. Then choose days when you can try each of these activities during Lent. Write them in on the days you choose.

- Read from the Bible
- Pray with your family
- Start your day with a prayer
- Thank God for unending love
- Ask God to forgive your sins
- Do a random act of kindness

## LENT CALENDAR

				Ash Wednesday				
First Sunday in Lent								
Second Sunday in Lent								
Third Sunday in Lent								
Fourth Sunday in Lent								
Fifth Sunday in Lent								
Palm Sunday						Maundy Thursday	Good Friday	
Easter								

## What Wondrous Love Is This



1 What won-drous love is this, O my soul, O my soul! What  
2 When I was sink - ing down, sink - ing down, sink - ing down, when  
3 To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing; to  
4 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on; and



won - drous love is this, O my soul! What won-drous love is this  
I was sink - ing down, sink - ing down, when I was sink - ing down  
God and to the Lamb I will sing; to God and to the Lamb,  
when from death I'm free, I'll sing on; and when from death I'm free,



that caused the Lord of bliss to bear the dread-ful curse for my  
be - neath God's righ-teous frown, Christ laid a - side his crown for my  
who is the great I AM, while mil - lions join the theme, I will  
I'll sing God's love for me, and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing



soul, for my soul, to bear the dread-ful curse for my soul?  
soul, for my soul, Christ laid a - side his crown for my soul.  
sing, I will sing, while mil - lions join the theme, I will sing.  
on, I'll sing on; and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing on.

*"What Wondrous Love Is This" Text: North American folk hymn, 19<sup>th</sup> cent., alt. Music: WONDROUS LOVE, W. Walker, Southern Harmony, 1835. Arr. Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted and streamed with permission under One License #A-701229.*