



Ash Wednesday
February 18, 2026 | Noon and 7 p.m.



5000 East Alameda Avenue
Denver, Colorado 80246
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***Ash Wednesday** marks the beginning of the six weeks of Lent leading through the cross and tomb to Easter Sunday. Come to receive ashes on your forehead and to hear a good word about life in the fragility of our mortality. Worship includes scripture, prayers, sermon, and song. Holy Communion for all.*

Our 7 p.m. worship is livestreamed especially to include our home-centered members who cannot join us in person.

Sign the worship slip and place it in the offering plate so that hospitality, prayer, and pastoral care may be kept up to date.

Prelude ▪ “Prayer of Saint Gregory” –Alan Hovhaness
Denise Lanning, guest organist

The assembly gathers in silence.

The assembly stands.

Psalm ▪ Psalm 51:1-17

¹ Have mercy on me, O God,
according to your steadfast love;
according to your abundant mercy,
blot out my transgressions.

² Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,
and cleanse me from my sin.

- ³ **For I know my transgressions,
and my sin is ever before me.**
- ⁴ **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 judgment.**
- ⁵ **Indeed, I was born guilty,
a sinner when my mother conceived me.**
- ⁶ You desire truth in the inward being;
therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.
- ⁷ Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.
- ⁸ Let me hear joy and gladness;
let the bones that you have crushed rejoice.
- ⁹ Hide your face from my sins,
and blot out all my iniquities.
- ¹⁰ **Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and put a new and right spirit within me.**
- ¹¹ **Do not cast me away from your presence,
and do not take your holy spirit from me.**
- ¹² **Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
and sustain in me a willing spirit.**
- ¹³ Then I will teach transgressors your ways,
and sinners will return to you.
- ¹⁴ Deliver me from bloodshed, O God,
O God of my salvation,
and my tongue will sing aloud of your deliverance.
- ¹⁵ **O Lord, open my lips,
and my mouth will declare your praise.**
- ¹⁶ **For you have no delight in sacrifice;
if I were to give a burnt offering, you would not be pleased.**
- ¹⁷ **The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit;
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.**

Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Almighty and ever-living God, **you hate nothing you have made, and you forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create in us new and honest hearts, so that, truly repenting of our sins, we may receive from you, the God of all mercy, full pardon and forgiveness through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

First Reading ▪ Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

A reading from Joel.

¹ 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?'

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

Second Reading ▪ 2 Corinthians 5:20b–6:10

A reading from Second Corinthians.

^{20b} We entreat you on behalf of Christ: be reconciled to God. ²¹ For our sake God made the one who knew no sin to be sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

^{6:1} As we work together with him, we entreat you also not to accept the grace of God in vain.

² For he says,

“At an acceptable time I have listened to you,
and on a day of salvation I have helped you.”

Look, now is the acceptable time; look, 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: in great endurance, afflictions, hardships, calamities, ⁵ beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; ⁶ in purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, ⁷ truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; ⁸ in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors and yet are true, ⁹ as unknown and yet are well known, as dying and look—we are alive, as punished and yet not killed, ¹⁰ as sorrowful yet always rejoicing, as poor yet making many rich, as having nothing and yet possessing everything.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

The assembly stands.

Gospel Acclamation



All:

Glo - ry and praise to you, O Lord Je - sus Christ.



Cantor: Return to the | Lord, your God,*
who is gracious and merciful, slow to anger,
and abounding in | steadfast love. (Joel 2:13)

The assembly sings the Gospel Acclamation again.

Gospel ▪ Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

The holy gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said to the disciples:] 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.”

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

The assembly is seated.

Sermon ▪ Pastor Michael Tassler

Hymn of the Day ■ ELW 793: **Be Thou My Vision**

SLANE



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 both by day and by night,
 Thou my soul's shel - ter, and thou my high tow'r,
 thou and thou on - ly, the 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.

Text: Irish, 8th cent.; vers. Eleanor H. Hull, 1860–1935, alt.; tr. Mary E. Byrne, 1880–1931
 Music: SLANE, Irish traditional

Invitation to Lent

Confession of Sin

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

Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination. The people may kneel.

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.

The assembly is 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.**

People may come forward and kneel or stand to receive the ashes.

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

that we may show forth your glory in the world.

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

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

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.

Amen.

Music for Imposition of Ashes

Noon "Now the Silence" –Kevin Sadowski,
Christelle Menth, piano

7 p.m. "Adoro Te, Devote" –Malcolm Archer

Offering

The season of Lent at Augustana includes midweek Holden Evening Prayer, Lent Prayer Spaces, providing Easter “baskets” for Warren Village, and more. Thank you for your offerings which support resources, staff, and practices for our forty day journey toward Easter.



Noon “Adoro Te, Devote” –Malcolm Archer

7 p.m. “Agnus Dei” –H. L. Hassler
Chancel Choir

*Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis
Lamb of God, who takest the sins of the world, have mercy on us.*

The assembly stands.

Offering Response ■ ELW 188: Create in Me a Clean Heart

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your
pres - ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re -
store un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,
and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

Music: J. A. Freylinghausen, 1670–1739

Great Thanksgiving

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.

Eucharistic Prayer

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord,
In your great love for the world,
you sent Jesus the beloved,
who reached out in hope and healing,
who preached good news to the poor,
and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

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.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord,
and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food,
to the glory of your holy name,
Amen.

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.**

Holy Communion

The assembly is seated.

We trust that the love of Christ is truly present in the bread and wine of holy communion. All adults, and children of any age with parental permission, are welcome to commune—both those present in person and on livestream.

- *The ushers will invite you into the center aisle to receive gluten-free bread from the server.*
- *Receive wine (darker color) or grape juice (lighter color) from the server, place the empty cup in the basket or empty tray, and return to your seat.*
- *If you desire a blessing rather than communion, please approach the servers with your arms crossed.*
- *If you are unable to come forward for communion, please inform an usher so that communion may be brought to you in the pew.*
- *When you return to your pew you are invited to kneel or sit as you continue to pray and reflect.*

Our communion bread is gluten free, nut free, and egg free. (Ingredients: Whole Grain Rice Flour, Whole Grain Sorghum Flour, Rice Bran Oil, Ground Golden Flax, Modified Tapioca Flour, Psyllium Powder, potato Starch, Tapioca, Molasses, Apple Cider Vinegar, Sugar, Yeast, Salt, Cellulose Gum, Guar Gum.) bluehummingbirdfoods.com

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. A - men.

Communion Music

Noon "Ah, Holy Jesus" -James E. Clemens
LyNette Rasmussen, piano

7 p.m. "In Thee, O Lord" -Samuel Coleridge Taylor

Augustana Vocal Ensemble

In thee, O Lord, have I put my trust let me never be put to confusion,
But rid me and deliver me in Thine righteousness
Incline thine ear unto me, make haste to deliver me
Into thy hands I commend my spirit
For thou has redeemed me thou God, thou God of Truth.

Communion Hymn ■ ELW 592: Just As I Am, without One Plea

WOODWORTH

1 Just as I am, with - out one plea, but that thy blood was
2 Just as I am, though tossed a - bout with man - ya con - flict,
3 Just as I am, thou wilt re - ceive, wilt wel - come, par - don,
4 Just as I am; thy love un - known has bro - ken ev - 'ry

shed for me, and that thou bidd'st me come to thee,
man - ya doubt, fight - ings and fears with - in, with - out,
cleanse, re - lieve; be - cause thy prom - ise I be - lieve,
bar - rier down; now to be thine, yea, thine a - lone,

O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Text: Charlotte Elliott, 1789-1871
Music: WOODWORTH, William B. Bradbury, 1816-1868

The assembly stands.

Post Communion Blessing

May the body and blood of Jesus Christ
strengthen you and keep you in God's grace. **Amen.**

Prayer

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.**

Blessing

Almighty God, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

Sending Hymn ▪ ELW 599: Lord Jesus, Think on Me

SOUTHWELL

1 Lord Je - sus, think on me, and purge a - way my sin;
2 Lord Je - sus, think on me, by anx - ious thoughts op - pressed;
3 Lord Je - sus, think on me, nor let me go a - stray;
4 Lord Je - sus, think on me, that, when the flood is past,
from self - ish pas - sions set me free and make me pure with - in.
let me your lov - ing ser - vant be and taste your prom - ised rest.
through dark - ness and per - plex - i - ty point out your cho - sen way.
I may the e - ter - nal bright - ness see and share your joy at last.

Text: Synesius of Cyrene, 375–430; tr. Allen W. Chatfield, 1808–1896, alt.
Music: SOUTHWELL, W. Daman, *The Psalmes of David*, 1579, alt.

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 ▪ “Ah, Dearest Jesus” –Johannes Brahms



Lent at Augustana

Ash Wednesday, February 18

Noon **Worship/Communion** - Sanctuary

7 p.m. **Worship/Communion** - Sanctuary

Midweek Lenten Worship and Series

Wednesdays, February 25 and

March 4, 11, 18, and 25

6:15 p.m. **Holden Evening Prayer**

- Christ Chapel

“Open My Life, Lord” Lenten Series: *eyes* open to the transforming light of Christ, *hands* open to serve in love, *ears* open to the call of the Spirit, *hearts* open to the bountiful love of God, and *lives* open to follow Christ to the cross.

Lenten Devotional Books

Copies of *Love Outpoured*, pocket-size or large-print daily devotionals are available for free at Augustana’s entrance tables.

Sunday Lenten Bible Study

Sundays, February 22, March 1, 8, 15, 22,

9:15–10:15 a.m., Anna Paulson Room

Lenten Bible Study using the Sunday worship readings will be led by the pastors.

Lenten Prayer Space

Wednesdays, February 25–March 25,

7 a.m.–6:15 p.m.

Each Wednesday in Lent, Augustana’s main sanctuary will be open for quiet prayer and spiritual practice. You are invited to come and go throughout the day to experience a variety of opportunities, including a labyrinth and dedicated spaces for prayer and meditation.

Easter “Baskets” for Warren Village and First Step Families

Donate by check to Augustana (indicate “Warren Village baskets” in the memo line) or online

at Augustana’s Giving page at augustanadenver.org by March

22. Augustana purchases King Soopers gift cards for \$40 each, but any contribution is appreciated. There are 101 units for Warren Village and First Step single-parent families. Thrivent Action Team grants will provide \$500 for additional food items. Thank you!



Holy Week and Easter

Sunday of the Passion/Palm Sunday, March 29

8 a.m. **Worship/Communion** - Christ Chapel

9 a.m. Psalm Sunday Breakfast
- Fellowship Hall

10:30 a.m. **Worship/Communion (L)** - Sanctuary

Maundy Thursday, April 1

Noon **Worship/Communion** - Sanctuary

7 p.m. **Worship/Communion (L)** - Sanctuary

Good Friday, April 2

Noon **Worship** - Sanctuary

7 p.m. **Worship (L)** - Sanctuary

Chancel Choir/Chamber Ensemble

Resurrection of Our Lord, April 5

7 a.m. **Worship/Communion** - Sanctuary

9 a.m. **Worship/Communion** - Sanctuary

10:30 a.m. Easter Egg Hunt - Courtyard

11 a.m. **Worship/Communion (L)** - Sanctuary

(L) Livestreaming available

Welcome!

- How good to have you here! Thanks for signing the worship registration slip and placing it in the offering plate.
- Large-print copies of the service bulletin are available from Augustana's ushers.
- You are welcome to have your water bottles with you during worship.
- On the south side of the Sanctuary, children young and old are welcome to borrow items from the Worship & Wiggle shelf. Please return the items after worship. Families are welcome visit the Cozy Corner in the sanctuary narthex if a change of scenery is needed during worship. Changing tables are available in the men's bathroom.
- Secure online gifts may be made through the Giving page at Augustana's website (augustanadenver.org). You can also text message your offering to 303-653-9592.
- Restrooms and water stations are located downstairs beneath the west sanctuary entrance; handicapped accessible restrooms are on the east side of the sanctuary in the hallway behind the chancel.
- An elevator is available at the Fairfax Street entrance.
- Accessible seating for people with assistive health and mobility devices is available on the south side of the sanctuary.
- Handicapped parking and entrances are available at the Fairfax Street and Elm Street entrances. Additional parking is available on the south side of the building.
- Please make sure your cell phones are silenced during worship.
- Parents, for the safety and well-being of all our children, we ask that you attend your children at all times.
- If you would like to leave your bulletin for recycling, please place it at the end of the pew.

Worship Ministries

Altar Guild:

February Lisa Boe-Sims
Beth Jackmond

Cantors:

Noon Susan Patterson
7 p.m. Keith Williamson

Communion:

Noon Brad & Pam Uyemura
7 p.m. Julie Churchill
Morgan Levy

Communion Linens:

February Ellie Bonicelli

Readers:

Noon Elaine Malzahn
7 p.m. Linda Daniel

Ushers:

Noon Emmett Cruson
Katherine Cruson
Rosalee Wanchisen
7 p.m. Dana Buhr
Herman Ezpeleta
John Flory
Greg Hempelman
Kristin Hempelman
Karen Mayhew
Dale Penny
Mindy Penny
Allan Schneider

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Mission Statement

Celebrating God's grace, we welcome everyone to worship Jesus, grow in faith, and go serve in the world.

Worship

- Worship in person at 8 a.m. in Christ Chapel or at 10:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary.
- Join Augustana on our YouTube channel for worship livestreamed every Sunday at 10:30 a.m. Visit Augustana's website (augustanadenver.org) for links, downloadable worship resources, and past worship recordings.

Staff

Senior Pastor: Caitlin Trussell

Pastor: Michael Tassler

Interim Visitation Pastor:

Pastor Karen Ullestad

Interim Faith Community Nurses:

Heather Nelson and Inez Smith

Director of Youth and Family Ministry:

Deacon Shanna VanderWel

Interim Music Coordinator: Susan Patterson

Chancel Choir Director: Kevin Padworski

Choristers and Cantabile Director:

Steven Aguilo-Arbues

Augustana Vocal Ensemble:

Emily Murdock, Hannah Kimball,
Blake Nawa`a, Keith Williamson

Finance Administrator: Angela Thomas

Accountant: William Crossen

Front Office and Membership Coordinator:

Rich Lamphere

Publications Administrator: Lyn Goodrum

AV Technician: Alice Alister

Facility Manager: Craig Tamminga

Building and Grounds Manager:

Asmir Hodzic

Wedding Coordinators: Ellen Kastens,

Amy Tamminga, Erin Saboe Willoughby,
Pam Uyemura

Augustana Early Learning Center Director:

Kisanet Yohannes

President of the Congregation:

Roger Lipker

Office Hours:

8:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m., Monday–Friday

Augustana Early Learning Center:

303-388-7012

Please call 303-388-4678 for Critical Illness and Emergencies.



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