

THE ORDER FOR OUR WORSHIP

PRELUDE - “*Savior, When in Dust to You*”
tune *Aberystwyth*; setting by Janson.

INVOCATION

In the name of the Father and of the + Son
and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

LENTEN ADDRESS - *all standing*

Brothers and sisters in Christ, Almighty
God created us to live in communion with
Him and with one another in love. Yet sin
separates us from Him and each other, and
so we do not enjoy the life our Creator in-
tended. By our sins, we also grieve our Fa-
ther, who does not desire us to come under
His judgement, but to turn to Him and live.

As disciples of the Lord Jesus, we are
called to struggle against all sin and temp-
tation that would lead us away from loving
God and our neighbor. Let us pray to our
dear Father in heaven, for the sake of His
beloved Son, and in the power of His Holy
Spirit, that He would grant us grace to
amend our lives, and that He would have
mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring
us to everlasting life.

(all may kneel)

*(silence for reflection and self-
examination)*

O almighty God, merciful Father: **We con-
fess to You, and to one another, that we
have greatly sinned in our thoughts and
in our words, in what we have done and
in what we have failed to do.**

We have not loved You with our whole
heart, mind, and strength. We have not
loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have

not forgiven others as You have forgiven
us. **Have mercy on us, O Lord.**

We have been deaf to Your call to serve as
Christ served us. We have not been true to
our calling as Your children. We have
grieved Your Holy Spirit. **Have mercy on
us, O Lord.**

Our negligence in our use of Your Word,
in our life of prayer, and in our worship;
and our failure to live the faith that is in us,
we confess to You, O Lord.

Our intemperate love of worldly goods and
comforts, our dishonesty in daily life and
work, **we confess to You, O Lord.**

All our past unfaithfulness, our pride, hy-
pocrisy, and impatience **we confess to
You, O Lord.**

Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and
our exploitation of other people, **we con-
fess to You, O Lord.**

Our anger at our own frustrations, and our
envy of those more fortunate than our-
selves, **we confess to You, O Lord.**

Accept our repentance, Lord, for all the
wrongs we have done. For looking to our-
selves for our highest good, and not look-
ing to Your Word and Your will, **accept
our repentance, Lord.**

For our blindness to need and suffering in
Your creation, and our indifference to in-
justice and cruelty in our world, **accept our
repentance, Lord.**

For all false judgements, for uncharitable
thoughts toward our neighbors, and for our

prejudice and contempt toward all who
differ from us, **accept our repentance,
Lord.**

Restore us, good Lord, and let Your anger
depart from us. **Hear us, Lord, for the
sake of Your Son. Amen.**

(please be seated)

*Imposition of Ashes (Those who desire
may come forward to receive ashes on
their forehead or the back of their hand.)*

The Parish Choir sings Psalm 51.

(all may kneel)

God the Father in heaven, **have mercy.**

God the Son, Redeemer of the world, **have
mercy.**

God the Holy Spirit, **have mercy.**

Be gracious to us. **Spare us, good Lord.**

We poor sinners implore You **to hear us,
O Lord.**

O God, You desire not the death of sin-
ners, but rather that we would turn from
our wickedness and live. We implore You
to have compassion on the frailty of our
mortal nature, for we acknowledge that we
are dust and to dust we shall return. Mer-
cifully pardon our sins, that we may obtain
the promises You have laid up for those
who are repentant; through Jesus Christ,
Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns
with You and the Holy Spirit, one God,
now and forever. **Amen.**

Almighty God made you His child in Holy
Baptism, and grafted You into the vine,
our Savior Jesus. In the stead and by the

command of our Lord Jesus Christ, I for-
give you all of your sins in the name of the
Father and of the + Son and of the Holy
Spirit. **Amen.**

(all standing)

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Let us pray. Almighty and everlasting God,
You despise nothing You have made and
forgive the sins of all who are penitent.
Create in us new and contrite hearts that
lamenting our sins and acknowledging our
wretchedness we may receive from You
full pardon and forgiveness; through Jesus
Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and
reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one
God, now and forever. **Amen.**

(please be seated)

FIRST LESSON - Joel 2:12-19

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be
to God!**

PSALM 103:8-14 - *we read in unison*

SECOND LESSON - 2 Cor. 5:20b-6:10

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be
to God!**

page 173 - **VERSE FOR LENT** - *all stand-
ing*

GOSPEL - Saint Matthew 18:21-35

Before, all say: Glory to you, O Lord!
After, all say: Praise to you, O Christ!

HYMN 419 - *we sing, seated*

SERMON

NICENE CREED - hymnal, last page, all standing

PRAYERS - all may kneel
Response: **Hear our prayer.**

OFFERTORY - The Parish Choir sings
“Dust, Remember You Are Splendor” by Anne K. Organ.

Dust, remember you are splendor, in God's image you were made: God's own breath breathes in your breathing: God's own hands shaped you of clay: Noble, precious, and beloved, godliness in dust arrayed.

Dust, remember you are splendor; Set aside the works of night: Put away the deeds of darkness: Set your face toward God's own light: Nevermore to yoke and trample. Nevermore to press and slight.

Dust, remember you are splendor; strive to walk the narrow way: Follow Christ into the desert, there the Spirit's call obey. Now, the time of your returning: now your resurrection day. Dust, remember you are splendor, like a watered garden grow. Light shall warm you like the dawning; Rivers through your glades shall flow. Fruitful, precious, and beloved, You shall God's own splendor show.

page 177 - **SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT** - all standing

page 178 - **SANCTUS**

page 179 - **LORD'S PRAYER and WORDS OF OUR LORD**

SHARING OF PEACE

page 180 - **AGNUS DEI** - we sing, standing

HOLY COMMUNION

During the Distribution we sing HYMNS 606 and 609 ss. 1, 2, 4, 5 & 6.

All are invited to commune who have been baptized and instructed in the Faith; who repent of their sins; who are committed to Christ and to the mission of His church; and who believe with us that we receive and share our Savior's Body and Blood in, with, and under the bread and the wine of the Sacrament - which gives us His forgiveness and makes us one Christian family.

All who commune, kindly sign your names in our Communicant Register, which is located on the narthex shelf along side our Guest Register.

Page 182 - **NUNC DIMITTIS** – we sing, standing

page 183 - **POST-COMMUNION COLLECT**

page 183 - **BENEDICTION**

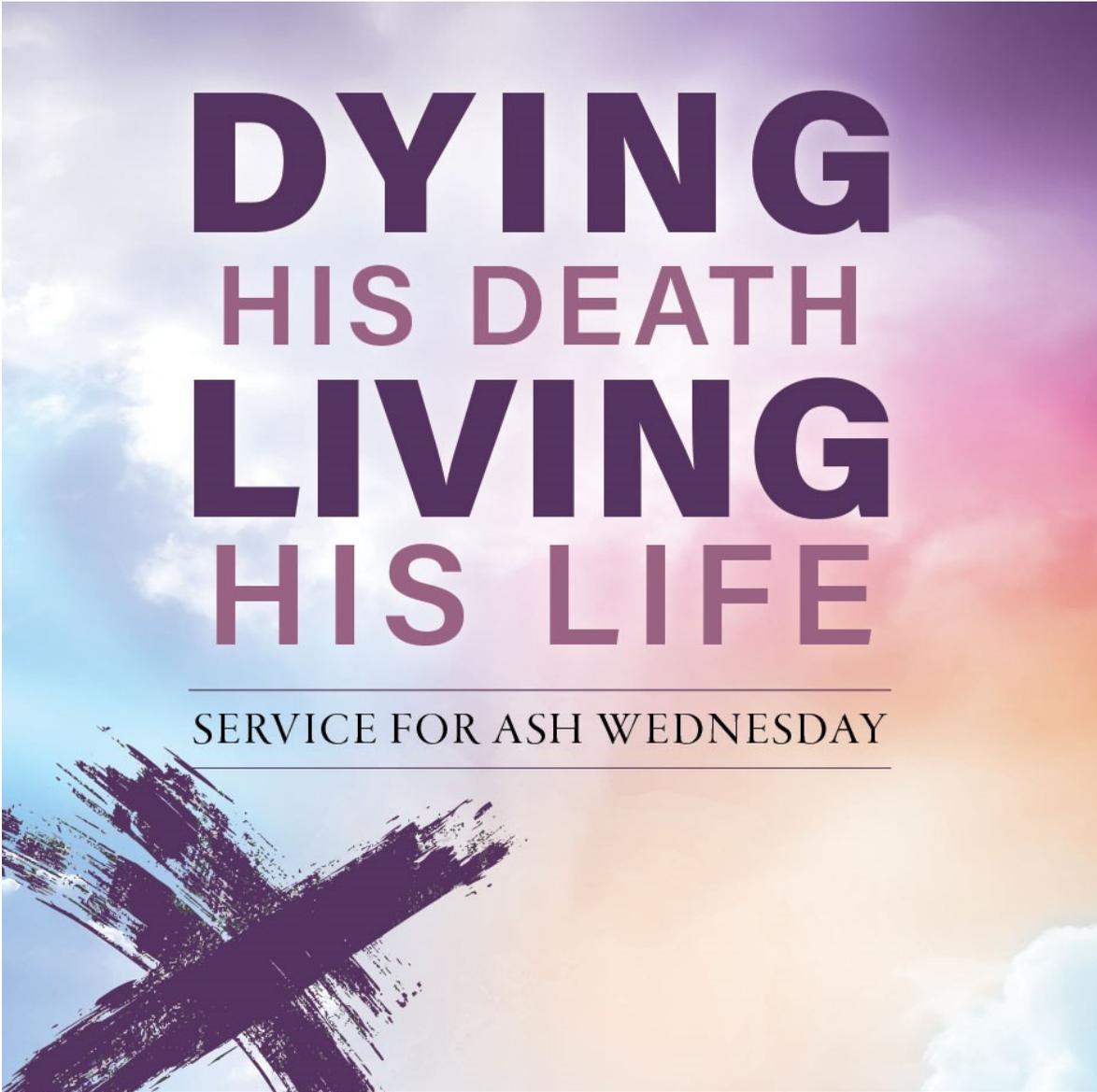
HYMN 611 ss. 1, 2 & 3 - we sing, standing

POSTLUDE - “Christ, the Life of All the Living” setting by J. C. Bach.

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Our Invitation. Worship with us twice each week during Lent - on Sunday mornings and on Wednesday evenings. This is pleasing to God who blesses us with the gift of His Spirit and who renews us with life in His Son that all the world might know His love.

Join Us For Soup & Salad Suppers in the Fellowship Hall every Wednesday night at 6:00 p.m. from February 25 through March 25. After Supper we'll have a brief Bible study and then the Midweek Service at 7:30 p.m. Sign up sheets are on the bulletin board in the hallway. We also need people to bring the soup, so please pick a week to volunteer.



**DYING
HIS DEATH
LIVING
HIS LIFE**

SERVICE FOR ASH WEDNESDAY

Cheshire Lutheran Church
Cheshire, Connecticut - 272-5106 - cheshirelutheran.org
The Rev. Dr. David P. Rowold, Pastor
Ash Wednesday February 18, 2026