

LORD of LOVE
Lutheran Church



Ash Wednesday



Welcome! We are so happy you have come to worship today! Someone has described worship as “a joyful dialogue with God.” God speaks to us in his Word, and we speak to him in praise and prayer. May God richly bless you through this “joyful dialogue” today!

Restrooms – The restrooms are located straight ahead as you enter the building. You will also find restrooms in the lower level gathering space at the end of the classrooms on the right side before the exit doors.

Parent’s Room – The sound of children in the house of the Lord is music to our ears! However, there is also a parent room to the right just before you enter the sanctuary if your little one needs a moment. It is accessed as you exit the sanctuary, on the left, next to the seats reserved for families with small children.

Busy Bags Available – Located in our entry area is a rack on which you will find "busy bags" for children. Each bag contains things that may help our youngest worshippers sit through the service. Please feel free to grab a bag at the beginning of service! We ask only that you return the bag at the end of worship today. Thank you.

Assistance Getting Around – There is a walker and a wheelchair available in the fellowship hall. Anyone who needs them is welcome to use them. Please speak to an usher if you need help accessing them.

Offering Message – The offerings gathered this morning supports the Gospel ministry of Lord of Love locally, and the global mission of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod. Visitors need not feel obligated to give but certainly may if you wish.

Holy Communion is celebrated today. Mindful of the Scriptural teaching concerning church fellowship, we practice close (or closed) communion. Communicant members of this congregation, or other congregations of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (or the Evangelical Lutheran Synod), are encouraged to commune this morning. Guests are asked to speak with our pastor, before the service, if they wish to commune.

Explanation of the theme of the day: Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent, reminding us of our mortality and calling us to repent. The ancient practice of imposing ashes on the foreheads of the faithful is what gives Ash Wednesday its name. The church father Tertullian (c. A.D. 160-215) writes of the practice as a public expression of repentance and of our human frailty that stands in need of Christ. Ashes can remind us forcefully of our need for redeeming grace as they recall words from the rite of Christian burial, “earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust.”

Ash Wednesday Worship

February 18, 2026

HYMN (CW 125)

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross



1 When I sur - vey the won - drous cross
2 For - bid it, Lord, that I should boast
3 See, from his head, his hands, his feet,
4 Were the whole realm of na - ture mine,



On which the Prince of glo - ry died,
Save in the death of Christ, my God,
Sor - row and love flow min - gled down,
That were a trib - ute far too small;



My rich - est gain I count but loss
All the vain things that charm me most,
Did e'er such love and sor - row meet
Love so a - maz - ing, so di - vine,



And pour con - tempt on all my pride,
I sac - ri - fice them to his blood,
Or thorns com - pose so rich a crown?
De - mands my soul, my life, my all.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, abr., alt.
Tune: HAMBURG (LM) Lowell Mason, 1792–1872.

INSTRUCTION FOR THE BEGINNING OF LENT

M: Brothers and sisters in Christ, God created us to know joy in communion with him, to love all humanity, and to live in harmony with all creation. But sin separates us from God, our neighbors, and creation, and so we do not enjoy the life our Creator intended for us. By our sin we grieve our Father, who does not desire us to come under his judgment but to turn to him and live. Therefore, God in his mercy has sent our Lord Jesus Christ to take our place under the law, to suffer for us, and to die the death we deserve. God made Jesus, who had no sin, to be sin for us so that in him, we might become the righteousness of God.

During the 40 days of Lent, we fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of God. The time of Lent reminds us that to know Christ and the power of his resurrection, we must also know the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death. As disciples of the Lord Jesus, we are called to struggle against everything that leads us away from love of God and neighbor.

I invite you, therefore, to confess your sins, ask our Father for forgiveness, and commit yourselves to this struggle. Let us be silent. Let us be still. Let us pause now for a time of reflection and self-examination.

Silence for reflection and self-examination

CONFESSION OF SINS

M: Let us confess our sins to God and ask for his forgiveness.

C: Almighty God, merciful Father,

I confess to you that I have not loved you with all my heart.

In what I have done and left undone,

I have pursued my ways instead of your ways.

I have not loved my brothers and sisters as myself.

For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity.

I am truly sorry for my sins.

I repent of them.

I beg for your mercy, O Lord.

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

The reception of ashes is not mandatory, but it may serve a useful purpose. The ashes call to mind that we are mortal because of our sin, and we will return to the dust from which we came. The sign of the cross calls to mind that Christ subjected Himself to death in order to redeem us.

Those who desire to receive ashes may approach the minister at the baptismal font. Baptized children may come forward at their parents' discretion.

The minister applies ashes to the forehead or hand of each in the form of a small cross, saying:

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

After all who desire have received ashes, the minister says:

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

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

M: By the cross and suffering of your Son, O Lord,

C: **Bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.**

ABSOLUTION

M: Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, does not desire the death of sinners but rather that they turn from their wickedness and live.
Therefore, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son †
and of the Holy Spirit.

During these days of Lent, let us implore God to give us renewal and his Holy Spirit. May we continue to abide in the true faith and at the last be received by him through the merits of Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: **Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY FOR ASH WEDNESDAY

M: Almighty and merciful God, you never despise what you have made and always forgive those who turn to you. Create in us such new and contrite hearts that we may truly repent of our sins and obtain your full and gracious pardon; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

THE WORD

PSALM FOR ASH WEDNESDAY

Psalm 51

*¹ Be gracious to me, God,
according to your mercy.
Erase my acts of rebellion
according to the greatness of your compassion.
² Scrub me clean from my guilt.
Purify me from my sin.
³ For I admit my rebellious acts.
My sin is always in front of me.
⁴ Against you, you only, have I sinned,
and I have done this evil in your eyes.
So you are justified when you sentence me.
You are blameless when you judge.
⁵ Certainly, I was guilty when I was born.
I was sinful when my mother conceived me.

⁶ Since you desire truth on the inside,
in my hidden heart you teach me wisdom.
⁷ Remove my sin with hyssop, and I will be clean.
Wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.
⁸ Let me hear joy and gladness.
Let the bones you have crushed celebrate.
⁹ Hide your face from my sins.*

Erase all my guilty deeds.

¹⁰ Create in me a pure heart, O God.

Renew an unwavering spirit within me.

¹¹ Do not cast me from your presence.

Do not take your Holy Spirit from me.

¹² Restore to me the joy of your salvation.

Sustain me with a willing spirit.

¹³ I will teach rebels your ways,

and sinners will turn to you.

¹⁴ Deliver me from bloodshed, O God,

the God who saves me.

My tongue will shout for joy about your righteousness.

¹⁵ Lord, open my lips,

and my mouth will declare your praise.

¹⁶ For you do not delight in sacrifice,

or I would give it.

You do not take pleasure in burnt offerings.

¹⁷ The sacrifices God wants are a broken spirit.

A broken and crushed heart, O God, you will not despise.

¹⁸ As it pleases you, do good for Zion.

Build up the walls of Jerusalem.

¹⁹ Then you will be pleased with righteous sacrifices,

burnt offerings and whole offerings.

Then bulls will be offered up on your altar.

CHOIR (6:30 p.m.)

Let Us Love

GOSPEL

Luke 18:9-14

⁹ Jesus told this parable to certain people who trusted in themselves (that they were righteous) and looked down on others: ¹⁰ “Two men went up to the temple courts to pray. One was a Pharisee, and the other was a tax collector. ¹¹ The Pharisee stood and prayed about himself like this: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other people, robbers, evildoers, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. ¹² I fast twice a week. I give a tenth of all my income.’

¹³ “However the tax collector stood at a distance and would not even lift his eyes up to heaven, but was beating his chest and saying, ‘God, be merciful to me, a sinner!’

¹⁴ “I tell you, this man went home justified rather than the other, because everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted.”





1 Sav - ior, when in dust to you Low we bow in
 2 By your help - less in - fant years, By your life of
 3 By your hour of dire de - spair, By your ag - o -
 4 By your deep ex - pir - ing groan, By the sad se -



hom - age due, When, re - pen - tant, to the skies
 want and tears, By your days of deep dis - tress
 ny of prayer, By the cross, the nail, the thorn,
 pul - chral stone, By the vault whose dark a - bode



Scarce we lift our weep - ing eyes; Oh, by all your
 In the sav - age wil - der - ness, By the dread, mys -
 Pierc - ing spear, and tor - turing scorn, By the gloom that
 Held in vain the ris - ing God, Oh, from earth to



pains and woe Suf - fered once for us be - low, Bend - ing
 te - rious hour Of th' in - sult - ing tempt - er's pow'r, Turn, oh,
 veiled the skies O'er the dread - ful sac - ri - fice, Lis - ten
 heav'n re - stored, Might - y, re - as - cend - ed Lord, Bend - ing



from your throne on high, Hear our pen - i - ten - tial cry!
 turn a fav - 'ring eye, Hear our pen - i - ten - tial cry!
 to our hum - ble sigh, Hear our pen - i - ten - tial cry!
 from your throne on high, Hear our pen - i - ten - tial cry!

Text: Robert Grant, 1779-1838, abr., alt.

Tune: SPANISH CHANT (77 77 D) Spanish melody, 17th century, adapt.

⁹ The word of the LORD came to me:

¹⁰ Take an offering from the exiles—from Heldai, Tobijah, and Jedaiah, who have come from Babylon—and on that very day go into the house of Josiah son of Zephaniah. ¹¹ Take the silver and gold and make a crown, and place it on the head of Joshua son of Jehozadak, the high priest.

¹² Tell him that this is what the LORD of Armies says: There is a man whose name is the Branch, because he will branch out from his place and build the temple of the LORD. ¹³ He is the one who will build the temple of the LORD. He will be clothed with majesty, and he will sit and rule on his throne. He will be a priest on his throne, and there will be peaceful relations between the two offices.

The Kingly Priest

GATHERING OF THANK-OFFERING

While the offering is gathered, please sign and pass the Friendship Register. Thank you.

STAND

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH FOR ASH WEDNESDAY

M: Holy and righteous God, as we begin again the solemn spiritual journey of Lent, we come before you in deep humility. We confess that we are sinners, both by the nature we inherit and by the sinful thoughts and desires, words and actions that nature produces. Because of our sins, we deserve only your wrath and punishment. Yet you reveal yourself, not only as a God of holiness and justice but as a God of mercy and love. Despairing of our own merits and worthiness, and in response to your gracious invitation, we come pleading for your forgiveness.

C: Lord, have mercy on us for your holy name's sake.

M: You have revealed your love and mercy for us sinners in Jesus Christ, your Son, our Savior. You sent him into our world to be the atoning sacrifice for the sins of all people. Help us grasp by faith the great truth that the pain and suffering, the mockery and ridicule, and the death and punishment he endured should have been ours. Help us understand that in incomprehensible love he suffered and died for us.

C: Lord, have mercy on us for Jesus' sake.

M: In silent meditation let us reflect on our sins, praise our Savior for the forgiveness he has won for us, and ask for God's continued grace to remove any doubt that we are forgiven.

Time for silent meditation follows.

M: God of grace and mercy, may your Spirit continue to be with us as we follow the way of the cross. As we contemplate the story of our Savior's passion, build us up in our faith. Renew in us the zeal to serve you by reflecting your love in our lives. Give us the desire and the ability to boldly proclaim the grace in which we stand, so that all for whom you lived and died may join us in fellowship now and in your presence forever.

C: We offer our humble thanks and praise, our prayers and petitions, and ourselves in body and spirit to you, Lord God. Hear us, according to your promise, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

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LORD'S PRAYER

C: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

THE SACRAMENT

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

M: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, “Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

LAMB OF GOD

M: O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world. Have mercy on us, and grant us your peace.

C: Amen.

DISTRIBUTION

In accordance with the Scriptural practice of closed Communion, we invite to the Sacrament of Christ’s body and blood the communicant members of this congregation. We invite also the communicant members of our sister congregations in our fellowship (the WELS and the ELS) who have made their intention known to our pastor. We ask other guests in attendance to refrain from taking the Sacrament with us today, and we invite you to speak with our pastor about how you may join our fellowship and commune with us in the future.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN (CW 372)

I Lay My Sins on Jesus

1 I lay my sins on Je - sus, The spot - less
 2 I lay my wants on Je - sus; All full - ness
 3 I rest my soul on Je - sus, This wea - ry
 4 I long to be like Je - sus: Meek, lov - ing,

Lamb of God; He bears them all and frees us From
 dwells in him. He heals all my dis - eas - es; My
 soul of mine. His right hand me em - brac - es; I
 low - ly, mild; I long to be like Je - sus, The

the ac - curs - ed load. I bring my guilt to Je - sus
 soul he does re - deem. I lay my griefs on Je - sus,
 in his arms re - cline. I love the name of Je - sus,
 Fa - ther's ho - ly child. I long to be with Je - sus

To wash my crim - son stains White in his
 My bur - dens and my cares; He from them
 Im - man - uel, Christ, the Lord; Like fra - grance
 A - mid the heav'n - ly throngs To sing with

blood most pre - cious Till not a spot re - mains.
 all re - leas - es; He all my sor - rows shares.
 on the breez - es His name a - broad is poured.
 saints his prais - es, To learn the an - gels' song.

TEXT: Horatius Bonar, 1808-89, alt.
 TUNE: AURELIA (76 76 D) Samuel S. Wesley, 1810-76.



1 My song is love un - known, My Sav - ior's love to
 2 He came from his blest throne Sal - va - tion to be -
 3 Some - times they strew his way And his sweet prais - es
 4 Why? What has my Lord done? What makes this rage and
 5 They rise and needs will have My dear Lord made a -



me, Love to the love - less shown That they might
 stow, But such dis - dain! So few The longed - for
 sing, Re - sound - ing all the day Ho - san - nas
 spite? He made the lame to run; He gave the
 way, A mur - der - er they save; The Prince of



love - ly be. Oh, who am I That for my
 Christ would know! But oh, my friend, My friend in -
 to their King, Then "Cru - ci - fy!" Is all their
 blind their sight, Sweet in - ju - ries! Yet they at
 life they slay, Yet cheer - ful he To suff'r - ing



sake My Lord should take Frail flesh and die?
 deed, Who at my need His life did spend!
 breath, And for his death They thirst and cry.
 these Them - selves dis - please And 'gainst him rise.
 goes That he his foes From death might free.

6 In life no house, no home
 My Lord on earth might have;
 In death no friendly tomb
 But what a stranger gave.
 What may I say?
 Heav'n was his home
 But mine the tomb
 Wherein he lay.

7 Here might I stay and sing;
 No story so divine,
 Never was love, dear King,
 Never was grief like thine.
 This is my sweet,
 In whose friend praise
 I all my days
 Could gladly spend!

THANKSGIVING

STAND

SONG OF SIMEON

M & C: Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, now dismiss your servant in peace. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the sight of all people, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel. Amen.

M: O God the Father, source of all goodness, in your loving kindness you sent your Son to share our humanity. We thank you that through him you have given us pardon and peace in this sacrament. We also pray that you will not forsake us but will rule our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit so that we willingly serve you day after day, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

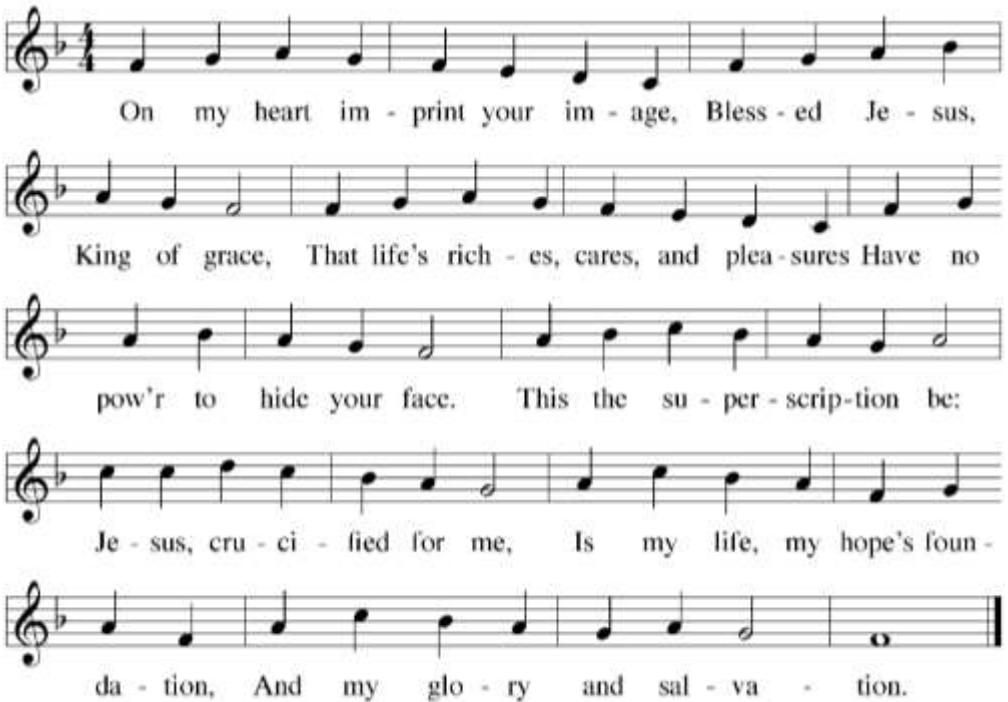
BENEDICTION

M: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and (+) give you peace.

C: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN (CW 321)

On My Heart Imprint Your Image



On my heart im - print your im - age, Bless - ed Je - sus,
King of grace, That life's rich - es, cares, and plea - sures Have no
pow'r to hide your face. This the su - per - scrip - tion be:
Je - sus, cru - ci - fied for me, Is my life, my hope's foun -
da - tion, And my glo - ry and sal - va - tion.

Text: Thomas H. Kingo, 1634–1703, abr.; tr. Peer O. Strömme, 1856–1921, alt.
Tune: FREU DICH SEHR (87 87 77 88) *Trente quatre Pseaumes de David*, Geneva, 1551, alt.

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LORD of LOVE
Lutheran Church

PERSONAL PRAYERS FOR WORSHIP

BEFORE WORSHIP

Heavenly Father, I have come to worship you. Draw near to me in your gracious Word, and assure me of your loving kindness. Curb my wandering thoughts, that with undivided attention I may hear your voice and sing your praise.

O Lord—our Maker, Redeemer, and Comforter—we are assembled in your presence to hear your holy Word. We pray that you would open our hearts by your Holy Spirit, that through the preaching of your Word we may repent of our sins, believe in Jesus, and grow day by day in grace and holiness. Hear us for Jesus' sake.

AFTER WORSHIP

Good Shepherd, I was glad to be here, gathered with your flock to worship you. Cause the Word I have heard to take root in my heart and bear fruit in my life. Guide me in paths of righteousness, that my words and actions might lead others to glorify you.

Grant, O Lord, that the lips which here have sung your praise may continue to glorify you in the world; that the ears which have heard you speak may be open always to your Word and closed to hatred and discord; that the tongues which have confessed your name may always speak the truth without fear; that all of us who have worshiped together today may be united in true love for each other as you have loved us in Jesus.

LENT 2026

“It is Finished!” The Holy Week Prophecies of Zechariah

Worship: 3:30 p.m. & 6:30 p.m.

Supper: 5:30 p.m.

February 18 (Ash Wednesday) – Worship with Holy Communion

Pastor Joel Jenswold – Lord of Love
The Kingly Priest – Zech. 6:9-13

February 25

Pastor Jacob Scott – Zion, Leeds
The Truth, The Whole Truth,
and Nothing but the Truth – Zech. 8:14-17

March 4

Pastor David Horton – Eastside
Return to Me! – Zech. 1:1-6

March 11

Pastor Nathan Walther – Eastside
Look at the One who was Pierced – Zech. 12:10-13

March 18

Pastor Scott Schwertfeger – Zion, Leeds
Scattered Sheep – Zech. 13:7-9

March 25

Pastor Michael Kampman – Risen Savior, McFarland
What’s He Worth to You? – Zech. 11:7-13

Thank you to those who are Serving us today:

- Pastor: Joel Jenswold
- Organist: Jennifer Boll
- Councilman/Elder: 3:30: Mike Wilson, 6:30: Shane Strong
- Ushers 3:30: TBD, 6:30: The Heath Family
- Altar Guild: Missy, Sophia and Abigail Strong
- A/V & Recording: Jen Olson



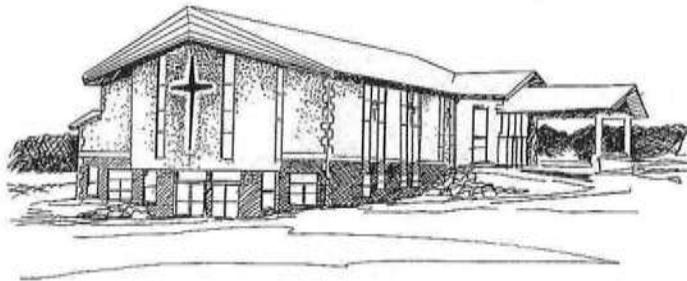
LORD of LOVE
Lutheran Church

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Office Assistant: Kristin Vomhof, Office hours Tuesday – Friday: 9:00 am – 2:00 pm
Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod - ***Christ's Love, Our Calling.***

**“I rejoiced with those who said to me,
‘Let us go to the house of the LORD.’”
Psalm 122:1**



*Today's 3:30 p.m. service will be recorded including the Service of the Sacrament.
Individuals taking communion will not be visible in the recording.*