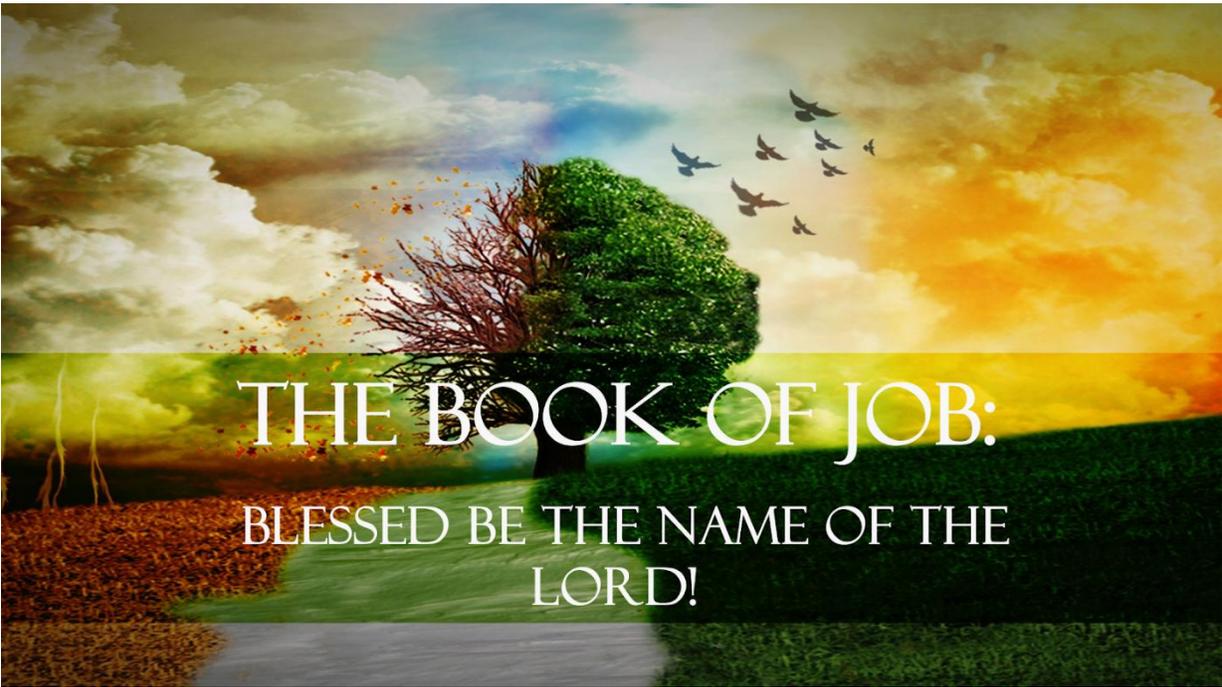


**HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH –
TWIN LAKES, WI
ASH WEDNESDAY – FEBRUARY 18, 2026**



AS WE GATHER

Lent begins today with Ash Wednesday. Lent is a season of repentance and sorrow for sin in expectation of Holy Week when we proclaim and celebrate Christ's triumphant entry, last will and testament, sacrificial death, and glorious return from the dead. During Lent, we suspend the hymn of praise during worship and the use of the word "alleluia" - in eager expectation of resuming them at the festival of the resurrection. Many people also fast or partially fast by giving up meat on Fridays.

This year, our mid-week services will consider One of the Bible's greatest wisdom books is the book of Job. This Lent, eight sermons will help us dig deeply into Job's central message. Tonight we begin with Job 1:1–12. And what will we learn? *We will learn to fly blind.*

✠ PREPARATION ✠

(During the minutes before the service begins, pastor will be in the front of the church to distribute ashes to anyone who desires. No need to await an invitation – when you feel ready, just come to the front to receive.)

WELCOME

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

CALL TO WORSHIP *(Based upon Job 19:23-27)*

Pastor: Oh, that my words were recorded, that they were written on a scroll.

People: **That they were inscribed with an iron tool on lead, or engraved in rock forever!**

Pastor: I know that my Redeemer lives, and that in the end he will stand upon the earth.

People: **And after my skin has been destroyed, yet in my flesh I will see God.**

Pastor: I myself will see him with my own eyes, I, and not another. How my heart yearns within me!

ALL: **I know that my Redeemer lives!**

OPENING HYMN “Jesus I Will Ponder Now” LSB 440

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: **O Lord, our Lord.**

People: **You are compassionate beyond comparison.**

Pastor: **Loving beyond imagination.**

People: **And faithful beyond our betrayal.**

Pastor: **Just as David declares, “My sin is ever before me.”**

People: **We, too, admit our transgressions.**

Pastor: **We have become stained with wrongdoing.**

People: **Sacrificing the goodness of your love for the fleeting
wealth of this world.**

Pastor: **We have abandoned your commandments.**

People: **Caring less for your creation and more for our own
ambitions.**

Pastor: **Wash us clean, O God of mercy, and deliver us from
ourselves.**

People: **Help us hear your voice calling us back.**

Pastor: **Remind us of your love bringing us home.**

People: **And renew our spirits that we might trust you with our
whole hearts.**

Pastor: **As a called and ordained servant of the Word I
announce to you God’s marvelous and amazing grace.
You are forgiven, forever, in the name of the Father and
of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.**

ALL: I know that my Redeemer lives!

SCRIPTURE READING

Job 1:1-12

There was a man in the land of Uz, whose name *was* Job; and that man was blameless and upright, and one who feared God and shunned evil. ² And seven sons and three daughters were born to him. ³ Also, his possessions were seven thousand sheep, three thousand camels, five hundred yoke of oxen, five hundred female donkeys, and a very large household, so that this man was the greatest of all the people of the East.

⁴ And his sons would go and feast *in their* houses, each on his *appointed* day, and would send and invite their three sisters to eat and drink with them. ⁵ So it was, when the days of feasting had run their course, that Job would send and sanctify them, and he would rise early in the morning and offer burnt offerings *according to* the number of them all. For Job said, “It may be that my sons have sinned and cursed God in their hearts.” Thus Job did regularly.

⁶ Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan also came among them.

⁷ And the Lord said to Satan, “From where do you come?”

So Satan answered the Lord and said, “From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking back and forth on it.”

⁸ Then the Lord said to Satan, “Have you considered My servant Job, that *there is* none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, one who fears God and shuns evil?”

⁹ So Satan answered the Lord and said, “Does Job fear God for nothing? ¹⁰ Have You not made a hedge around him, around his household, and around all that he has on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land. ¹¹ But now, stretch out Your hand and touch all that he has, and he will surely curse You to Your face!”

¹² And the Lord said to Satan, “Behold, all that he has *is* in your power; only do not lay a hand on his *person*.”

So Satan went out from the presence of the Lord.

Pastor: O Lord, have mercy on us.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 4:1-12

Then Jesus, being filled with the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, ² being tempted for forty days by the devil. And in those days He ate nothing, and afterward, when they had ended, He was hungry.

³ And the devil said to Him, “If You are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread.”

⁴ But Jesus answered him, saying, “It is written, ‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God.’ ”

⁵ Then the devil, taking Him up on a high mountain, showed Him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. ⁶ And the devil said to Him, “All this authority I will give You, and their glory; for *this* has been delivered to me, and I give it to whomever I wish.

⁷ Therefore, if You will worship before me, all will be Yours.”

⁸ And Jesus answered and said to him, “Get behind Me, Satan! For it is written, ‘You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only you shall serve.’ ”

⁹ Then he brought Him to Jerusalem, set Him on the pinnacle of the temple, and said to Him, “If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down from here. ¹⁰ For it is written:

‘He shall give His angels charge over you,
To keep you,’

¹¹ and,

‘In *their* hands they shall bear you up,
Lest you dash your foot against a stone.’ ”

¹² And Jesus answered and said to him, “It has been said, ‘You shall not tempt the Lord your God.’ ”

Pastor: O Lord, have mercy on us.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

HYMN “*If Thou But Trust in God to Guide Thee*” *LSB 750*

SERMON

Rev. Dr. Timothy Oswald

OFFERING

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Lord God, sometimes our hearts are glazed over and
hardened by grief.

People: **We wonder in the middle of our pain whether we can
trust you or not.**

Pastor: Sometimes, we even wonder if you are our enemy.

People: **Help us take a long look at your love you give us in
Jesus Christ.**

Pastor: Help us turn to faith instead of despair.

People: **Help us see that the hand you offer us is one that is
scarred with pain.**

Pastor: Help us accept the comfort given by Christ’s bleeding
love.

People: **Because we can’t see you, O God, help us listen, and
listen closely.**

Pastor: For your words give hope to the hopeless, courage to the fearful and joy to the downcast.

People: **Chiefly let us hear and believe these words, that You have “*made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses.*”**

Pastor: In your holy name we pray, Jesus.

People: **Amen.**

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.

LUTHER’S EVENING PRAYER

Pastor: Let us pray.

People: **I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me.**

ALL: **Amen.**

BENEDICTION

Pastor: The LORD gives.

People: **And the LORD takes away.**

Pastor: Blessed be the name of the LORD.

People: **Yes, blessed be the name of the LORD!**

Pastor: And so we go forth confidently in the name of our LORD.

People: **The Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**

ALL: Amen.

RECESSIONAL HYMN

“Abide With Me”

LSB 878 (stanzas 1, 6)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

**PLEASE JOIN US FOR LENTEN SUPPERS AT 6:00 PM
FOLLOWED BY OUR LENTEN WORSHIP SERVICE AT
7:00 PM EACH WEDNESDAY THROUGH MARCH 29th.**

PASTOR: Rev. Dr. Timothy Oswald

ORGANIST: George Kelm

CHOIR DIRECTOR: Gail Feick

ENSEMBLE COORDINATOR: Tabra Gomski

A/V TEAM: Stan & Cheryl Grey, Josh Walton
Brian & Amanda Larie