

February 18, 2026



LIVING HOPE
LUTHERAN CHURCH

welcome to
WORSHIP

We're so glad you decided to worship with us today. You could have chosen to be anywhere this evening, and you chose to spend your time with Living Hope. Thank you! It's an honor to have you here and to have the chance to fill you with hope. Welcome to Living Hope.

CURRENT SERIES INFO

Today's Focus: Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent, reminding us of our mortality and calling us to repent. God spoke these words to Adam soon after the fall: "By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return" (Genesis 3:19). Jesus connected repentance with "sack cloth and ashes" (Matthew 11:21).

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."



ABOUT LIVING HOPE

Living Hope Lutheran Church is a brand new mission church on Chattanooga's east side. We are funded by and a member of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod, a collection of over 1,300 churches across the United States and Canada.

Living Hope succeeds in its mission when hope forever in Jesus brings hope for every day in life.

For more on our mission, background, and beliefs just visit our website: livinghopechatt.com

ABOUT WORSHIP

Worship at Living Hope is designed to fill you with hope! The message you hear at Living Hope will center you on your Savior, Jesus, and what he's done for you. Worship isn't just about filling up God with praise. Worship is all about *God filling you* with good news!

We follow a basic order of service, called the liturgy. In the message, in specially selected Scripture readings, and in carefully crafted songs, prayers, and creeds, the liturgy proclaims the good news (gospel) about Jesus from start to finish. Gospel-centered worship is also designed to include participation of those in attendance.

- Feel free to get up to use restrooms **at any time** during the service.
- **Restrooms** are located around the corner to your right.
- A **nursery** is available for small children out the left-hand side of the worship space. Just look for the **Kid's Zone sign** just past the info corner by the main entrance. Feel free to use that space during worship. The service will be livestreamed into the room.
- **Kid activity bags** are available on a table by the entrance to the sanctuary.
- Please fill out a **connection card**. It's our best way to stay in touch with you and thank you for joining us today! You'll find connection cards on the table at the entrance.
- Everything you need to enjoy today's worship will be found in this Worship Folder. **Songs** will also be found on the screen.

Show friends where you are—check in!



/livinghopechatt

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Abide with Me

CW 783 sts. 1, 5



1 A - bide with me, fast falls the e - ven - tide.
5 I need thy pres - ence ev - 'ry pass - ing hour;



The dark - ness deep - ens; Lord, with me a - bide.
what but thy grace can foil the tempt - er's pow'r?



When oth - er help - ers fail and com - forts flee,
Who like thy - self my guide and stay can be?



help of the help - less, O a - bide with me.
Through cloud and sun - shine, O a - bide with me!

Text: Henry F. Lyte, 1793–1847, alt.
Tune: William H. Monk, 1823–1889
Text and tune: Public domain

The name of the Triune God and sign of the cross remind worshippers of their baptisms.

Call to Worship

In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Psalm 51

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love;
according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions.

Wash away all my iniquity
and cleanse me from my sin.

For I know my transgressions,
and my sin is always before me.

Against you, you only, have I sinned
and done what is evil in your sight.

ALL Sing:

3 I am e - vil, born in sin; you de - sire all
truth with - in. You a - lone my Sav - ior are,
teach your wis - dom to my heart; make me pure, your
grace be - stow, wash me whit - er than the snow.

Text: Psalter, 1912, alt.
Tune: Richard Redhead
Text and tune: Public domain

Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean;

wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.

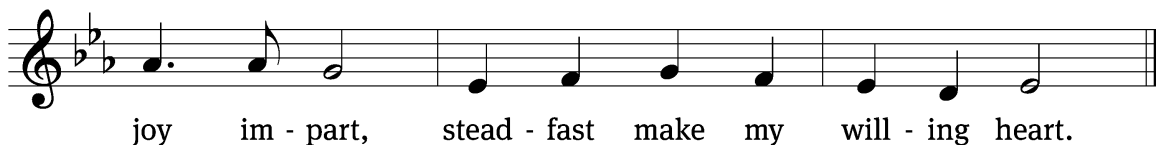
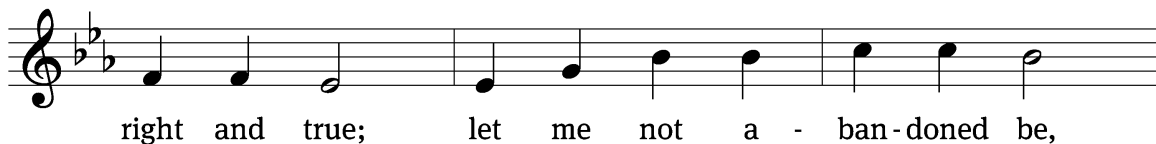
Let me hear joy and gladness;

let the bones you have crushed rejoice.

Hide your face from my sins

and blot out all my iniquity.

ALL Sing:



Then I will teach transgressors your ways,

so that sinners will turn back to you.

Deliver me from the guilt of bloodshed, O God, you who are God my Savior,

and my tongue will sing of your righteousness.

Open my lips, Lord,
and my mouth will declare your praise.

ALL Sing:

7 No at - tempt - ed sac - ri - fice has ac - cept - ance
in your eyes; bro - ken hearts are in your sight
more than sac - ri - fi - cial rite; con - trite spir - it,
plead - ing cries, you, O God, will not de - spise.

Introduction to Confession

Brothers and sisters in Christ...

...Let us confess our sins, ask our Father for forgiveness, and commit ourselves to this struggle.

Confession

Most holy and merciful Father,

we confess to you and to one another that we have sinned by our own fault,

In every worship service we confess our sins then cling to the forgiveness that Jesus gives us. Confession is called the "heartbeat of the Christian."

**by our own 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, Lord.

We have been deaf to your call to serve as Christ served us.
We have not been true to the mind of Christ.
We have grieved the Holy Spirit.

Have mercy on us, Lord.

We have placed our wants before your will.
We have gratified the desires of our sinful nature.
We have merited your punishment now and forever.

Have mercy on us, Lord.

We confess to you, Lord, all our past unfaithfulness.
The pride, hypocrisy, and impatience in our lives

we confess to you, O Lord.

Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, our manipulation of other people,
our anger when our selfish aims are denied, and our envy of those more fortunate
than ourselves

we confess to you, O Lord.

Our love of worldly goods and comforts, and our dishonesty in daily life and work,
our negligence in worship and prayer, and our failure to show the faith that is in us
we confess to you, O Lord.

Forgive us, Lord, for the wrongs we have done. For our blindness to human need
and suffering and our indifference to injustice and cruelty,
forgive us, Lord.

For all false judgments, for uncharitable thoughts toward others, and for our prej-
udice and contempt for those who differ from us,
forgive us, Lord.

For what we think or say or do that is at variance with your will,
forgive us, Lord.

Restore us, good Lord, and let your anger depart from us.
Hear us, Lord, for your mercy is great.

Imposition of Ashes

Those who desire to receive the sign of ashes come forward. The minister applies ashes in the form of a small cross on the forehead or hand, saying:

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

(Following the imposition of ashes)

Accomplish in us, Lord, the work of your salvation
that we may show forth your glory in the world.

By the cross and suffering of your Son,
bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.

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. He sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins and for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

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.

Amen.

Reading

Isaiah 59:12–20

¹²For our offenses are many in your sight,
and our sins testify against us.

Our offenses are ever with us,
and we acknowledge our iniquities:

¹³rebellion and treachery against the LORD,
turning our backs on our God,
inciting revolt and oppression,
uttering lies our hearts have conceived.

¹⁴So justice is driven back,
and righteousness stands at a distance;
truth has stumbled in the streets,
honesty cannot enter.

¹⁵Truth is nowhere to be found,
and whoever shuns evil becomes a prey.

The LORD looked and was displeased
that there was no justice.

¹⁶He saw that there was no one,
he was appalled that there was no one to intervene;
so his own arm achieved salvation for him,
and his own righteousness sustained him.
¹⁷He put on righteousness as his breastplate,
and the helmet of salvation on his head;
he put on the garments of vengeance
and wrapped himself in zeal as in a cloak.
¹⁸According to what they have done,
so will he repay
wrath to his enemies and retribution to his foes;
he will repay the islands their due.
¹⁹From the west, people will fear the name of the LORD,
and from the rising of the sun, they will revere his glory.
For he will come like a pent-up flood
that the breath of the LORD drives along.
²⁰“The Redeemer will come to Zion,
to those in Jacob who repent of their sins,” declares the LORD.

What God Sees

Questions to consider while hearing the sermon:

1. What are we facing up to tonight?
2. What has sin caused to become distant?
3. What does God see? What does God do?
4. We are not repaid according to what we have done.
We are repaid according to...

Night Song

By City Alight



In the dark - ness God will keep me.
In the sha - dows, You are with me.



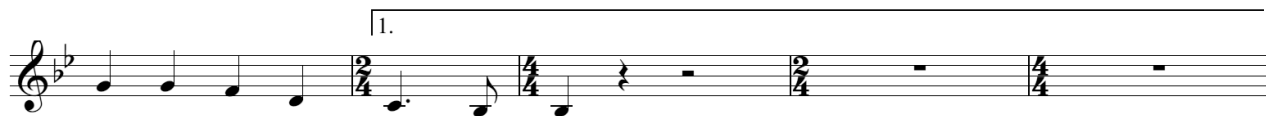
He will stay and nev - er sleep. In the dark - ness, God is bright - er.
And you know my ev - 'ry fear. In the sha - dows, none can harm me.



Though the night is long and deep. } All this day Your hand has held me.
For the migh - ty King is here. }



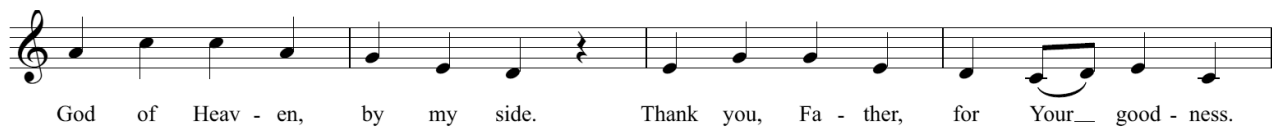
God of Heav - en, by my side. Thank you, Fa - ther, for Your good - ness.



You will hold me through the night.



through the night.
sing 1st time only



Prayer

Now is the time of God's favor, now is the day of salvation. Let us pray for the people of God in Christ Jesus that, through repentance and faith in the gospel, they may remain secure in your love.

Lord God, gracious Father, we thank you for setting your Son's sacrifice between us and sin's reward. By your Spirit work in us through the gospel, give us repentant hearts, make our faith firm in Christ, and enliven us to serve you faithfully.

Have mercy upon us, Lord, according to your unfailing love.

Lord God, almighty Father, renew your Church throughout the world that it may constantly look to Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith. Bless us with faithful ministers who always proclaim Christ's cross and resurrection for the salvation of the world.

Have mercy upon us, Lord, according to your unfailing love.

Lord God, loving Father, in your mercy you abundantly supply our needs of body and soul. Create in us the mind of Christ, that in humility and generosity we may be merciful to those in need. Direct our efforts to help poor, lonely, troubled, and ill people.

Have mercy upon us, Lord, according to your unfailing love.

Lord God, heavenly Father, comfort all who are mourning the death of people they loved. Lift their eyes to the cross where your Son defeated death and to the empty tomb where he assured us that we will live with him forever. Teach us to number our days that we may gain a heart of wisdom.

Have mercy upon us, Lord, according to your unfailing love.

Lord God, heavenly Father, look with favor upon all sick, injured, and recovering people. If it be your will deliver them from their infirmities. Let them hear of your unfailing love.

Have mercy upon us, Lord, according to your unfailing love.

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

Silent prayer

Lord God, eternal Father, we praise you that you have delivered the Christian souls who have gone before us from this world of dust and ashes to paradise. As their prayers continually ascend before your throne, join our prayers to theirs as fragrant incense. Hear us for the sake of him who was crucified for us and always intercedes on our behalf, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

The historical “blessing of Aaron” (Numbers 6:24-26) has been spoken over God’s people for over 3,500 years.
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Blessing

The grace of our Lord ✝ Jesus Christ
and the love of God
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be with you all.

Amen.

Cleansing of Ashes

As our vocalists sing the closing song you are invited to approach the baptismal font at the exit of the sanctuary on your way out. As a symbol of sins washed clean and a reminder of your baptism you may use the provided cloths and dip them in the waters of the baptismal bowl. You may then use the cloth to wipe the ash from your forehead or hand and then deposit the used cloths in the nearby bucket. Wet wipes will also be provided on a table in the lobby if any remaining residue needs to be wiped off. You may need a family member or friend to assist you if you had the ashes applied to your forehead.

His Mercy Is More

CW 579

1 What love could remember no wrongs we have done?

Omniscient, all-knowing, he counts not their sum;
thrown into a sea without bottom or shore,
our sins they are many, his mercy is more. (Refrain)

Ref Praise the Lord! His mercy is more!

Stronger than darkness, new ev'ry morn;
our sins they are many, his mercy is more!

2 What patience would wait as we constantly roam,
what Father so tender is calling us home!

He welcomes the weakest, the vilest, the poor;
our sins they are many, his mercy is more. (Refrain)

3 What riches of kindness he lavished on us;

his blood was the payment, his life was the cost.

We stood 'neath a debt we could never afford;

our sins they are many, his mercy is more. (Refrain 3X)

Text: Matt Papa, b. 1983; Matt Boswell, b. 1979

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