

Ash Wednesday
7:00 p.m. | February 18, 2026
Lord of Life Lutheran Church



WELCOME

CONFESS & FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
who writes the law on our hearts,
who draws all people together through Jesus.

Amen.

Held in God's mercy, let us confess our sin
in the presence of God and of one another.

Holy God,

**we confess that we are caught in snares of sin
and cannot break free.**
**We hoard resources while our neighbors
are hungry and cold.**
We speak in ways that silence others.
We are silent when we should speak up.
We keep score in our hearts.
We let hurts grow into hatred.
**For all these things and for sins only you know,
forgive us, Lord.**
Amen.

Here is a flood of grace:
Out of love for the whole world,
God draws near to us,
breaks every snare of sin,
washes away our wrongs,
and restores the promise of life through ☩ Jesus Christ.

Amen.

HYMN

Bless Now O God the Journey

#326

PRAYER OF THE DAY

**Gracious God, out of your love and mercy you breathed into dust the breath of life,
creating us to serve you and our neighbors. Call forth our prayers and acts of kindness,
and strengthen us to face our mortality with confidence in the mercy 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**

PSALM: Psalm 51:1-17

¹Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;
in your great compassion blot out my offenses.

**²Wash me through and through from my wickedness,
and cleanse me from my sin.**

³For I know my offenses,
and my sin is ever before me.

**⁴Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight;
so you are justified when you speak and right in your judgment.**

⁵Indeed, I was born steeped in wickedness,
a sinner from my mother's womb.

**⁶Indeed, you delight in truth deep within me,
and would have me know wisdom deep within.**

⁷Remove my sins with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be purer than snow.

**⁸Let me hear joy and gladness;
that the body you have broken may rejoice.**

⁹Hide your face from my sins,
and blot out all my wickedness.

**¹⁰Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.**

¹¹Cast me not away from your presence,
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

**¹²Restore to me the joy of your salvation
and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.**

¹³Let me teach your ways to offenders,
and sinners shall be restored to you.

**¹⁴Rescue me from bloodshed, O God of my salvation,
and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness.**

¹⁵O Lord, open my lips,
and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.

**¹⁶For you take no delight in sacrifice, or I would give it.
You are not pleased with burnt offering.**

¹⁷The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit;
a troubled and broken heart, O God, you will not despise.

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

HYMN

Just As I Am, without One Plea

#592

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION*Create in Me a Clean Heart*

#186

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 to me the joy of
your sal-va-tion, and up-hold me with your free Spir-it.

HOLY GOSPEL: Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹“Beware of practicing your piety 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. ³But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴so 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. ⁶But 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 dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ¹⁷But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, ¹⁸so 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; ²⁰but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

SERMON**MUSICAL OFFERING**

Suzanne Bowen

HYMN*Chief of Sinners Though I Be*

#609

PRAYERS

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.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER & WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD'S PRAYER

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

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BLESSING

DISMISSAL

Create in Me a Clean Heart

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