



Ash Wednesday
February 18, 2026
6:30 p.m.

Gathering

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

Prayer of the Day

Almighty and ever-living God, you hate nothing you have made, and you forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create in us new and honest hearts, so that, truly repenting of our sins, we may receive from you, the God of all mercy, full pardon and forgiveness through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Opening Hymn

Eternal Lord of Love, Behold Your Church

#321

1. Eternal Lord of love, behold your church
walking once more the pilgrim way of Lent,
led by your cloud by day, by night your fire,
moved by your love and toward your presence bent:
far off yet here – the goal of all desire.

2. So daily dying to the way of self,
so daily living in your way of love,
we walk the road, Lord Jesus, that you trod,
knowing ourselves baptized into your death:
so we are dead and live with you in God.
3. If dead in you, so in you we arise,
you the firstborn of all the faithful dead;
and as through stony ground the green shoots break,
glorious in springtime dress of leaf and flow'r,
so into life and glory shall we wake.

Word

First Reading

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

When the reading is completed, please respond:

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 51:1-17 (*read responsively*)

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

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

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

Against 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.

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

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

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

Let me hear joy and gladness, that the body you have broken may rejoice.

Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my wickedness.
Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.
Restore to me the joy of your salvation and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.

Let me teach your ways to offenders, and sinners shall be restored to you.
Rescue me from bloodshed, O God of my salvation, and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness.

Lord, open my lips, and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.
For you take no delight in sacrifice, or I would give it. You are not pleased with burnt offering.

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

Second Reading

2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

When the reading is completed, please respond:

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Children's Message

Pastor Judy Kincaid

Gospel Acclamation

Let Your Steadfast Love Come

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Let your steadfast love come to us, O Lord.
Save us as you promised; we will trust your word.
Save us as you promised; we will trust your word.

Gospel Reading

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

When the reading is completed, please respond:

The Gospel of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn

I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say

#611

1. I heard the voice of Jesus say, "Come unto me and rest;
lay down, O weary one, lay down your head upon my breast."
I came to Jesus as I was, so weary, worn, and sad;
I found in him a resting place, and he has made me glad.
2. I heard the voice of Jesus say, "Behold, I freely give
the living water, thirsty one; stoop down and drink and live."
I came to Jesus, and I drank of that life-giving stream;
my thirst was quenched, my soul revived, and now I live in him.
3. I heard the voice of Jesus say, "I am this dark world's light;
look unto me, your morn shall rise, and all your day be bright."
I looked to Jesus, and I found in him my star, my sun;
and in that light of life I'll walk till trav'ling days are done.

Confession of Sin

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Most holy and merciful God,

**we confess to You and to one another, and before the whole company of heaven,
that we have sinned by our fault, by our own fault, by our own most 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, O God.

We have shut our ears to your call to serve as Christ served us, we have not been true to the mind of Christ. We have grieved Your Holy Spirit.

Have mercy on us, O God.

Our past unfaithfulness, the pride, envy, hypocrisy, and apathy that have infected our lives, we confess to you.

Have mercy on us, O God.

Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people, we confess to you.

Have mercy on us, O God.

Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to share the faith that is in us, we confess to you.

Have mercy on us, O God.

Our neglect of human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty, we confess to you.

Have mercy on us, O God.

Our false judgments, our uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us, we confess to You.

Have mercy on us, O God.

Our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us, we confess to you.

Have mercy on us, O God.

Restore us, O God, and let your anger depart from us.

Hear us, O God, for Your mercy is great.

Imposition of Ashes

Those who desire the imposition of ashes are invited forward at the direction of the ushers. All ages are welcome to receive the ashes.

Special Music

There in God's Garden

Melinda Halom

After all have returned to their seats:

Accomplish in us, O God, the work of Your salvation,
that we may show forth Your glory in the world.

By the cross and passion of Your Son, our Savior,
bring us with all Your saints to the joy of His resurrection.

Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life.

Amen.

Prayers of the People

Prayer petitions end with “Lord, in your mercy”.

Prayer response is “**Hear our prayer**”.

The Lord’s Prayer

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. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Sending

Benediction

God the Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit watch over your going out and your coming in, from this time forth and forevermore. **Amen.**

Closing Hymn

God, Who Made the Earth and Heaven

#564

1. God, who made the earth and heaven, darkness and light:
you the day for work have given, for rest the night.
May your angel guards defend us, slumber sweet your mercy send us,
holy dreams and hopes attend us all through the night.

2. And when morn again shall call us to run life's way,
may we still, whate'er befall us, your will obey.
From the pow'r of evil hide us, in the narrow pathway guide us,
never be your smile denied us all through the day.
3. Guard us waking, guard us sleeping, and, when we die,
may we in your mighty keeping all peaceful lie.
When the last dread call shall wake us, then, O Lord, do not forsake us,
but to reign in glory take us with you on high.
4. Holy Father, throned in heaven, all holy Son.
Holy Spirit, freely given, blest Three in One:
grant us grace, we now implore you, till we lay our crowns before you
and in worthier strains adore you while ages run.

Dismissal

Go in peace. Believe the good news. **Thanks be to God.**

Worship Leaders

Ministers	The People of Hope Lutheran Church
Presiding Pastor	Pastor Judy Kincaid
Assistant Liturgist	Steve Olson
Greeters	Ken and Linda Anderson
Reader	Julie Petersen
Ushers	Jim and Jean Wold
Accompanist	Donna Benrud

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Thank you for Worshiping at Hope Lutheran Church

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