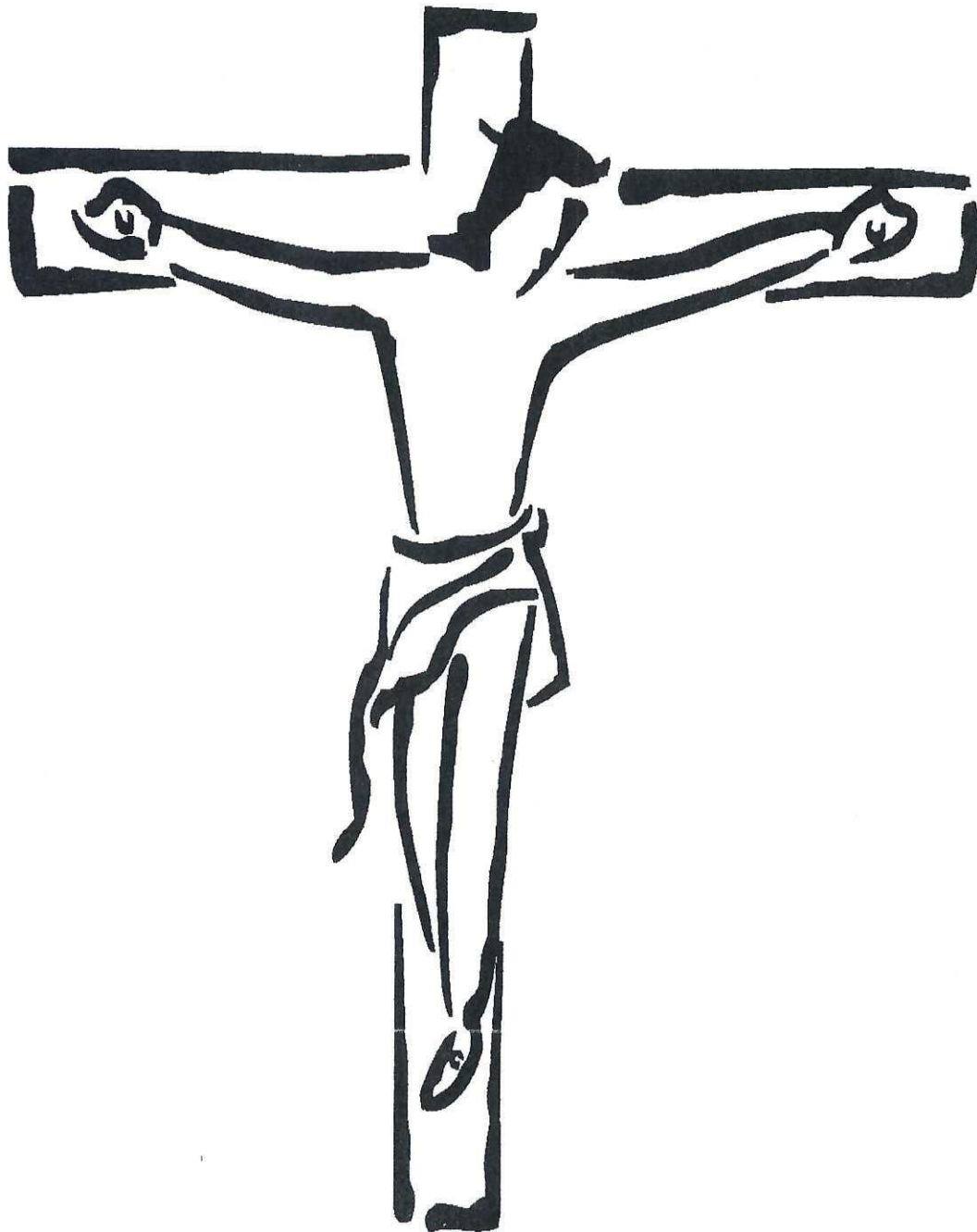


THE HYMNS OF LENT

“Chief of Sinners though I Be”



Ash Wednesday Service
Christ Lutheran Church
February 18, 2026

Imposition of Ashes

Genesis 3:19 and Job 42:6

Confession of Sins [ESV]

Psalm 51:1-17

P: Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.

C: **Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin!**

P: For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.

C: **Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you may be justified in your words and blameless in your judgment.**

P: Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me.

C: **Behold, you delight in truth in the inward being, and you teach me wisdom in the secret heart.**

P: Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

C: **Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have broken rejoice. Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.**

ALL: **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 uphold me with a willing spirit.**

P: Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will return to you.

C: **Deliver me from blood guiltiness, O God, O God of my salvation, and my tongue will sing aloud of your righteousness.**

ALL: **O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise.**

P: For you will not delight in sacrifice, or I would give it; you will not be pleased with a burnt offering.

C: **The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.**

Absolution (Your sins are forgiven!)

Scripture Readings Romans 5:6-11 [printed on back]
 1 Timothy 1:15-17
 Luke 18:9-14

Sermon CHIEF OF SINNERS THOUGH I BE
 William McComb, 1793-1873

Sermon Hymn “Chief of Sinners though I Be” LSB 611

Prayer for Ash Wednesday

ALL: Heavenly Father, in our selfish pride we do not always want to admit our sin. We falsely believe that somehow we can be good enough to satisfy you, and we feel more than satisfied with our own efforts. As we journey to the cross, prepare us to follow our Savior along the road that led to his suffering and death.

Help us to believe that he walked that road for us, that in his own body he carried our sins to the cross, and that he suffered the punishment that we rightly deserve for our sins. Let us look not to our own efforts, but to the mercy and forgiving love found only in your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Lord's Prayer

ALL: 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.

Blessing

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

C: Amen.

Closing Hymn “Jesus, Thy Blood and Righteousness” LSB 563

There is an offering plate at the entrance to the church for those desiring to leave an offering today. Thank you.

ROMANS 5:6-11 [ESV]

For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. For one will scarcely die for a righteous person – though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die – but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life. More than that, we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

1 TIMOTHY 1:15-17 [ESV]

The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost. But I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display his perfect patience as an example to those who were to believe in him for eternal life. To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

LUKE 18:9-14 [ESV]

Jesus told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and treated others with contempt:

“Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed thus: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get.’ But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, ‘God, be merciful to me, a sinner!’”

And Jesus said: “I tell you, this man went down to his house justified, rather than the other. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted.”