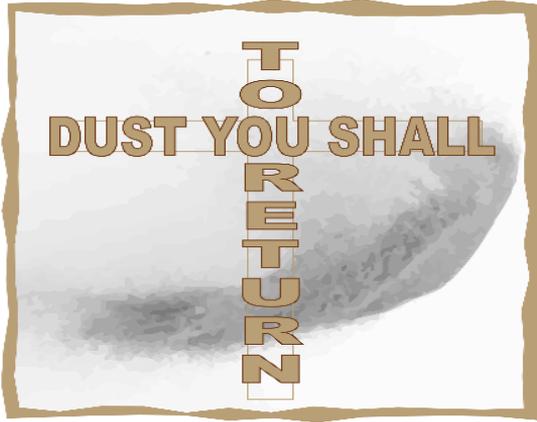


# ASH WEDNESDAY

Which Heart Do You See?

February 18, 2026



**You are dust, and to dust you shall return.**

***Genesis 3:19***

## **Mount Hope Lutheran Church**

Sunday Service - 9:30am

Sunday Bible Study – after Service

Wednesday Bible Study – 10:30am

(313) 565- 9445

5323 Southfield

Allen Park, MI 48101

Rev. Paul Pollatz

(734) 765–3468

## **Welcome! Members and Guests**

We are blessed to have you here today. Please fill out the Guest/Member Attendance Card located in the pew rack in front of you. Guests please include your full address, zip code, and phone number. The cards will be collected by the ushers early in the service. Prayer Requests cards are available in the pew racks and should be handed to the ushers when the attendance cards are collected.

## **Holy Communion**

The Lord's Supper is a sacrament in which Jesus' body and blood are given in and with the bread and wine for the forgiveness of sins (Matthew 26:26-30). When we receive the Holy Communion at a church, we are making a public statement that we agree with the teachings of that church (1 Corinthians 10:14-18). The Bible cautions us against receiving the body and blood of Christ in a manner that is spiritually harmful (1 Corinthians 11:27-29). Therefore, we invite to the Lord's Supper those who have been instructed and confirmed in the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

## **Large Print Bulletins**

Large print worship guides are available at the ushers' stand.

## **Listening Devices**

Listening devices are available; our ushers will be glad to assist you in signing one out for today's service.

## **Pew Cushions**

Pew cushions are available; our ushers will be glad to get them for you.

## **Wheelchair Accessible Seating**

Wheelchair seating is located in the fifth row from the front of the church on the left and right side of the center aisle.

## **Church Nursery**

Our Nursery is located in the Parlor, which is the first room next to the stained glass doors. The worship service can be heard in this room. The ushers can direct you to this room.

## **Our Divine Service, & Bible Studies**

Our Divine Service is held on Sundays at 09:30 a.m. Bible Study is held on Sundays after Service and Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m.

Our Bible studies are held Sep-May.

**Our Vision Statement – Revitalize within, Reach out !**

**PRELUDE**  
**THE RINGING OF THE BELLS**  
**WORDS OF WELCOME**  
**PREPARATION**

Pastor: All of us are conscious of people watching us, and we all adjust our words and our actions as we are watched. As Christians, we are caught in the tension of our lives within our nation and culture and our lives as the baptized people of God. The warnings of Jesus heard on Ash Wednesday are not to hide the witness of our words and deeds but to prevent the hypocrisy of words and deeds shaped by what others think instead of an honest faith. It is impossible to look religious when our hearts are empty, and it is impossible for the faithful not to practice that faith. So our Lord calls us to look at our hearts and lives and to do so in the shadow of the cross where our redemption was paid. We begin that time of reflection with confession, with a renewed call to faithfulness, and with an intentional desire to live the faith we confess.

(Please Stand)

**✠ PREPARATION ✠**

**THE LITANY**

Pastor: Dear brothers and sisters of our Lord Jesus Christ, on this day the church begins a holy season of prayerful and penitential reflection. Our attention is especially directed to the holy sufferings and death of our Lord Jesus Christ.

From ancient times the season of Lent has been kept as a time of special devotion, self-denial, and humble repentance born of a faithful heart that dwells confidently on His Word and draws from it life and hope. Let us pray that our dear Father in heaven, for the sake of His beloved Son and in the power of His Holy Spirit, might richly bless this Lententide for us so that we may come to Easter with glad hearts and keep the feast in sincerity and truth.

*Kneel in silence to reflect upon the Law of God and meditate upon our sins.*

Pastor: O Lord,

**People: have mercy.**

Pastor: O Christ,

**People: have mercy.**

Pastor: O Lord,

**People: have mercy.**

Pastor: O Christ,

**People: hear us.**

Pastor: God the Father, in heaven,

**People: have mercy.**

Pastor: God the Son, Redeemer of the world,

**People: have mercy.**

Pastor: God the Holy Spirit,

**People: have mercy.**

Pastor: Be gracious to us.

**People: Spare us, good Lord.**

Pastor: Be gracious to us.

**People: Help us, good Lord.**

Pastor: By the mystery of Your holy incarnation; by Your holy nativity; by Your Baptism, fasting, and temptation; by Your agony and bloody sweat; by Your cross and Passion; by Your precious death and burial; by Your glorious resurrection and ascension; and by the coming of the Holy Spirit, the Comforter:

**People: Help us, good Lord.**

Pastor: In all time of our tribulation; in all time of our prosperity; in the hour of death; and in the day of judgment:

**People: Help us, good Lord.**

Pastor: We poor sinners implore You

**People: to hear us, O Lord.**

Pastor: To prosper the preaching of Your Word; to bless our prayer and meditation; to strengthen and preserve us in the true faith; to give heart to our sorrow and strength to our repentance:

**People: We implore You to hear us, good Lord.**

Pastor: To draw all to Yourself; to bless those who are instructed in the faith; to watch over and console the poor, the sick, the distressed, the lonely, the forsaken, the abandoned, and all who stand in need of our prayers; to give abundant blessing to all works of mercy; and to have mercy on us all:

**People: We implore You to hear us, good Lord.**

Pastor: To turn our hearts to You; to turn the hearts of our enemies, persecutors, and slanderers; and graciously to hear our prayers:

**People: We implore You to hear us, good Lord.**

Pastor: Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God,

**People: we implore You to hear us.**

Pastor: O God, You desire not the death of sinners but rather that they turn from their wickedness and live. We implore You to have compassion on the frailty of our mortal nature, for we acknowledge that we are dust and to dust we shall return. Mercifully pardon our sins that we may obtain the promises You have laid up for those who are repentant; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

(please be seated)

## **THE IMPOSITION OF ASHES**

*Those who desire to receive ashes come forward at this time and stand before the pastor. The pastor applies ashes in the shape of a cross on the forehead while saying to each person, **“Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.”***

## **HYMN**

“Chief of Sinners Though I Be” LSB 611 vs 1 & 2

**Chief of sinners though I be,  
Jesus shed His blood for me.  
Died that I might live on high,  
Lives that I might never die.  
As the branch is to the vine,  
I am His, and He is mine.**

**Oh, the height of Jesus' love,  
 Higher than the heav'ns above,  
 Deeper than the depths of sea,  
 Lasting as eternity!  
 Love that found me-wondrous thought-  
 Found me when I sought Him not**

*After the distribution of ashes:*

Pastor: Accomplish in us, O God, the work of Your salvation,

**People: that we may show forth Your glory in the world.**

Pastor: By the cross and Passion of Your Son, our Lord,

**People: Bring us with all Your saints to the joy of His resurrection.**

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

**People: Amen.**

(Please Stand)

**✠ WORD ✠**

**SALUTATION**

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Pastor: Let us pray.

God of love, mercifully look upon Your redeemed people, purchased and won from all sins and called to be Your own in Baptism. Bring us again to genuine repentance that, confessing all our sin, we may know the blessing of forgiveness and the gift of a clear conscience. Restore us who have fallen that nothing may separate us from You. By Your Holy Spirit, renew us in the paths of holiness and obedience all our days; through our Lord Jesus Christ, who with You and the Spirit are one God, one Lord, now and forevermore.

**People: Amen.**

(Please be seated)

## **OLD TESTAMENT READING** *Joel 2:12–19*

“Yet even now,” declares the Lord, “return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; and rend your hearts and not your garments.” Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love; and he relents over disaster. Who knows whether he will not turn and relent, and leave a blessing behind him, a grain offering and a drink offering for the Lord your God? Blow the trumpet in Zion; consecrate a fast; call a solemn assembly; gather the people. Consecrate the congregation; assemble the elders; gather the children, even nursing infants. Let the bridegroom leave his room, and the bride her chamber. Between the vestibule and the altar let the priests, the

ministers of the Lord, weep and say, "Spare your people, O Lord, and make not your heritage a reproach, a byword among the nations. Why should they say among the peoples, 'Where is their God?'" Then the Lord became jealous for his land and had pity on his people. The Lord answered and said to his people, "Behold, I am sending to you grain, wine, and oil, and you will be satisfied; and I will no more make you a reproach among the nations.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

## **SPECIAL MUSIC**

"Jesus Lamb of Calvary"

Sung by the Choir

## **EPISTLE** *2 Corinthians 5:20b–6:10*

Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. Working together with him, then, we appeal to you not to receive the grace of God in vain. For he says, "In a favorable time I listened to you, and in a day of salvation I have helped you." Behold, now is the favorable time; behold, now is the day of salvation. We put no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, but as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: by great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors,

sleepless nights, hunger; by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, the Holy Spirit, genuine love; by truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; through honor and dishonor, through slander and praise. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold, we live; as punished, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, yet possessing everything.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

(Please Stand)

**VERSE** *Joel 2:13b*

**People: Return to the LORD, your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.**

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the sixth chapter.

**People: (sing) Glory to You, O Lord.**

**HOLY GOSPEL** *Matthew 6:1–6, 16–21* The Sermon Text

“Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them, for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven.

“Thus, when you give to the needy, sound no trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be praised by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when

you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you. “And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when 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.

“And when you fast, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, that your fasting may not be seen by others but by your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you. “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**People:** (sing) **Praise to You, O Christ.**

(Please be seated)

## **PRAYER REQUESTS AND ATTENDANCE CARDS**

Please pass your prayer requests and yellow attendance cards to the aisle and the usher will collect them during the singing of the hymn of the day. Guests are to fill out one side of the yellow cards and members the other side.

## **HYMN OF THE DAY**

“Lord Jesus, Think on Me” *LSB 610*

**Lord Jesus, think on me  
And purge away my sin  
From worldly passions set me free  
And make me pure within**

**Lord Jesus, think on me  
By anxious thoughts oppressed  
Let me Your loving servant be  
And taste Your promised rest**

**Lord Jesus, think on me  
Amid the battle’s strife  
In all my pain and misery  
O be my health and life**

**Lord Jesus, think on me  
Nor let me go astray  
Though darkness and perplexity  
Point out your chosen way**

**Lord Jesus, think of me  
That, when this life is past  
I may the eternal brightness see  
And share Your joy at last**

## **++ SERMON ++**

Which Heart Do You See?

**Text:** Matthew 6:1–6, 16–21 (The Gospel Lesson)

(Please Stand)

### **NICENE CREED**

**People:** I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end. And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look

**for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

(Please be seated or kneel, as you are able, for the Prayers of the Church)

## **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

Pastor: We give You thanks and praise, O Lord, holy God, almighty Father, for Your goodness in creating all things and for Your mercy, which bore with us sinners until You sent forth Your Son in flesh to accomplish our salvation by His death and resurrection. Keep us in this holy faith and fear all our days. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: We give You thanks and praise, O mighty and everlasting God, for establishing Your church, for calling us into her life through Baptism, and keeping us as Your own possession through the grace of absolution and the food of Your Son's Table. Give us ears to hear and hearts to heed His voice ever calling us back to You that we may live holy, upright, and godly lives now until we dwell in Your presence on high. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: We give You thanks, O merciful God, for the innumerable riches of Your grace, which You have so bountifully showered upon us and our land. Deliver us from ingratitude, guard our leaders from sin and every evil, and silence the voices of sensuality and violence, both here and over all the world. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: We give You thanks, O Lord, God of our fathers, for bearing with us in our trials and in our weakness, in our afflictions and in the hour of our death. Hear us on behalf of ....., and] all for whom we pray, that You may be their strength, their healing, their comfort, and their peace. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: We give You thanks, O gracious God, for Your kindness in looking upon our weakness and sin, forgiving us our sin, and setting us a place at our Lord's Table. What we here receive, help us to keep in holy hearts and lives. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: We give You thanks, O Lord God, heavenly Father, for looking upon us with compassion and for not counting our sins against us because of Christ alone. Help us to earnestly wear the marks of our repentance and even more earnestly still to believe in Your gift of salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

(Please be seated)

**OFFERING**

## OFFERTORY HYMN

“Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us” LSB 851 vs 1 & 2

Lord of glory You have bought us  
 With Your life-blood as the price  
 Never grudging for the lost ones  
 That tremendous sacrifice  
 And with that have freely given  
 Blessings countless as the sand  
 To the unthankful and the evil  
 With Your own unsparing hand

Grant us hearts dear Lord to give You  
 Gladly freely of Your own  
 With the sunshine of Your goodness  
 Melt our thankless hearts of stone  
 Till our cold and selfish natures  
 Warmed by You at length believe  
 That more happy and more blessed  
 'Tis to give than to receive

(Please Stand)

## ✠ SACRAMENT ✠

**PREFACE** *2 Timothy 4:22*

**Pastor:** The Lord be with you.

**People:** And also with you.

**Pastor:** Lift up your hearts.

**People:** We lift them to the Lord.

**Pastor:** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People:** It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

## **PROPER PREFACE**

Pastor: It is good and right, indeed, our bounden duty, to give You praise at all times and in every place, giving thanks through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who gave Himself in our death that we might be made alive in Him, serving You in willing obedience now until we inherit the kingdom prepared for us and enjoy the eternal victory where death and sin shall trouble us no more. Therefore with the angels and archangels of Your presence and with all who have loved His appearing, we join with them in praising Your name without end, singing:

### **SANCTUS** *(we sing) LSB 195*

**Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Sabaoth  
Heav'n and earth are full of Thy glory**

**Hosanna, Hosanna**

**Hosanna in the highest**

**Blessed is He, Blessed is He**

**Blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord**

**Hosanna, Hosanna**

**Hosanna in the highest**

## PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Holy are You, O Lord God, heavenly Father, holy and merciful. In Your goodness, You have made all things and by Your grace have rescued and redeemed Your lost creation, delivering up Your own Son to be Savior and Redeemer of us all. Grant us grace that we may approach His Table with penitent hearts, receiving here the foretaste of eternal life in this bread—His body—and this cup—His blood—according to His own will and promise.

**People: Amen.**

## THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

*Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24; Luke 22:19–20; 1 Corinthians 11:23–25*

Pastor: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: **“Take, eat; this is My ✕ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.”**

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: **“Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✕ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”**

## PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST

*1 Corinthians 11:26; Revelation 22:20*

Pastor: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord’s death until He comes.

**People: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Pastor: O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and Passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**LORD'S PRAYER** *Matthew 6:9–13*

**People: 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.**

**PAX DOMINI**

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**People: Amen.**

**AGNUS DEI** (Sung) LSB 198

**O Christ, Thou Lamb of God that takest away the sin of the world have mercy upon us**

**O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us**

**O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace. Amen.**

(Please be seated)

## DISTRIBUTION HYMN

“Today Your Mercy Calls Us” *LSB* 915 vs 1

**Today your mercy calls us  
To wash away our sin.  
However great our trespass,  
Whatever we have been,  
However long from mercy  
Our hearts have turned away,  
Your precious blood can wash us  
And make us clean today.**

(Please Stand)

## THE POST-DISTRIBUTION BLESSING

Pastor: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus  
strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to  
life everlasting.

**People:** (spoken) **Amen**

## THE NUNC DIMITTIS (we sing) *TLH* p. 29-30

**Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant  
depart in peace according to Thy word,  
for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,  
which Thou hast prepared before the face  
of all people, a light to lighten the  
Gentiles and the glory of Thy people Israel.  
Glory be to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Ghost;  
as it was in the beginning, is now,  
and ever shall be, world without end. Amen**

## **POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING**

Pastor: Let us pray.

Keep us, O Lord, from receiving the fruits of our Savior's redeeming work in vain, lest we display in our lives a faith that does not live in our hearts. Preserve us by Your grace that we may pray with renewed confidence, bear witness with renewed hope, and live with renewed joy the holy and obedient life for which we were born again in our Baptism into Christ. Keep us these forty days of Lent and bring us at last to the perfect consummation and peace of heaven; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**People: Amen.**

## **BENEDICTION** *Numbers 6:24–26*

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

**People: Amen.**

## **DISMISSAL**

Pastor: Let us go forth in peace,

**People: in the name of Christ.**

**HYMN**

**“Guide Me, O Thou Great Redeemer” *LSB* 918**

**Guide me O Thou great Redeemer  
 Pilgrim through this barren land  
 I am weak but Thou art mighty  
 Hold me with Thy pow’rful hand  
 Bread of heaven bread of heaven  
 Feed me till I want no more  
 Feed me till I want no more**

**Open now the crystal fountain  
 Whence the healing stream doth flow  
 Let the fiery cloudy pillar  
 Lead me all my journey through  
 Strong deliv’rer strong deliv’rer  
 Be Thou still my strength and shield  
 Be Thou still my strength and shield**

**When I tread the verge of Jordan  
 Bid my anxious fears subside  
 Death of death and hell’s destruction  
 Land me safe on Canaan’s side  
 Songs of praises songs of praises  
 I will ever give to Thee  
 I will ever give to Thee**

**THOSE SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE**

Rev. Paul Pollatz, Pastor  
 Marie Brown, Organist  
 Frank Pignanelli, Elder  
 Laurie Pignanelli, Reader  
 Kathy King & Dave Brown, Ushers