



“Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return.”

February 18, 2026 Ash Wednesday

A Special Message to First-Time Visitors

We are delighted to have you with us. Here are a few things you might want to know as you prepare for worship.

The restrooms are located just to the right before entering the sanctuary, with a wheelchair/handicap accessible restroom further down the hall after entering the sanctuary doors.

Beginning next Thursday (February 26) and every week until Holy Week, we will have a short Lent service beginning at 5:00 PM followed by a Soup Supper. You are welcome to attend and there is no need to bring anything.

Our regular Sunday Worship Services begin at 9:30 AM.

Your presence today is a blessing. May our collective worship be acceptable and pleasing to God, our Father.

Living Word Lutheran Church
Order of Worship
February 18, 2026, Ash Wednesday
Pastor Eric Lundberg

Prelude

“Why?”

arr. Harold DeCou

Welcome

Opening Hymn

“Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed”

LBW 98

Verse 1

Alas! And did my Savior bleed,
And did my Sov'reign die?
Would He devote that sacred head
For sinners such as I?

Verse 2

Was it for crimes that I have done
He groaned upon the tree?
Amazing pity, grace unknown,
And love beyond degree!

Verse 3

Well might the sun in darkness hide
And shut His glories in
When God, the mighty maker, died
For his own creature's sin.

Verse 4

Thus might I hide my blushing face
While his dear cross appears,
Dissolve my heart in thankfulness,
And melt mine eyes to tears.

Verse 5

But tears of grief cannot repay
The debt of love I owe;
Here, Lord, I give myself away;
It's all that I can do.

We Worship with Confession

Pastor: Remembering our baptism into Christ Jesus, we gather as we are to live, in the name of the Father,
and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Congregation: Amen

Hymn

“Have Mercy”

Ken Bible

Verse 1

In our arrogance and pride
We come to You
In our weakness and our guilt
We look to You (**chorus**)

Verse 2

In our trouble and our pain
We come to You
In our darkness and our grief
We look to You (**chorus**)

Chorus

O Lord our Lord
Have mercy
O Lord our Lord
Have mercy

Verse 3

Mighty God of love and power
We come to You
You are here and You are now
We look to You (**chorus**)

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(Brief silence for personal reflection and self-examination)

P: Most Holy and merciful Father:

C: We confess to You and to one another, and to the whole communion of saints in heaven, and on earth, that we have sinned by our own fault in thought, word, and deed; by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.

P: We have not loved you with our whole hearts, and minds, and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others, as we have been forgiven.

C: Have mercy on us, LORD.

P: 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 your Holy Spirit.

C: Have mercy on us, LORD.

P: We confess to You, LORD, all our past unfaithfulness, the pride, hypocrisy, and impatience in our lives.

C: Have mercy on us, LORD.

P: Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people.

C: We confess to You, LORD.

P: Our anger at our own frustration, and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves.

C: We confess to You, LORD.

P: Our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts, and our dishonesty in daily life and work.

C: We confess to You, LORD.

P: Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to commend the faith that is in us.

C: We confess to You, LORD.

P: Accept our repentance, LORD, for the wrongs we have done. For our blindness to human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty.

C: Accept our repentance, LORD.

P: For all false judgments, for uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and for our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us.

C: Accept our repentance, LORD.

P: For our waste and pollution of Your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us.

C: Accept our repentance, LORD.

P: Restore us, good LORD, and let Your anger depart from us.

C: Hear us, LORD, for Your mercy is great. Amen.

P: Accomplish in us, O God, Your Word and work of salvation,

C: That we may show forth Your glory in the world.

P: By the cross, and Passion of Your Son, our LORD,

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

P: Almighty God, the Father of our LORD, Jesus Christ, does not desire for us the death of sinners, nor that we should perish, but rather that we may turn from wickedness and live. Therefore, we implore Him through our LORD Jesus Christ to grant us true repentance and His Holy Spirit, that those things may please Him which we do on this day, that the rest of our lives may be dedicated to growth in holiness and grace, and that at last we may come to God's eternal joy; through Jesus Christ our LORD. Peace be with us all. **C: Amen.**

We Hear and Read God's Word

This Reading is from the Book of Psalms, Psalm 51(ESV).

Reader: ¹ Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;
according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.

Congregation: ² **Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin!**

R: ³ For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.

**C: ⁴ 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.**

R: ⁵ Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me.

C: ⁶ Behold, you delight in truth in the inward being, and you teach me wisdom in the secret heart.

R: ⁷ Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

C: ⁸ Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have broken rejoice.

R: ⁹ Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquities.

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

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

C: ¹² Restore to me the joy of your salvation and uphold me with a willing spirit.

R: ¹³ Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will return to you.

**C: ¹⁴ Deliver me from blood guiltiness, O God, O God of my salvation,
And my tongue will sing aloud of your righteousness.**

R: ¹⁵ O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise.

C: ¹⁶ For you will not delight in sacrifice, or I would give it; you will not be pleased with a burnt offering.

R: ¹⁷ The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

(Here ends this Reading)

We Worship by Confessing Our Faith in the Words of the Nicene Creed

WE BELIEVE in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

WE BELIEVE in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son, eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God, begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.

Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven;

By the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;

He suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;

He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,

And his kingdom will have no end.

(continued)

WE BELIEVE in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
Who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

We Hear and Read God's Word

This Reading is from Lamentations 1:1-6 (ESV)

¹ How lonely sits the city that was full of people! How like a widow has she become, she who was great among the nations! She who was a princess among the provinces has become a slave.

² She weeps bitterly in the night, with tears on her cheeks; among all her lovers she has none to comfort her; all her friends have dealt treacherously with her; they have become her enemies.

³ Judah has gone into exile because of affliction and hard servitude; she dwells now among the nations, but finds no resting place; her pursuers have all overtaken her in the midst of her distress.

⁴ The roads to Zion mourn, for none come to the festival; all her gates are desolate; her priests groan; her virgins have been afflicted, and she herself suffers bitterly.

⁵ Her foes have become the head; her enemies prosper, because the Lord has afflicted her for the multitude of her transgressions; her children have gone away, captives before the foe.

⁶ From the daughter of Zion all her majesty has departed. Her princes have become like deer that find no pasture; they fled without strength before the pursuer.

(The Word of the Lord.)

C: Thanks be to God

Sermon

The LORD's Prayer (spoken)

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.

The Imposition of Ashes

Let us Sing

"Ashes to Ashes" (2X)

Ken Bible

Ashes to ashes

Dust to dust

This flesh is not forever

Spirit to Spirit

Life to Life

All that You are

Is all I will be

Soon Lord in You forever

If you desire the imposition of ashes, you will receive the sign of the cross upon your forehead with the words; *“Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.”* After which, we are to contemplate our brokenness and our need for grace.

Conclusion of the Confession

P: Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation.

C: **That we may show forth your glory in the world.**

P: By the cross and Passion of your Son, our Lord,

C: **Bring us with all your saints to the joy of this resurrection.**

Silence for reflection

Closing Hymn

“Our Father, We Have Wandered”

WOV 733

Verse 1

Our Father, we have wandered and hidden from your face;
In foolishness have squandered your legacy of grace.
But now, in exile dwelling, we rise with fear and shame,
As, distant but compelling, we hear you call our name.

Verse 2

And now at length discerning the evil that we do,
Behold us, Lord, returning with hope and trust to you.
In haste you come to meet us and home rejoicing bring,
In gladness there to greet us with calf and robe and ring.

Verse 3

O Lord of all the living, both banished and restored,
Compassionate, forgiving and ever-caring Lord,
Grant now that our transgressing, our faithlessness may cease.
Stretch out your hand in blessing, in pardon, and in peace.

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Blessing

Dismissal

Pianist: Mary Kaye Owen

Choir Director: Dan Owen

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Thank you for worshipping with us!