

Lord of Life Lutheran Church  
Plano, Texas



# ASH WEDNESDAY

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

PSALM 51:10 (KJV)

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## Lord of Life Lutheran Church

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### Our Mission Statement

Bring people into a living relationship with Jesus Christ by

† reaching up to God in worship and prayer,

† reaching in to be empowered by God's Word as members of His family &

† reaching out at every opportunity with the Gospel of Christ.

### A Prayer before Worship

*We are weak and sick, O Father, and the temptations of the flesh and the world are great and many. O Father, keep us, and let us not fall again into temptation and sin. Give us grace that we may remain steadfast and fight bravely to the end. Without your grace and help we can do nothing, Amen.*

*(M. Luther, 1483-1546)*

### Large Print Bulletin

Today's bulletin is available in LARGE PRINT. Please ask an usher if you need assistance.

### Nursery/Cry Room

An unstaffed nursery is available for families with young children ages 2 and under in Room 109. Or, if you prefer, Room 100 also is available as a cry room and/or a room for nursing mothers. Please ask an usher if you need assistance or directions.

### For Our Guests Concerning Holy Communion

As a Family in Christ, we care about all who commune with us. We are deeply concerned that all who come to the Lord's Table do so for their benefit and renewal of faith in Christ. Scripture says that we are to "examine ourselves" so that we receive Christ's body and blood rightly and not drink judgment on ourselves at the Lord's Table.

*<sup>27</sup> Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty concerning the body and blood of the Lord. <sup>28</sup> Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. <sup>29</sup> For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment on himself. (1st Corinthians 11:27-29)*

We take our responsibility in this regard very seriously. Communing with us indicates unity with what we believe, teach and confess. For these reasons, if you have not been instructed in the beliefs of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, we request that you talk to our pastor about attending a class of instruction about what our church believes before communing.

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# Ash Wednesday

February 18, 2026

1:00 PM and 7:00 PM

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*(The congregation gathers in meditative silence.)*

*Stand*

## Opening Address

**P** 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.

*(Silence for reflection.)*

## Litany and Collect

**P** O Lord,  
**C** have mercy.

**P** O Christ,  
**C** have mercy.

**P** O Lord,  
**C** have mercy.

**P** O Christ,  
**C** hear us.

**P** God the Father in heaven,  
**C** have mercy.

**P** God the Son, Redeemer of the world,  
**C** have mercy.

**P** God the Holy Spirit,  
**C** have mercy.

**P** Be gracious to us.  
**C** Spare us, good Lord.

**P** Be gracious to us.  
**C** Help us, good Lord.

**P** 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:

**C** **Help us, good Lord.**

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

**C** **Help us, good Lord.**

**P** We poor sinners implore You

**C** **to hear us, O Lord.**

**P** 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:

**C** **We implore You to hear us, good Lord.**

**P** To raise those who fall; to strengthen those who stand;  
and to comfort and help the weak-hearted and the distressed:

**C** **We implore You to hear us, good Lord.**

**P** 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:

**C** **We implore You to hear us, good Lord.**

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

**C** **We implore You to hear us, good Lord.**

**P** Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God,

**C** **we implore You to hear us.**

**P** Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

**C** **have mercy.**

**P** Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

**C** **have mercy.**

**P** Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

**C** **grant us Your peace.**

**P** O Christ,  
**C** **hear us.**

**P** O Lord,  
**C** **have mercy.**

**P** O Christ,  
**C** **have mercy.**

**P** O Lord,  
**C** **have mercy. Amen.**

**P** 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.

**C** **Amen.**

### Collect of the Day

**P** Almighty and everlasting God, You despise nothing You have made and forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create in us new and contrite hearts that lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness we may receive from You full pardon and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** **Amen.**

### Confession and Absolution

**P** Brothers and sisters, the ashes we are about to receive remind us of the frailty of our condition. If the Son of God had not died for us sinful men, our condition would be sorry indeed. In contriteness and humility we put ashes on in the form of the cross, the symbol of our salvation. We realize that on our own we can do nothing; it is through Christ's Passion, death, and resurrection that we can do all things. In examining our inmost being, we find nothing in us but sin. God has promised through the Office of the Keys entrusted to the Church to hear and forgive all those who truly repent. Realizing our condition and in the spirit of contriteness and humility, let us make confession before His heavenly throne:

**C** **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You 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; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

**P** In the mercy of Almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for His

sake God forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ He gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit. May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**C** Amen.

*Sit*



## Imposition of Ashes

*As the congregation comes forward in silence to receive ashes, the pastor speaks the words of God spoken to our first parents in Eden after the fall,*

*“Dust you are and to dust you will return.” (Genesis 3:19)*

*Ashes are a sign of mortality and death. They remind us of our sin and our desperate need for forgiveness. In Biblical times, people would show their repentance of sin by putting on sackcloth and ashes (Matt. 11:21). The ashes we put on are in the form of the cross, the very symbol of our salvation from sin.*

## Old Testament Reading

*Joel 2:12–19*

<sup>12</sup>“Yet even now,” declares the LORD, “return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; <sup>13</sup>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. <sup>14</sup>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? <sup>15</sup>Blow the trumpet in Zion; consecrate a fast; call a solemn assembly; <sup>16</sup>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. <sup>17</sup>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?’”

<sup>18</sup>Then the LORD became jealous for his land and had pity on his people. <sup>19</sup>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.”

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Epistle

*2 Corinthians 5:20b—6:10*

We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. <sup>21</sup>For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

<sup>1</sup>Working together with him, then, we appeal to you not to receive the grace of God in vain. <sup>2</sup>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. <sup>3</sup>We put no obstacle in anyone’s way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, <sup>4</sup>but as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: by great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, <sup>5</sup>beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; <sup>6</sup>by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, the Holy Spirit, genuine love; <sup>7</sup>by truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; <sup>8</sup>through honor and dishonor, through slander and praise. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; <sup>9</sup>as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold, we live; as punished, and yet not killed; <sup>10</sup>as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, yet possessing everything.

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

*Stand*

## Holy Gospel

Matthew 6:1–6, 16–21

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the sixth chapter.

**C** **Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>[Jesus said:] “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.

<sup>2</sup>“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. <sup>3</sup>But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, <sup>4</sup>so that your giving may be in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

<sup>5</sup>“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. <sup>6</sup>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. . . . <sup>16</sup>“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. <sup>17</sup>But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, <sup>18</sup>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.

<sup>19</sup>“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, <sup>20</sup>but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. <sup>21</sup>For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C** **Praise to You, O Christ.**

*Sit*

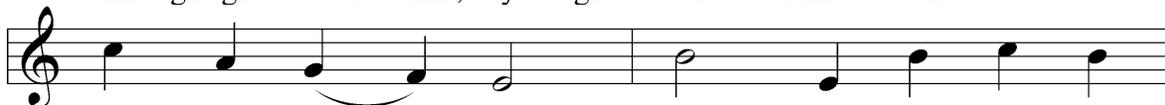
## Hymn of the Day

“From Depths of Woe I Cry to Thee”

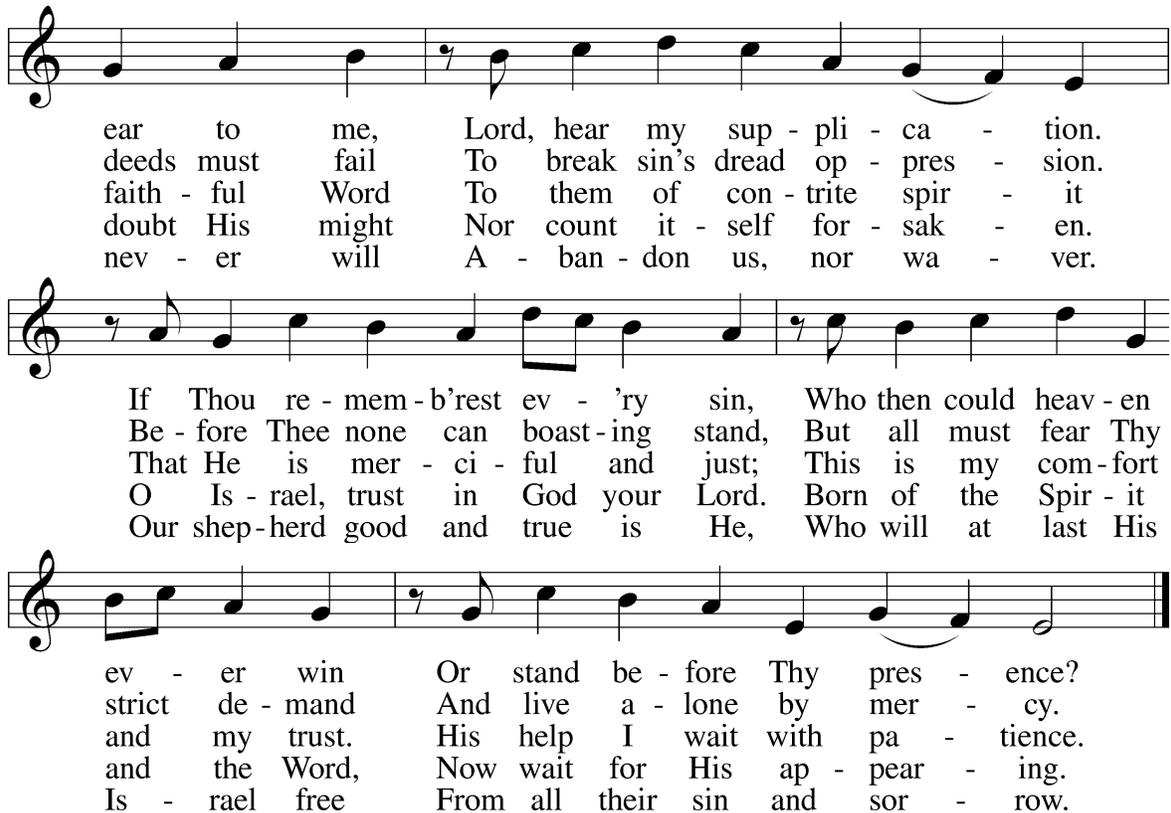
LSB 607



*7PM Choir only:* 1 From depths of woe I cry to Thee, In trial and  
*7PM Choir only:* 2 Thy love and grace a - lone a - vail To blot out  
3 There - fore my hope is in the Lord And not in  
4 And though it tar - ry through the night And till the  
5 Though great our sins, yet great - er still Is God's a -



trib - u - la - tion; Bend down Thy gra - cious  
my trans - gres - sion; The best and ho - liest  
mine own mer - it; It rests up - on His  
morn - ing wak - en, My heart shall nev - er  
bun - dant fa - vor; His hand of mer - cy



ear to me, Lord, hear my sup - pli - ca - tion.  
deeds must fail To break sin's dread op - pres - sion.  
faith - ful Word To them of con - trite spir - it  
doubt His might Nor count it - self for - sak - en.  
nev - er will A - ban - don us, nor wa - ver.

If Thou re - mem - b'rest ev - 'ry sin, Who then could heav - en  
Be - fore Thee none can boast - ing stand, But all must fear Thy  
That He is mer - ci - ful and just; This is my com - fort  
O Is - rael, trust in God your Lord. Born of the Spir - it  
Our shep - herd good and true is He, Who will at last His

ev - er win Or stand be - fore Thy pres - ence?  
strict de - mand And live a - lone by mer - cy.  
and my trust. His help I wait with pa - tience.  
and the Word, Now wait for His ap - pear - ing.  
Is - rael free From all their sin and sor - row.

Choral setting by Carl Schalk; Text: tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt. Text and tune: Martin Luther, 1483–1546

## Sermon

### Offertory (*spoken*)

*Psalm 51:10-12*

- C** Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
and renew a right spirit within me.  
Cast me not away from Thy presence,  
and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.  
Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation,  
and uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen.

*Offerings may be placed in the offering plate at the rear of the sanctuary, given through the mail, or made online following this QR code:*

*Stand*

### Prayer of the Church

#### Lord's Prayer

- P** Taught by our Lord and trusting His promises, we are bold to pray:  
**C** 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 Words of Our Lord

**P** 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.”

*Sit*

### Distribution

*Communicants are asked to hold forth their open hand to receive the bread so the elder may discern who is confirmed. Gluten free wafers are available. Non-alcoholic wine is offered in the center circle of individual cups for those who prefer it. If you take an individual cup, please keep it visible; otherwise the Pastor will offer you the common cup.*

**Solo** (7PM only)

“As Moses Lifted Up”  
by Ralph M. Johnson

*As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness,  
So must the Son of Man be lifted up,  
That whoever believes in him may have eternal life.  
For God so loved the world that God sent Jesus Christ to die for us,  
That we might live forevermore.  
We thank you, Lord, for loving us,  
And for giving us your Son,  
Who lived with us on earth and died upon a tree,  
That we who believe in him might have eternal life.*

### Hymns during Distribution

The *Lutheran Service Book* is located in the basket underneath the chair in front of you.

**Before the Throne of God Above**  
**Forgive Us, Lord, for Shallow Thankfulness**

*LSB 574*

*LSB 788*

*Stand*

**Prayer**

### Benediction

**P** 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.

**C** Amen.

## Closing Hymn

“Savior, When in Dust to Thee”

LSB 419



1 Sav - ior, when in dust to Thee Low we bow the a -  
2 By Thy help - less in - fant years, By Thy life of  
3 By Thine hour of dire de - spair, By Thine ag - o -  
4 By Thy deep ex - pir - ing groan, By the sad se -



dor - ing knee; When, re - pen - tant, to the skies  
want and tears, By Thy days of deep dis - tress  
ny of prayer, By the cross, the nail, the thorn,  
pul - chral stone, By the vault whose dark a - bode



Scarce we lift our weep - ing eyes; O, by all Thy  
In the sav - age wil - der - ness, By the dread, mys -  
Pierc - ing spear, and tor - turing scorn, By the gloom that  
Held in vain the ris - ing God, O, from earth to



pains and woe Suf - fered once for us be - low, Bend - ing  
te - rious hour Of the in - sult - ing tempt - er's pow'r, Turn, O  
veiled the skies O'er the dread - ful sac - ri - fice, Lis - ten  
heav'n re - stored, Might-y, re - as - cend - ed Lord, Bend - ing



from Thy throne on high, Hear our pen - i - ten - tial cry!  
turn a fa - v'ring eye; Hear our pen - i - ten - tial cry!  
to our hum - ble sigh; Hear our pen - i - ten - tial cry!  
from Thy throne on high, Hear our pen - i - ten - tial cry!

Text: Robert Grant, 1779–1838, alt. Tune: Joseph Parry, 1841–1903

*Sit*

**Dismissal**

**Serving Our Worship Today:**

Pastor:	Rev. Joel Shaltanis
Organist:	Victoria Frinsko
Soloist:	Shelby Lund
Altar Guild:	Jessica Gavit, Heather Padgett, Sherri Kunschke
Acolyte:	Sean Tweedie
Elders:	Doug Hite, Mike Kunschke
Ushers:	Mike Paradise, Charles Hacker
Sound Tech:	Scott Peters, Russ Wilkerson