

ASH WEDNESDAY
FEBRUARY 18, 2026
10:00AM & 6:00PM

Theme of the Day: One of the Bible's greatest wisdom books is the book of Job. This Lent nine sermons will help us dig deeply into Job's central message. Tonight we begin with Job 1:1-12. And what will we learn? *We will learn to fly blind, trusting God in the midst of trials.*

Invocation

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Call to Worship (Based upon Job 19:23-27)

Pastor: Oh, that my words were recorded, that they were written on a scroll.

People: That they were inscribed with an iron tool on lead, or engraved in rock forever!

Pastor: I know that my Redeemer lives, and that in the end he will stand upon the earth.

People: And after my skin has been destroyed, yet in my flesh I will see God.

Pastor: I myself will see him with my own eyes, I, and not another. How my heart yearns within me!

All: I know that my Redeemer lives!

Hymn #440 Jesus, I Will Ponder Now (stanzas 1-4)

Jesus, I will ponder now On Your holy passion;
With Your Spirit me endow For such meditation.
Grant that I in love and faith May the image cherish
Of Your suffering, pain, and death That I may not perish.

Make me see Your great distress, Anguish, and affliction,
Bonds and stripes and wretchedness And Your crucifixion;
Make me see how scourge and rod,
Spear and nails did wound You,
How for them You died, O God,
Who with thorns had crowned You.

Yet, O Lord, not thus alone Make me see Your passion,
But its cause to me make known And its termination.
Ah! I also and my sin Wrought Your deep affliction;
This indeed the cause has been Of Your crucifixion.

Grant that I Your passion view With repentant grieving.
Let me not bring shame to You By unholy living.
How could I refuse to shun Ev'ry sinful pleasure
Since for me God's only Son Suffered without measure?

Confession and Absolution

Pastor: O Lord, our Lord.

People: You are compassionate beyond comparison.

Pastor: Loving beyond imagination.

People: And faithful beyond our betrayal.

Pastor: Just as David declares, "My sin is ever before me."

People: We, too, admit our transgressions.

Pastor: We have become stained with wrongdoing.

People: Sacrificing the goodness of your love for the fleeting wealth of this world.

Pastor: We have abandoned your commandments.

People: Caring less for your creation and more for our own ambitions.

Pastor: Wash us clean, O God of mercy, and deliver us from ourselves.

People: Help us hear your voice calling us back.

Pastor: Remind us of your love bringing us home.

People: And renew our spirits that we might trust you with our whole hearts.

Pastor: As a called and ordained servant of the Word I announce to you God's marvelous and amazing grace. You are forgiven, forever, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

All: I know that my Redeemer lives!

Hymn #440 Jesus, I Will Ponder Now (stanzas 5-6)

If my sins give me alarm And my conscience grieve me,
Let Your cross my fear disarm; Peace of conscience give me.
Help me see forgiveness won By Your holy passion.
If for me He slays His Son, God must have compassion!

Graciously my faith renew; Help me bear my crosses,
Learning humbleness from You, Peace mid pain and losses.
May I give You love for love! Hear me, O my Savior,
That I may in heav'n above Sing Your praise forever.

Collect

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray. 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.

All: Amen

Imposition of Ashes

10:00 Choristers "O Lord, Hear My Prayer"

As the ashes are imposed on the forehead of each person in the sign of the cross, the pastor says, "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

Hymn During Imposition of Ashes:

419 Savior, When in Dust to Thee

Savior, when in dust to Thee Low we bow the adoring knee;
When, repentant, to the skies
Scarce we lift our weeping eyes;
O, by all Thy pains and woe Suffered once for us below,
Bending from Thy throne on high, Hear our penitential cry!
By Thy helpless infant years, By Thy life of want and tears,
By Thy days of deep distress In the savage wilderness,
By the dread, mysterious hour
Of the insulting tempter's pow'r.
Turn, O turn a fav'ring eye; Hear our penitential cry!

By Thine hour of dire despair, By Thine agony of prayer,
By the cross, the nail, the thorn,
Piercing spear, and torturing scorn,
By the gloom that veiled the skies O'er the dreadful sacrifice,
Listen to our humble sigh; Hear our penitential cry!

By Thy deep expiring groan, By the sad sepulchral stone,
By the vault whose dark abode Held in vain the rising God,
O, from earth to heav'n restored, Mighty, re-ascended Lord,
Bending from Thy throne on high. Hear our penitential cry!

Old Testament Job 1:1-12

There was a man in the land of Uz whose name was Job, and that man was blameless and upright, one who feared God and turned away from evil. ² There were born to him seven sons and three daughters. ³ He possessed 7,000 sheep, 3,000 camels, 500 yoke of oxen, and 500 female donkeys, and very many servants, so that this man was the greatest of all the people of the east. ⁴ His sons used to go and hold a feast in the house of each one on his day, and they would send and invite their three sisters to eat and drink with them. ⁵ And when the days of the feast had run their course, Job would send and consecrate them, and he would rise early in the morning and offer burnt offerings according to the number of them all. For Job said, "It may be that my children have sinned, and cursed God in their hearts." Thus Job did continually.

⁶ Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came among them. ⁷ The LORD said to Satan, "From where have you come?" Satan answered the LORD and said, "From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking up and down on it." ⁸ And the LORD said to Satan, "Have you considered my servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, who fears God and turns away from evil?" ⁹ Then Satan answered the LORD and said, "Does Job fear God for no reason? ¹⁰ Have you not put a hedge around him and his house and all that he has, on every side?"

You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land. ¹¹ But stretch out your hand and touch all that he has, and he will curse you to your face.”

¹² And the LORD said to Satan, “Behold, all that he has is in your hand. Only against him do not stretch out your hand.” So Satan went out from the presence of the LORD.

6:00 Choir *“With Broken Heart and Contrite Sigh”*

Gospel Reading Luke 4:1-13

And Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness ² for forty days, being tempted by the devil. And he ate nothing during those days. And when they were ended, he was hungry. ³ The devil said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread.” ⁴ And Jesus answered him, “It is written, ‘Man shall not live by bread alone.’” ⁵ And the devil took him up and showed him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time, ⁶ and said to him, “To you I will give all this authority and their glory, for it has been delivered to me, and I give it to whom I will. ⁷ If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours.” ⁸ And Jesus answered him, “It is written, ‘You shall worship the Lord your God, and him only shall you serve.’” ⁹ And he took him to Jerusalem and set him on the pinnacle of the temple and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, ¹⁰ for it is written, ‘He will command his angels concerning you, to guard you,’” ¹¹ and “On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone.” ¹² And Jesus answered him, “It is said, ‘You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.’” ¹³ And when the devil had ended every temptation, he departed from him until an opportune time.

Creed *(Luther’s Explanation of the 2nd Article)* LSB p.322
Spoken by All

I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

What does this mean?

I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord, who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity.

This is most certainly true.

Hymn #425 When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

When I survey the wondrous cross
On which the Prince of Glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss
And pour contempt on all my pride.

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast
Save in the death of Christ, my God;
all the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them to His blood.

See, from His head, His hands, His feet
Sorrow and love flow mingled down!
Did e’er such love and sorrow meet
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Were the whole realm of nature mine,
That were a tribute far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my soul, my life, my all!

Sermon

“Flying Blind”

Job 1:1-12

Offertory

LSB p. 192

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,

Offerings

Prayers of The Church

Pastor: Lord God, sometimes our hearts are glazed over and hardened by grief.

People: We wonder in the middle of our pain whether we can trust you or not.

Pastor: Sometimes, we even wonder if you are our enemy.

People: Help us take a long look at your love you give us in Jesus Christ.

Pastor: Help us make a choice for faith instead of despair.

People: Help us see that the hand you offer us is one that is scarred with pain.

Pastor: Help us accept the comfort given by Christ's bleeding love.

People: Because we can't see you, O God, help us listen, and listen closely.

Pastor: For your words give hope to the hopeless, courage to the fearful and joy to the downcast.

People: Chiefly let us hear and believe these words, "Take, eat, this is my body. Take, drink, this is my blood."

Pastor: In your holy name we pray, Jesus.

People: Amen.

The Sacrament of the Altar

Preface

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 truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to you, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who overcame the assaults of the devil and gave His life as a ransom for many that with cleansed hearts we might be prepared

joyfully to celebrate the Paschal Feast in sincerity and truth. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify your glorious name, evermore praising you and saying:

Sanctus

LSB p. 161

Holy, holy, holy Lord God of pow'r and might:
Heaven and earth are full of Your glory,
Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

The Lord's Prayer

Pastor: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

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.

The Words of Our Lord

Pax Domini

LSB p. 163

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

People: Amen.

Agnus Dei

LSB p. 163

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world;
grant us peace.

Distribution

Reception of Holy Communion: *If you are planning to receive Christ's supper today, please read through the words of exhortation in the fellowship folder. For members, it is a good review of important spiritual matters for gathering at the table. For guests, it explains our stance on confession of faith, doctrinal unity, and proper spiritual preparation to receive the Supper for your benefit.*

Hymns During Distribution

Hymn #731 O God, Forsake Me Not

O God, forsake me not! Your gracious presence lend me;
Lord, lead Your helpless child; Your Holy Spirit send me
That I my course may run. O be my light, my lot,
My staff, my rock, my shield – O God, forsake me not!

O God, forsake me not! Take not Your Spirit from me;
Do not permit the might Of sin to overcome me.
Increase my feeble faith, Which You alone have wrought.
O be my strength and pow'r – O God, forsake me not!

O God, forsake me not! Lord, hear my supplication!
In ev'ry evil hour Help me resist temptation;
And when the prince of hell My conscience seeks to blot,
Be then not far from me – O God, forsake me not!

O God, forsake me not! Lord, I am Yours forever.
O keep me strong in faith That I may leave You never.
Grant me a blessed end When my good fight is fought;
Help me in life and death – O God, forsake me not!

Hymn #722 Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me

Lord, take my hand and lead me Upon life's way:
Direct, protect, and feed me From day to day.
Without Your grace and favor I go astray;
So take my hand , O Savior, And lead the way.

Lord, when the tempest rages, I need not fear,
For You, the Rock of Ages, Are always near.
Close by Your side abiding, I fear no foe,
For when Your hand is guiding, In peace I go.

Lord, when the shadows lengthen And night has come,
I know that You will strengthen My steps toward home.
Then nothing can impede me, O blessed Friend;
So take my hand and lead me Unto the end.

HYMN #729 I Am Trusting Thee Lord Jesus

I am trusting thee, Lord Jesus, Trusting only Thee;
Trusting Thee for full salvation, Great and free.

I am trusting Thee for pardon At Thy feet I bow,
For Thy grace and tender mercy Trusting now.

I am trusting Thee for cleansing In the crimson flood;
Trusting Thee to make me holy By thy blood.

I am trusting Thee to guide me; Thou alone shalt lead,
Ev'ry day and hour supplying All my need.

I am trusting Thee for power; Thine can never fail.
Words which Thou Thyself shalt give me Must prevail.

I am trusting Thee. Lord Jesus; Never let me fall.
I am trusting Thee forever and for all.

Common Dismissal

Benediction (Based upon Job 1:21)

Pastor: The LORD gives.

People: And the LORD takes away.

Pastor: Blessed be the name of the LORD.

People: Yes, blessed be the name of the LORD!

Pastor: And so we go forth confidently in the name of our LORD.

People: The Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

Recessional Hymn #878 Abide With Me (stanzas 1-2, 5-6)

Abide with me, fast falls the eventide.
The darkness deepens; Lord with me abide.
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, O abide with me.

I need Thy presence ev'ry passing hour;
What but Thy grace can foil the tempter's pow'r?
Who like Thyself my guide and stay can be?
Through cloud and sunshine, O abide with me.

I fear no foe with Thee at hand to bless;
Ills have no weight and tears no bitterness.
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory?
I triumph still if Thou abide with me!

Hold Thou Thy cross before my closing eyes;
Shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies.
Heav'n's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee;
In life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.

Worship Leader
Lectors
Organist

Pastor Harold Bender
Don Horn, Jim Laux
Deaconess Carole King

Lenten Mid Week Worship
Wednesday at 10:00am & 6:00pm

February 25: "Sweet Surrender" Job 1:13-21

Lenten Meal served in the Fellowship Hall
at 4:45pm

February 25: Mostaccioli, tossed salad,
Italian bread & butter
Beverages, dessert &
kids meals served each week.