

Ash Wednesday
February 18, 2026
Heritage Lutheran Church
Apple Valley, MN
6:30 p.m.



1. Welcome

2. The Confession Of Sin and Absolution *page 120*

Pastor Dearly Beloved, we have come together in the presence of God our heavenly Father, to render thanks for the great benefits that we have received at His hand, to set forth His most worthy praise, to hear His holy Word, and to ask for ourselves and on behalf of others, those things that are necessary for our life and salvation. O come, let us worship Him! Let us kneel and bow down before Him. Let us confess our sins with penitent hearts and obtain forgiveness by His infinite grace and mercy.

Congregation Almighty and most merciful Father, we have strayed from Your ways like lost sheep. We have followed the devices and desires of our hearts. We have offended against Your holy law. We have done those things which we should not have done, and we have not done those things which we should have done. Have mercy on us, O Lord! Spare us and restore us, according to the promises You have declared to us in Jesus Christ, our Lord. For His sake grant that we may live a godly, righteous and sober life, to the glory of Your holy name.

Pastor The almighty and merciful Lord has granted us pardon and forgiveness of all our sins, grace for true repentance and amendment of life, and the comfort of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

3. Hymn #495 "I Come To Thee O Blessed Lord"

1 I come to Thee, O blessed Lord, Invited by Thy gracious Word
To this Thy feast, to sup with Thee; Grant that a worthy guest I be.

2 I come to Thee with sin and grief, For Thou alone canst give relief.
Thy death for me, dear Lord, I plead: O Jesus, help me in my need!

3 Shouldst Thou a strict account demand, Who could, O Lord, before Thee stand?
Purge all my secret sins away: Be Thou, O Christ, the sinner's Stay!

4 O Jesus, Lamb of God, alone Thou didst for all our sins atone;
Though I have sinned and gone astray, Turn not, O Lord, Thy guest away.

5 O Jesus, Lamb of God, alone Thou didst for all our sins atone;
Be merciful, I Thee implore, Be merciful forevermore.

4. The Versicles and Gloria Patri page 120-121

Pastor O Lord, Open my lips.

♪ **Congregation** And my mouth shall show forth Your praise.

Pastor Make haste, O God, to deliver me.

♪ **Congregation** Make haste to help me, O Lord. 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: forevermore, Amen.

5. Psalm 51:1-13 (read responsively by whole verse)

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

² Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin!

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

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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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, forevermore. Amen.

6. Scripture Lessons:

Joel 2:12-19

¹² "Yet even now," declares the LORD, "return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; ¹³ 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.

¹⁴ 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? ¹⁵ Blow the trumpet in Zion; consecrate a fast; call a solemn assembly; ¹⁶ 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. ¹⁷ 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?'" ¹⁸ Then the LORD became jealous for his land and had pity on his people. ¹⁹ 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.

2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:2

^{5:20b} We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹ For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. ^{6:1} Working together with him, then, we appeal to you not to receive the grace of God in vain. ² 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.

7. The Gospel **Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21**

¹ "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. ² "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. ³ But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴ so that your giving may be in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you. ⁵ “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. ⁶ 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. ¹⁶ “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. ¹⁷ But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, ¹⁸ 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. ¹⁹ “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, ²⁰ but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

8. A Responsory page 122

Pastor O Lord, have mercy upon us.

♪ **Congregation** Thanks be to You, O Lord!

9. Hymn #414 “Through Jesus’ Blood And Merit”

1 Through Jesus' blood and merit I am at peace with God;
What, then, can daunt my spirit, However dark my road?
My courage shall not fail me, For God is on my side;
Though hell itself assail me, Its rage I may deride.

2 There's nothing that can sever Me from the love of God,
No want, no pain, whatever, No famine, peril, flood.
Though thousand foes surround me, For slaughter mark Thy sheep,
They never shall confound me, The vict'ry I shall reap.

3 Yea, neither life's temptation Nor death's so trying hour,
Nor angels of high station, Nor any other pow'r,
Nor things that now are present, Nor things that are to come,
Nor height, however pleasant, Nor depths of deepest gloom.

4 Nor any creature ever Shall from the love of God
This wretched sinner sever, For in my Savior's blood
This love its fountain taketh; He hears my faithful prayer
And nevermore forsaketh His own dear child and heir.

10. Sermon “From The Heart” Matthew 6:16-21

11. The Offering

12. Prayer

13. Hymn #302 “The Tree Of Life”

1 The tree of life with ev'ry good In Eden's holy orchard stood,
And of its fruit so pure and sweet God let the man and woman eat.
Yet in this garden also grew Another tree, of which they knew;
Its lovely limbs with fruit adorned Against whose eating God had warned.

2 The stillness of that sacred grove Was broken, as the serpent strove
With tempting voice to Eve beguile And Adam too by sin defile.
O day of sadness when the breath Of fear and darkness,
Doubt and death, Its awful poison first displayed Within the world so newly made.

3 What mercy God showed to our race, A plan of rescue by His grace:
In sending One from woman's seed, The One to fill our greatest need-
For on a tree uplifted high His only Son for sin would die,
Would drink the cup of scorn and dread To crush the ancient serpent's head!

4 Now from that tree of Jesus' shame Flows life eternal in His name;
For all who trust and will believe, Salvation's living fruit receive.
And of this fruit so pure and sweet The Lord invites the world to eat,
To find within this cross of wood The tree of life with ev'ry good!

14. **The Lord's Prayer** *page 125*

♪ **Congregation** 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.

15. **The Words Of institution** *page 102*

Pastor Our Lord Jesus Christ, the same night in which He was betrayed, took bread and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to His disciples saying: "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, gave thanks, and 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 and for many, for the remission of sins. This do as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

16. **The Agnus Dei (Lamb of God)** *page 55*

♪ **Congregation** O Christ the Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us. O Christ the Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us. O Christ, the Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world, grant us Your peace. Amen.

17. **The Distribution of The Lord's Supper**

18. **Distribution Hymns**

#282 "Alas, And Did My Savior Bleed" *(Tune: #218, New Britain)*

1 Alas! and did my Savior bleed,
And did my Sovereign die?
Would He devote that sacred head
For sinners such as I?

2 Thy body slain, sweet Jesus, Thine,
And bathed in its own blood,
While all exposed to wrath divine,
The glorious Sufferer stood!

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

4 Well might the sun in darkness hide
And shut his glories in
When God, the mighty Maker, died
For man the creature's sin.

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

6 But drops of grief can ne'er repay
The debt of love I owe;
Dear Lord, renew my faith today
And teach me what to do.

#288 "Beneath The Cross Of Jesus Kneeling" (Tune: #205, *Wer Nur Den Lieben Gott*)

1 Beneath the cross of Jesus kneeling
Dawns on my soul the endless day;
There, deeper than all tides of feeling,
Doth God His boundless grace display;
Thence flow the mystic healing waves;
There all my stains the Savior laves.

2 God wrought for man, His love forth-showing,
When Moses smote the rock of old;
And, lo, through Israel's camp on-flowing,
Broke forth the longed-for flood, and rolled,
New strength, new joy, new life bestowed,
On lips that quaffed it, pure and cold.

3 God wrought for man, mankind redeeming,
When Christ was pierc'd by Roman spear,
And, o'er the thirsty world down-streaming,
Forth gushed a fountain, cool and clear,
Till souls, those blessed waters near,
Forgot in joy sin's desert drear.

4 Beside that well for aye abiding,
New strength, new joy, new life I gain;
Within that cleft securely hiding,
No care can harm, no sorrow stain;
Here rests the blissful soul serene,
Here faith the healing draft can glean.

5 Lord, let my heart, this gift receiving,
Sing one glad anthem to Thy praise;
And may the stream, Thy pierc'd heart leaving,
Refresh and heal me all my days:
Thus by Thy blood my life restored,
Eternal thanks to Thee, O Lord.

#300 "Sweet The Moments Rich In Blessing"

1 Sweet the moments, rich in blessing,
Which before the cross we spend.
Life and health and peace possessing
From the sinner's dying Friend.

2 Here we rest in wonder, viewing
All our sins on Jesus laid;
Here we see redemption flowing
From the sacrifice He made.

3 Here we find the dawn of heaven
While upon the cross we gaze,
See our trespasses forgiven,
And our songs of triumph raise.

4 Oh, that, near the cross abiding,
We may to the Savior cleave,
Naught with Him our hearts dividing,
All for Him content to leave!

5 Lord, in loving contemplation
Fix our hearts and eyes on Thee
Till we taste Thy full salvation
And Thine unveiled glory see.

#307 "I Know Thee Savior" (Tune: #418, Melita)

1 I know Thee Savior! God Thou art,
Jesus, the feeble sinner's Friend;
Lord, do not now from me depart,
But stay, and love me to the end.
The mercies never shall remove;
Thy nature and Thy name is Love.

2 'Tis Love! 'Tis Love! Thou diedst for me,
By grace Thou livest in my heart;
The morning breaks, the shadows flee,
Pure universal love Thou art.
To me, to all, Thy mercies move,
Thy nature and Thy name is Love.

#325 "O Jesus Blessed Lord To Thee"

1 O Jesus, blessed Lord, to Thee
My heartfelt thanks forever be,
Who hast so lovingly bestowed
On me Thy body and Thy blood.

2 Break forth, my soul, for joy and say:
What wealth is come to me this day!
My Savior dwells within me now:
How blest am I! How good art Thou!

19. The Versicle & Canticle

Pastor Let my prayers rise before you as incense:

♪ **Congregation** And the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.

20. The Nunc Dimittis

♪ **Congregation** Lord, now You let your servant depart in peace according to Your Word
For my eyes have seen Your Salvation which you have prepared before the face of all people.
A Light to lighten the Gentiles; and the glory of Your 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.

21. The Prayers, beginning with The Kyrie

♪ **Congregation** Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon
us.

22. The Collect page 54

Pastor Abide with us, Lord, for it is toward evening and the day is far spent. Abide with us and with
Your whole Church. Abide with us in the end of the day, in the end of our life, and in the end of the
world. Abide with us Your grace and goodness, with Your holy Word and Sacrament, with Your
strength and blessing. Abide with us when the night of affliction and temptation comes upon us, the
night of fear and despair when death shall come. Abide with us and with all the faithful through
time and eternity.

♪ **Congregation** Amen.

23. The Benedicamus & Benediction

Pastor Let us bless the Lord.

♪ **Congregation** Thanks be to God.

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

♪ **Congregation** Amen.

24. Closing Hymn #283 “Glory Be To Jesus”

1 Glory be to Jesus, Who in bitter pains
Poured for me the life-blood From His sacred veins!

2 Grace and life eternal In that blood I find;
Blest be His compassion, Infinitely kind!

3 Blest through endless ages Be the precious stream
Which from endless torments Did the world redeem.

4 Abel's blood for vengeance Pleaded to the skies;
But the blood of Jesus For our pardon cries.

5 Oft as earth exulting Wafts its praise on high,
Angel hosts rejoicing Make their glad reply.

6 Lift we, then, our voices, Swell the mighty flood;
Louder still and louder Praise the precious blood!

Announcements

Lent has begun- We will have a midweek Lenten service each week at 6:30 p.m. We will also have supper each week before the service at 5:15 pm.

Brad Oachs Memorial Gathering - It has been 4 years since God decided to take Brad Home in a fatal accident. The past years there has been a fishing outing followed by supper at Celt's to remember him. This year there will be no fishing involved, sad to say, but Barb has arranged a time of fellowship at Celt's in Apple Valley this Saturday, February 21st at 4:00 pm until everyone decides to leave. Come and join the family, tell a story or two, and remember our dear brother who has fallen asleep in the Lord. Hope to see you there!

Easter Flowers - There are Easter flower sign-up sheets on the welcome center in the narthex if you would like to sponsor a flower for Easter. Orders are due this Sunday, February 22nd.

Women's Bible Study – The Monday night Women's Bible Class meets at church at 6:30 p.m. Contact Ruth B. for further details.

Men's Bible Study – Men's Bible study meets on Thursdays at 9:00 a.m.

Fellowship - Volunteers are always needed to provide fellowship food every Sunday. Please sign up on the volunteer board.

Choir – The choir meets on Wednesday evenings at 6:30, but this will switch to 7:15 during Lent. New members are always welcome!

Cleaning Schedule – Help is needed to clean the sanctuary, narthex and gym. There is a sign-up sheet on the volunteer board if you are able to help out. Thank you!

Budget Update – There will be an update to the budget coming in March. If you have questions, contact congregation treasurer, Phil Holz or congregation president, Dave Paulsen.

