

# ASH WEDNESDAY LITURGY



February 18, 2026  
7:00 p.m.

**CROSS OF hope LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL**  
Loving God - Transforming Relationships - Serving Others



## INVITATION TO LENT

Friends in Christ, today with the whole church we enter the time of remembering Jesus' passover from death to life, and our life in Christ is renewed.

We begin this holy season by acknowledging our need for repentance and for God's mercy.

We are created to experience joy in communion with God, to love one another, and to live in harmony with creation.

But our sinful rebellion separates us from God, our neighbors, and creation, so that we do not enjoy the life our creator intended.

As disciples of Jesus,  
we are called to a discipline that contends against evil  
and resists whatever leads us away from love of God and neighbor.  
I invite you, therefore, to the discipline of Lent  
--self-examination and repentance, prayer and fasting,  
sacrificial giving and works of love  
--strengthened by the gifts of word and sacrament.

Let us continue our journey through these forty days  
to the great Three Days of Jesus' death and resurrection.

*Offerings may be left in the basket by the sanctuary doors.*

### *Preparation for worship*

*I am marked with your cross, Jesus,  
and sealed with your life-giving Holy Spirit.*

## GATHERING

*All Gather in Silence.*

### \*Gathering Music

*O Lord, throughout These Forty Days*

Voices of Hope

### \*Greeting and Prayer Of The Day

## WORD

<b>First Reading</b>	Joel 2:1-2, 12-17
<b>Psalm</b>	Psalm 51:1-17
<b>Second Reading</b>	2 Corinthians 5:20b – 6:10
<b>*Gospel Acclamation</b>	<i>Let your steadfast.....</i> ELW p. 198

*After the gospel is announced (spoken)...Glory to you, O Lord.*

**\*Gospel** Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21  
*After the gospel (spoken) Praise to you, O Christ.*

**Sermon** Hungry **Pastor Adam**  
**\*Hymn** *Restore in Us, O God* **ELW 793**

## **Invitation to Lent** *(See opposite page.)*

*All are invited to sing the refrain after each petition.*

## Refrain:

***Holy, holy, holy God, holy and mighty,  
holy and immortal, have mercy on us.***

### *VerSES for your contemplation and reflection:*

for self centered living, and for failing to walk with humility and gentleness: **Refrain**

for longing to have what is not ours, and for hearts that are not at rest with ourselves: **Refrain**

for misuse of human relationship, and for unwillingness to see the image of God in others: **Refrain**

for jealousies that divide families and nations, and for rivalries that create strife and warfare: **Refrain**

for reluctance in sharing the gifts of God, and for carelessness with the fruits of creation: **Refrain**

for hurtful words that condemn, and for angry deeds that harm:

## Refrain

for idleness in witnessing to Jesus Christ, and for squandering the gifts of love and grace: **Refrain.**

## Imposition of Ashes

*People may come forward and kneel or stand to receive the ashes. (choir first, then all.)*

Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.

*Music during*

*Dust We Are and Shall Return*

Praise+Team

## \*Prayers of Intercession

## \*Lord's Prayer

## SENDING

### \*Blessing

### \*Sending Song

*In the Fields of the Lord*

Praise+Team

### \*Dismissal

*All may remain in prayer and depart in silence.*

## \*Assembly stands

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### Serving Today

Pastor	R. Adam Berndt
Assisting Minister	Sherrie Simek
Reader	Laura Burton
Cantors	Thomas Ropp and Voices of Hope
Music Director	Thomas Ropp
Accompanist	Amy Ellis
Musicians	Voices of Hope and Praise+Team

## “Love and Light”

### *Lent Devotions for Reflection and Renewal*

Devotion can be found at [crossofhope.org](http://crossofhope.org) under the  
**Weekly Worship Resources** tab.