



**Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
39020 5 Mile Road
Livonia, MI 48154**



ASH WEDNESDAY - FEBRUARY 18, 2026

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@HOLYTRINITYLUTHERANCHURCH**



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

GREETING

PRAYER OF THE DAY

PSALM 51:1-12, 17

A reading from Exodus.

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;
in your great compassion blot out my offenses.
Wash me through and through from my wickedness,
and cleanse me from my sin.
For I know my offenses,
and my sin is ever before me.
Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight;
so you are justified when you speak and right in your judgment.
Indeed, I was born steeped in wickedness,
a sinner from my mother's womb.
Indeed, you delight in truth deep within me,
and would have me know wisdom deep within.
Remove my sins with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be purer than snow.
Let me hear joy and gladness,
that the body you have broken may rejoice.
Hide your face from my sins,
and blot out all my wickedness.
Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from your presence,
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.
Restore to me the joy of your salvation
and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.
The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit;
a troubled and broken heart, O God, you will not despise.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

Let your steadfast love come to us, O Lord.

Save us as you promised; we will trust your word.

Save us as you promised; we will trust your word.

MATTHEW 6:1-6, 16-21

The holy gospel according to St. Matthew, the sixth chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] “Beware of practicing your righteousness before others in order to be seen by them, for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven.

“So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your alms may be done in secret, and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

“And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But whenever 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.

“And whenever you fast, do not look somber, like the hypocrites, for they mark their faces to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret, and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal, but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

This is the gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

PASTOR ALYSA OFFMAN

SONG OF THE DAY I HAVE DECIDED TO FOLLOW JESUS

I have decided to follow Jesus;
I have decided to follow Jesus;
I have decided to follow Jesus;
no turning back, no turning back.

Though none go with me, still I will follow;
though none go with me, still I will follow;
though none go with me, still I will follow; no turning back, no turning back.

The world behind me, the cross before me;
the world behind me, the cross before me;
the world behind me, the cross before me;
no turning back, no turning back.

Text and music in the public domain.

INVITATION TO LENT

CONFESSION OF SIN

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Most holy and merciful God, **we confess to you and to one another, and before the whole company of heaven, that we have sinned by our fault, by our own fault, by our own most grievous fault, 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, and mind and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others as we have been forgiven. **Have mercy on us, O God.**

We have shut our ears 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. **Have mercy on us, O God.**

Our past unfaithfulness, the pride, envy, hypocrisy, and apathy that have infected our lives, we confess to you. **Have mercy on us, O God.**

Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people, we confess to you. **Have mercy on us, O God.**

Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to share the faith that is in us, we confess to you.

Have mercy on us, O God.

Our neglect of human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty, we confess to you. **Have mercy on us, O God.**

Our false judgments, our uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us, we confess to you. **Have mercy on us, O God.**

Our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us, we confess to you. **Have mercy on us, O God.**

Restore us, O God, and let your anger depart from us.

Hear us, O God, for your mercy is great.

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth. May these ashes be a sign of our mortality and penitence, reminding us that only by the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ are we given eternal life; through the same Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation,

that we may show forth your glory in the world.

By the cross and passion of your Son, our Savior,

bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, let us pray for the world and its needs.

Guide your church, O God. Accompany all Christians in this season of repentance, and renew our faith in the riches of grace you give to us in baptism. Heed us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Heal this earth, O God. Satisfy the needs of every parched place, every diverse ecosystem, every suffering creature. Though all return to dust, grant beauty and purpose to each living thing. Heed us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Restore the nations, O God. Let your healing spring up quickly across the world.. Give all in authority the will to loose the bonds of injustice and let any who are oppressed go free. Heed us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Deliver your people, O God. Comfort any whose hearts are rent by grief, uphold any who are sick, bring food to those who hunger, and give housing to all without shelter. We especially pray for Kim, Dorisann, Dan, Steve, Jo, Ron, Robert, Barb, Rhonda, Jared, Elaine, Courtney, Donna, Tim, Ron M., Jeremy, Linda, Vickie, Ed, Bonnie, Mary Lou, Jackie, Scott, Judy, Tom, Kaamil, Dave, Roberta, family and friends of Linnea Schulz, family and friends of John Mount-Campbell, family and friends of Jean Stegen, family and friends of Erik Hellstrom, and national and international leaders. For what else do the people of God pray today? Heed us, O God, **Your mercy is great.**

Holy God, in our worship we glimpse your glory, hear your voice, and receive assurance of your love. Inspire all who prepare, lead, and participate in worship to serve you with reverence and joy. Heed us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Bless this assembly, O God. Reconcile us to one another and to you. Strengthen our resolve to fast from evil, open our hands in sharing, and quicken our prayer. Heed us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Hold us forever, O God. We thank you for all who now know their treasure in heaven, and for all who on earth proclaimed your abounding, steadfast love. Heed us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Receive our prayers, O God, through Jesus Christ, our strength and salvation, by the pleading of your Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

OFFERING SONG

HOLY GROUND

W&P #59

We are standing on holy ground, and I know that there are angels all around.

Let us praise Jesus now. We are standing in his presence on holy ground.

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OFFERING PRAYER

GREAT THANKSGIVING

PASTOR ANDREW CHAVANAK, OLF

The Lord is with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

ELW P. 130

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heav'n and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

ELW P. 135

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!

Come to the table; taste and see.

COMMUNION SONG

LAMB OF GOD

ELW P. 135

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.

COMMUNION SONG

GLORIFY THY NAME

W&P #42

Father [Jesus, Spirit] we love you, we worship and adore you, glorify thy name in all the earth; glorify thy name, glorify thy name, glorify thy name in all the earth.

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BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

SENDING SONG

ABIDE WITH ME

ELW #629

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, oh, abide with me.

Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day; earth's joys grow dim, its glories pass away; change and decay in all around I see; O thou who changest not, 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? Though cloud and sunshine, oh, 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.

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PURPOSE STATEMENT

We are a welcoming community of believers in Jesus Christ who witness our faith **...by serving together, praying together, and living generously together.**

BLESSING

Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.
Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go into the world to serve God with gladness.... love and serve God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Thanks be to God.