



Set Free:
The Gospel in Exodus—

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH – HAMBURG
Wednesday, February 18, 2026
6:30 p.m.

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH
Thursday, February 19, 2026
11:00 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.

Ash Wednesday
*The Good News
of a God Who Hears
and Answers Cries*

Exodus 2:23-25

WELCOME VISITORS: *We extend a warm welcome to all our visitors today. We pray that your worship with us is rewarding.*

Please be sure to sign your name and address in our guest register, located in the narthex. If you are looking for a church home we would like to invite you to be a part of our Bible Based Church family.

RECEIVING THE HOLY COMMUNION.

Because we deeply long to celebrate the Love of God and the true unity of teachings of God's Holy Scriptures we ask those who are not members of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod (LCMS) to please make an appointment to meet with Pastor Love before communing with us. We respectfully do this not at all because we think that we are the only saved Christians, but because it is our Sacred Belief that those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm and



because Holy Communion gives a witness of unity in the major teachings and faith confessed by the congregation and Synod (1 Corinthians 10:16-18; 11:23-29; Romans 16:17). This Biblical and historical practice is called close(d) communion. Thank you for respecting our sacred beliefs and practices. Please pray with us for honest unity around God's High and Holy Scriptures. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Love
NOTE: *Gluten free wafers are now available.*

OPENING HYMN

“In the Cross of Christ I Glory”

LSB #427

- 1 In the cross of Christ I glory,
 Tow’ring o’er the wrecks of time.
 All the light of sacred story
 Gathers round its head sublime.

- 2 When the woes of life o’ertake me,
 Hopes deceive, and fears annoy,
 Never shall the cross forsake me;
 Lo, it glows with peace and joy.

- 3 When the sun of bliss is beaming
 Light and love upon my way,
 From the cross the radiance streaming
 Adds more luster to the day.

- 4 Bane and blessing, pain and pleasure
 By the cross are sanctified;
 Peace is there that knows no measure,
 Joys that through all time abide.

Text: John Bowring, 1792–1872

Text: Public domain

- P** O Lord, open my lips,
C and my mouth will declare Your praise.
P Make haste, O God, to deliver me;
C make haste to help me, O Lord.
- C** Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.
Praise to You, O Christ, Lamb of our salvation.

IMPOSITION OF ASHES



The wearing of ash in both the Old and New Testament was a sign of repentance. Since Lent is a season of repentance we begin these special worship services with Ash

Wednesday. If desired, worshipers may approach the altar to receive the imposition of ashes upon the forehead or on the palm of the hand. You are encouraged to approach the altar down the center aisle, and return down the side aisles. [The pastor shall speak the words, "Dust you are and to dust you shall return." (Genesis 3:19) The worship will continue when all have returned to their places.]

PSALMODY

Psalm 51:1-3, 10-12, 17

- P** ¹Have mercy on me, O God,
according to your steadfast love;
according to your abundant mercy
blot out my transgressions.
- C** ²**Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,
and cleanse me from my sin!**
- P** ³For I know my transgressions,
and my sin is ever before me.
- C** ¹⁰**Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.**
- P** ¹¹Cast me not away from your presence,
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.
- C** ¹²**Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
and uphold me with a willing spirit.**

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

C 17**The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit;
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not
despise.**

P Blessed be God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy
Spirit.

C **O come, let us worship Him.**

RESPONSIVE HYMN

“Create in Me”

LSB #956

**1 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.**

Text: Psalm 51:10–12

Text: Public domain

THE CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION OF SINS

P Let Confess our sins unto the Lord. We Observe a
moment for silent and private confessions of our sins
before God Who knows and searches our hearts.

(Silent Confession)

C **Forgive my sins, O Lord—Forgive me the sins of
my present and the sins of my past, the sins I have
done to please myself and the sins I have done to
please others. Forgive me my wanton and idle sins;
forgive me my serious and deliberate sins forgive
me those sins which I know and those sins which I
know not; forgive me the sins which I have labored
so to hide from others that I have hid them from my
own memory. Forgive them, O Lord; forgive them
all. Of Your great mercy let me be absolved, and of**

Your bountiful goodness let me be delivered from the bonds of all that by my frailty I have committed Grant this, O heavenly Father, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our blessed Lord and Savior. Amen

P Beloved in Christ, our Lord Jesus shed His Almighty Blood of each and every sin in our life. I as called and ordain servant of Christ Jesus forgive all your sins, in the Name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen! I praise You Almighty Father, Son, and Holy Spirit for the Almighty Gift of Your forgiveness and Salvations. Now dear Lord strengthen me anew to live my life in sincere repentance and walking according to Your Holy Word, in Jesus Name. Amen!**

RESPONSIVE HYMN

“Lamb of God”

LSB #550

**1 Your only Son, no sin to hide,
But You have sent Him from Your side
To walk upon this guilty sod,
And to become the Lamb of God. *Refrain***

Refrain **O Lamb of God, sweet Lamb of God,
I love the holy Lamb of God!
O wash me in His precious blood,
My Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God.**

**2 Your Gift of love they crucified,
They laughed and scorned Him as He died:
The humble King they named a fraud,
And sacrificed the Lamb of God. *Refrain***

Refrain **O Lamb of God, sweet Lamb of God,
I love the holy Lamb of God!
O wash me in His precious blood,
My Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God.**

**3 I was so lost, I should have died,
But You have brought me to Your side
To be led by Your staff and rod,
And to be called a lamb of God. Refrain**

Refrain **O Lamb of God, sweet Lamb of God,
I love the holy Lamb of God!
O wash me in His precious blood,
My Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God.**

Text: Twila Paris, 1958

Text: © 1985 Straightway Music, admin. EMI. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110005696

READING

Exodus 2:23-25

P A reading from Exodus, chapter 2.

²³During those many days the king of Egypt died, and the people of Israel groaned because of their slavery and cried out for help. Their cry for rescue from slavery came up to God. ²⁴And God heard their groaning, and God remembered his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob. ²⁵God saw the people of Israel—and God knew.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C **Thanks be to God.**

READING

2 Corinthians 5:20b – 6:10

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

¹Working together with him, then, we appeal to you not to receive the grace of God in vain. ²For 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. ³We put no obstacle in anyone’s way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, ⁴but as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: by great endurance, in

afflictions, hardships, calamities, ⁵beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; ⁶by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, the Holy Spirit, genuine love; ⁷by truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; ⁸through honor and dishonor, through slander and praise. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; ⁹as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold, we live; as punished, and yet not killed; ¹⁰as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, yet possessing everything.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

READING

Matthew 6:1–6, 16–21

P A reading from Matthew, chapter 6.

¹[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.

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. ³But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴so 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. ⁶But 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. ¹⁷But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, ¹⁸that 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, ²⁰but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

SERMON HYMN “*My Faith Looks Up to Thee*” LSB #702

**1 My faith looks up to Thee,
Thou Lamb of Calvary,
Savior divine.**

**Now hear me while I pray;
Take all my guilt away;
O let me from this day
Be wholly Thine!**

**2 May Thy rich grace impart
Strength to my fainting heart;
My zeal inspire!
As Thou hast died for me,
Oh, may my love to Thee
Pure, warm, and changeless be,
A living fire!**

**3 While life’s dark maze I tread
And griefs around me spread,
Be Thou my guide;
Bid darkness turn to day,
Wipe sorrow’s tears away,
Nor let me ever stray
From Thee aside.**

**4 When ends life's transient dream,
When death's cold, sullen stream
Shall o'er me roll,
Blest Savior, then, in love,
Fear and distrust remove;
O bear me safe above,
A ransomed soul!**

Text: Ray Palmer, 1808–87 Text: Public domain

**SERMON “*The Good News of a God Who Hears and
Answers Cries*”**

OFFERING

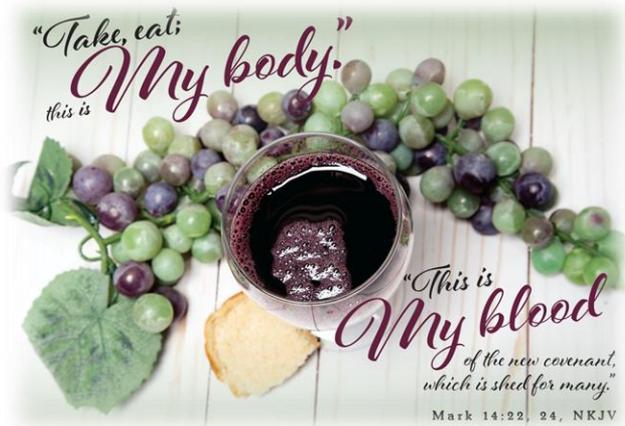
PRAYERS

KYRIE

**☉ Lord, have mercy;
Christ, have mercy;
Lord, have mercy.**

LORD'S PRAYER

**☉ 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 SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

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.”

DISTRIBUTION

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

“I Come, O Savior, to Thy Table”

LSB #618

1 I come, O Savior, to Thy table,
For weak and weary is my soul;
Thou, Bread of Life, alone art able
To satisfy and make me whole: *Refrain*

- ref Lord, may Thy body and Thy blood
Be for my soul the highest good!**
- 2 Thy heart is filled with fervent yearning
That sinners may salvation see
Who, Lord, to Thee in faith are turning;
So I, a sinner, come to Thee. *Refrain***
- 3 Unworthy though I am, O Savior,
Because I have a sinful heart,
Yet Thou Thy lamb wilt banish never,
For Thou my faithful shepherd art: Refrain**
- 4 Weary am I and heavy laden;
With sin my soul is sore oppressed;
Receive me graciously and gladden
My heart, for I am now Thy guest. *Refrain***
- 5 What higher gift can we inherit?
It is faith's bond and solid base;
It is the strength of heart and spirit,
The covenant of hope and grace. *Refrain***

Text: Friedrich Christian Heyder, 1677–1754; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, abr.

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DISTRIBUTION HYMN

***“Oh, Lord, We Praise Thee, Bless Thee,
and Adore Thee”***

LSB #618

- 1 O Lord, we praise Thee, bless Thee, and adore
Thee,
In thanksgiving bow before Thee.
Thou with Thy body and Thy blood didst nourish
Our weak souls that they may flourish:
O Lord, have mercy!
May Thy body, Lord, born of Mary,
That our sins and sorrows did carry,
And Thy blood for us plead**

In all trial, fear, and need:
O Lord, have mercy!

- 2 Thy holy body into death was given,
Life to win for us in heaven.
No greater love than this to Thee could bind us;
May this feast thereof remind us!
O Lord, have mercy!
Lord, Thy kindness did so constrain Thee
That Thy blood should bless and sustain me.
All our debt Thou hast paid;
Peace with God once more is made:
O Lord, have mercy!

- 3 May God bestow on us His grace and favor
That we follow Christ our Savior
And live together here in love and union
Nor despise this blest Communion!
O Lord, have mercy!
Let not Thy good Spirit forsake us;
Grant that heav'nly-minded He make us;
Give Thy Church, Lord, to see
Days of peace and unity:
O Lord, have mercy!

Text: tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.; (st. 1): German, 14th cent.; (sts. 2–3): Martin Luther, 1483–1546

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BENEDICAMUS

- P** Let us bless the Lord.
C Thanks be to God.

BENEDICTION

- P** The grace of our Lord ✠ Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
C Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

“Abide With Me”

LSB #878

- 1** 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.

- 2** 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.

- 3** Come not in terrors, as the King of kings,
But kind and good, with healing in Thy wings;
Tears for all woes, a heart for ev’ry plea.
Come, Friend of sinners, thus abide with me.

- 4** 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.

- 5** 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!

- 6** 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.

Text: Henry F. Lyte, 1793–1847, alt.

Text: Public domain

2026 Lenten Midweek Series

Set Free: The Gospel in Exodus—



Lenten Midweek 2, February 25-26

*The Good News of a God Who Reveals Himself to Us,
Exodus 3:1–15*

Lenten Midweek 3, March 4-5

The Good News of a God Who Sends a Deliverer, Exodus 4:1–20

Lenten Midweek 4, March 11-12

*The Good News of a God Who Passes over Us in Mercy,
Exodus 12:1–14*

Lenten Midweek 5, March 18-19

*The Good News of a God Who Makes a Way for Us,
Exodus 14:5–31*

Lenten Midweek 6, March 25-26

*The Good News of a God Who Sustains on Our Journey,
Exodus 16:1–18*

Wednesday Services

6:00 p.m. Lenten Meal at
St. John's

6:30 p.m. Worship at St.
John's

Thursday Services

11:00 a.m. Worship at
Faith

6:30 p.m. Worship at
Faith



Jesus

***paid for our sins not only
in part but in full.***

So if the Son sets you free,
you will be free indeed.

John 8:36