

## Bethlehem Lutheran Church

Pastor Eric Hullstrom

February 18, 2026 @ 7:00 pm

Ash Wednesday



### Mission Statement:

***“Faith, Hope and Love  
make us available to our neighbors near  
and far.”***

***(There will be no prelude, rather worshippers are asked to sit in silence for a time of personal meditation)***

Brief Thoughts of the Day

*Silence for Reflection*

Psalm 51

*Silence for Reflection*

The Exhortation to Repentance and Discipline

*Silence for reflection and self-examination*

Pastor: Most holy and merciful Father.

**C: We confess to you and to one another, and to the whole communion of saints in heaven and on earth, that we have sinned by our own fault in thought, word, and deed; by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.**

P: 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.

**C: Have mercy on us, Lord.**

P: We have been deaf 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.

**C: Have mercy on us, Lord.**

P: We confess to you, Lord, all our past unfaithfulness. The pride, hypocrisy, and impatience in our lives,

**C: we confess to you, Lord.**

P: Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people,

**C: we confess to you, Lord.**

P: Our anger at our own frustration, and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves,

**C: we confess to you, Lord.**

P: Our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts, and our dishonesty in daily life and work,

**C: we confess to you, Lord.**

P: Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to commend the faith that is in us,

**C: we confess to you, Lord.**

P: Accept our repentance, Lord, for the wrongs we have done. For our blindness to human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty,

**C: accept our repentance, Lord.**

P: For all false judgments, for uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and for our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us,

**C: accept our repentance, Lord.**

P: For our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us,

**C: accept our repentance, Lord.**

P: Restore us, good Lord, and let your anger depart from us.

**C: Hear us, Lord, for your mercy is great. Amen.**

*Silence for Reflection*

## Imposition of Ashes

(Ashes suggest cleansing and renewal and serve as a substitute for water as a sign of Baptism. Water stifles and refreshes, drowns and makes alive; so ashes also tell of both death and renewal. Today we will be reminded of the words spoken at a committal burial service, "...earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust" For one day those words will be said over us as a proclamation of our mortality)

## Conclusion of the Confession

P: Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation,  
**C: that we may show forth your glory in the world.**  
P: By the cross and Passion of your Son, our Lord,  
**C: bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.**

## Declaration of grace and the plea for mercy

*Silence for reflection*

## Scripture ~ John 17:16-26

1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

## Message ~ "In the World but not of the World"

*Silence for reflection*

## Apostles' Creed

## Offering

## Communion

## Post- Communion prayer and blessing

## Benediction

## Hymn

**"What Wondrous Love Is This"**

## LBW 385

## Benediction

## Dismissal

