

MESSIAH
LUTHERAN
† CHURCH †
CELEBRATING 125 YEARS



*Ash
Wednesday*

February 18, 2026
7:00 p.m.

Senior Pastor Kurt Hoover
Organist & Pianist Rose Ann Sochan
Sanctuary Choir Director Herb Alexander

40 Houbolt Rd.
Joliet, IL 60431

(815) 741-4488
www.mlcjoliet.org

Welcome to Messiah Lutheran Church Ash Wednesday Worship

(Please place offerings in the basket in the entryway to the Sanctuary)

PRELUDE

Rose Ann Sochan

OPENING HYMN

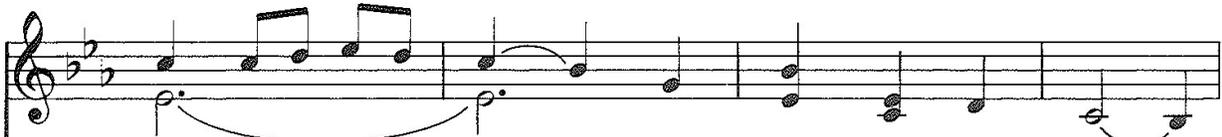
"Be Thou My Vision," #382 v. 1-4



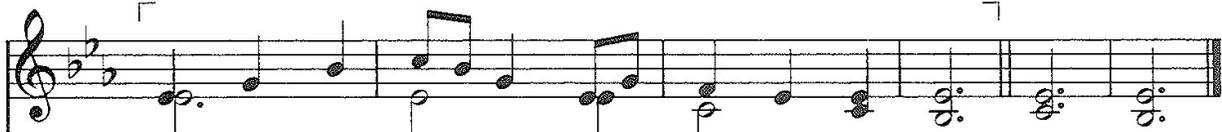
1. Be Thou my Vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
2. Be Thou my Wis - dom, and Thou my true Word;
3. Rich - es I heed not, nor man's emp - ty praise,
4. High King of heav - en, my vic - to - ry won,



Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art—
I ev - er with Thee and Thou with me, Lord;
Thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways;
May I reach heav - en's joys, O bright heav'n's Sun!



Thou my best thought, by day or by night,
Thou my great Fa - ther, I Thy true son,
Thou and Thou on - ly, first in my heart,
Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,



Wak - ing or sleep - ing, Thy pres - ence my light.
Thou in me dwell - ing, and I with Thee one.
High King of heav - en, my Treas - ure Thou art.
Still be my Vi - sion, O Rul - er of all. A - men.

LITANY OF ASH AND DUST

Pastor: Then the Lord God formed the man

All: from the dust of the ground.

Pastor: He breathed the breath of life into the man's nostrils,

All: and the man became a living person.

Pastor: Since Adam ate from the tree whose fruit was
commanded not to eat,

All: the ground is cursed because of us.

Pastor: By the sweat of our brow

All: will we have food to eat

Pastor: until we return to the ground

All: from which we were made.

Pastor: For we were made from dust,

All: and to dust we will return.

Pastor: We will not all die,

All: but we will all be transformed!

Pastor: It will happen in a moment,

All: in the blink of an eye,

Pastor: when the last trumpet is blown.

All: Those who have died

Pastor: will be raised to live forever.

All: And we who are living

Pastor: will also be transformed.

All: "Death is swallowed up in victory.

Pastor: O death, where is your victory?

All: O death, where is your sting?"

Pastor: Christ has been raised from the dead!

All: Just as everyone dies because we all belong to Adam,

Pastor: everyone who belongs to Christ will be given new life.

All: Amen.

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Leader: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

A MOMENT OF SILENT PRAYER AND REFLECTION

Leader: Holy and Gracious God,

All: I confess that I have sinned against you this day and every day. Some of my sin I know—the thoughts and words and deeds of which I am ashamed—but some is known only to You. In the name of Jesus Christ I ask forgiveness. Deliver and restore me, that I may rest in peace and live each day for You.

Leader: By the mercy of God we are united with Jesus Christ, and in Him we are forgiven. We rest now in His peace and rise every morning to serve Him. Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE

"In the Cross of Christ I Glory," #184 v. 1-4



- 1. In the cross of Christ I glo - ry, Tow'r - ing o'er the wrecks of time;
- 2. When the woes of life o'er - take me, Hopes de - ceive, and fears an - noy,
- 3. When the sun of bliss is beam - ing Light and love up - on my way,
- 4. Bane and bless - ing, pain and pleas - ure, By the cross are sanc - ti - fied;



All the light of sa - cred sto - ry Gath - ers round its head sub - lime.
Nev - er shall the cross for - sake me: Lo! it glows with peace and joy.
From the cross the ra - diance stream - ing Adds more lus - ter to the day.
Peace is there that knows no meas - ure, Joys that thro' all time a - bide. A - men.

WE GIVE OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS TO THE LORD

OFFERTORY MUSIC

Rose Ann Sochan

SCRIPTURE READINGS (NIV)

Deuteronomy 6:1-9, 20-25

¹ These are the commands, decrees and laws the LORD your God directed me to teach you to observe in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to possess, ² so that you, your children and their children after them may fear the LORD your God as long as you live by keeping all his decrees and commands that I give you, and so that you may

enjoy long life. ³ Hear, Israel, and be careful to obey so that it may go well with you and that you may increase greatly in a land flowing with milk and honey, just as the LORD, the God of your ancestors, promised you.

⁴ Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one.

⁵ Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. ⁶ These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. ⁷ Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. ⁸ Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. ⁹ Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.

²⁰ In the future, when your son asks you, "What is the meaning of the stipulations, decrees and laws the LORD our God has commanded you?" ²¹ tell him: "We were slaves of Pharaoh in Egypt, but the LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand. ²² Before our eyes the LORD sent signs and wonders—great and terrible—on Egypt and Pharaoh and his whole household. ²³ But he brought us out from there to bring us in and give us the land he promised on oath to our ancestors. ²⁴ The LORD commanded us to obey all these decrees and to fear the LORD our God, so that we might always prosper and be kept alive, as is the case today. ²⁵ And if we are careful to obey all this law before the LORD our God, as he has commanded us, that will be our righteousness."

Matthew 22:34-40

³⁴ Hearing that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, the Pharisees got together. ³⁵ One of them, an expert in the law, tested him with this question: ³⁶ "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?"

³⁷ Jesus replied: "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' ³⁸ This is the first and greatest commandment. ³⁹ And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' ⁴⁰ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."

MESSAGE

"Catechism 2: No Other God"

Pastor Kurt Hoover

WHAT WE BELIEVE CONCERNING THE LORD'S SUPPER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

All: 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.

HYMN

"Lamb Of God"



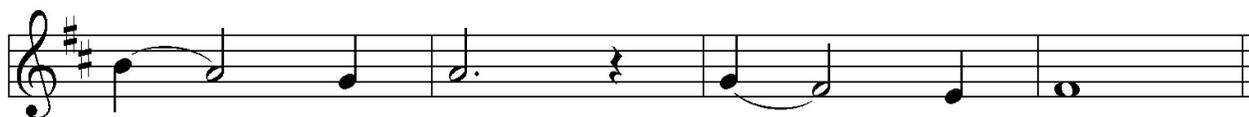
☐ Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world;



grant us peace, grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMNS "Children of the Heavenly Father," #44 v. 1-5
"At the Cross," #188 v. 1-4

THE BLESSING

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

All: Lord Jesus, You are the potter, we are the clay. You are the shepherd, we are the sheep in Your flock. Tonight we have been fed through this holy meal and nurtured by Your word. We love You and thank You because You first loved us. Amen.

Pastor: For we were made from dust,

All: and to dust we will return.

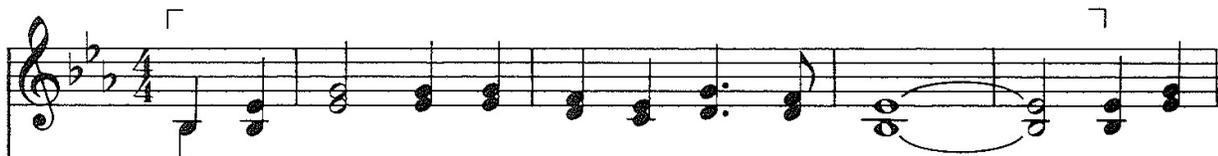
LUTHER'S EVENING PRAYER

All: We give thanks heavenly Father through Jesus Christ your dear son, that you have this day graciously protected us. We confidently ask you to forgive us all our sins and the wrong that we have done. By your great mercy protect us during the coming night. Into your hands we commend our bodies and souls and all that is ours. Let your holy angels have charge of us, that the wicked one may have no power over us. Amen.

THE BENEDICTION

CLOSING HYMN

"Were You There?" #181 v.1-2



1. Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord? Were you
 2. Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree? Were you
 3. Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb? Were you
 †opt. 4. Were you there when He rose up from the dead? Were you



there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord?
 there when they nailed Him to the tree?
 there when they laid Him in the tomb?
 there when He rose up from the dead?

O! _____



Some-times it caus - es me to trem-ble, trem-ble, trem-ble!
 (4. Some-times I feel like shout-ing glo - ry, glo - ry, glo - ry!)



Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord?
 Were you there when they nailed Him to the tree?
 Were you there when they laid Him in the tomb?
 Were you there when He rose up from the dead?

POSTLUDE

Rose Ann Sochan



**2026 Lenten Wednesday offerings
will be donated to
Lutheran World Relief.**

Wednesday Evenings during Lent:

Soup Supper at 5:30 p.m.

Worship at 7 p.m.

Palm Sunday Celebration Service

at 10 a.m. in the FLC

Holy Week:

April 2 (Maundy Thursday) at 7 p.m.

April 3 (Good Friday) at 7 p.m.

April 5 (Easter Sunday) at 8:30 and 10:45 a.m.

Breakfast served 7:30-11 a.m.



Worship Coordinator Justin Brown
Office Coordinator Vicki Dallmann
Children's Choir Director Season Lawler
Children's Ministry Director Leslie McFarland
Building Liaison Kate Richmond
Youth Director Kersten Stier
Technology Coordinator Nikolai Stier
Bookkeeper Sherri Unyi