

Ash Wednesday
February 18, 2026

St. John's Lutheran Church
Red Bud, Illinois

PRELUDE: "If Thou but Trust in God to Guide Thee"

arranged by Gerald Peterson

INVOCATION:

L: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

CALL TO WORSHIP:

Based upon Job 19:23-27

L: Oh, that my words were recorded, that they were written on a scroll.

C: **That they were inscribed with an iron tool on lead, or engraved in rock forever!**

L: I know that my Redeemer lives, and that in the end he will stand upon the earth.

C: **And after my skin has been destroyed, yet in my flesh I will see God.**

L: I myself will see him with my own eyes, I, and not another. How my heart yearns within me!

ALL: **I know that my Redeemer lives!**

PROCESSIONAL HYMN:

"Jesus, I Will Ponder Now" (LSB 440, vs. 1-4)

Please turn to follow the cross as it makes its way from the narthex to the chancel.



1 Je - sus, I will pon - der now On Your ho - ly pas - sion;
2 Make me see Your great dis - tress, An - guish, and af - flic - tion,
3 Yet, O Lord, not thus a - lone Make me see Your pas - sion,
4 Grant that I Your pas - sion view With re - pen - tant griev - ing.



With Your Spir - it me en - dow For such med - i - ta - tion.
Bonds and stripes and wretch - ed - ness And Your cru - ci - fix - ion;
But its cause to me make known And its ter - mi - na - tion.
Let me not bring shame to You By un - ho - ly liv - ing.



Grant that I in love and faith May the im - age cher - ish
Make me see how scourge and rod, Spear and nails did wound You,
Ah! I al - so and my sin Wrought Your deep af - flic - tion;
How could I re - fuse to shun Ev - 'ry sin - ful plea - sure



Of Your suf - f'ring, pain, and death That I may not per - ish.
How for them You died, O God, Who with thorns had crowned You.
This in - deed the cause has been Of Your cru - ci - fix - ion.
Since for me God's on - ly Son Suf - fered with - out mea - sure?

L: To raise those who fall and to strengthen those who stand; and to comfort and help the weakhearted and the distressed:

C: We implore You to hear us, good Lord.

L: To give to all peoples concord and peace; to preserve our land from discord and strife; to give our country Your protection in every time of need; To direct and defend our [president/queen/king] and all in authority; to bless and protect our magistrates and all our people; To watch over and help all who are in danger, necessity, and tribulation; to protect and guide all who travel; To grant all women with child, and all mothers with infant children, increasing happiness in their blessings; to defend all orphans and widows and provide for them; To strengthen and keep all sick persons and young children; to free those in bondage; and to have mercy on us all:

C: We implore You to hear us, good Lord.

L: To forgive our enemies, persecutors, and slanderers and to turn their hearts; to give and preserve for our use the kindly fruits of the earth; and graciously to hear our prayers:

C: We implore You to hear us, good Lord.

L: Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God,

C: we implore You to hear us.

L: Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

C: have mercy.

L: Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

C: have mercy.

L: Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

C: grant us Your peace.

L: O Christ, **C: hear us.**

L: O Lord, **C: have mercy.**

L: O Christ, **C: have mercy.**

L: O Lord, **C: have mercy. Amen.**

THE IMPOSITION OF ASHES:

The ancient custom of placing ashes on the worshipper's forehead (or back of the hand) serve as a reminder of our mortality, and death. We are reminded that we all bear the guilt of Adam's Fall, and so will die and lie in the dust of death. If you so desire to receive ashes, please come forward down the main aisle and return to your pew by the side aisles. Those who are unable to come forward have the option to receive the ashes while sitting in the pew. Please inform an Usher or Elder. As one receives the imposition of the ashes in the sign of the cross either on the forehead or the back of the hand, the sign of the cross pastor will speak the words of the imposition, "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return", in full assurance of faith, you then reply "Christ died for me." During this time the choir will sing and all are invited to meditate on Psalms 6, 32, 38, 51, 102, 130, 143 in the front part of the hymnal.

(6:30 p.m.) **ANTHEM:**

“Jesu, Blessed Jesu” Choir

Jesu, Blessed Jesu who died there for me, Jesu, blessed Jesu upon on that dark tree.

Savior, blessed Savior who died in my place, do have mercy,

do have mercy and grant me thy grace.

Jesu, blessed Jesu who suffered for me, Jesu, blessed Jesu upon Calvary.

Savior, blessed Savior who stood in my place, do have mercy,

do have mercy and grant me thy grace.

Grant us Thy grace. Amen.

(6:30 p.m.) **ANTHEM:**

“Rock of Ages” Choir

Rock of Ages, cleft for me, Let me hide myself in Thee; Let the water and the blood,

From Thy riven side which flowed, Be of sin the double cure,

Cleanse me from its guilt and pow’r.

Could my tears forever flow, Could my zeal no languor know, All for sin could not atone;

Thou must save, and Thou alone; Nothing in my hand I bring, Simply to Thy cross I cling.

While I draw this fleeting breath, When my eyelids close in death,

When I soar to world’s unknown,

See Thee on Thy judgment throne, Rock of Ages, cleft for me, Let me hide myself in Thee. Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION:

P: O Lord, our Lord.

C: You are compassionate beyond comparison.

P: Loving beyond imagination.

C: And faithful beyond our betrayal.

P: Just as David declares, “My sin is ever before me.”

C: We, too, admit our transgressions.

P: We have become stained with wrongdoing.

C: Sacrificing the goodness of your love for the fleeting wealth of this world.

P: We have abandoned your commandments.

C: Caring less for your creation and more for our own ambitions.

P: Wash us clean, O God of mercy, and deliver us from ourselves.

C: Help us hear your voice calling us back.

P: Remind us of your love bringing us home.

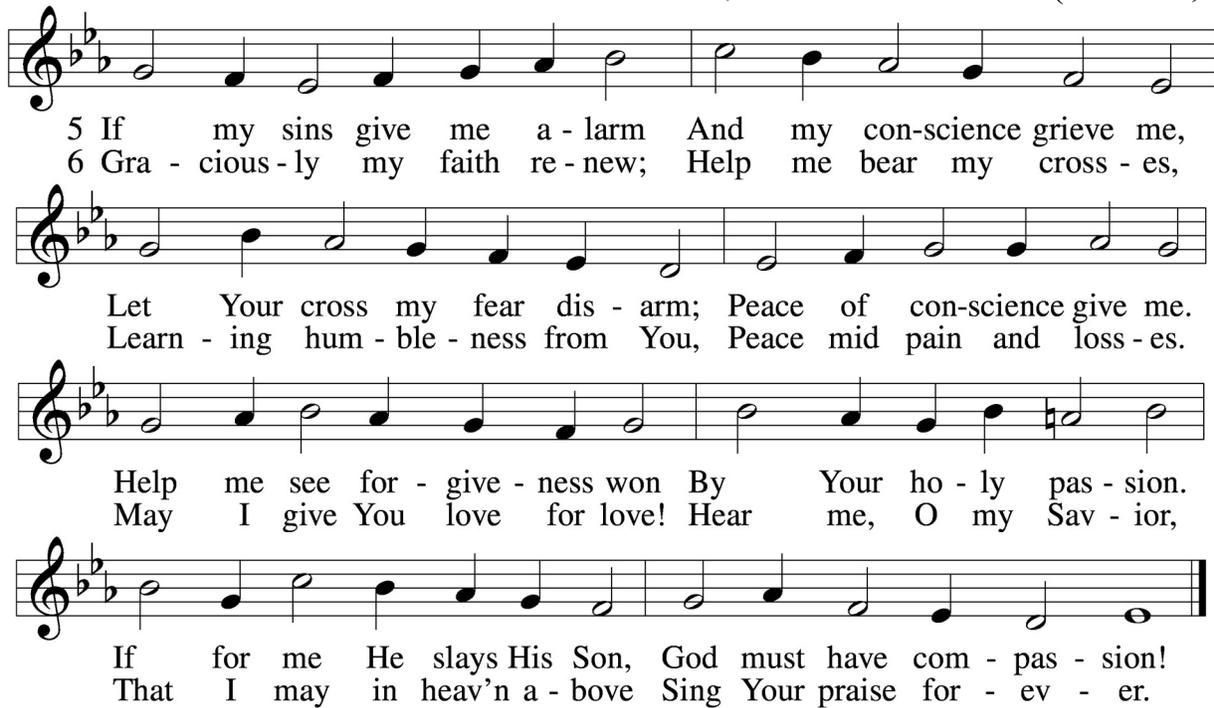
C: And renew our spirits that we might trust you with our whole hearts.

P: As a called and ordained servant of the Word I announce to you God’s marvelous and amazing grace. You are forgiven, forever, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

ALL: I know that my Redeemer lives!

HYMN:

“Jesus, I Will Ponder Now” (LSB 440, vs. 5-6)



5 If my sins give me a-larm And my con-science grieve me,
6 Gra-cious-ly my faith re-new; Help me bear my cross-es,
Let Your cross my fear dis-arm; Peace of con-science give me.
Learn-ing hum-ble-ness from You, Peace mid pain and loss-es.
Help me see for-give-ness won By Your ho-ly pas-sion.
May I give You love for love! Hear me, O my Sav-ior,
If for me He slays His Son, God must have com-pas-sion!
That I may in heav'n a-bove Sing Your praise for-ev-er.

COLLECT:

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Let us pray. Almighty and everlasting God, you despise nothing you have made and forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create in us new and contrite hearts that lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness we may receive from you full pardon and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

ALL: Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING:

Job 1:1-12

P: ¹There was a man in the land of Uz whose name was Job, and that man was blameless and upright, one who feared God and turned away from evil. ²There were born to him seven sons and three daughters. ³He possessed 7,000 sheep, 3,000 camels, 500 yoke of oxen, and 500 female donkeys, and very many servants, so that this man was the greatest of all the people of the east. ⁴His sons used to go and hold a feast in the house of each one on his day, and they would send and invite their three sisters to eat and drink with them. ⁵And when the days of the feast had run their course, Job would send and consecrate them, and he would rise early in the morning and offer burnt offerings according to the number of them all. For Job said, “It may be that my children have sinned, and cursed God in their hearts.” Thus Job did continually. ⁶Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan also came among them. ⁷The Lord said to Satan, “From where have you come?” Satan answered the Lord and said, “From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking up and down on it.” ⁸And the Lord said to Satan,

“Have you considered my servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, who fears God and turns away from evil?”⁹ Then Satan answered the Lord and said, “Does Job fear God for no reason?”¹⁰ Have you not put a hedge around him and his house and all that he has, on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land.¹¹ But stretch out your hand and touch all that he has, and he will curse you to your face.”¹² And the Lord said to Satan, “Behold, all that he has is in your hand. Only against him do not stretch out your hand.” So Satan went out from the presence of the Lord.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

HOLY GOSPEL:

Luke 4:1–13

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the fourth chapter. C: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

¹Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness ²for forty days, being tempted by the devil. And he ate nothing during those days. And when they were ended, he was hungry. ³The devil said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread.” ⁴And Jesus answered him, “It is written, ‘Man shall not live by bread alone.’” ⁵And the devil took him up and showed him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time, ⁶and said to him, “To you I will give all this authority and their glory, for it has been delivered to me, and I give it to whom I will. ⁷If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours.” ⁸And Jesus answered him, “It is written, “‘You shall worship the Lord your God, and him only shall you serve.’” ⁹And he took him to Jerusalem and set him on the pinnacle of the temple and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, ¹⁰for it is written, “‘He will command his angels concerning you, to guard you,’ ¹¹and “‘On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone.’” ¹²And Jesus answered him, “It is said, ‘You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.’” ¹³And when the devil had ended every temptation, he departed from him until an opportune time.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

OUR CONFESSION OF FAITH:

Nicene Creed (p 206)

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

LUTHER’S EXPLANATION OF THE 2ND ARTICLE: (p 322)

Redemption

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

What does this mean?

I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord, who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death, that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity.

This is most certainly true.

SERMON: “*Job: Blessed be the Name of the Lord*”

OFFERTORY: “*If Thou but Trust in God to Guide Thee*” (LSB 750, vs. 1, 5, & 7)



1 If thou but trust in God to guide thee And hope in
 5 Nor think a - mid the fi - ery tri - al That God hath
 7 Sing, pray, and keep His ways un - swerv - ing, Per - form thy



Him through all thy ways, He'll give thee strength, what - e'er be -
 cast thee off un - heard, That he whose hopes meet no de -
 du - ties faith - ful - ly, And trust His Word; though un - de -



tide thee, And bear thee through the e - vil days. Who trusts in
 ni - al Must sure - ly be of God pre - ferred. Time pass - es
 serv - ing, Thou yet shalt find it true for thee. God nev - er



God's un - chang - ing love Builds on the rock that naught can move.
 and much change doth bring And sets a bound to ev - 'ry - thing.
 yet for - sook in need The soul that trust - ed Him in - deed.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH:

L: Lord God, sometimes our hearts are glazed over and hardened by grief.
 C: **We wonder in the middle of our pain whether we can trust you or not.**
 L: Sometimes, we even wonder if you are our enemy.
 C: **Help us take a long look at your love you give us in Jesus Christ.**
 L: Help us make a choice for faith instead of despair.
 C: **Help us see that the hand you offer us is one that is scarred with pain.**
 L: Help us accept the comfort given by Christ’s bleeding love.
 C: **Because we can’t see you, O God, help us listen, and listen closely.**
 L: For your words give hope to the hopeless, courage to the fearful and joy to the downcast.
 C: **Chiefly let us hear and believe these words, “Take, eat, this is my body. Take, drink, this is my blood.”**
 L: In your holy name we pray, Jesus.
 C: **Amen.**

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

PREFACE & PROPER PREFACE:

(LSB 208)

P: The Lord be with you.
 C: **And also with you.**
 P: Lift up your hearts.
 C: **We lift them to the Lord.**
 P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
 C: **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

SANCTUS:

“Holy, Holy, Holy” (LSB 208)

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth a - dored;
 Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.
 Sing ho - san-na in the high-est, sing ho - san - na to the Lord;
 Tru - ly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING & LORD’S PRAYER:

(LSB 209)

P: Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

In Your righteous judgment You condemned the sin of Adam and Eve, who ate the forbidden fruit, and you justly barred them and all their children from the tree of life. Yet, in Your great mercy, You promised salvation by a second Adam, your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, and made His cross a life-giving tree for all who trust in Him.

Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

C: 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 WORDS OF OUR LORD:

(LSB 209)

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."

PAX DOMINI:

(LSB 209)

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: Amen.

AGNUS DEI:

"Lamb of God" (LSB 210)

1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
You take the sin of the world a - way;
You take the sin of the world a - way;
O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,
Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS:

(8:30 a.m.) **ANTHEM:**

"I Will Arise and Go to Jesus" 8th Grade Bells

(8:30 a.m.) **ANTHEM:**

"What Wondrous Love Is This?" 8th Grade Bells

"Just As I Am, without One Plea" (LSB 570)



1 Just as I am, with - out one plea But that Thy
 2 Just as I am and wait - ing not To rid my
 3 Just as I am, though tossed a - bout With man - y a
 4 Just as I am, poor, wretch - ed, blind; Sight, rich - es,



blood was shed for me And that Thou bidd'st me come to
 soul of one dark blot, To Thee, whose blood can cleanse each
 con - flict, man - y a doubt, Fight - ings and fears with - in, with -
 heal - ing of the mind, Yea, all I need, in Thee to



Thee, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
 spot, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
 out, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
 find, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

5 Just as I am, Thou wilt receive,
 Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
 Because Thy promise I believe,
 O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

6 Just as I am; Thy love unknown
 Has broken ev'ry barrier down;
 Now to be Thine, yea, Thine alone,
 O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

"I Lay My Sins on Jesus" (LSB 606)



1 I lay my sins on Je - sus, The spot - less Lamb of God;
 2 I lay my wants on Je - sus; All full - ness dwells in Him;
 3 I rest my soul on Je - sus, This wea - ry soul of mine;



He bears them all and frees us From the ac - curs - ed load.
 He heals all my dis - eas - es; My soul He does re - deem.
 His right hand me em - brac - es; I on His breast re - cline.



I bring my guilt to Je - sus To wash my crim - son stains
 I lay my griefs on Je - sus, My bur - dens and my cares;
 I love the name of Je - sus, Im - man - uel, Christ, the Lord;



Clean in His blood most pre - cious Till not a spot re - mains.
 He from them all re - leas - es; He all my sor - rows shares.
 Like fra - grance on the breez - es His name a - broad is poured.

“Jesus Sinners Doth Receive” (LSB 609)



1 Je - sus sin - ners doth re - ceive; Oh, may all this
 2 We de - serve but grief and shame, Yet His words, rich
 3 Sheep that from the fold did stray No true shep - herd
 4 I, a sin - ner, come to Thee With a pen - i -



say - ing pon - der Who in sin's de - lu - sions live
 grace re - veal - ing, Par - don, peace, and life pro - claim;
 e'er for - sak - eth; Wea - ry souls that lost their way
 tent con - fes - sion. Sav - ior, mer - cy show to me;



And from God and heav - en wan - der! Here is hope for
 Here our ills have per - fect heal - ing. Firm - ly in these
 Christ, the Shep - herd, gent - ly tak - eth In His arms that
 Grant for all my sins re - mis - sion. Let these words my



all who grieve: Je - sus sin - ners doth re - ceive.
 words be - lieve: Je - sus sin - ners doth re - ceive.
 they may live: Je - sus sin - ners doth re - ceive.
 soul re - lieve: Je - sus sin - ners doth re - ceive.

5 Oh, how blest it is to know:

Were as scarlet my transgression,
 It shall be as white as snow
 By Thy blood and bitter passion;
 For these words I now believe:
 Jesus sinners doth receive.

6 Now my conscience is at peace;
 From the Law I stand acquitted.
 Christ hath purchased my release
 And my ev'ry sin remitted.
 Naught remains my soul to grieve:
 Jesus sinners doth receive.

7 Jesus sinners doth receive;
 Also I have been forgiven;
 And when I this earth must leave,
 I shall find an open heaven.
 Dying, still to Him I cleave:
 Jesus sinners doth receive.

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE:

“Nunc Dimittis” (LSB 211)

1 O Lord, now let Your ser - vant De -
 2 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, All
 part in heav'n - ly peace, For I have seen the
 glo - ry to the Son, All glo - ry to the
 glo - ry Of Your re - deem - ing grace:
 Spir - it, For - ev - er Three in One;
 A light to lead the Gen - tiles Un -
 For as in the be - gin - ning, Is
 to Your ho - ly hill, The glo - ry of Your
 now, shall ev - er be, God's tri - une name re -
 peo - ple, Your cho - sen Is - ra - el.
 sound - ing Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

POST-COMMUNION COLLECT:

P: Let us pray.

P: We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

BENEDICTION:

Based upon Job 1:21

L: The LORD gives.

C: And the LORD takes away.

L: Blessed be the name of the LORD.

C: Yes, blessed be the name of the LORD!

L: And so we go forth confidently in the name of our LORD.

C: The Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

ALL: Amen.

RECESSIONAL HYMN:

“Abide with Me” (LSB 878, vs. 1 & 6)

Please follow the cross as it makes its way from the chancel to the narthex.



1 A - bide with me, fast falls the e - ven - tide.
6 Hold Thou Thy cross be - fore my clos - ing eyes;



The dark - ness deep - ens; Lord, with me a - bide.
Shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies.



When oth - er help - ers fail and com - forts flee,
Heav'n's morn - ing breaks, and earth's vain shad - ows flee;



Help of the help - less, O a - bide with me.
In life, in death, O Lord, a - bide with me.

POSTLUDE: *“Abide with Me”*

arranged by David W. Cherwien

+++++

Serving Us in Worship Today

Preacher/Liturgist: Pastor Mark Winkelman

Organist & Choir Director: Mrs. Lindsey Hudak

Acolyte: (8:30 a.m.) Lucas Summers; (6:30 p.m.) Payton Liefer

(6:30 p.m.) Greeters: Kimberly Ellis

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series A, Quarter 1. Copyright © 2025 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved. Used by permission.