

# Welcome to Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church

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Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304  
Phone: 248.646.5041  
Website: [www.blscmi.org](http://www.blscmi.org)

Sunday Worship Schedule  
9:00 – Traditional  
11:15 – Contemporary style  
3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month at 10:15—  
Service of the Word for Wholeness

## Ash Wednesday February 18, 2026 12:00 and 7:00 p.m.

On Ash Wednesday we begin our forty-day journey toward Easter with a day of fasting and repentance. Marking our foreheads with dust, we acknowledge that we die and return to the earth. At the same time, the dust traces the life-giving cross indelibly marked on our foreheads at baptism. While we journey through Lent to return to God, we have already been reconciled to God through Christ. We humbly pray for God to make our hearts clean while we rejoice that “now is the day of salvation.” Returning to our baptismal call, we more intentionally bear the fruits of mercy and justice in the world.

### ORDER OF WORSHIP

#### GREETING

P: The Lord be with you.  
C: **And also with you.**

#### GATHERING

*Psalm 51:1-17*

P: Let us read Psalm 51 together responsively ...  
P: Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; in your great compassion blot out my offenses.  
**C: Wash me through and through from my wickedness, and cleanse me from my sin.**  
P: For I know my offenses, and my sin is ever before me.  
**C: 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.**  
P: Indeed, I was born steeped in wickedness, a sinner from my mother's womb.  
**C: Indeed, you delight in truth deep within me, and would have me know wisdom within.**  
P: Remove my sins with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be purer than snow.  
**C: Let me hear joy and gladness; that the body you have broken may rejoice.**  
P: Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my wickedness.  
**C: Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.**  
P: Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.  
**C: Restore to me the joy of your salvation and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.**

P: Let me teach your ways to offenders, and sinners shall be restored to you.

**C: Rescue me from bloodshed, O God of my salvation, and my tongue shall sing your righteousness.**

P: O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.

**C: For you take no delight in sacrifice, or I would give it. You are not pleased with burnt offering.**

P: The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit; a troubled and broken heart, O God, you will not despise.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray. Gracious God, out of your love and mercy you breathed into dust the breath of life, creating us to serve you and our neighbors. Call forth our prayers and acts of kindness, and strengthen us to face our mortality with confidence in the mercy of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

## FIRST READING

*Isaiah 58:1-12* Tammy Dukatz/Chuck Biebelhausen

A: The first reading is from the book of Isaiah, the fifty-eighth chapter.

Shout out, do not hold back! Lift up your voice like a trumpet! Announce to my people their rebellion, to the house of Jacob their sins. <sup>2</sup> Yet day after day they seek me and delight to know my ways, as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness and did not forsake the ordinance of their God; they ask of me righteous judgements, they delight to draw near to God. <sup>3</sup> “Why do we fast, but you do not see? Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?” Look, you serve your own interest on your fast-day, and oppress all your workers. <sup>4</sup> Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight and to strike with a wicked fist. Such fasting as you do today will not make your voice heard on high. <sup>5</sup> Is such the fast that I choose, a day to humble oneself? Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush, and to lie in sackcloth and ashes? Will you call this a fast, a day acceptable to the Lord? <sup>6</sup> Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? <sup>7</sup> Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin? <sup>8</sup> Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you, the glory of the Lord shall be your rearguard. <sup>9</sup> Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am. If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil, <sup>10</sup> if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday. <sup>11</sup> The Lord will guide you continually, and satisfy your needs in parched places, and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters never fail. <sup>12</sup> Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in.

A: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

## SECOND READING

*2 Corinthians 5:20b—6:10*

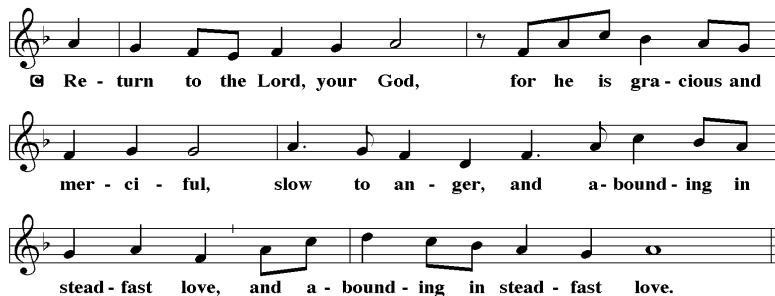
A: The second reading is from the second letter to the Corinthians, the fifth and sixth chapters.

<sup>20b</sup> We entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. <sup>21</sup> For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. <sup>6:1</sup> As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. <sup>2</sup> For he says, “At an acceptable time I have listened to you, and on a day of salvation I have helped you.” See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation! <sup>3</sup> We are putting no obstacle in anyone’s way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, <sup>4</sup> but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, <sup>5</sup> beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; <sup>6</sup> by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, <sup>7</sup> truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; <sup>8</sup> in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; <sup>9</sup> as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see — we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; <sup>10</sup> as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

A: The word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL VERSE



**C** Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and  
mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a- bound - ing in  
stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

## GOSPEL

*Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21*

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the sixth chapter.

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said to the disciples:] “Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven. <sup>2</sup> 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. <sup>3</sup> But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, <sup>4</sup> so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. <sup>5</sup> 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. <sup>6</sup> 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. <sup>16</sup> And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you,

they have received their reward.<sup>17</sup> But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face,<sup>18</sup> 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.<sup>19</sup> Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal;<sup>20</sup> but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal.<sup>21</sup> For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

## MEDITATION

The Rev. Dr. Niklaus C. Schillack, Senior Pastor

### HYMN OF THE DAY

*“Our Father, We Have Wandered”*

ELW 606

1 Our Father, we have wandered  
and hidden from your face;  
in foolishness have squandered  
your legacy of grace.  
But now, in exile dwelling,  
we rise with fear and shame,  
as, distant but compelling,  
we hear you call our name.

2 And now at length discerning  
the evil that we do,  
behold us, Lord, returning  
with hope and trust to you.  
In haste you come to meet us  
and home rejoicing bring,  
in gladness there to greet us  
with calf and robe and ring.

3 O Lord of all the living,  
both banished and restored,  
compassionate, forgiving,  
and ever-caring Lord,  
grant now that our transgressing,  
our faithlessness may cease.  
Stretch out your hand in blessing,  
in pardon, and in peace.

## INVITATION TO LENT

P: Friends in Christ, today with the whole church we enter the time of remembering Jesus's passover from death to life, and our life in Christ is renewed. We begin this holy season by acknowledging our need for repentance and for God's mercy. We are created to experience joy in communion with God, to love one another, and to live in harmony with creation. But our sinful rebellion separates us from God, our neighbors, and creation, so that we do not enjoy the life our creator intended. As disciples of Jesus, we are called to a discipline that contends against evil and resists whatever leads us away from love of God and neighbor. I invite you, therefore, to the discipline of Lent—self-examination and repentance, prayer and fasting, sacrificial giving and works of love—strengthened by the gifts of word and sacrament. Let us continue our journey through these forty days to the great Three Days of Jesus's death and resurrection.

## CONFESSON OF SIN

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

P: Most holy and merciful God,

**C: 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.**

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, O God.**

P: 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.

**C: Have mercy on us, O God.**

P: Our past unfaithfulness, the pride, envy, hypocrisy, and apathy that have infected our lives, we confess to you.

**C: Have mercy on us, O God.**

P: Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people, we confess to you.

**C: Have mercy on us, O God.**

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

**C: Have mercy on us, O God.**

P: Our neglect of human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty, we confess to you.

**C: Have mercy on us, O God.**

P: Our false judgments, our uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us, we confess to you.

**C: Have mercy on us, O God.**

P: Our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us, we confess to you.

**C: Have mercy on us, O God.**

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

**C: Hear us, O God, for your mercy is great.**

### **IMPOSITION OF ASHES**

P: Let us pray. 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.

**C: Amen.**

*Those who desire to receive ashes come forward and stand before the altar. The minister marks the forehead of each person with a cross of ashes saying:*

P: Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.

**C: Amen.**

## MUSIC DURING IMPOSITION OF ASHES

*"Softly and Tenderly, Jesus is Calling"*

W. Stockton/D. Wood

## AFTER THE IMPOSITION OF ASHES

Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re-new a right  
spir-it with-in me. Cast me not a-way from your pres-ence, and take  
not your Ho-ly Spir-it from me. Re-store to me the joy of  
your sal-va-tion, and up-hold me with your free Spir-it.

## CONFSSION CONCLUDES

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.**

P: Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life.

**C: Amen.**

## PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Tammy Dukatz/Chuck Biebelhausen

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

*A brief silence.*

A: 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. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: 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. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: 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. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: 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. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: 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. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: 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. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: Receive our prayers, O God, through Jesus Christ, our strength and salvation.

**C: Amen.**

## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

### LORD'S PRAYER

### INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION

P: Come to the table. Feast on God's goodness and mercy.

**C: Amen.**

### HOLY COMMUNION

### *"Just As I Am"*

**ELW 592**

1 Just as I am, without one plea,  
but that thy blood was shed for me,  
and that thou bidd'st me come to thee,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

3 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,

2 Just as I am, though tossed about  
with many a conflict, many a doubt,  
fightings and fears within, without,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

4 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.

### *"Just As I Am"*

Dale Wood

### PRAYER AFTER HOLY COMMUNION

P: Let us pray. God of our salvation, we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls, reconciles us to you, and strengthens us for the journey. Through the body and blood of your Son, may we become Christ's body in the world, bearing witness to your love for all creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C: Amen.**

### BLESSING

**SENDING HYMN***“Be Thou My Vision”***ELW 793**

1 Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;  
naught be all else to me, save that thou art:  
thou my best thought both by day and by night,  
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

2 Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word;  
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord.  
Thou my soul's shelter, and thou my high tow'r,  
raise thou me heav'nward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.

3 Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise,  
thou mine inheritance, now and always:  
thou and thou only, the first in my heart,  
great God of heaven, my treasure thou art.

4 Light of my soul, after victory won,  
may I reach heaven's joys, O heaven's Sun!  
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,  
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

**DISMISSAL**

*(We go out as we have gathered—in silence.)*

***A FREE WILL OFFERING BASKET IS LOCATED IN THE NARTHEX***