



February 18, 2026

Bethlehem Lutheran Church
Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod
14531 Old Olga Road
Fort Myers, FL

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod

14531 Old Olga Road S.E.

Ft Myers, FL 33905

Sunday Worship: 10:30 AM

Sunday School & Bible Class: 11:30 AM

Church Office: **(239) 694-3878**

bethlehemlutheranfortmyers.org

E-Mail: bethlehemlc@gmail.com

Rev. Karl P. Glander, Pastor

Pastor's Cell Phone: **(239) 293-1489**

Pastor's E-Mail Address:

pastorkarlglander@gmail.com

Linda Kirsch, Church Secretary

To Our Guests: The Lord's Supper is celebrated at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in the confession and glad confidence that our Lord, as He says, gives not only bread and wine, but His very body and blood to eat and drink for the forgiveness of sin. In joyful obedience to the clear teaching of our Lord Jesus those are invited to His table who trust His words, repent of all sin, and set aside any

refusal to forgive and love as He forgives and loves us. They show forth His death until He comes. Because Holy Communion is a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar, any who are not yet instructed, in doubt, or who hold a confession differing from that of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and so are unable to receive the Sacrament are invited to meditate on God's Word in the distribution hymn and pray for the day when divisions will have ceased.

AS WE GATHER... Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the season of Lent, a period of 40 days known for its disciplines, such as fasting, praying, and devotional reading. It's easy to fall into the trap of thinking that our Lenten disciplines are for the sake of showing our piety to others. Yet nothing could be further from the truth. The focus of Lent is not on our sacrifices for God but on His ultimate sacrifice for us in Jesus Christ. Lent calls us to fully turn to Christ, repenting of our sin and receiving anew His saving mercies in the treasures of His Word. While the ashes of this special day remind us that we are dying, Christ's body and blood are offered to us as proof that, in Christ, we are brought to life again. Life is ours, full

and free, because of the sacrifice of Christ, who breathes new life into the dust of our death.

Theme of the Day: One of the Bible's greatest wisdom books is the book of Job. This Lent nine sermons will help us dig deeply into Job's central message, while six Sunday Morning Adult Bible Classes will further address the book's major topics. Tonight, we begin with Job 1:1–12. And what will we learn? *We will learn to fly blind.*

We all have experienced mind-numbing loss and pain. We all know the feeling of flying blind. And so does Job. There are sometimes when we know why bad things happen. there are times we don't understand why something bad is happening. When we're flying blind many voices clamor for our attention. Ash Wednesday reminds us that we often listen to the wrong voice; the voice of self-pity, the voice of fear, the voice of indulgence. Listening to these voices we crash and we burn. Listen instead to the voice of our Savior.

ASH WEDNESDAY

February 18, 2026

✘ PREPARATION ✘

440 JESUS, I WILL PONDER NOW

(Stanzas. 1–4)

- 1 Jesus, I will ponder now
 On Your holy passion;
With Your Spirit me endow
 For such meditation.
Grant that I in love and faith
 May the image cherish
Of Your suff'ring, pain, and death
 That I may not perish.

- 2 Make me see Your great distress,
 Anguish, and affliction,
Bonds and stripes and wretchedness
 And Your crucifixion;
Make me see how scourge and rod,
 Spear and nails did wound You,
How for them You died, O God,
 Who with thorns had crowned You.

3 Yet, O Lord, not thus alone
 Make me see Your passion,
But its cause to me make known
 And its termination.
Ah! I also and my sin
 Wrought Your deep affliction;
This indeed the cause has been
 Of Your crucifixion.

4 Grant that I Your passion view
 With repentant grieving.
Let me not bring shame to You
 By unholy living.
How could I refuse to shun
 Ev'ry sinful pleasure
Since for me God's only Son
 Suffered without measure?

INVOCATION

P 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*)

P 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!

P 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.

P 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!

THE IMPOSITION OF ASHES

P Almighty God, You created us out of the dust of the ground. May these ashes remind us that we are dust and shall return to dust. May they also remind us of the cross of Christ by which we are given everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

(Those who wish to receive ashes may come forward one at a time.)

[The minister imposes ashes on the forehead with the sign of the cross — a reminder of the cross placed on the forehead at the time of Baptism — with the words, “Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.” The congregation remains silent.]

440 JESUS, I WILL PONDER NOW

(Stanzas 5–6)

5 If my sins give me alarm
 And my conscience grieve me,
Let Your cross my fear disarm;
 Peace of conscience give me.
Help me see forgiveness won
 By Your holy passion.
If for me He slays His Son,
 God must have compassion!

6 Graciously my faith renew;
 Help me bear my crosses,

Learning humbleness from You,
Peace mid pain and losses.
May I give You love for love!
Hear me, O my Savior,
That I may in heav'n above
Sing Your praise forever.

✠ CONFESSIO AND ABSOLUTIO ✠

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!

✠ WORD ✠

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

Job's Character and Wealth

1 There 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. ² There were born to him seven sons and three daughters. ³ He 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. ⁴ His 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. ⁵ And 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^[a] God in their hearts.” Thus Job did continually.

Satan Allowed to Test Job

⁶ Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan^[b] also came among them. ⁷ The 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.” ⁸ And 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.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE

1 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.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

(Please rise if able)

HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 4:1-13

PThe Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the fourth chapter.

GGlory to You, O Lord.

The Temptation of Jesus

4 And Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness ² for forty days, being tempted by the devil. And he ate nothing during those days. And when they were ended, he was hungry. ³ The devil said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread.” ⁴ And Jesus answered him, “It is written, ‘Man shall not live by bread alone.’” ⁵ And the devil took him up and showed him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time, ⁶ and 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. ⁷ If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours.” ⁸ And Jesus answered him, “It is written, “You shall worship the Lord your God, and him only shall you serve.””

⁹ And 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, ¹⁰ for it is written,

“He will command his angels concerning you, to guard you,’

¹¹ and

“On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone.”

¹² And Jesus answered him, “It is said, ‘You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.’” ¹³ And 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.

CREED (*Luther’s Explanation of the 2nd Article*)

Page 322

The Second Article: 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.

(Please be seated)

HYMN

**750 IF THOU BUT TRUST IN GOD TO GUIDE
THEE**

(Stanzas 1, 5, 7)

- 1** If thou but trust in God to guide thee
And hope in Him through all thy ways,
He'll give thee strength, whate'er betide thee,
And bear thee through the evil days.
Who trusts in God's unchanging love
Builds on the rock that naught can move.
- 5** Nor think amid the fiery trial
That God hath cast thee off unheard,
That he whose hopes meet no denial
Must surely be of God preferred.
Time passes and much change doth bring
And sets a bound to ev'rything.
- 7** Sing, pray, and keep His ways unswerving,
Perform thy duties faithfully,
And trust His Word; though undeserving,
Thou yet shalt find it true for thee.
God never yet forsook in need
The soul that trusted Him indeed.

SERMON

"Flying Blind"
(Job 1:1–12)

. . . *Pastor Karl*

OFFERING

♪ OFFERTORY RESPONSE ♪

805 PRAISE GOD, FROM WHOM ALL BLESSINGS FLOW

(Please rise)

- △ **1 Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host:
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

- P** 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.**

- P** 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.**
- P** 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.**
- P** 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.**
- P** 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."**
- P** In your holy name we pray, Jesus.

C Amen.

✠ SACRAMENT ✠

PREFACE

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.

PROPER PREFACE

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; for what had been hidden from before the foundation of the world You have made known to the nations in Your Son. In Him, being found in the substance of our mortal nature, You have manifested the

fullness of Your glory. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

♪SANCTUS♪

☉ Holy, holy, holy Lord God of pow'r and might:

Heaven and earth are full of Your glory.

Hosanna. Hosanna.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

☐ Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

☩ Amen.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

☩ 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.”

PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST

P As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord’s death until He comes.

C **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

P O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

LORD’S PRAYER

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.**

PAX DOMINI

☐ The peace of the Lord be with you always.

☑ Amen.

♪ AGNUS DEI ♪

☑ Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

(Please be seated)

DISTRIBUTION

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

578 THY STRONG WORD

1 Thy strong word did cleave the darkness;

At Thy speaking it was done.

For created light we thank Thee,

While Thine ordered seasons run.

Alleluia, alleluia!

Praise to Thee who light dost send!

Alleluia, alleluia!

Alleluia without end!

2 Lo, on those who dwelt in darkness,

Dark as night and deep as death,

Broke the light of Thy salvation,

Breathed Thine own life-breathing breath.

Alleluia, alleluia!

Praise to Thee who light dost send!

Alleluia, alleluia!

Alleluia without end!

3 Thy strong Word bespeaks us righteous;

Bright with Thine own holiness,

Glorious now, we press toward glory,
And our lives our hopes confess.

Alleluia, alleluia!

Praise to Thee who light dost send!

Alleluia, alleluia!

Alleluia without end!

4 From the cross Thy wisdom shining
Breaketh forth in conqu'ring might;
From the cross forever beameth
All Thy bright redeeming light.

Alleluia, alleluia!

Praise to Thee who light dost send!

Alleluia, alleluia!

Alleluia without end!

5 Give us lips to sing Thy glory,
Tongues Thy mercy to proclaim,
Throats that shout the hope that fills us,
Mouths to speak Thy holy name.

Alleluia, alleluia!

May the light which Thou dost send

Fill our songs with alleluias,

Alleluias without end!

6 God the Father, light-creator,
To Thee laud and honor be.
To Thee, Light of Light begotten,
Praise be sung eternally.
Holy Spirit, light-revealer,
Glory, glory be to Thee.
Mortals, angels, now and ever
Praise the holy Trinity!

**686 COME, THOU FOUNT OF EVERY
BLESSING**

1 Come, Thou Fount of ev'ry blessing,
Tune my heart to sing Thy grace;
Streams of mercy, never ceasing,
Call for songs of loudest praise.
While the hope of endless glory
Fills my heart with joy and love,
Teach me ever to adore Thee;
May I still Thy goodness prove.

2 Here I raise my Ebenezer,
Hither by Thy help I've come;
And I hope, by Thy good pleasure,
Safely to arrive at home.

Jesus sought me when a stranger,
Wand'ring from the fold of God;
He, to rescue me from danger,
Interposed His precious blood.

3 Oh, to grace how great a debtor
Daily I'm constrained to be;
Let that grace now like a fetter
Bind my wand'ring heart to Thee:
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it;
Prone to leave the God I love.
Here's my heart, O take and seal it,
Seal it for Thy courts above.

4 Oh, that day when freed from sinning,
I shall see Thy lovely face;
Clothed then in the blood-washed linen,
How I'll sing Thy wondrous grace!
Come, my Lord, no longer tarry;
Take my ransom'd soul away;
Send Thine angels soon to carry
Me to realms of endless day.

(Please rise)

♪THANK THE LORD♪

C Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev'ryone what He has done.
Let all who seek the Lord rejoice and proudly bear His name.
He recalls His promises and leads His people forth in joy
with shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia, alleluia.

POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

P Let us pray.

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.

(Please be seated)

HYMN TO DEPART

878 ABIDE WITH ME

(Stanzas 1, 6)

- 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.
- 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.

BENEDICTION

- P** The LORD gives.
C And the LORD takes away.
- P** Blessed be the name of the LORD.
C Yes, blessed be the name of the LORD!

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

C **The Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**

ALL: Amen.



SERVING IN THE LORD'S HOUSE TODAY

Preacher: Rev. Karl P. Glander

Organist: Holly Bell

Flutist: Nancy Rybak

Bells: Debbie Jackow

The Sound System: Jeff Kirsch

Elder: Klaus Naumann

Altar Guild: Emmy Larson, Betty Willis

Ushers: Doug Grage, Mickie Naumann

Reader: Greg Murray



Lenten Services

February 25th at 7:00 p.m.

March 4th at 7:00 p.m.

March 11th at 7:00 p.m.

March 18th at 7:00 p.m.

March 25th at 7:00 p.m.



Palm Sunday Service

March 29th at 10:30 a.m.

Maundy Thursday Service

April 2nd at 7:00 p.m. with Holy Communion

Good Friday Service

April 3rd at 7:00 p.m.

Easter Services

April 5th

6:30 a.m. Sunrise Service

8-10 a.m. Easter Breakfast

10:30 a.m. Easter Celebration Service

11:45 a.m. Easter Egg Hunt