



THE TRIUMPH OF A SELFISH NATURE

ASH WEDNESDAY
FEBRUARY 18, 2026
1:00pm / 7:00pm

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER
1800 WEST MAPLE
BIRMINGHAM, MI 48009

STORIES OF BIBLE VICTORIES
Ash Wednesday – February 18, 2026
Theme: The Triumph of a Selfish Nature

As We Gather

“The history of God’s chosen people is verily written in war stories, and the great steps in their national progress are read in the word Victory. But, as in almost every case, the real victories are not the ones achieved on the battle-field, but those won in the hearts and lives of leader and people; so in these stories, the aim has been to so portray the picture that the moral victory shall leave its impress on the life, and the battle-field be simply the medium for the implanting of the great truth.”

– *Emma A. Robinson, 1907*

This Lent we are basing our Lenten series on Emma Robinson’s book “Stories of Bible Victories” from 1907. These are accounts from the Old Testament, looking at the people God used to bring about His Kingdom.

If you wish to join us at the Lord’s Table, please read this Communion information. If you share our beliefs regarding the Lord’s Supper, we welcome you to our altar.

- + **I believe that Jesus Christ is my only Lord and Savior from all sin, Satan and death.**
- + **I believe that Christ is really present in the Sacrament and that with the bread and wine I receive His true Body and Blood.**
- + **I resolve to dedicate my life to my Lord and Savior in His Body, the Church, by regular worship and devoted Christian service and living.**

Prelude - 7:00pm

Sonata # 4, opus 2 - Blavet
Jeffrey Zook, *Flute*

Opening Hymn 140

Jesus, I Will Ponder Now

1. Jesus, I will ponder now, On Thy holy Passion;
With Thy Spirit me endow For such meditation.
Grant that I in love and faith May the image cherish
Of Thy suff’ring, pain, and death That I may not perish.
2. Make me see Thy great distress, Anguish, and affliction,
Bonds and stripes and wretchedness And Thy crucifixion;
Make me see how scourge and rod, Spear and nails, did wound
Thee,
How for man Thou diedst, O God, Who with thorns had crowned
Thee.

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

Confession and Absolution

P: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: "Ashes to ashes, dust to dust." God made Adam, man of dust, in His image.

C: Who are we, Lord, that You are mindful of us and care for us? You have made us little less than Yourself, crowning us with glory and honor.

P: "Ashes to ashes, dust to dust." We deserve God's curse for we have sinned.

C: You turn us back to dust, Lord. Before the day we die, we come to You with ashes upon our lives, the mark of the curse. We turn from our sin to face You, Lord. Forgive us and restore us, for Jesus' sake, and speak to us another word besides "ashes to ashes, dust to dust."

P: Assembled to hear God's Word and receive His blessed Son, we admit that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful nature. Therefore, we take refuge in God's infinite mercy, seeking and imploring His grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ. God, be merciful to us.

C: May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to life everlasting.

P: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy on you and has given His only Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of the Word I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Children's Message - 7:00pm

Old Testament Reading

Genesis 25:27-34

The boys grew up, and Esau became a skillful hunter, a man of the open country, while Jacob was content to stay at home among the tents. Isaac, who had a taste for wild game, loved Esau, but Rebekah loved Jacob. Once when Jacob was cooking some stew, Esau came in from the open country, famished. He said to Jacob, "Quick, let me have some of that red

stew! I'm famished!" (That is why he was also called Edom.) Jacob replied, "First sell me your birthright." "Look, I am about to die," Esau said. "What good is the birthright to me?" But Jacob said, "Swear to me first." So he swore an oath to him, selling his birthright to Jacob. Then Jacob gave Esau some bread and some lentil stew. He ate and drank, and then got up and left. So Esau despised his birthright.

Gospel Reading

Luke 12:13-15

Someone in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me." Jesus replied, "Man, who appointed me a judge or an arbiter between you?" Then he said to them, "Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; life does not consist in an abundance of possessions."

Hymn of the Day 175

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

1. When I survey the wondrous cross On which the Prince of Glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss And pour contempt on all my pride.
2. See, from His head, His hands, His feet, Sorrow and love flow
mingled down.
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet Or thorns compose so rich a
crown?
3. Were the whole realm of nature mine, That were a tribute far too
small;
Love so amazing, so divine, Demands my soul, my life, my all.

Sermon

Genesis 25:27-34

"The Triumph of a Selfish Nature"
Rev. Randall J. Schlak

Offering - 7:00pm

(1:00pm offering will be received at the door.)

*At this time, please take a moment to record your attendance
here with us today. Instructions are on the back page.*

Offertory - 7:00pm

Footsteps – Courtney

Chancel Choir

Prayer of the Church

Lord's Prayer

P: 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;

C: For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Words of Institution

Imposition of Ashes and Distribution of the Lord's Supper

For a more meaningful experience, we are combining the imposition of ashes and the Lord's Supper at the communion rail. First, a Pastor will place an ashen cross on your forehead while speaking the words, "Dust you are and to dust you shall return." Immediately following the imposition of ashes, the Elders will distribute communion.

If you do not wish to receive ashes or communion, at the appropriate time, place your hands crossed at your chest.

*Communion wine is dark in color, grape juice is light. It is in the individual cup trays in the glass cups allowing for each member to grab their own wine cup. **If you would like to receive a gluten-free wafer or desire the common cup, at the appropriate time, please raise your pointer finger.***

Sung During Imposition of Ashes and Communion

1:00pm

I Lift My Hands – Tomlin

Steve SeGraves, *Vocalist*

7:00pm

Where Can I Go – IJames

Chancel Choir; Jeffrey Zook, *Flute*

Benediction

P: The Lord God formed the man of the dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature. (Genesis 2:7)

C: Dust we are and unto dust we shall return. (Genesis 3:19)

P: Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the man of heaven. (1 Corinthians 15:49) The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you His peace.

C: Amen.

Closing Hymn 158

Glory Be To Jesus

1. Glory be to Jesus, Who in bitter pains
Poured for me the lifeblood From his sacred veins!
2. Grace and life eternal In that blood I find;
Blest be his compassion, Infinitely kind!
3. Blest through endless ages Be the precious stream
Which from endless torments Did the world redeem!

Postlude

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As is the tradition, palms were burned from previous Palm Sunday services, and the resulting ashes are being used today.

Thanks and appreciation to:

The Elders for assisting with the Imposition of Ashes and Communion;
Steve SeGraves and the Chancel Choir;
Paul Kacanowski and Norah Duncan, guest organists;
and Jeffrey Zook for performing special music at today's services.

Altar Guild

Kim Martin, Kathy Eley, Karen Pridmore, Rose Kiehle,
Megan Rettray, Bev Yocum, Tina Conte, Katre Klow,
Heather Calvaneso, Tracey Fish, Crissy Bienkowski

Audio and Video Operators

7:00pm - Jim Endress and David Hardoin

Elders Assisting with Communion and Ashes

7:00pm - Brad Baldner, David Mammel, Matt Pedersen, Rick Russ

Lenten Meals Preparation

Lunch: Kim Davis

Dinner: Redeemer Youth Mission Team

Organist

1:00pm - Paul Kacanowski

7:00pm - Norah Duncan

Ushers

1:00pm - Bob Stewart

7:00pm - Keith Lewis, *Captain*; Robert Artelt,
Rudy Becker, Rick Russ, Brian Vautaw

Please take a moment to record your attendance here with us today.

There are two simple ways to do this:

1. Scan the QR code and fill out the online attendance form.
2. Use the worship card found in your pew. You may drop it in the offering plate or simply leave it in your pew after you fill it out.



Stories of Bible Victories

Lent 2026

Written in 1907 by Emma Robinson, these are accounts from the Old Testament looking at the people God used to bring about His Kingdom.

Lent Wednesdays:

1:00pm - Chapel; 7:00pm - Sanctuary
Each Lent service is preceded by a meal:
Lunch 12:00pm; Dinner 6:00pm
(Confirmands 5:30pm)

February 25 - *The Triumph of Godly Patience*

March 4 - *The Triumph of a Long Life*

March 11 - *The Triumph of Faith*

March 18 - *The Triumph Over the Giant*

March 25 - *The Triumph Over Pride*



April 2 - Maundy Thursday - *The Triumph of a Meal*

1:00pm - Chapel; 7:00pm - Sanctuary

Holy Communion at Both Services

April 3 - Good Friday - *The Triumph of Suffering*

1:00pm and 7:00pm - Sanctuary

April 4 - Easter Eve - 5:00pm - Sanctuary

April 5 - Easter Sunday Services

The Triumphal Procession

7:30am with Holy Communion; 9:00am and 10:30am