

done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

P. Let us bless the Lord;  
**C. Thanks be to God.**

The Lord bless us, defend us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life.  
**Amen.**

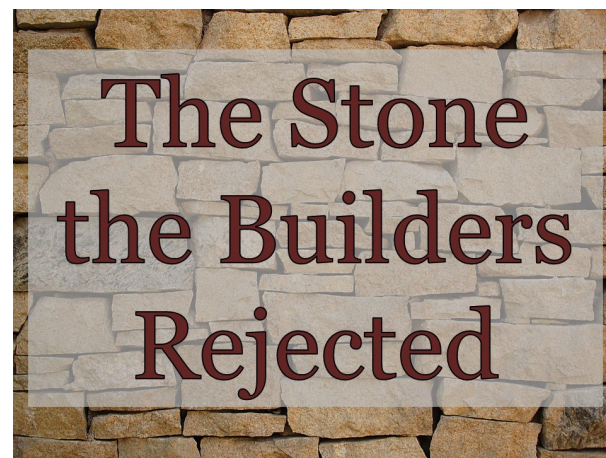
Closing Song; #878 Abide With Me (vs. 1-4)

*We will not have a time of fellowship and refreshments after the service tonight; but we will after the Lent services to follow on Wednesday evenings.*

# Ash Wednesday Service

February 18, 2026

## *The Rejected One, Joseph*



Rejected  
Resilience  
Divine Purpose  
Ultimate Acceptance

Responsive Confession; Psalm 51:1-7

*The Absolution;*

P. The Lord is gracious and merciful, abounding in steadfast love. By faith in Jesus and through Him, the shed blood of the Lamb of God, Jesus Christ, our Savior, your sins are forgiven. In the name of the Father and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit;  
**C. Amen.**

Opening;

The Lord's Prayer

The Apostles Creed

O.T. Lesson

Genesis 37:3-28

<sup>3</sup> Now Israel loved Joseph more than any of his other sons, because he had been born to him in his old age; and he made an ornate robe for him. <sup>4</sup> When his brothers saw that their father loved him more than any of them, they hated him and could not speak a kind word to him.

<sup>12</sup> Now his brothers had gone to graze their father's flocks near Shechem, <sup>13</sup> and Israel said to Joseph, "As you know, your brothers are grazing the flocks near Shechem. Come, I am going to send you to them." "Very well," he replied.

<sup>17</sup> So Joseph went after his brothers and found them near Dothan. <sup>18</sup> But they saw him in the distance, and before he reached them, they plotted to kill him. <sup>19</sup> "Here comes that dreamer!" they said to each other. <sup>20</sup> "Come now, let's kill him and throw him into one of these cisterns and say that a ferocious animal devoured him. Then we'll see what comes of his dreams."

<sup>21</sup> When Reuben heard this, he tried to rescue him from their hands. "Let's not take his life," he said. <sup>22</sup> "Don't shed any blood. Throw him into this cistern here in the wilderness, but don't lay a hand on him." Reuben said this to rescue him from them and take him back to his father. <sup>23</sup> So when Joseph came to his brothers, they stripped him of his robe—the ornate robe he was wearing—<sup>24</sup> and they took him and threw him into the cistern. The cistern was empty; there was no water in it.

<sup>25</sup> As they sat down to eat their meal, they looked up and saw a caravan of Ishmaelites coming from Gilead. Their camels were loaded with spices, balm and myrrh, and they were on their way to take them down to Egypt. <sup>26</sup> Judah said to his brothers, "What will we gain if we kill our brother and cover up his blood? <sup>27</sup> Come, let's sell him to the Ishmaelites and not lay our hands on him; after all, he is our brother, our own flesh and blood." His brothers agreed. <sup>28</sup> So when the Midianite merchants came by, his brothers pulled Joseph up out of the cistern and sold him for twenty shekels of silver to the Ishmaelites, who took him to Egypt.

P. This is the Word of the Lord

**C. Amen.**

The Message;

The Offering is Received.

P. In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> He was with God in the beginning. <sup>3</sup> Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. <sup>4</sup> In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind.

**C. The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it.**

<sup>9</sup> The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. <sup>10</sup> He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. <sup>11</sup> He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him.

<sup>12</sup> **Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God:** <sup>13</sup> children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will,

**but born of God.**

He grew up before him like a tender shoot,

**and like a root out of dry ground.**

He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him,

**nothing in his appearance that we should desire him.**

<sup>3</sup> He was despised and rejected by mankind,

**a man of suffering, and familiar with pain.**

Like one from whom people hide their faces

**he was despised, and we held him in low esteem.**

The light shines in the darkness,

**but the darkness has not understood it.**

General Prayer followed by the evening prayer;

**All: I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have**