



Mid-Week Lent

Grace Lutheran Church

800 East Silver Lake Drive
Rochester, Minnesota 55906
www.gracebythelake.org

The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod
Pastor Peter Gueldner
Church Office
Church Office Hours
Pete Heyrman, President
Ron Daede, Elder
Phil Sanders, Elder
Rochester Central Lutheran School

Wednesday, February 25, 2026
pastorgueldner@gracebythelake.org
(507) 289-7833; office@gracebythelake.org
Mondays 12:00-4:00pm & Thursdays 8:00am-12:00pm
(507) 284-1923; president@gracebythelake.org
(507) 282-2647; elders@gracebythelake.org
(507) 281-5337
(507) 289-3267; rcls.net

Serving Today

WORSHIP LEADER	Pastor Peter Gueldner	CANTORS	Ruth Poole & Matthew Wingren
ORGAN/PIANO	Jody Weckwerth	Caiaphas:	Tyler Pardeik Master: Pastor Gueldner
DRAMATISTS	Barabbas: Corey Nelson	ELDERS/USHERS	Pete Heyrman
LIVESTREAM	Emilie Pentico		



Silent Prayer Before Worship

Heavenly Father, I look at Mark 15 and I see myself. Like Barabbas, I am guilty of rebellion, and I deserve the condemnation of the cross. Yet, in an act of infinite grace, You took the sinless Son of God and placed him in my chains, while setting me free. Thank you, Jesus, for taking my place, for enduring the shame, and for paying the price I could never pay. I am the prisoner set free. May I live today in the light of this incredible, undeserved exchange. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Congregational Prayers

✠ John & Bea Beilke	✠ Diane Grieve	✠ Don & Kathy Jungwirth
✠ Sam Konakowitz	✠ Allen Kvittem	✠ Dorothy Kueker
✠ Patricia Meyer	✠ Pat Swanson	✠ Jon Swanson

Thoughts on this Evening's Drama

Have you ever had a close call, a really close call, a situation in which you were certain you were going to die ... and then, at the last minute, something happened that meant the difference between life and death? Perhaps it was in an automobile or an airplane ... perhaps while swimming or skiing ... an accident ... an incident ... but you were SURE you were going to die.

If you have been through such a close call, remember it now. If not, you will have to try to imagine one. And do so with this question: When it was all over, was there someone who ought to be thanked? Besides God, I mean--someone who was personally responsible for the fact that you lived instead of dying?

How do you thank someone for sparing your life? Is it always possible to know exactly whom to thank? And behind all these, perhaps a more basic question: Why are some lives spared, and others not? More specifically: Why are YOU allowed to go on living ... while others die instead?

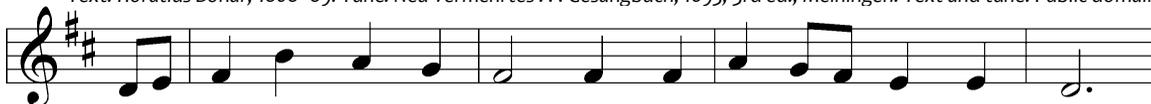
Order of Service

Special with Elements of the Holden Evening Prayer

Hymn of Invocation

LSB 606 I Lay My Sins on Jesus

Text: Horatius Bonar, 1808–89. Tune: Neu-vermehrtes . . . Gesangbuch, 1693, 3rd ed., Meiningen. Text and tune: Public domain



Evening Hymn

Joyous Light

All Sing

Text & Tune: Marty Haugen. Tune: © 1990, 2016 GIA Publications, Inc. Text: © 1990, 2016 GIA Publications, Inc. All rights reserved.
Reprinted / podcast / streamed with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-744024. All rights reserved.

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Joyous Light'. It is written in treble clef with a key signature of three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat) and a 3/4 time signature. The score consists of eight staves of music, each with corresponding lyrics underneath. The lyrics are arranged in three columns, with the first column starting at the beginning of each staff and the other two columns starting at the beginning of the second and third measures of each staff. The lyrics are: 1.) Joy-ous light of heav'n-ly glo - ry, lov - ing; 2.) In the stars that grace the dark - ness, in the; 3.) You who made the heav-en's splen - dor, ev - 'ry glow of God's own face, you who sing cre - a - tion's; blaz - ing sun of dawn, in the light of peace and; danc - ing star of night, make us shine with gen - tle; sto - ry, shine on ev - 'ry land and race. Now as; wis - dom, we can hear your qui - et song. Love that; jus - tice, let us each re - flect your light. Might - y; eve - ing falls a - round us, we shall raise our songs to; fills the night with won - der, love that warms the wea - ry; God of all cre - a - tion, gen - tle Christ who lights our; you. God of day - break, God of shad - ows, come and; soul, love that bursts all chains a - sun - der, set us; way, lov - ing Spir - it of sal - va - tion, lead us; light our hearts a - new.; free and make us whole.; on to end - less day.

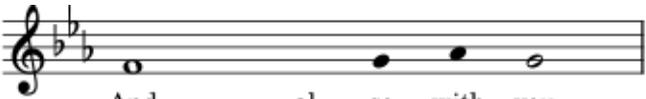
Evening Thanksgiving

Sung Responsively

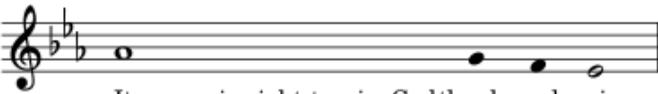
Text & Tune: Marty Haugen. Tune: © 1990, 2016 GIA Publications, Inc. Text: © 1990, 2016 GIA Publications, Inc. All rights reserved.

Reprinted / podcast / streamed with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-744024. All rights reserved.

Cantor: May God be with you all.

All Sing: 
And al - so with you.

Cantor: Let us sing our thanks to God.

All Sing: 
It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Cantor: Blessed are you, Creator of the universe,
From old you have led your people by night and day.
May the light of your Christ make our darkness bright,
For your Word and your presence are the light of our pathways,
And you are the light and life of all creation. Amen.

Psalmody

Psalm 32

P: Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

C: **Happy are those to whom the LORD imputes no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.**

P: While I kept silence, my body wasted away through my groaning all day long.

C: **For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.**

P: Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not hide my iniquity;

C: **I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD," and you forgave the guilt of my sin.**

P: Therefore let all who are faithful offer prayer to you; at a time of distress, the rush of mighty waters shall not reach them.

C: **You are a hiding place for me; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with glad cries of deliverance.**

P: Many are the torments of the wicked, but steadfast love surrounds those who trust in the LORD.

C: **Be glad in the LORD and rejoice, O righteous, and shout for joy, all you upright in heart.**

**C: Glory to the Father be,
And to Christ, eternally.
Glory to the Spirit raise.
Join all nature in her praise:
From creation's ancient shore
Unto life forevermore.**

Stand

Gospel Reading

Mark 15:1-5

¹And as soon as it was morning, the chief priests held a consultation with the elders and scribes and the whole Council. And they bound Jesus and led him away and delivered him over to Pilate. ²And Pilate asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" And he answered him, "You have said so." ³And the chief priests accused him of many things. ⁴And Pilate again asked him, "Have you no answer to make? See how many charges they bring against you." ⁵But Jesus made no further answer, so that Pilate was amazed.

⁶Now at the feast he used to release for them one prisoner for whom they asked. ⁷And among the rebels in prison, who had committed murder in the insurrection, there was a man called Barabbas. ⁸And the crowd came up and began to ask Pilate to do as he usually did for them. ⁹And he answered them, saying, "Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?" ¹⁰For he perceived that it was out of envy that the chief priests had delivered him up. ¹¹But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have him release for them Barabbas instead. ¹²And Pilate again said to them, "Then what shall I do with the man you call the King of the Jews?" ¹³And they cried out again, "Crucify him." ¹⁴And Pilate said to them, "Why, what evil has he done?" But they shouted all the more, "Crucify him." ¹⁵So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released for them Barabbas, and having scourged Jesus, he delivered him to be crucified.

Sit

Theme Hymn

(sung to the tune of LSB 450 'O Sacred Head Now Wounded')

The voices of the Passion,
Those words from ancient days—
What message do they fashion
As on your cross I gaze?
In words that once were spoken,
In speech now overheard,
Grant me, O Lord, this token:
To hear your living Word!

Sermonic Introduction

Drama

*Overheard: Conversations by the Cross
Barabbas and Caiaphas*

Sermonic Conclusion

Theme Hymn

(sung to the tune of LSB 450 'O Sacred Head Now Wounded')
O Lamb of God, e'er pleading
Before God's throne of love,
For sinners interceding,
Our great High Priest above:
Lord, in your crucifixion
Give me firm faith to see
With Spirit-wrought conviction
That "Jesus died for me!"

Offering

Stand

Prayers

- P: Not what we have done, O God,
C: **but what your Son has wrought for us we bring before your throne of grace.**
- P: Not what we deserve, O God,
C: **but what your Son has merited we offer on the altar of your praise.**
- P: Not what we propose, O God,
C: **but what your Son has willed for us we look to as our great and only goal.**
- P: Remove from us, we pray, the pride that seeks our way and will alone,
C: **that places what we consider "expedient" above what may be good and right and just.**
- P: Forgive our self-will for the sake of him who pleads his sacrifice in our behalf,
C: **who bids us all, unworthy though we be, to come before your majesty with confidence and joy;**
- P: who gave his life for our release,
C: **that freed and pardoned, we may be the signs and instruments of love so broad and arms so opened wide that even we may find a place among the ransomed and the free;**
- P: in whose great name, and at whose word we now are bold to pray:

The Lord's Prayer

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.

Final Blessing

Sung Responsively

Text & Tune: Marty Haugen. Tune: © 1990, 2016 GIA Publications, Inc. Text: © 1990, 2016 GIA Publications, Inc. All rights reserved.
Reprinted / podcast / streamed with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-744024. All rights reserved.

Cantor: Let us bless our God:
Praise and thanks to you.
May God, Creator, bless us and keep us,
May Christ be ever light for our lives,
May the Spirit of Love be our guide and path for all of our days.

All Sing:



Closing Hymn

LSB 428 Cross of Jesus, Cross of Sorrow

Text: William J. Sparrow Simpson, 1860–1952. Tune: John Stainer, 1840–1901. Text and tune: Public domain

1 Cross of Je - sus, cross of sor - row,
2 Here the King of all the a - ges,
3 O mys - te - rious con - de - scend - ing!
4 Cross of Je - sus, cross of sor - row,

Where the blood of Christ was shed,
Throned in light ere worlds could be,
O a - ban - don - ment sub - lime!
Where the blood of Christ was shed,

Per - fect man on thee did suf - fer,
Robed in mor - tal flesh is dy - ing,
Ver - y God Him - self is bear - ing
Per - fect man on thee did suf - fer,

Per - fect God on thee has bled!
Cru - ci - fied by sin for me.
All the suf - fer - ings of time!
Per - fect God on thee has bled!

Acknowledgments

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2025 Concordia Publishing House.

Overheard: Conversations by the Cross - By Arden W. Mead. © Copyright 1983 by Creative Communications for the Parish, 1564 Fencorp Dr., Fenton, MO 63026. 1-800-325-9414. www.creativecommunications.com. All rights reserved. Printed in the USA.

Holden Evening Prayer – Text & Tune: Marty Haugen. Tune: © 1990, 2016 GIA Publications, Inc. Text: © 1990, 2016 GIA Publications, Inc. All rights reserved. Reprinted / podcast / streamed with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-744024. All rights reserved.



Thank you for joining us this evening!
God's Blessings on the rest of your Week!