



Mid-Week Lent

Grace Lutheran Church

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The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod
Pastor Peter Gueldner
Church Office
Church Office Hours
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Rochester Central Lutheran School

Wednesday, March 4, 2026
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Serving Today

WORSHIP LEADER	Pastor Peter Gueldner	CANTORS	Ruth Poole & Matthew Wingren		
ORGAN/PIANO	Mary Ann Groven	PROCUA:	Brenda Nelson	Messenger:	Corey Nelson
DRAMATISTS	Pilate: Tyler Pardeik	ELDERS/USHERS	Pete Heyrman		
LIVESTREAM	Emilie Pentico				



Silent Prayer Before Worship

Heavenly Father, I come before You in awe of Jesus, who stood before the powers of this world falsely accused, yet remained innocent. Lord, when I face unfair treatment, unjust accusations, or when the world twists the truth, help me to trust in Your ultimate judgment, just as Jesus did. 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

"The good that I would I do not," St. Paul once wrote, "and the evil I would not, that I do" (Romans 7:19). What the apostle was describing is a common problem, one that seems as though it should be very simple to deal with. It has to do with the difference between right and wrong, good and evil. and in most cases that should be simple enough.

But as well as we may KNOW what is the right thing to do, it is often much harder actually to DO it. The RIGHT thing to do (if one can determine it) is not always the EASIEST thing to do, or the most comfortable. In fact, it may be quite painful.

Pontius Pilate may serve as another example of the high price that righteousness demands, a price he was not quite willing to pay.

Order of Service

Special with Elements of the Holden Evening Prayer

Hymn of Invocation

LSB 451 Stricken, Smitten and Afflicted

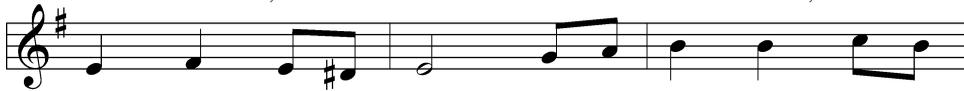
Text: Thomas Kelly, 1769–1855, alt. Tune: Geistliche Volkslieder, 1850, Paderborn. Text and tune: Public domain



1 Strick-en, smit-ten, and af - flict - ed, See Him dy - ing on the
2 Tell me, ye who hear Him groan-ing, Was there ev - er grief like
3 Ye who think of sin but light - ly Nor sup - pose the e - vil
4 Here we have a firm foun - da - tion, Here the ref - uge of the



tree! 'Tis the Christ, by man re - ject - ed; Yes, my
His? Friends through fear His cause dis - own - ing, Foes in -
great Here may view its na - ture right - ly, Here its
lost: Christ, the Rock of our sal - va - tion, Is the



soul, 'tis He, 'tis He! 'Tis the long - ex - spect - ed
sult - ing His dis - tress; Man - y hands were raised to
guilt may es - ti - mate. Mark the sac - ri - fice ap -
name of which we boast; Lamb of God, for sin - ners



Prop - et, Da - vid's Son, yet Da - vid's Lord; Proofs I
wound Him, None would in - ter - vene to save; But the
point - ed, See who bears the aw - ful load; 'Tis the
wound - ed, Sac - ri - fice to can - cel guilt! None shall



see suf - fi - cient of it: 'Tis the true and faith - ful Word.
deep - est stroke that pierced Him Was the stroke that jus - tice gave.
Word, the Lord's a - noint - ed, Son of Man and Son of God.
ev - er be con - found - ed Who on Him their hope have built.

Opening Responsory

Jesus Christ, You Are the Light of the World

Sung by Cantors

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Cantor: Jesus Christ, you are the light of the world,
The light no darkness can overcome.
Stay with us now, for it is evening,
And the day is almost over.
Let your light scatter the darkness,
And shine within your people

Evening Hymn

Joyous Light

All Sing

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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

4
glow of God's own face, you who sing cre - a - tion's
blaz - ing sun of dawn, in the light of peace and
7 danc - ing star of night, make us shine with gen - tle

10
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

13
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

16
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.

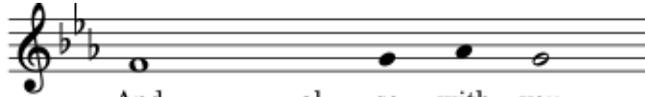
Evening Thanksgiving

Sung Responsively

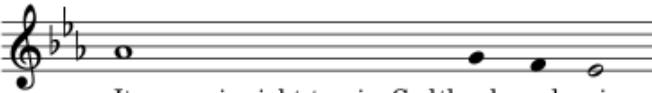
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Cantor: May God be with you all.

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 14

P: Fools say in their hearts, "There is no God."

C: They are corrupt, they do abominable deeds; there is no one who does good.

P: The LORD looks down from heaven on humankind to see if there are any who are wise, who seek after God.

C: They have all gone astray, they are all alike perverse; there is no one who does good, no, not one.

P: Have they no knowledge, all the evildoers who eat up my people as they eat bread, and do not call upon the LORD?

C: There they shall be in great terror, for God is with the company of the righteous.

P: You would confound the plans of the poor, but the LORD is their refuge.

C: O that deliverance for Israel would come from Zion! When the LORD restores the fortunes of his people, Jacob will rejoice; Israel will be glad.

Gloria Patri

sung to LSB 436 'Go to Dark Gethsemane'

**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.**

Gospel Reading

Luke 23:1–24

¹Then the whole company of them arose and brought him before Pilate. ²And they began to accuse him, saying, “We found this man misleading our nation and forbidding us to give tribute to Caesar, and saying that he himself is Christ, a king.” ³And Pilate asked him, “Are you the King of the Jews?” And he answered him, **“You have said so.”** ⁴Then Pilate said to the chief priests and the crowds, “I find no guilt in this man.” ⁵But they were urgent, saying, “He stirs up the people, teaching throughout all Judea, from Galilee even to this place.”

⁶When Pilate heard this, he asked whether the man was a Galilean. ⁷And when he learned that he belonged to Herod’s jurisdiction, he sent him over to Herod, who was himself in Jerusalem at that time. ⁸When Herod saw Jesus, he was very glad, for he had long desired to see him, because he had heard about him, and he was hoping to see some sign done by him. ⁹So he questioned him at some length, but he made no answer. ¹⁰The chief priests and the scribes stood by, vehemently accusing him. ¹¹And Herod with his soldiers treated him with contempt and mocked him. Then, arraying him in splendid clothing, he sent him back to Pilate. ¹²And Herod and Pilate became friends with each other that very day, for before this they had been at enmity with each other.

¹³Pilate then called together the chief priests and the rulers and the people, ¹⁴and said to them, “You brought me this man as one who was misleading the people. And after examining him before you, behold, I did not find this man guilty of any of your charges against him. ¹⁵Neither did Herod, for he sent him back to us. Look, nothing deserving death has been done by him. ¹⁶I will therefore punish and release him.”

¹⁸But they all cried out together, “Away with this man, and release to us Barabbas”—¹⁹a man who had been thrown into prison for an insurrection started in the city and for murder. ²⁰Pilate addressed them once more, desiring to release Jesus, ²¹but they kept shouting, “Crucify, crucify him!” ²²A third time he said to them, “Why, what evil has he done? I have found in him no guilt deserving death. I will therefore punish and release him.” ²³But they were urgent, demanding with loud cries that he should be crucified. And their voices prevailed. ²⁴So Pilate decided that their demand should be granted.

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
Pilate and his Wife*

Sermonic Conclusion

Theme Hymn

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

Oh, wash my hands, Lord Jesus,
And purify my soul;
That I may do what pleases,
My conscience, Lord, control.
O true and righteous Savior,
O Witness bold and true,
Make it my sole endeavor
Your will to know and do.

Offering

Stand

Prayers

- P: On what can we rely, O Lord, except your mercy and your grace?
C: **We cannot trust ourselves, our own powers or will or the wishes of our hearts, for we are weak and sinful and powerless without your gracious aid.**
- P: Do not enter into judgment with your servants, for in your sight no one shall stand.
C: **But send your Holy Spirit on us all, we pray, to convict us of our sin and to convince us of your righteousness—righteousness made freely ours through Christ who went the way of bitter, painful death that we might stand and walk righteous before you.**

P: Show us, then, the way to walk ... the thing to do ... the word to speak ... the example to follow, and to be.

C: **And when your way for us is hard, O God, make us firm in our resolve, and true in our response, faithful in the doing of your loving will.**

P: Through him who kept your will, unbent and true, for us; in whose strong name we 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

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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 554 O Jesus, King Most Wonderful

Text: attr. Bernard of Clairvaux, 1091–1153; tr. Edward Caswall, 1814–78, alt.

Tune: John B. Dykes, 1823–76. ext and tune: Public domain



1 O Je - sus, King most won - der - ful!
2 When once You vis - it dark - ened hearts,
3 O Je - sus, light of all be - low,
4 May ev - 'ry heart con - fess Your name,
5 Oh, may our tongues for - ev - er bless,



O Con - quer - or re - nowned! O Source of peace in -
Then truth be - gins to shine, Then earth - ly van - i -
The fount of life and fire, Sur - pass - ing all the
For - ev - er You a - dore, And, seek - ing You, it -
May we love You a - lone And ev - er in our



ef - fa - ble, In whom all joys are found:
ty de - parts, Then kin - dles love di - vine.
joys we know, All that we can de - sire:
self in - flame To seek You more and more!
lives ex - press The im - age of Your own!





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

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