



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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Ron Daede, Elder
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Wednesday, March 11, 2026
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Serving Today

WORSHIP LEADER	Pastor Peter Gueldner	CANTORS	Ruth Poole & Matthew Wingren
ORGAN/PIANO	Jody Weckwerth	Centurion:	Tyler Pardeik Extra: Isaac Nelson
DRAMATISTS	Simon: Corey Nelson	ELDERS/USHERS	Pete Heyrman
LIVESTREAM	Curtis Meier		

Silent Prayer Before Worship

When darkness covered the land and you cried out in abandonment, you were bearing my sin, experiencing the ultimate separation so that I might never be truly forsaken.

I praise you that when you breathed your last, the veil of the temple was torn in two, signifying that the barrier between God and me is gone. Thank you that I now have direct access to the Father through your finished work.

Like the centurion, I confess that truly, you are the Son of God. Help me to take up my cross daily and follow you, living in the freedom of your grace and sharing your love with the world. In the mighty name of Jesus, I pray. Amen

Congregational Prayers

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

Thoughts on this Evening's Drama

Are there times in your life when it just doesn't seem fair? When it seems as though circumstances have collaborated against you to make things more difficult than they need to be? And when that happens, WHY does it happen? Is it merely, as many contend, a string of bad luck? An unfortunate turn of events? Or is there a plan, a purpose, even, to those things that seem merely coincidental? And while we ponder questions like those, is there something we should be DOING--some task, some assignment, something to give meaning and direction to the events and circumstances in which we find ourselves? Or at least an ATTITUDE that might make a difference?

This evening we shall overhear questions like these as they are considered by two men whose role in our Lord's crucifixion may seem to be no more than coincidental: the centurion, who began his day like so many others, but ended it with a confession that has been remembered and emulated ever since ... and Simon of Cyrene, an out-of-town visitor who was conscripted to carry our Lord's cross on the Way of Sorrows. Two men who were just going about their own business, when suddenly--and unexpectedly--they found themselves personally involved in the mission of the Lord.

Order of Service

Special with Elements of the Holden Evening Prayer

Hymn of Invocation

LSB 425 When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748. Tune: Lowell Mason, 1792–1872. Text and tune: Public domain



1 When I sur - vey the won - drous cross On which the
2 For - bid it, Lord, that I should boast Save in the
3 See, from His head, His hands, His feet Sor - row and
4 Were the whole realm of na - ture mine, That were a



Prince of Glo - ry died, My rich - est gain I
death of Christ, my God; All the vain things that
love flow min - gled down! Did e'er such love and
trib - ute far too small; Love so a - maz - ing,



count but loss And pour con - tempt on all my pride.
charm me most, I sac - ri - fice them to His blood.
sor - row meet Or thorns com - pose so rich a crown?
so di - vine, De - mands my soul, my life, my all!

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.

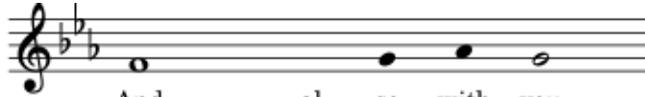
Evening Thanksgiving

Sung Responsively

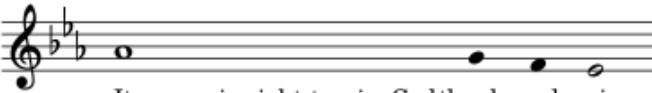
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Cantor: May God be with you all.

All Sing: 
And also 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 115

P: Not to us, O LORD, not to us, but to your name give glory,

C: for the sake of your steadfast love and your faithfulness.

P: Why should the nations say, "Where is their God?"

C: Our God is in the heavens; he does whatever he pleases.

P: Their idols are silver and gold, the work of human hands.

C: They have mouths, but do not speak; eyes, but do not see. They have ears, but do not hear; noses, but do not smell. They have hands, but do not feel; feet, but do not walk; they make no sound in their throats.

P: those who make them are like them; so are all who trust in them.

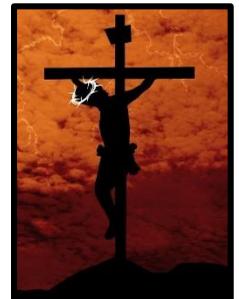
C: O Israel, trust in the LORD! He is their help and their shield. O house of Aaron, trust in the LORD! He is their help and their shield. You who fear the LORD, trust in the LORD! He is their help and their shield.

P: The LORD has been mindful of us; he will bless us;

C: he will bless the house of Israel; he will bless the house of Aaron;

P: he will bless those who fear the LORD,

C: both small and great.



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.**

Stand

Gospel Reading

Mark 15:16–39

¹⁶And the soldiers led him away inside the palace (that is, the governor's headquarters), and they called together the whole battalion. ¹⁷And they clothed him in a purple cloak, and twisting together a crown of thorns, they put it on him. ¹⁸And they began to salute him, "Hail, King of the Jews!" ¹⁹And they were striking his head with a reed and spitting on him and kneeling down in homage to him. ²⁰And when they had mocked him, they stripped him of the purple cloak and put his own clothes on him. And they led him out to crucify him.

²¹And they compelled a passerby, Simon of Cyrene, who was coming in from the country, the father of Alexander and Rufus, to carry his cross. ²²And they brought him to the place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull). ²³And they offered him wine mixed with myrrh, but he did not take it. ²⁴And they crucified him and divided his garments among them, casting lots for them, to decide what each should take. ²⁵And it was the third hour when they crucified him. ²⁶And the inscription of the charge against him read, "The King of the Jews." ²⁷And with him they crucified two robbers, one on his right and one on his left. ²⁹And those who passed by derided him, wagging their heads and saying, "Aha! You who would destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, ³⁰save yourself, and come down from the cross!" ³¹So also the chief priests with the scribes mocked him to one another, saying, "He saved others; he cannot save himself. ³²Let the Christ, the King of Israel, come down now from the cross that we may see and believe." Those who were crucified with him also reviled him.

³³And when the sixth hour had come, there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour. ³⁴And at the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" ³⁵And some of the bystanders hearing it said, "Behold, he is calling Elijah." ³⁶And someone ran and filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a reed and gave it to him to drink, saying, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down." ³⁷And Jesus uttered a loud cry and breathed his last. ³⁸And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. ³⁹And when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said, "Truly this man was the Son of God!"

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
Simon and the Centurion

Sermonic Conclusion

Theme Hymn

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

**When days are long and dreary
With dull and dread routine,
Lord, let me not grow weary,
But let my faith be seen.
Help me my cross to carry,
To labor faithfully;
And show me, when I tarry,
The cross you bore for me.**

Offering



Stand

Prayers

P: What will you have us do, O Lord? What will YOU have us do?

C: **Too long and too often we have flaunted our own wills, pursued our own desires, desired our own pursuits, and said, "Not thy will, but mine, O Lord, be done."**

P: Yes, even as we prayed (or failed to) and went our own rebellious way,

C: **Your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, took up the cross, according to your will--the cross of our rebellion and our sin--and went the way of death in our behalf.**

P: What will you have US do, O Lord? What now is your will for us for whom your Son obeyed your will and died?

C: **What crosses shall we carry as we follow him? What tasks shall we perform? What mission, what assignment, what JOB awaits for us to shoulder and endure?**

P: Give us the strength, O God, to bear whatever cross your love bestows.

C: **And give us, too, the will to bear our crosses willingly; in freedom, joy, and firm resolve to say (and mean it when we do), "Not my will, but THINE, O Lord, be done"--be DONE ... not merely talked about, but DONE.**

P: through Christ our Lord, through whom we dare 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

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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 427 In the Cross of Christ I Glory

Text: John Bowring, 1792–1872. Tune: Ithamar Conkey, 1815–67. Text and tune: Public domain

1 In the cross of Christ I glo - ry, Tow'r - ing
2 When the woes of life o'er - take me, Hopes de -
3 When the sun of bliss is beam - ing Light and
4 Bane and bless - ing, pain and plea - sure By the
o'er the wrecks of time. All the light of sa - cred
ceive, and fears an - noy, Nev - er shall the cross for -
love up - on my way, From the cross the ra - diance
cross are sanc - ti - fied; Peace is there that knows no
sto - ry Gath - ers round its head sub - lime.
sake me; Lo, it glows with peace and joy.
stream - ing Adds more lus - ter to the day.
mea - sure, Joys that through all time a - bide.





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

Acknowledgments

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