



Mid-Week Lent

Grace Lutheran Church

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Church Office Hours
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Wednesday, March 25, 2026
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Mondays 12:00-4:00pm & Thursdays 8:00am-12:00pm
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Serving Today

WORSHIP LEADER Pastor Peter Gueldner

ORGAN/PIANO Mary Ann Groven

DRAMATISTS **John:** Tyler Pardeik

LIVESTREAM Curtis Meier

CANTORS

Ruth Poole & Matthew Wingren

Mary:

Brenda Nelson

ELDERS/USHERS

Pete Heyrman



Silent Prayer Before Worship

Heavenly Father,

We come before You in awe and gratitude as we reflect on the final hours of our Lord Jesus on the cross. We see Your Son, stripped and scorned, yet fulfilling every prophetic word, ensuring that the Scriptures were accomplished. We thank You that even amidst the agonizing pain of the cross, Jesus was concerned for others, providing for his mother and offering a place in Paradise, demonstrating profound love and compassion. 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

The love we celebrate this Lent, of course, is our Lord's love for us, love which led him, as St. Paul said so aptly, to "bear ... believe ... hope ... and endure" for us.

But does our Lord intend his love to end there, once it has reached us? Or is it not the nature of love that it is to be shared? Our Lord indicated as much from the cross, even as he was dying for the sins of the whole world, when out of the whole world he looked in love on his mother and his closest disciple ... and then gave them to one another in love ... his love to be shared.

We read that in response to that love, "from that hour" John took Mary "to his own home." What do you suppose they said to one another when they got there? Wednesday we shall overhear some possible answers to that question. Please join us as we listen at the foot of the cross.

Order of Service

Special with Elements of the Holden Evening Prayer

Hymn of Invocation

752 Be Still, My Soul

Text: Catharina Amalia Dorothea von Schlegel, 1697–1752; tr. Jane L. Borthwick, 1813–97, alt.

Tune: Jean Sibelius, 1865–1957, adapt. Text and tune: Public domain



1 Be still, my soul; the Lord is on your side; Bear pa - tient-
2 Be still, my soul; your God will un - der - take To guide the
3 Be still, my soul; though dear - est friends de - part And all is
4 Be still, my soul; the hour is has - t'ning on When we shall



ly the cross of grief or pain; Leave to your God to or - der
fu - ture as He has the past. Your hope, your con - fi - dence let
dark - ened in this vale of tears; Then you will bet - ter know His
be for - ev - er with the Lord, When dis - ap - point - ment, grief, and



and pro - vide; In ev - 'ry change He faith - ful will re -
noth - ing shake; All now mys - te - rious shall be bright at
love, His heart, Who comes to soothe your sor - rows and your
fear are gone, Sor - row for - got, love's pur - est joys re -



main. Be still, my soul; your best, your heav'n - ly Friend
last. Be still, my soul; the waves and winds still know
fears. Be still, my soul; your Je - sus can re - pay
stored. Be still, my soul; when change and tears are past,



Through thorn - y ways leads to a joy - ful end.
His voice who ruled them while He dwelt be - low.
From His own full - ness all He takes a - way.
All safe and bless - ed we shall meet at last.



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

sto - ry, shine on ev - 'ry land and race. Now as
wis - dom, we can hear your qui - et song. Love that
10 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
13 God of all cre - a - tion, gen - tle Christ wholights our

you. God of day - break, God of shad - ows, come and
soul, love that bursts all chains a - sun - der, set us
16 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

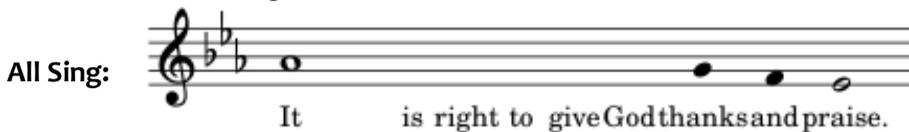
Sung Responsively

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Cantor: May God be with you all.



Cantor: Let us sing our thanks to God.



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 16

P: Protect me, O God, for in you I take refuge.

C: I say to the LORD, "You are my Lord; I have no good apart from you."

P: As for the holy ones in the land, they are the noble,

C: in whom is all my delight.

P: Those who choose another god multiply their sorrows;

C: their drink offerings of blood I will not pour out or take their names upon my lips.

P: The LORD is my chosen portion and my cup; you hold my lot.

C: The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; I have a goodly heritage.

P: I bless the LORD who gives me counsel; in the night also my heart instructs me.

C: I keep the LORD always before me; because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved.

P: Therefore my heart is glad, and my soul rejoices; my body also rests secure.

C: For you do not give me up to Sheol, or let your faithful one see the Pit.

P: You show me the path of life.

C: In your presence there is fullness of joy; in your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

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

John 19:23–42

²³When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his garments and divided them into four parts, one part for each soldier; also his tunic. But the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from top to bottom, ²⁴so they said to one another, "Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it to see whose it shall be." This was to fulfill the Scripture which says,

"They divided my garments among them,
and for my clothing they cast lots."

So the soldiers did these things, ²⁵but standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. ²⁶When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, **"Woman, behold, your son!"** ²⁷Then he said to the disciple, **"Behold, your mother!"** And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home.

²⁸After this, Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfill the Scripture), **"I thirst."** ²⁹A jar full of sour wine stood there, so they put a sponge full of the sour wine on a hyssop branch and held it to his mouth. ³⁰When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, **"It is finished,"** and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

³¹Since it was the day of Preparation, and so that the bodies would not remain on the cross on the Sabbath (for that Sabbath was a high day), the Jews asked Pilate that their legs might be broken and that they might be taken away. ³²So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first, and of the other who had been crucified with him. ³³But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. ³⁴But one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once there came out blood and water. ³⁵He who saw it has borne witness—his testimony is true, and he knows that he is telling the truth—that you also may believe. ³⁶For these things took place that the Scripture might be fulfilled: "Not one of his bones will be broken." ³⁷And again another Scripture says, "They will look on him whom they have pierced."

³⁸After these things Joseph of Arimathea, who was a disciple of Jesus, but secretly for fear of the Jews, asked Pilate that he might take away the body of Jesus, and Pilate gave him permission. So he came and took away his body. ³⁹Nicodemus also, who earlier had come to Jesus by night, came bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-five pounds in weight. ⁴⁰So they took the body of Jesus and bound it in linen cloths with the spices, as is the burial custom of the Jews. ⁴¹Now in the place where he was crucified there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb in which no one had yet been laid. ⁴²So because of the Jewish day of Preparation, since the tomb was close at hand, they laid Jesus there.

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
Mary and John*

Sermonic Conclusion

Theme Hymn

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

**When hearts are bruised and broken
With sorrow, grief, or pain,
What words of love, then spoken,
Can offer hope again?
Oh, send me, Lord, believing,
Your word and love to share;
Make me, where hearts are grieving,
Your instrument of care.**

Offering

Stand

Prayers

P: O Lord, what shall we do?

C: When hearts are heavy, days are dreary, eyes brimful of tears ... when backs and wills are bent and bowed beneath a load of care and grief that seems, almost, too great for words, too heavy to be borne—

P: O Lord, what shall we do?

C: We turn to you!

P: For in his life and death for us, your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, has borne our burdens, sins, and cares.

C: And in the living strength of his forgiving, power-giving love we are refreshed, renewed, restored, and set again upon the daily tasks of life.

P: And when we see the grief and care of others there:

C: When hearts are heavy, days are dreary, eyes brimful of tears ... when backs and wills are bent and bowed beneath a load of care and grief that seems, almost, too great for words, too heavy to be borne,

P: and in their darkness they cry out, "O Lord, what shall we do?"—

C: send us, O Lord, to turn their hearts to you!

P: Send us in the name of him by whom your children always 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 434 Lamb of God, Pure and Holy

Text: tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941. Text and tune: Nicolaus Decius, c. 1485–after 1546. Text and tune: Public domain



1 Lamb of God, pure and ho - ly, Who on the cross didst suf - fer,
2 Lamb of God, pure and ho - ly, Who on the cross didst suf - fer,
3 Lamb of God, pure and ho - ly, Who on the cross didst suf - fer,



Ev - er pa - tient and low - ly, Thy - self to scorn didst of - fer.
Ev - er pa - tient and low - ly, Thy - self to scorn didst of - fer.
Ev - er pa - tient and low - ly, Thy - self to scorn didst of - fer.



All sins Thou bor - est for us, Else had de - spair reigned o'er us:
All sins Thou bor - est for us, Else had de - spair reigned o'er us:
All sins Thou bor - est for us, Else had de - spair reigned o'er us:



Have mer - cy on us, O Je - sus! O Je - sus!
Have mer - cy on us, O Je - sus! O Je - sus!
Thy peace be with us, O Je - sus! O Je - sus!





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

Acknowledgments

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