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March 4, 2026

Wednesday Lent 3



✠ Preparation for Worship: Read Psalm 41 (Lutheran Service Book or Pew Bible) ✠

Greeting and prayer: (Pastor)

Opening Hymn: 436 *Go to Dark Gethsemane*

LSB 436

SERVICE OF THE WORD

Invocation

We invoke (“call upon”) the name of the one true God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

P In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

Confession and Absolution

We come before our Holy God recognizing that we are sinful and daily need His forgiveness.

P Return to the LORD, your God,

C **for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger,
and abounding in steadfast love.** (Joel 2:13)

P Let us confess our sins to God our Father.

C **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean.
We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved You with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment.
For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us.
Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will
and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

P In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for His sake God forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ He gives the power to become the children of God and gives them the Holy Spirit. May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C **Amen.**

Psalm of the Day – Psalm 41 (Responsive)

- P** Blessed is the one who considers the poor! In the day of trouble the LORD delivers him;
- C** **the LORD protects him and keeps him alive; he is called blessed in the land; You do not give him up to the will of his enemies.**
- P** The LORD sustains him on his sickbed; in his illness You restore him to full health.
- C** **As for me, I said, “O LORD, be gracious to me; heal me, for I have sinned against You!”**
- P** My enemies say of me in malice, “When will he die and his name perish?”
- C** **And when one comes to see me, he utters empty words, while his heart gathers iniquity; when he goes out, he tells it abroad.**
- P** All who hate me whisper together about me; they imagine the worst for me.
- C** **They say, “A deadly thing is poured out on him; he will not rise again from where he lies.”**
- P** Even my close friend in whom I trusted, who ate my bread, has lifted his heel against me.
- C** **But You, O Lord, be gracious to me, and raise me up, that I may repay them!**
- P** By this I know that You delight in me:
my enemy will not shout in triumph over me.
- C** **But You have upheld me because of my integrity,
and set me in Your presence forever.**

Prayer of the Day

- P** We pray:
O God, who gives strength to the weak and light to those who are in darkness, grant us to know Your Son, Jesus Christ, that through Him we may know You. By Your Spirit, direct our lives so that we never betray our Lord or turn away from following Him throughout our lives. This we ask through Jesus Christ, our blessed Savior.
- C** **Amen.**

Scripture Reading

THE PASSION HISTORY OF CHRIST - Part 3

Immediately in the morning, as soon as it was day, the elders of the people, both chief priests and scribes, came together. They took counsel against Jesus to put Him to death. They held a consultation with the elders and the scribes and the whole council.

They led Jesus into their council, saying, "If You are the Christ, tell us."

But He said to them, "If I tell you, you will by no means believe; and if I also ask you, you will by no means answer Me or let Me go. Hereafter the Son of Man will sit on the right hand of the power of God."

Then they all said, "Are You then the Son of God?"

And He said to them, "You rightly say that I am."

And they said, "What further testimony do we need? For we have heard it ourselves from His own mouth."

Then the whole multitude of them arose, bound Jesus, and led Him away from Caiaphas to the Praetorium and delivered Him to Pontius Pilate, the governor; and it was early morning.

Then Judas, His betrayer, seeing that Jesus had been condemned, was remorseful and brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders, saying, "I have sinned by betraying innocent blood."

And they said, "What is that to us? You see to it!"

Then he threw down the pieces of silver in the temple and departed and went and hanged himself. And falling headlong, he burst open in the middle and all his bowels gushed out.

But the chief priests took the silver pieces and said, "It is not lawful to put them into the treasury, because they are the price of blood." And they took counsel and bought with them the Potter's Field to bury strangers in. Therefore that field has been called the Field of Blood to this day.

Then was fulfilled what was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet, saying, "And they took the thirty pieces of silver, the value of Him who was priced, whom they of the children of Israel priced, and gave them for the potter's field, as the Lord directed me."

And the Jews themselves did not enter into the Praetorium lest they should be defiled, but that they might eat the Passover. Pilate then went out to them and said, "What accusation do you bring against this Man?"

They answered and said to him, "If He were not an evildoer, we would not have delivered Him up to you."

Then Pilate said to them, "You take Him, and judge Him according to your law."

Therefore the Jews said to him, "It is not lawful for us to put anyone to death," that the saying of Jesus might be fulfilled, which He spoke, signifying by what death He would die.

And they began to accuse Him, saying, "We found this Fellow perverting the nation and forbidding to pay taxes to Caesar, saying that He Himself is Christ, a King."

Then Pilate entered the Praetorium again, and called Jesus. Now Jesus stood before the governor, and the governor asked Him, saying, "Are You the king of the Jews?"

Jesus answered him, "Are you speaking for yourself on this, or did others tell you this about me?"

Pilate answered, "Am I a Jew? Your own nation and the chief priests have delivered You to me; what have you done?"

Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would fight so that I should not be delivered to the Jews; but now My kingdom is not from here."

Pilate therefore said to Him, "Are You a king then?"

Jesus answered and said to him, "It is as you say. You say rightly that I am a king. For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice."

Pilate said to Him, "What is truth?"

And when he had said this, he went out again to the Jews and said to the chief priests and the crowd, "I find no fault in this Man. I find no fault in Him at all."

And the chief priests accused Him of many things. And while He was being accused by the chief priests and elders, He answered nothing. Then Pilate asked Him again, saying, "Do You answer nothing? Do You not hear how many things they testify against You? See how many things they testify against You!"

But Jesus still answered nothing. He answered him not one word, so that Pilate, the governor, marveled greatly.

P Here ends our Passion History reading.

**C All we like sheep have gone astray,
and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.
By his wounds we are healed.**

Confession of Faith: 2nd Article of the Apostle's Creed (Luther's Catechism, Sydow p. 112)

**C "I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, Our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried;
He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead;
He ascended into heaven
and sits on the right hand of God, the Father Almighty;
from there He shall come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity,
and also true man, born of the virgin Mary is my Lord.**

**He has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person,
purchased and won me from all sin, from death,**

**and from the power of the devil, not with gold or silver,
but with His holy, precious blood and His innocent suffering and death.**

**He did this that I should be His very own, live under Him in His kingdom,
and serve Him in eternal righteousness, innocence, and joy;
just as He is risen from death, lives and reigns in eternity.**

This is most certainly true!”

Hymn of the Day: 544 O Love, How Deep

LSB 544

Sermon Text: John 18:1-11 (ESV)

When Jesus had spoken these words, he went out with his disciples across the brook Kidron, where there was a garden, which he and his disciples entered. ² Now Judas, who betrayed him, also knew the place, for Jesus often met there with his disciples. ³ So Judas, having procured a band of soldiers and some officers from the chief priests and the Pharisees, went there with lanterns and torches and weapons. ⁴ Then Jesus, knowing all that would happen to him, came forward and said to them, “Whom do you seek?” ⁵ They answered him, “Jesus of Nazareth.” Jesus said to them, “I am he.” Judas, who betrayed him, was standing with them. ⁶ When Jesus said to them, “I am he,” they drew back and fell to the ground. ⁷ So he asked them again, “Whom do you seek?” And they said, “Jesus of Nazareth.” ⁸ Jesus answered, “I told you that I am he. So, if you seek me, let these men go.” ⁹ This was to fulfill the word that he had spoken: “Of those whom you gave me I have lost not one.” ¹⁰ Then Simon Peter, having a sword, drew it and struck the high priest's servant and cut off his right ear. (The servant's name was Malchus.) ¹¹ So Jesus said to Peter, “Put your sword into its sheath; shall I not drink the cup that the Father has given me?”

Sermon Theme: “Return to the LORD” – Return from Betrayal

Notes:

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Offertory

LSB 956



Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new
a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way
from Thy pres - ence; and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va - tion;
and up - hold me with Thy free spir - it. A - men.

Text & Tune: Public Domain

Sermon Hymn: 430 *My Song is Love Unknown*

LSB 430

Offering *We offer our gifts to the Lord, remembering that He has first given to us that we might have to give to Him.*

Prayer of the Church *We bring our prayers to God.*

- P** With repentant hearts, we turn to You, O God in prayer, for the Church, the world, and all who are in need, trusting that You, O God are gracious and merciful to us in Jesus, abounding in steadfast love.

From all sin, from all error, from all evil;

From the crafts and assaults of the devil; from pain, injury, and death;

From pestilence and famine; from war and bloodshed; from sedition and from rebellion;

From storms and natural disasters; from all calamity by fire and water; and from everlasting death:

- C** **Good Lord, deliver us.**

P By the mystery of Your holy incarnation; by Your holy nativity;
By Your Baptism, fasting, and temptation; by Your agony and bloody sweat;
by Your cross and passion; by Your precious death and burial;
By Your glorious resurrection and ascension; and by the coming of the Holy Spirit,
the Comforter:

C We implore you to hear us and help us, good Lord.

P To rule and govern Your holy Christian Church; to preserve all pastors and
teachers of Your Church in the true knowledge and understanding of Your Holy
Word and to sustain them in godly living;
To put an end to all divisions and causes of offense; to bring into the way of truth
all who have erred and are deceived;
To defeat Satan and his evil schemes; to send faithful laborers into Your harvest;
and to accompany Your Word with Your grace and Spirit:

C We implore you to hear us and help us, good Lord.

P To raise those who fall and to strengthen those who stand; and to comfort and
help the weak-hearted and the distressed; to move in the hearts of those who
have wandered from You and have stayed away from Your house of worship to
“return to you” and be reminded once again that You are merciful and gracious,
forgiving, and abounding in steadfast love:

C We implore you to hear us and help us, good Lord.

P To give to all people peace; to preserve our land from discord and strife;
to give our country Your protection in every time of need;
To direct and defend our president and all who are in authority in every level of
our government; to bless and protect those who guard and defend us;
To watch over and help all who are in danger, in need, and in tribulation;
to protect and guide all who travel;
To grant all women with child, and all mothers with infants and young children,
increasing happiness in their blessings;
to defend all orphans and widows and provide for them;
To strengthen and keep all those who are sick and suffering;
to free those in bondage; and to have mercy on us all:

C We implore you to hear us and help us, good Lord.

P To forgive our enemies, persecutors, and slanderers and to turn their hearts to You; to give and preserve for our use the good fruits of the earth; and graciously to hear our prayers:

C **We implore you to hear us and help us, good Lord.**

P We now pray together Luther's Evening Prayer:

C **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 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 We now bring to You, O Lord, our personal confessions and prayers...

(silent prayer and personal confession)

Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Your Son, Jesus, Who also taught us to pray:

Lord's Prayer

LSB 209

C **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.**

Benediction *The blessing given by God for the blessing of His people (Numbers 6:24-26).*

P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give you peace.



C A-men, a-men, a - men.

Closing Hymn: 433 Glory be to Jesus *(please stand for last verse)*

LSB 433

Announcements



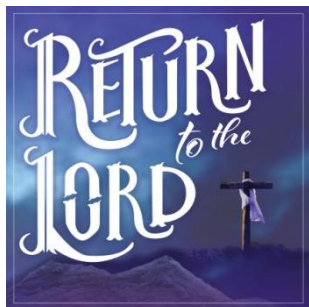
Welcome! We welcome all our visitors this evening.
Please sign our guest book and come worship with us again soon.

This Week: Thursday – **Board of Property Meeting – 5:30pm**
 Saturday – **Round Robin Grade School Basketball – Faith, Markesan, WI**
 ☉ **Daylight Saving Time Begins – Turn Clocks Ahead 1 hour** ☉

Church Cleaning: Team #9 (2/28-3/6); Team #10 (3/7-3/13)

Next Sunday: **Choir – 8am**
3/8/26 **Worship – 9am**
 Sunday School & Bible Class – 10:15am

Wednesday Lent Worship Services / Preaching Schedule (2/18 – 3/25) @ 6:30pm



Please make plans to join us for our Wednesday Lent worship services **at 6:30pm**. The theme of our Wednesday Lent series this year is **“Return to the Lord.”** The theme comes from Joel 2:13 “Return to the Lord your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love; and He relents over disaster” (Joel 2:13). God’s invitation and promise finds its fullness in Jesus Christ, who personifies and accomplishes all that God declares. During this season of Lent, we will consider this theme “Return to the Lord,” and examine how the call to return played out in practical ways for the

people who walked alongside Christ as He demonstrated and carried out God’s grace and mercy on our behalf, taking God’s wrath upon Himself, setting the stage for God to “turn and relent, and leave a blessing behind Him” (Joel 2:14).

Each sermon in this series focuses on a particular event in the Passion, with a special focus on the people involved in the event. We pray that by studying the events and people of various parts of Jesus’ Passion this helps us to see how we too have turned away from the Lord, and to reinforce and rejoice in God’s call for us to return to Him with all our heart.

Preaching at Messiah Next Wednesday:

- ✝ **March 11th – “Return to Prayer” – Pastor Terrel Kesterson** (Ascension, Batavia, IL)
- ✝ **March 18th – “Return from False Witness” – Pastor Andy Schaller**
(Luther Memorial, Fond du Lac, WI)
- ✝ **March 25th – “Return to the Kingdom of God” – Pastor Luke Bernthal**