

# MIDWEEK LENTEN WORSHIP SERVICE

6:30 PM – March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2026

**WELCOME!** THANK YOU FOR WORSHIPPING WITH US TONIGHT.

## OPENING HYMN #418

O Lord, Throughout These Forty Days

*TUNE: DUNDEE Text: © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship.*

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- 1 O Lord, throughout these forty days  
You prayed and kept the fast;  
Inspire repentance for our sin,  
And free us from our past.
- 2 You strove with Satan, and You won;  
Your faithfulness endured;  
Lend us Your nerve, Your skill and trust  
In God's eternal Word.
- 3 Though parched and hungry, yet You prayed  
And fixed Your mind above;  
So teach us to deny ourselves,  
Since we have known God's love.
- 4 Be with us through this season, Lord,  
And all our earthly days,  
That when the final Easter dawns,  
We join in heaven's praise.

## INVOCATION

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**C** Amen.

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

- P** Let us come before God together,  
acknowledging our sin and our need for His mercy.

**Silence for reflection**

**C** Merciful Father, You created us for life together, yet we confess that we often choose isolation over relationship, comfort over compassion, and familiarity over faithfulness. We have failed to love our neighbors, ignored the hurting, and guarded our own space instead of opening our hearts. Forgive us for the ways we have broken community through pride, fear, or indifference. For the sake of Jesus Christ, have mercy on us.

**P** Hear the good news.  
Jesus Christ did not come to condemn the broken but to restore them. He took our sin upon Himself, bore it to the cross, and rose to make us new.  
In the mercy of Almighty God, and by the command of our Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✝ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

## **HYMN #427**

In the Cross of Christ I Glory

*Text: Public domain*

- 1 In the cross of Christ I glory,  
    Tow'ring o'er the wrecks of time.  
All the light of sacred story  
    Gathers round its head sublime.
- 2 When the woes of life o'ertake me,  
    Hopes deceive, and fears annoy,  
Never shall the cross forsake me;  
    Lo, it glows with peace and joy.
- 3 When the sun of bliss is beaming  
    Light and love upon my way,  
From the cross the radiance streaming  
    Adds more luster to the day.
- 4 Bane and blessing, pain and pleasure  
    By the cross are sanctified;  
Peace is there that knows no measure,  
    Joys that through all time abide.

## FIRST READING

*Romans 12:9-15*

Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep.

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## RESPONSIVE READING

O Lord, You see those who live outside the circle.

**You draw near to the broken and the forgotten.**

You are not afraid of our wounds or our sin.

**Your mercy is greater than our shame.**

You touch what others avoid and restore what is lost.

**Make us a people shaped by Your grace.**

Gather us into Your healing love.

**And send us to reflect that love to others. Amen.**

## THE HOLY GOSPEL

*Luke 8:26-39*

Then they sailed to the country of the Gerasenes, which is opposite Galilee. When Jesus had stepped out on land, there met him a man from the city who had demons. For a long time he had worn no clothes, and he had not lived in a house but among the tombs. When he saw Jesus, he cried out and fell down before him and said with a loud voice, "What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, do not torment me." For he had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. (For many a time it had seized him. He was kept under guard and bound with chains and shackles, but he would break the bonds and be driven by the demon into the desert.) Jesus then asked him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Legion," for many demons had entered him. And they begged him not to command them to depart into the abyss.

Now a large herd of pigs was feeding there on the hillside, and they begged him to let them enter these. So he gave them permission. Then the demons came out of the man and entered the pigs, and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and were drowned.

When the herdsmen saw what had happened, they fled and told it in the city and in the country. Then people went out to see what had happened, and they came to Jesus and found the man from whom the demons had gone, sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind, and they were afraid. And those who had seen it told them how the demon-possessed man had been healed. Then all the people of the surrounding country of the Gerasenes asked him to depart from them, for they were seized with great fear. So he got into the boat and returned. The man from whom the demons had gone begged that he might be with him, but Jesus sent him away, saying, "Return to your home, and declare how much God has done for you." And he went away, proclaiming throughout the whole city how much Jesus had done for him.

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

### **HYMN OF THE DAY #852**

O God of Mercy, God of Might

*TUNE: DUNSTAN LSB 560/LW 397; Text: Public domain*

- 1 O God of mercy, God of might,  
In love and pity infinite,  
Teach us, as ever in Thy sight,  
To live our lives in Thee.
- 2 And Thou, who cam'st on earth to die  
That our lost world might live thereby,  
O hear us; for to Thee we cry,  
In hope, O Lord, to Thee.
- 3 Teach us the lesson Thou hast taught:  
To feel for those Thy blood hath bought,  
That ev'ry word and deed and thought  
May work a work for Thee.

- 4 All are redeemed, both far and wide,  
Since Thou, O Lord, for all hast died.  
Grant us the will and grace provide  
To love them all in Thee!
- 5 In sickness, sorrow, want, or care,  
May we each other's burdens share;  
May we, where help is needed, there  
Give help as unto Thee!
- 6 And may Thy Holy Spirit move  
All those who live to live in love  
Till Thou shalt greet in heav'n above  
All those who live in Thee.

## **SERMON**

### **THE OFFERING – WAYS TO GIVE**

- In the Offering Plate
- By Text 844-431-7278
- Scan the QR code.
- By mail: PO Box  
126, Pequot Lakes,  
MN 56472



Thank you!

### **PRAYERS OF THE EVENING**

- P** Holy God, holy and most gracious Father,  
**C** Have mercy and hear us.

### **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

- P** Let us pray,  
**P** Stir up, we implore you, your power, O Lord, and come  
that by your protection we may be rescued  
from the threatening perils of our sins and be saved  
by your mighty deliverance; for you live and reign  
with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God,  
now and forever.  
**C** Amen.

**P** We pray together;  
**C** We give thanks to you, heavenly Father,  
through Jesus Christ your dear Son,  
that you have this day so graciously protected us.  
We beg you to forgive us all our sins  
and the wrong which we have done.  
By your great mercy defend us  
from all our perils and dangers of this night.  
Into your hands we commend our bodies and souls  
and all that is ours. Let your holy angels have charge of us  
that the wicked one have no power over us. Amen

### **THE BLESSING**

**P** Let us bless the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

**P** The almighty and merciful Lord,  
the Father, the ✠ Son and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve us.

**C** Amen.

### **CLOSING HYMN #738**

Lord of All Hopefulness

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- 1 Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy,  
Whose trust, ever childlike, no cares could destroy:  
Be there at our waking, and give us, we pray,  
Your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.
- 2 Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith,  
Whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe:  
Be there at our labors, and give us, we pray,  
Your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.
- 3 Lord of all kindness, Lord of all grace,  
Your hands swift to welcome, Your arms to embrace:  
Be there at our homing, and give us, we pray,  
Your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.
- 4 Lord of all gentleness, Lord of all calm,  
Whose voice is contentment, whose presence is balm:  
Be there at our sleeping, and give us, we pray,  
Your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

## **GLORIA DEI LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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