

MIDWEEK LENT 2

MARCH 19, 2025

**congregation stands*

AS WE GATHER

In this service for Week 2 of Lent, we embrace the news that Jesus listens to us like no other and answers all our questions and concerns.

HYMN

COME MY SOUL, WITH EVERY CARE

LSB 779

***INVOCATION AND CALL TO WORSHIP**

- P In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
C **Amen.**
P May the God of endurance and encouragement grant us
C **To live in harmony with one another and in accord with Christ Jesus. (Romans 15:5)**
P So if there is any encouragement in Christ,
C **Any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit,**
P Any affection and sympathy,
C **Complete my joy by being of one mind,**
P Having the same love,
C **Being in full accord and of one mind. (Philippians 2:1-2)**
P Therefore encourage one another
C **And build one another up, just as you are doing. (1 Thessalonians 5:11)**

***CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

- P We gather together as friends knowing that we are heard by the Triune God. We gather together in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
C **Amen.**
P Answer me when I call, O God of my righteousness!
C **You have given me relief when I was in distress.**
P Be gracious to me
C **And hear my prayer. (Psalm 4:1)**

- P O Lord, you hear the desire of the afflicted;
C **You will strengthen their heart; you will incline your ear (Psalm 10:17)**
P I call upon you, for you will answer me, O God;
C **Incline your ear to me; hear my words. (Psalm 17:6)**
P Hear, O Lord, when I cry aloud;
C **Be gracious to me and answer me! (Psalm 27:7)**

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

- P Lord Jesus, life in this world leaves us disheartened and discouraged, lost and lonely. Come to the aid of your people with your friendship and love. Encourage us with your Word and your promises. Strengthen our faith to live for you alone. Grant us your Holy Spirit so that we have the courage we need to face all that we encounter in this life. Amen.
C **Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Jeremiah 29:10–14

¹⁰"For thus says the LORD: When seventy years are completed for Babylon, I will visit you, and I will fulfill to you my promise and bring you back to this place. ¹¹For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for wholeness and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. ¹²Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you. ¹³You will seek me and find me. When you seek me with all your heart, ¹⁴I will be found by you, declares the LORD, and I will restore your fortunes and gather you from all the nations and all the places where I have driven you, declares the LORD, and I will bring you back to the place from which I sent you into exile.

- A This is the Word of the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE READING

1 John 5:13–15

¹³I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God that you may know that you have eternal life. ¹⁴And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us. ¹⁵And if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests that we have asked of him.

- A This is the Word of the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

***GOSPEL READING**

John 3:1-17

- P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the third chapter.
C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

¹Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. ²This man came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with him." ³Jesus answered him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is

born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.” ⁴Nicodemus said to him, “How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born?” ⁵Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. ⁶That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’ ⁸The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.”

⁹Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” ¹⁰Jesus answered him, “Are you the teacher of Israel and yet you do not understand these things? ¹¹Truly, truly, I say to you, we speak of what we know, and bear witness to what we have seen, but you do not receive our testimony. ¹²If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you heavenly things? ¹³No one has ascended into heaven except he who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

SERMON HYMN

MY FAITH LOOKS UP TO THEE

LSB 702

SERMON

SAVIOR, SERVANT, FRIEND: LISTENER

OFFERING

*PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

P We are not worthy to come under your roof and enter into your presence, our Savior, Servant, Friend. And still you welcome us to come draw near to you in prayer. You promise that when we gather in your name, you will be present among us. And so, you encourage us to pray. Jesus, hear us now as we lift our prayers and raise our petitions to you.

C **Lord, hear our prayer.**

P Fortify our wavering hearts and encourage us with your unflinching love.

C **Lord, hear our prayer.**

P Encourage the leaders of this world to be about the work of peace and justice, fostering care for the sojourner, the lonely and the forgotten.

C **Lord, hear our prayer.**

P Build up the faith of those who are wandering in doubt, rescue those who are lost in sin and redeem all who are plagued by shame and guilt.

C **Lord, hear our prayer.**

P Strengthen the souls of those who are near the point of death or mourning the loss of loved ones.

C **Lord, hear our prayer.**

P Embolden our faith so that we can be witnesses for you in this world and that many may come to know you and your love.

C **Lord, hear our prayer.**

- P Give hope and joy to your Church so that we can faithfully live as the Body of Christ amongst our neighbors.
- C **Lord, hear our prayer and encourage us as only you can. Amen.**

***LORD’S PRAYER**

***BENEDICAMUS**

- P Let us bless the Lord.
- C **Thanks be to God.**

***BENEDICTION**

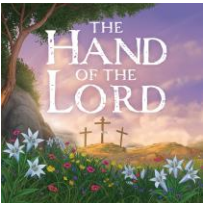
- P The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve you.
- C **Amen.**

HYMN TO DEPART LORD OF GLORY, YOU HAVE BOUGHT US LSB 851, vs. 1, 2, 4

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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		Wed. March 19	Wed. March 26
Meal	5:15pm	Supper served by: TLO Quilters	Supper served by: Church Council
Musician	6:30pm	Diane Streich	Diane Streich
Cantor	6:30pm	Andy Koch	Dave Workman
Altar Guild	6:30pm	Roxanne and Gary Foley	Roxanne and Gary Foley
Elder(s)	6:30pm	Open	Bill Breitingner
Reader	6:30pm	Dan Schield	Jim Kohn
Usher Team	6:30pm	Andy Olson	Open
Acolyte	6:30pm	Joshua Jebin	Joshua Jebin
Projection	6:30pm	Sebastian Ness	Jean Peterson
Live Stream	6:30pm	Jim Nicklas	Jim Nicklas



Pick up a Lent devotion

Lent devotions are available for you in the narthex. While you’re at it, share one with a friend — there’s no better way to let them know you care than to introduce them to Jesus.