

# Sermon for the Third Sunday in Lent

**Date:** March 8, 2026

**Location:** Zion – Colby, WI

**Old Testament:** Exodus 17:1–7

**Epistle Reading:** Romans 5:1–8

**Gospel Reading:** John 4:5–26

**Sermon Series:** Hope in the Dark

**Sermon Title:** When You're Worn Out

**Sermon Text:** Habakkuk 2:3–4

## Hymns:

LSB 609 – Jesus Sinners Doth Receive (v. 1,2,5)

LSB 439 – O Dearest Jesus, What Law Hast Thou Broken (v. 6)

LSB 632 – O Jesus, Blessed Lord, to Thee

LSB 849 – Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness

## Distribution:


LSB 425 – When I Survey the Wondrous Cross


LSB 918 – Guide Me, O Thou Great Redeemer

LSB 637 – Draw Near and Take the Body of the Lord

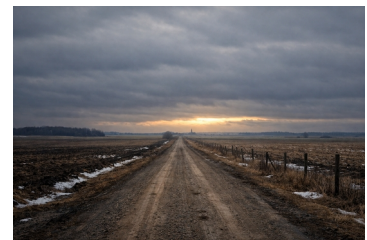
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*(No Internet or Smart Phone needed)*



**Text: Habakkuk 2:3–4**

For still the vision awaits its appointed time;

it hastens to the end—it will not lie.

If it seems slow, wait for it;

it will surely come; it will not delay.

“Behold, his soul is puffed up; it is not upright within him,  
but the righteous shall live by his faith.

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Grace and peace, in Jesus' name. Amen.

## Opening – Faith After It Has Kept Going

Lent began with distance. God felt far away. Last week, doubt crept in while we waited. Today names the next step many of us recognize. This is faith after it has kept going longer than it thought it could. This is trust running on empty.



Habakkuk stands here with us. He is not shouting anymore. He is watching. He is waiting. He is tired. The questions remain, yet the strength to keep asking them feels thin.

### I. Worn Out in the Wilderness



Israel reaches Rephidim with no water.<sup>1</sup> They have seen the sea part. They have eaten Manna. Still the road keeps going, and the strength to keep trusting fades.

Their question cuts straight through the exhaustion: “*Is the Lord among us or not?*” This isn’t rebellion. This is weariness speaking. Weariness tempts us to measure God by circumstances. Silence begins to sound like absence. Tired faith draws conclusions it would never make when well rested.

### II. Habakkuk Knows This Place

Habakkuk knows this waiting. Justice delays. Prayer repeats itself without relief. God doesn’t give him answers yet. He gives him a posture: “*The vision awaits its time... the righteous live by faithfulness.*”<sup>2</sup>



### III. Jesus Sits With the Worn-Out



John tells us something easy to miss: “*Jesus, wearied as He was from His journey, sat down by the well.*”<sup>3</sup> The Son of God sits because He is tired.

A woman comes at noon, avoiding eyes, carrying a life worn down by repetition and shame. She comes hoping not to be seen.

We recognize this posture. We come quietly. We carry emptiness we cannot fix. Jesus doesn’t demand strength. He gives living water. Not to end the road, but to sustain faith along it.

1 Exodus 17:1–7  
2 Habakkuk 2:3–4  
3 John 4:6

## IV. Strength Given Where Strength Is Gone

Paul names the Gospel plainly: “*While we were still weak, Christ died for us.*”<sup>4</sup> Love arrives where strength is gone. Here the Church confesses: we are justified apart from works.<sup>5</sup> Faith receives; it does not produce. The Holy Spirit sustains faith when we cannot.<sup>6</sup> Weariness does not disqualify faith. Weakness does not drive Christ away.

## V. The Lord Is Still Present

Habakkuk’s anchor remains: “*The Lord is in His holy temple.*”<sup>7</sup> God’s presence does not rise and fall with our energy. He remains. Worn-out faith is still faith. Jesus sustains those who cannot sustain themselves.




## Conclusion – Rest That Still Waits




Lent doesn’t rush answers. Waiting continues. Questions remain open. This is not failure. This is formation. Jesus is present before circumstances change. Living water is given even while the road stays long. We are not yet done with the song. That comes later.

Next week the darkness deepens. What happens when darkness is all we see?





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**3:16-Sermons by Phone: 715-316-8149** (John 3:16) *No Internet or smartphone needed*  
**5:17-Prayer Requests: 715-390-0517** (1 Thessalonians 5:17) *Your prayer request will be forward to our prayer team.*

- 4 Romans 5:6–8
- 5 Augsburg Confession IV
- 6 Small Catechism – Creed, Third Article
- 7 Habakkuk 2:20