

FOURTH MID-WEEK LENTEN SERVICE

March 11, 2026

As We Gather

Tonight's message continues our Lenten journey through the night. Psalm 130 gives voice to faith that waits—honestly, patiently, and trustingly—when relief does not come quickly. As we listen, we are reminded that Christ Himself entered the deepest night for us, securing forgiveness and hope even before the morning arrives.

✠ WE PREPARE TO WORSHIP ✠

Hymn All Glory, Laud, and Honor (LSB 442) *sts. ref–1, 4*

Opening Sentences *Psalm 32:1; Matthew 25:29; Exodus 12:13*

P Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven,
C **whose sin is covered.**

P For to everyone who has will more be given,
C **and he will have an abundance.**

P I will pass over you,
C **and no plague will befall you to destroy you.**

Psalm *Psalm 32*

P Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven,
whose sin is covered.
C **Blessed is the man against whom the LORD counts no iniquity,
and in whose spirit there is no deceit.**

P For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away
through my groaning all day long.
C **For day and night Your hand was heavy upon me;
my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.**

P I acknowledged my sin to You,
and I did not cover my iniquity;
C **I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD,"
and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

P Therefore let everyone who is godly
offer prayer to You at a time when You may be found;
surely in the rush of great waters, they shall not reach him.
C **You are a hiding place for me;
You preserve me from trouble;
You surround me with shouts of deliverance.**

P I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go;
I will counsel you with My eye upon you.
C **Be not like a horse or a mule, without understanding,
which must be curbed with bit and bridle,
or it will not stay near you.**

P Many are the sorrows of the wicked,
C **but steadfast love surrounds the one who trusts in the LORD.**

P Be glad in the LORD, and rejoice, O righteous,
C **and shout for joy, all you upright in heart!**

First Reading

Exodus 17:1–7

All the congregation of the people of Israel moved on from the wilderness of Sin by stages, according to the commandment of the LORD, and camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. Therefore the people quarreled with Moses and said, "Give us water to drink." And Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?" But the people thirsted there for water, and the people grumbled against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us up out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and our livestock with thirst?" So Moses cried to the LORD, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me." And the LORD said to Moses, "Pass on before the people, taking with you some of the elders of Israel, and take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. Behold, I will stand before you there on the

rock at Horeb, and you shall strike the rock, and water shall come out of it, and the people will drink." And Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. And he called the name of the place Massah and Meribah, because of the quarreling of the people of Israel, and because they tested the LORD by saying, "Is the LORD among us or not?"

L O Lord, have mercy on us.
C **Thanks be to God.**

Second Reading *Romans 5:1–8*

Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. More than that, we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die— but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

L O Lord, have mercy on us.
C **Thanks be to God.**

Third Reading *John 4:5–26*

[Jesus] came to a town of Samaria called Sychar, near the field that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there; so Jesus, wearied as he was from his journey, was sitting beside the well. It was about the sixth hour.

There came a woman of Samaria to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." (For his disciples had gone away into the city to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask for a drink from me, a woman of Samaria?" (For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.) Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,'

you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." The woman said to him, "Sir, you have nothing to draw water with, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our father Jacob? He gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did his sons and his livestock." Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty forever. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life." The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I will not be thirsty or have to come here to draw water."

Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come here." The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband'; for you have had five husbands, and the one you now have is not your husband. What you have said is true." The woman said to him, "Sir, I perceive that you are a prophet. Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, but you say that in Jerusalem is the place where people ought to worship." Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming (he who is called Christ). When he comes, he will tell us all things." Jesus said to her, "I who speak to you am he."

L O Lord, have mercy on us.
C **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn

O Dearest Jesus, What Law Hast Thou Broken
(LSB 439) *st. 7*

Sermon Series: Songs in the Night

Sermon Title: Still Waiting for Morning *John 2:13–22*

Offering **Built on the Rock (LSB 645)** *sts. 1–2*

1 Built on the Rock the Church shall stand
Even when steeples are falling.
Crumbled have spires in ev'ry land;
Bells still are chiming and calling,
Calling the young and old to rest,
But above all the souls distressed,
Longing for rest everlasting.

2 Surely in temples made with hands
God, the Most High, is not dwelling;
High above earth His temple stands,
All earthly temples excelling.
Yet He who dwells in heav'n above
Chooses to live with us in love,
Making our bodies His temple.

Text: Nikolai Fredrik Severin Grundtvig, 1783–1872, abr.; tr. Carl Döving, 1867–1937, alt.
Text: Public domain

Prayers

P Let us pray for all people who are unsure of God's hearing their prayers.

C **Hear their cries, O Lord, grant them courage as You accompany, and answer them speedily.**

P Let us ask God to strengthen the faith of those who only recently have known Him.

C **Reveal Yourself gently to them, Lord Jesus, through the caring of Your church.**

P Let us pray for those who feel trapped by circumstances beyond their control.

C **Assure them that You know their dilemma and that the deliverer has come: Jesus, our Savior and Lord.**

P Let us pray for all who fear God's punishment.

C **Show them mercy, O Lord, as You passed over Your Old Testament people. Grant them peace through Your presence.**

P Let us pray for all who know no good ways to turn, are unsure of the truth, and await only their deaths.

C **Tell them again, Lord Jesus, that You alone are the way, and the truth, and the life.**

P Finally, let us pray for all who are tired from opposition in the world around them and from their own conflicts within themselves.

C **Awaken in them a sense of Your accompanying them on their journey until that day when they and we join those who have gone before us at Your heavenly banquet hall.**

P O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy, be gracious to all who have gone astray from Your ways

C **and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of Your Word; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord.**

P O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works,

C **give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness;**

P through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**



✠ THE LORD'S SUPPER ✠

We follow the liturgy on Pages 194-202 in the hymnal.

Preface *LSB 194*

Proper Preface

Sanctus *LSB 195*

Lord's Prayer

The Words of Our Lord

Pax Domini

Agnus Dei *LSB 198*

Distribution Hymns

The King of Love My Shepherd Is (LSB 709)
Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways (LSB 707)
Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness (LSB 849)

Sit

Lord's Supper Dismissal

P Now may this eating and drinking, of our Savior's precious body and blood, Strengthen you, preserve you, and keep you in the one true Christian faith that leads you to eternal life. Know in peace, and joy, that your sins are ✢ forgiven you.

C **Amen.**

Stand

Nunc Dimittis *LSB 199*

Thanksgiving *LSB 200*

Post-Communion Thanksgiving

Salutation *LSB 201*

Benedicamus *LSB 202*

Benediction *LSB 202*

Closing Hymn Built on the Rock (LSB 645) *sts. 3–5*

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