

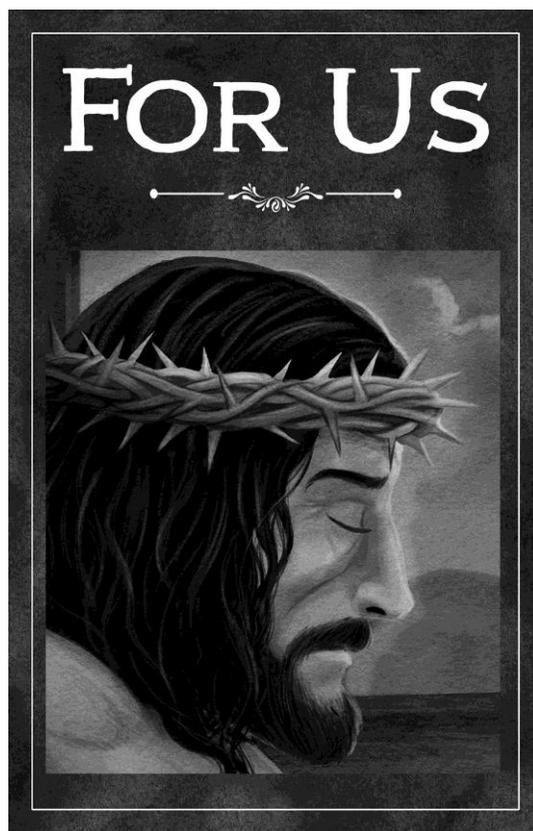


*Bethlehem Lutheran Church—William Penn
Founded 1860—Lutheran Church Missouri Synod*

THIRD WEDNESDAY IN LENT

MARCH 11, 2026

7:00 PM



Pastor

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Ushers

Kevin Harrington

David Hodge

Keith Huber

Craig Kankel

Acolyte

Michael Hinze

Third Wednesday in Lent
March 11, 2026 – 7:00 PM

Compline: Prayer at the Close of the Day

Order of Service: *Lutheran Service Book*, pp 253-259



The congregation assembles in silence.

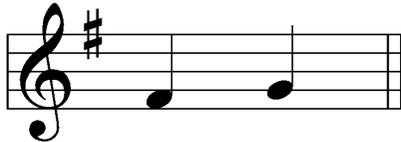
FOR US HE SEEKS

Jesus talks all about seeking us in our texts this week. He does not wait passively until we get up the gumption to ask Him for help. Nor does He act out of selfish gain, like our health-care system seems to do so often today. Praying, teaching, working. In all these things, Jesus seeks us out and looks for ways to help us. This work is often overlooked because it is so ordinary. Water, bread and wine, the folly of preaching. In all these ordinary works, Jesus continues His ministry among us. This ministry of forgiveness means that Jesus continues to strengthen and help us.

Stand

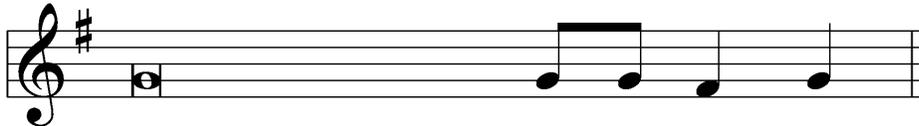
LSB 253

P The Lord Almighty grant us a quiet night and peace at the last.



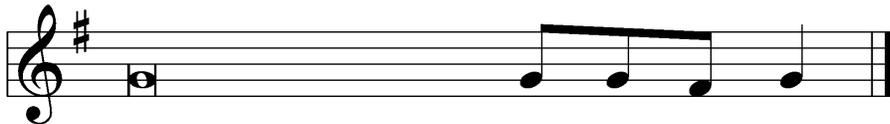
C A - men.

P It is good to give thanks to the Lord,



C to sing praise to Your name, O Most High;

P to herald Your love in the morning,



C Your truth at the close of the day.

✠ CONFESSIO ✠

LSB 254

P Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence for self-examination.

P Holy and gracious God,

C **I confess that I have sinned against You this day. Some of my sin I know—the thoughts and words and deeds of which I am ashamed—but some is known only to You. In the name of Jesus Christ I ask forgiveness. Deliver and restore me that I may rest in peace.**

P By the mercy of God we are redeemed by Jesus Christ, and in Him we are forgiven. We rest now in His peace and rise in the morning to serve Him.

C **Amen.**

✠ PSALMODY ✠

Psalm 80:1-7

Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, You who lead Joseph like a flock!

You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth.

Before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh, stir up Your might and come to save us!

Restore us, O God; let Your face shine, that we may be saved!

O LORD God of hosts,

how long will You be angry with Your people's prayers?

You have fed them with the bread of tears and given them tears to drink in full measure.

You make us an object of contention for our neighbors, and our enemies laugh among themselves.

Restore us, O God of hosts;

let Your face shine, that we may be saved!

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Sit

OFFICE HYMN

Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness

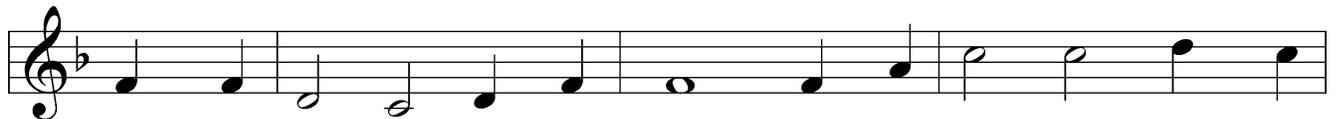
LSB 849



1 Praise the One who breaks the dark - ness With a lib - er -
2 Praise the One who blessed the chil - dren With a strong, yet
3 Let us praise the Word In - car - nate, Christ, who suf - fered



at - ing light; Praise the One who frees the pris - 'ners,
gen - tle, word; Praise the One who drove out de - mons
in our place. Je - sus died and rose vic - to - rious



Turn - ing blind - ness in - to sight. Praise the One who preached the
With the pierc - ing, two - edged sword. Praise the One who brings cool
That we may know God by grace. Let us sing for joy and



Gos - pel, Heal - ing ev - 'ry dread dis - ease, Calm - ing
wa - ter To the des - ert's burn - ing sand; From this
glad - ness, See - ing what our God has done; Let us



storms, and feed - ing thou - sands With the ver - y Bread of peace.
Well comes liv - ing wa - ter, Quench - ing thirst in ev - 'ry land.
praise the true Re - deem - er, Praise the One who makes us one.

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✠ PASSION READING III: THE PALACE OF THE HIGH PRIEST ✠

Portions selected from Matthew 26:15-27:66, Mark 14:12-15:47, Luke 22:7-23:56, and John 13:1-19:42, arranged chronologically to tell the story of the arrest, trials, suffering, crucifixion, death, and burial of our Lord Jesus.

Events occur on Thursday and Friday, 13-14 Nissan (April 2-3), 33AD, in and around Jerusalem

Those who had arrested Jesus brought him to the high priest's house, where the scribes and elders were assembled. Peter followed him afar off, and so did another disciple. That disciple was known to the high priest and went in with Jesus into the palace of the high priest, but Peter stood outside at the door. So that other disciple, who was known to the high priest, went out and spoke to the doorkeeper and brought Peter in. He went in and sat with the servants to see the end. He was warming himself at the fire they had kindled in the middle of the courtyard.

Meanwhile, the chief priests and the whole council were seeking evidence that might make the case for a death sentence, but they could not find any. Many bore false witness against him, but their statements did not agree. Two stepped forward and said, "We heard him say, 'I shall destroy this temple made with hands and after three days I shall build another, not made with hands.'" But even on this point their evidence did not agree.

Then the high priest stood up, moved to the center, and put this question to Jesus, "Do you have no answer? What is this evidence they have given against you?" But he was silent and gave no answer.

Again the high priest put a question to him and said, "Are you the Christ, the Son of the Blessed?"

Jesus said, "I am. You will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of God's power and coming with the clouds of heaven."

The high priest tore his garments and said, "Do we still need any witnesses? You have heard this blasphemy. What is your opinion?" They all agreed that he was deserving of death.

Then some of them began to spit on him; they blindfolded him, struck him, and said to him, "Prophecy to us, O Christ, who is it that struck you?" The guards beat him as they took him away.

Meanwhile Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard. One of the maidservants of the high priest came and saw Peter warming himself. She looked at him closely as he sat in the light of the fire, and said, "You also were along with the man from Nazareth, that Jesus."

Peter denied it and said, "I do not know what you mean." He went out to the forecourt.

Another maidservant saw him there and said to those who were standing around, "This man was with Jesus of Nazareth."

Peter denied it again with an oath, "I do not know the man."

A little later those standing around said to Peter, "Surely you are one of them. You are a Galilean. Your accent gives you away."

Peter started calling down curses on himself and swore, "I do not know the man."

And immediately while he was still speaking, the cock crowed a second time, and the Lord turned and looked on Peter. Then Peter remembered that Jesus had said to him, "Before the cock crows twice, you will deny me three times." Peter broke down, and went out, and wept bitterly.

As soon as it was morning the chief priests with the elders and the scribes held the court session with all the Sanhedrin. Then they bound him, led him away, and turned him over to Pilate. Then Judas, who had betrayed him, when he saw that he was condemned, was sorry and brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders, saying, "I have sinned. I have betrayed innocent blood."

They said, "What is that to us? That is your affair." Judas threw down the pieces of silver in the temple and departed. He went and hanged himself.

The chief priests took the silver pieces and said, "It is not lawful to put them into the treasury, because it is the price of blood." They took counsel and bought with them the potter's field to bury strangers in. That is why to this day that field has been called "the field of blood."

In this way was fulfilled what was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet, saying, "They took the thirty pieces of silver, the price of him on whom a price had been set by the children of Israel, and gave them for the potter's field."

HYMN OF THE DAY

O Love, How Deep

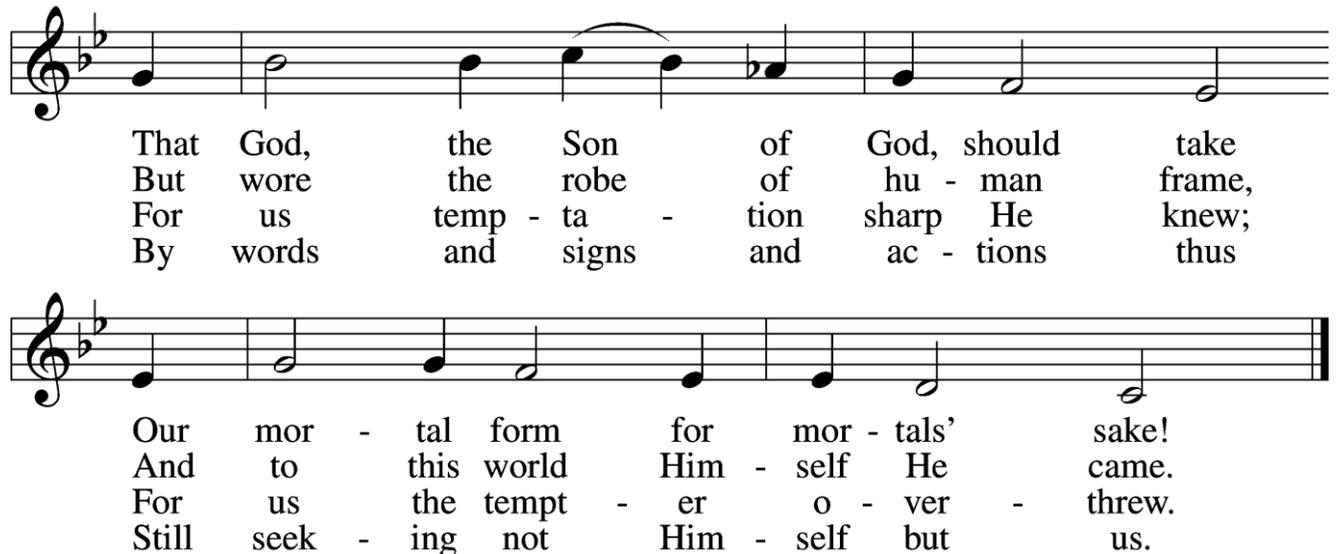
LSB 544 sts. 1-4



1 O love, how deep, how broad, how high,
2 He sent no an - gel to our race,
3 For us bap - tized, for us He bore
4 For us He prayed; for us He taught;



Be - yond all thought and fan - ta - sy,
Of high - er or of low - er place,
His ho - ly fast and hun - gered sore;
For us His dai - ly works He wrought,



That God, the Son of God, should take
But wore the robe of hu - man frame,
For us temp - ta - tion sharp He knew;
By words and signs and ac - tions thus

Our mor - tal form for mor - tals' sake!
And to this world Him - self He came.
For us the tempt - er o - ver - threw.
Still seek - ing not Him - self but us.

Text: attr. Thomas à Kempis, 1380–1471; tr. Benjamin Webb, 1819–85, alt. Tune: English, 15th cent. Text: Public domain

✠ SERMON ✠
Still Seeking Us
Mark 1:35-39

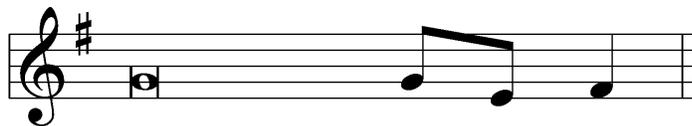
A reading from the first chapter of Mark.

³⁵And rising very early in the morning, while it was still dark, He departed and went out to a desolate place, and there He prayed. ³⁶And Simon and those who were with Him searched for Him, ³⁷and they found Him and said to Him, “Everyone is looking for You.” ³⁸And He said to them, “Let us go on to the next towns, that I may preach there also, for that is why I came out.” ³⁹And He went throughout all Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and casting out demons.

Stand

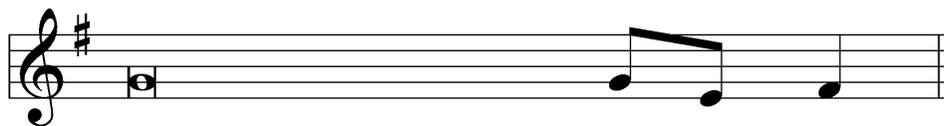
✠ PRAYER ✠
LSB 256

P Hear my prayer, O Lord;



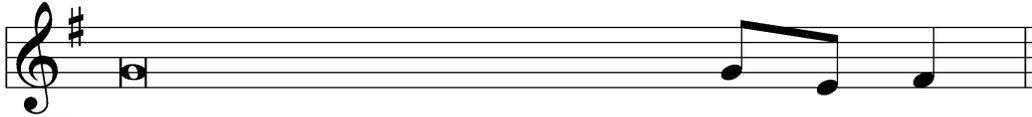
C listen to my cry.

P Keep me as the apple of Your eye;



C hide me in the shadow of Your wings.

P In righteousness I shall see You;



C when I awake, Your presence will give me joy.

P Be present, merciful God, and protect us through the hours of this night, so that we who are wearied by the changes and chances of life may find our rest in You; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

P O Lord, support us all the day long of this troubled life, until the shadows lengthen and the evening comes and the busy world is hushed, the fever of life is over, and our work is done. Then, Lord, in Your mercy grant us a safe lodging and a holy rest and peace at the last; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

P Be our light in the darkness, O Lord, and in Your great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night; for the love of Your only Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

P Visit our dwellings, O Lord, and drive from them all the snares of the enemy; let Your holy angels dwell with us to preserve us in peace; and let Your blessing be on us always; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

P Eternal God, the hours both of day and night are Yours, and to You the darkness is no threat. Be present, we pray, with those who labor in these hours of night, especially those who watch and work on behalf of others. Grant them diligence in their watching, faithfulness in their service, courage in danger, and competence in emergencies. Help them to meet the needs of others with confidence and compassion; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

P Abide with us, Lord, for it is toward evening, and the day is far spent. Abide with us and with Your whole Church. Abide with us at the end of the day, at the end of our life, at the end of the world. Abide with us with Your grace and goodness, with Your holy Word and Sacrament, with Your strength and blessing. Abide with us when the night of affliction and temptation comes upon us, the night of fear and despair, the night when death draws near. Abide with us and with all the faithful, now and forever.

C Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

LSB 162

P Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

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.

NUNC DIMITTIS

LSB 199

C Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant de - part in peace ac -
 cord - ing to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,
 which Thou hast pre - pared be - fore the face of all people,
 a light to light - en the Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of Thy
 peo - ple Is - ra - el. Glo - ry be to the Father and
 to the Son and to the Ho - ly Ghost; as it was in the beginning,
 is now, and ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A - men.

BENEDICTION

LSB 259

P The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless you and keep you.

C Amen.

Sit

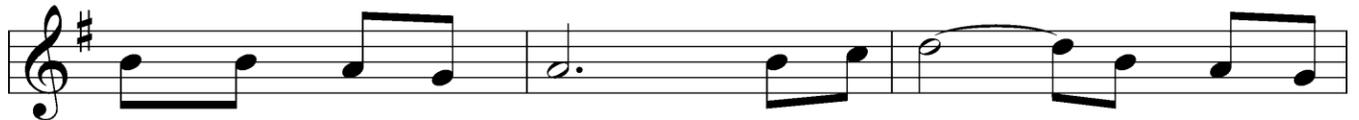
CLOSING HYMN

Stay with Us

LSB 879



1	Stay	with	us,	till	night	has	come:	Our	praise	to
2	Walk	with	us,	our	spir - its	sigh:	Hear	when	our	
3	Walk	with	us,	the	road	will	bend:	Make	all	our
4	Talk	with	us,	till	we	be - hold	A	joy - ful		
5	Stay	with	us,	till	day	is	done:	No	tears	nor



You	this	day	be	sung.	Bless	our	bread,	O - pen	our	
wea - ry	spir - its	cry,	Feel	a - gain	Our	loss,	our			
weep - ing,	wail - ing	end.	Wipe	our	tears,	For - give	our			
life	You	will	un - fold:	Heal	our	eyes	To	see	the	
dark	shall	dim	the	sun.	Cheer	the	heart,	Your	grace	im -



eyes:	Je - sus,	be	our	great	sur - prise.	
pain:	Je - sus,	take	us	to	Your	side.
fears:	Je - sus,	lift	the	heav - y	cross.	
prize:	Je - sus,	take	us	to	the	light.
part:	Je - sus,	bring	e - ter - nal	life.		

Text: Herbert F. Brokering, 1926–2009 Tune: Walter L. Pelz, 1926 Text and tune: © 1990 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110005013



Bells & Silent Prayer

Please remain seated while the acolyte extinguishes the altar candles.

The offering and attendance cards will be gathered at the door.

2026 Lent, Holy Week, and Easter Schedule



DATE	TIME	SERVICE
<i>Wednesday, March 11</i>	<i>7:00 PM</i>	<i>Wednesday Lent Worship</i>
<i>Sunday, March 15</i>	<i>10:15 AM</i>	<i>Fourth Sunday in Lent</i>
<i>Wednesday, March 18</i>	<i>7:00 PM</i>	<i>Wednesday Lent Worship</i>
<i>Sunday, March 22</i>	<i>10:15 AM</i>	<i>Fifth Sunday in Lent</i>
<i>Wednesday, March 25</i>	<i>7:00 PM</i>	<i>Wednesday Lent Worship</i>
<i>Sunday, March 29</i>	<i>10:15 AM</i>	<i>Palm Sunday with Confirmation</i>
<i>Thursday, April 2</i>	<i>7:00 PM</i>	<i>Holy (Maundy) Thursday</i>
<i>Friday, April 3</i>	<i>7:30 PM</i>	<i>Good Friday Tenebrae</i>
<i>Sunday, April 5</i>	<i>7:00 AM</i>	<i>Easter Sunrise Service (Amphitheater)</i>
	<i>8:00 AM</i>	<i>Easter Breakfast</i>
	<i>9:00 AM</i>	<i>Sunday School, Adult Bible Class</i>
	<i>9:30 AM</i>	<i>Easter Egg Hunt</i>
	<i>10:15 AM</i>	<i>Easter Celebration Service</i>