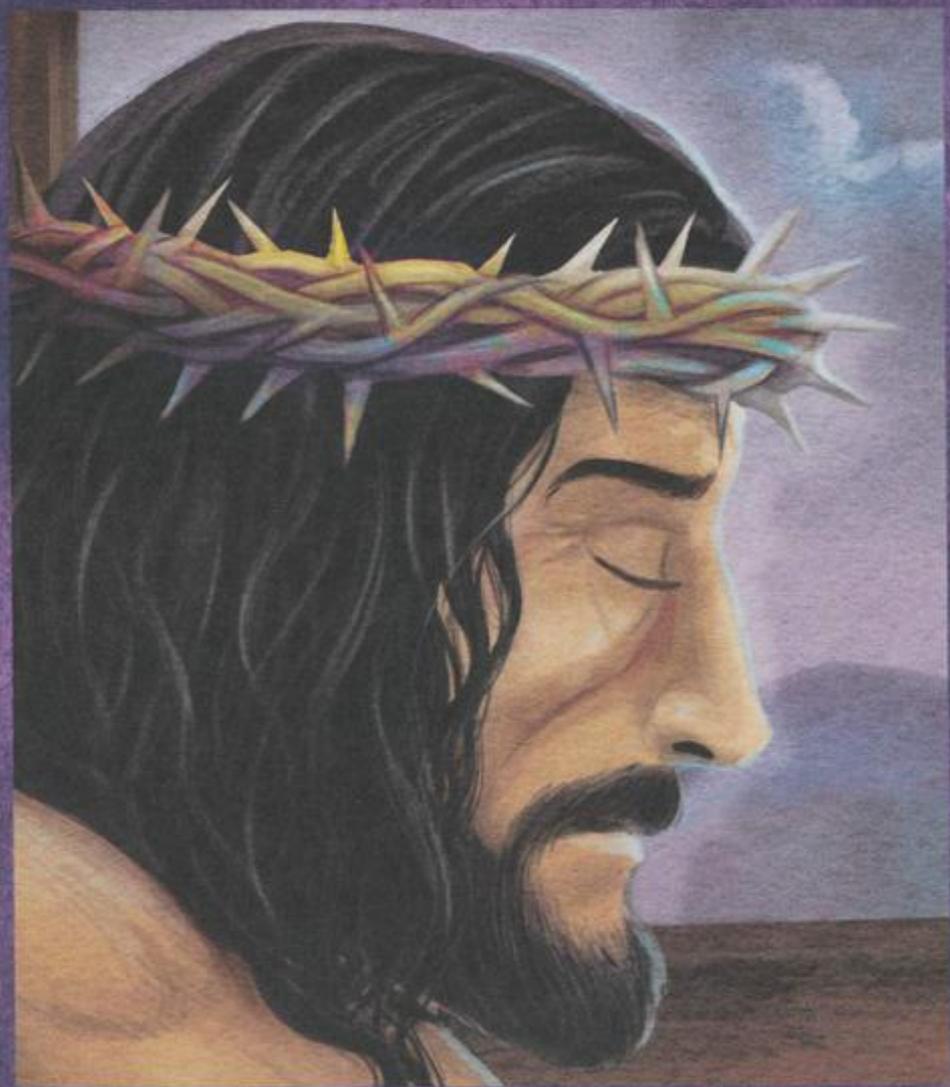


FOR US



ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH
22130 Ottawa Rd. Apple Valley, CA. 92308
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 1645, Apple Valley, CA 92307
Phone: (760) 247-7392, FAX: (760) 247-9014
Pastor@ascensionav.org; office@ascensionav.org
Website: www.ascensionav.org
Rev. James Harris, Pastor

LENT MID-WEEK THREE
1:00 p.m. March 11, 2026

MIDWEEK OF LENT 3

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.

OPENING SENTENCES

LSB, p. 229

- P** O Lord, open my lips,
C and my mouth will declare Your praise.
- P** Make haste, O God, to deliver me;
C make haste to help me, O Lord.
- C** **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.
Praise to You, O Christ, Lamb of our salvation.

+ PSALMODY +

PSALM

Psalm 80:1-7

- P** Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, You who lead Joseph like a flock!
C **You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth.**
- P** Before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh, stir up Your might and come to save us!
C **Restore us, O God; let Your face shine, that we may be saved!**

P O LORD God of hosts,

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

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

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

P Restore us, O God of hosts;

C 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.

423 Jesus, Refuge of the Weary



1 Je - sus, ref - uge of the wea - ry, Blest Re - deem - er,
2 Do we pass that cross un - heed - ing, Breath - ing no re -
3 Je - sus, may our hearts be burn - ing With more fer - vent



whom we love, Foun - tain in life's des - ert drea - ry, Sav - ior
pen - tant vow, Though we see You wound - ed, bleed - ing, See Your
love for You; May our eyes be ev - er turn - ing To be -



from the world a - bove: Of - ten have Your eyes, of - fend - ed,
thorn - en - cir - cled brow? Yet Your sin - less death has brought us
hold Your cross a - new Till in glo - ry, part - ed nev - er



Gazed up - on the sin - ner's fall; Yet up - on the
Life e - ter - nal, peace, and rest; On - ly what Your
From the bless - ed Sav - ior's side, Grav - en in our



cross ex - tend - ed, You have borne the pain of all.
grace has taught us Calms the sin - ner's deep dis - tress.
hearts for - ev - er, Dwell the cross, the Cru - ci - fied.

+ READINGS +

READING

Romans 10:8–17

P A reading from the tenth chapter of Romans.

⁸But what does it say? “The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart” (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); ⁹because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.

¹¹For the Scripture says, “Everyone who believes in Him will not be put to shame.” ¹²For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing His riches on all who call on Him. ¹³For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

¹⁴But how are they to call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in Him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? ¹⁵And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!” ¹⁶But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, “Lord, who has believed what he has heard from us?” ¹⁷So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

READING

Mark 1:35–39

P 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.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

P The Passion of Our Lord according to St. Mark, the fourteenth and fifteenth chapters.

⁵³And they led Jesus to the high priest. And all the chief priests and the elders and the scribes came together. ⁵⁴And Peter had followed Him at a distance, right into the courtyard of the high priest. And he was sitting with the guards and warming himself at the fire. ⁵⁵Now the chief priests and the whole Council were seeking testimony against Jesus to put Him to death, but they found none. ⁵⁶For many bore false witness against Him, but their testimony did not agree. ⁵⁷And some stood up and bore false witness against Him, saying, ⁵⁸“We heard Him say, ‘I will destroy this temple that is made with hands, and in three days I will build another, not made with hands.’” ⁵⁹Yet even about this their testimony did not agree. ⁶⁰And the high priest stood up in the midst and asked Jesus, “Have You no answer to make? What is it that these men testify against You?” ⁶¹But He remained silent and made no answer. Again the high priest asked Him, “Are You the Christ, the Son of the Blessed?” ⁶²And Jesus said, “I am, and you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power, and coming with the clouds of heaven.” ⁶³And the high priest tore his garments and said, “What further witnesses do we need? ⁶⁴You have heard His blasphemy. What is your decision?” And they all condemned Him as deserving death. ⁶⁵And some began to spit on Him and to cover His face and to strike Him, saying to Him, “Prophecy!” And the guards received Him with blows.

⁶⁶And as Peter was below in the courtyard, one of the servant girls of the high priest came, ⁶⁷and seeing Peter warming himself, she looked at him and said, “You also were with the Nazarene, Jesus.” ⁶⁸But he denied it, saying, “I neither know nor understand what you mean.” And he went out into the gateway and the rooster crowed. ⁶⁹And the servant girl saw him and began again to say to the bystanders, “This man is one of them.” ⁷⁰But again he denied it. And after a little while the bystanders again said to Peter, “Certainly you are one of them, for you are a Galilean.” ⁷¹But he began to invoke a curse on himself and to swear, “I do not know this man of whom you speak.” ⁷²And immediately the rooster crowed a second time. And Peter remembered how Jesus had said to him, “Before the rooster crows twice, you will deny Me three times.” And he broke down and wept.

^{15:1}And as soon as it was morning, the chief priests held a consultation with the elders and scribes and the whole Council. And they bound Jesus and led Him away and delivered Him over to Pilate. ²And Pilate asked Him, “Are You the King of the Jews?” And He answered him, “You have said so.” ³And the chief priests accused Him of many things. ⁴And Pilate again asked Him, “Have You no answer to make? See how many charges they bring against You.” ⁵But Jesus made no further answer, so that Pilate was amazed.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

LENT RESPONSORY

LSB, p. 231

- P** Deliver me, O Lord, my God, for You are the God of my salvation.
- C** Rescue me from my enemies, protect me from those who rise against me.
- P** In You, O Lord, do I put my trust, leave me not, O Lord, my God.
- C** Rescue me from my enemies, protect me from those who rise against me.
- P** Deliver me, O Lord, my God, for You are the God of my salvation.
- C** Rescue me from my enemies, protect me from those who rise against me.

544 O Love, How Deep

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 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

+ CANTICLE +

ANTIPHON

LSB, p. 231

- P** Let my prayer rise before You as incense,
C and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.

MAGNIFICAT

LSB, p. 231

- C** My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God, my Savior;
P for He has regarded the lowliness of His handmaiden.
C For behold, from this day all generations will call me blessed.
P For the Mighty One has done great things to me, and holy is His name;
C and His mercy is on those who fear Him from generation to generation.
P He has shown strength with His arm; He has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.
C He has cast down the mighty from their thrones and has exalted the lowly.
P He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich He has sent empty away.
C He has helped His servant Israel in remembrance of His mercy as He spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his seed forever.
C 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.

OFFERING

+ PRAYER +

C Lord, have mercy;
 Christ, have mercy;
 Lord, have mercy.

LORD'S PRAYER

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.

COLLECTS

P O Lord, hear my prayer.

C And let my cry come to You.

P Heavenly Father, You did not remain apart from Your creation. You sought us when we were not seeking You and did for us what we could not do for ourselves. For all this we give You thanks and praise; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

P O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy, be gracious to all who have gone astray from Your ways 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, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

C I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

P O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, 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; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

BENEDICAMUS

LSB, p. 234

P Let us bless the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

BENEDICTION

LSB, p. 234

P The grace of our Lord ✠ Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C Amen.

433 Glory Be to Jesus



1 Glo - ry be to Je - sus, Who in bit - ter pains
2 Grace and life e - ter - nal In that blood I find;
3 Blest through end - less a - ges Be the pre - cious stream
4 A - bel's blood for ven - geance Plead - ed to the skies;



Poured for me the life - blood From His sa - cred veins!
Blest be His com - pas - sion, In - fi - nite - ly kind!
Which from end - less tor - ment Did the world re - deem!
But the blood of Je - sus For our par - don cries.

- 5 Oft as earth exulting
 Wafts its praise on high,
 Angel hosts rejoicing
 Make their glad reply.
- 6 Lift we, then, our voices,
 Swell the mighty flood;
 Louder still and louder
 Praise the precious blood!

Text: Italian, c. 18th cent.; tr. Edward Caswall, 1814-78, alt.
Tune: Friedrich Filtz, 1804-76
Text and tune: Public domain



THE DEATH OF JESUS



Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land until the ninth hour. And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" that is, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?" And some of the bystanders, hearing it, said, "This man is calling Elijah." And one of them at once ran and took a sponge, filled it with sour wine, and put it on a reed and gave it to Him to drink. But the others said, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save Him." And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice and yielded up His spirit.

And behold, the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. And the earth shook, and the rocks were split. The tombs also were opened. And many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised, and coming out of the tombs after His resurrection they went into the holy city and appeared to many. When the centurion and those who were with him, keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were filled with awe and said, "Truly this was the Son of God!"

• • •

When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who also was a disciple of Jesus. He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then Pilate ordered it to be given to him. And Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen shroud and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had cut in the rock. And he rolled a great stone to the entrance of the tomb and went away. Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were there, sitting opposite the tomb.

—Matthew 27:45–54, 57–61

Scripture: ESV®.

841001

Printed in USA

Cover art © CPH