

Mid-Week Lenten Worship 3 – March 11<sup>th</sup> 2026

## **The Seven Churches: Christ Speaks to His Church** *Sardis – Wake Up and Strengthen What Remains*

*In the opening chapters of Revelation, the risen Christ speaks directly to His Church. His words are not distant history, but living proclamation. Tonight we hear His words to the church in Sardis – a congregation known for its reputation of life, yet warned that it has grown spiritually asleep. Christ calls His people to wakefulness, repentance, and renewed faithfulness.*

### **Opening Litany**

*(L=Leader, C= Congregation Responds)*

L: We gather in the name of the Father, and of the Son +,  
and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

### *Psalm 7:8-10, 17*

L: Let the Lord judge the peoples.

**C: O righteous God, who searches minds and hearts, bring to an end the violence of the wicked and make the righteous secure.**

L: My shield is God Most High, who saves the upright in heart.

**C: I will give thanks to the Lord, because of His righteousness, and will sing praise to the name of the Lord Most High.**

## **Prayer of the Day**

L: Let us pray.

**C: Jesus, Son of God, You see what appears alive, and what is truly living. Wake us from spiritual sleep, strengthen what remains among us, and guard us from empty faith, that we may walk before You in true repentance, and faith. In Your name we pray. Amen.**

## **Scripture Readings**

- **Old Testament: Isaiah 29:13-16**

*(The Lord exposes a people who honor Him with their lips while their hearts are far from Him.)*

- **Epistle: Revelation 3:1-6**

*(To the church in Sardis – “You have the reputation of being alive, but you are dead. Wake up, and strengthen what remains.”)*

- **Gospel: Matthew 24:42-51**

*(Jesus calls His servants to watchfulness, for the Son of Man will come at an hour they do not expect.)*

L: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

**Message:**

**Mark Joblinske**

## **Hymn of the Day:**

*“Your Heart, O God, Is Grieved”*

LBW 96

## \* Lord's Prayer

L: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray,

C: **Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed by 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.**

## Benediction & Sending

P: He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. (*Revelation 3:6*)

C: **The one who overcomes will be clothed in white garments, and I will never blot his name out of the book of life.** (*Revelation 3:5*)

P: Now may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. In the name of the + Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

First Lutheran Church   
Miles City, Montana



## Sardis

*In the opening chapters of Revelation, the risen Christ speaks directly to His Church. His words are not distant history, but living proclamation. Tonight He speaks to the church in Sardis – a congregation known for its reputation of life, yet warned that it has grown spiritually asleep. Christ calls His people to wakefulness, repentance, and renewed faithfulness.*

## Old Testament: Isaiah 29:13-16

<sup>13</sup> And the Lord said:

“Because this people draw near with their mouth  
and honor me with their lips,  
while their hearts are far from me,  
and their fear of me is a commandment taught by men,  
<sup>14</sup> therefore, behold, I will again  
do wonderful things with this people,  
with wonder upon wonder;  
and the wisdom of their wise men shall perish,  
and the discernment of their discerning men shall be  
hidden.”

<sup>15</sup> Ah, you who hide deep from the Lord your counsel,  
whose deeds are in the dark,  
and who say, “Who sees us? Who knows us?”

<sup>16</sup> You turn things upside down!  
Shall the potter be regarded as the clay,  
that the thing made should say of its maker,  
“He did not make me”;  
or the thing formed say of him who formed it,  
“He has no understanding”?

## Epistle: Revelation 3:1-6

<sup>1</sup> “And to the angel of the church in Sardis write: ‘The words  
of him who has the seven spirits of God and the seven stars.  
“I know your works. You have the reputation of being  
alive, but you are dead.

<sup>2</sup> Wake up, and strengthen what remains and is about to die,  
for I have not found your works complete in the sight of my  
God.

<sup>3</sup> Remember, then, what you received and heard. Keep it,  
and repent. If you will not wake up, I will come like a thief,  
and you will not know at what hour I will come against  
you.

<sup>4</sup> Yet you have still a few names in Sardis, people who have  
not soiled their garments, and they will walk with me in  
white, for they are worthy.

<sup>5</sup> The one who conquers will be clothed thus in white  
garments, and I will never blot his name out of the book of  
life. I will confess his name before my Father and before his  
angels.

<sup>6</sup> He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the  
churches.’

## Gospel: Matthew 24:42-51

<sup>42</sup> Therefore, stay awake, for you do not know on what  
day your Lord is coming.

<sup>43</sup> But know this, that if the master of the house had known  
in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would  
have stayed awake and would not have let his house be  
broken into.

<sup>44</sup> Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is  
coming at an hour you do not expect.

<sup>45</sup> “Who then is the faithful and wise servant, whom his  
master has set over his household, to give them their food at  
the proper time?

<sup>46</sup> Blessed is that servant whom his master will find so doing  
when he comes.

<sup>47</sup> Truly, I say to you, he will set him over all his  
possessions.

<sup>48</sup> But if that wicked servant says to himself, ‘My master is  
delayed,’ <sup>49</sup> and begins to beat his fellow servants[d] and  
eats and drinks with drunkards, <sup>50</sup> the master of that servant  
will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an  
hour he does not know <sup>51</sup> and will cut him in pieces and put  
him with the hypocrites. In that place there will be weeping  
and gnashing of teeth.