

Mid-Week Lenten Worship 4 – March 18th 2026

The Seven Churches: Christ Speaks to His Church

Philadelphia – Hold Fast What You Have

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 Philadelphia – a congregation small in strength, yet steadfast in faith. Christ commends their faithfulness and calls His people to hold fast to His Word.

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 132:11, 13-18

L: The Lord swore an oath to David, a sure oath that He will not revoke:

C: **“ONE OF YOUR OWN DESCENDANTS I WILL PLACE ON YOUR THRONE.”**

L: For the Lord has chosen Zion, He has desired it for His dwelling:

C: **“THIS IS MY RESTING PLACE FOR EVER AND EVER; HERE I WILL SIT ENTHRONED, FOR I HAVE DESIRED IT.”**

L: I will bless her with abundant provisions, her poor will I satisfy with food.

C: **I WILL CLOTHE HER PRIESTS WITH SALVATION, AND HER SAINTS WILL EVER SING FOR JOY.**

L: Here I will make a horn grow for David and set up a lamp for my Anointed One.

ALL: I WILL CLOTHE HIS ENEMIES WITH SHAME, BUT THE CROWN ON HIS HEAD WILL BE RESPLENDENT.

Prayer of the Day

L: Let us pray.

C: **Jesus, Son of David, Son of God, King of Your Church, keep us faithful to Your Word. Though we are small and weak in the eyes of the world, strengthen us to endure in faith and hold fast to Your promises; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

Scripture Readings

- **Old Testament: Isaiah 60:1-5**

(The Lord’s light rises upon His people and draws the nations to His salvation.)

- **Epistle: Revelation 3:7-13**

(To the church in Philadelphia – Christ sets before His people an open door that no one can shut.)

- **Gospel: Matthew 28:16-20**

(The risen Christ sends His disciples to make disciples of all nations.)

L: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

Message:

Jim Bott

Hymn of the Day:

“O Lord, throughout These Forty Days”

LBW 99

* 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

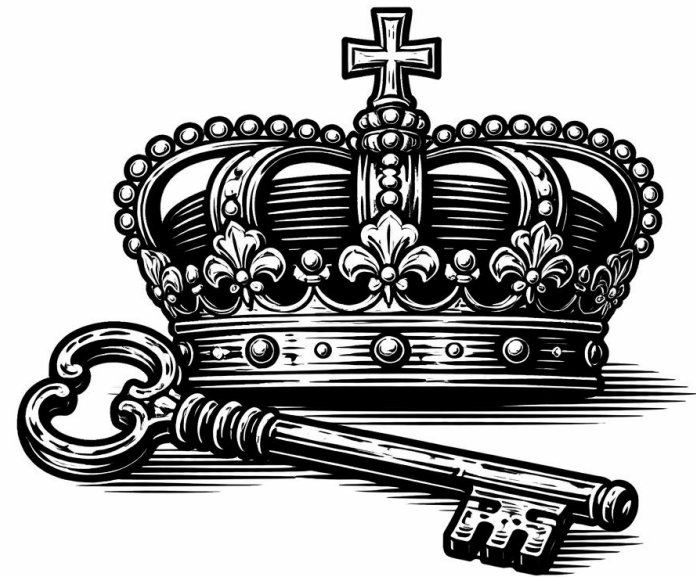
L: I am coming soon. Hold on to what you have, so that no one will take your crown. (*Revelation 3:11*)

C: **HIM WHO OVERCOMES I WILL MAKE A PILLAR IN THE TEMPLE OF MY GOD... AND I WILL ALSO WRITE ON HIM MY NEW NAME.** (*Revelation 3:12*)

L: 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



Philadelphia

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 Philadelphia – a congregation small in strength, yet faithful to His Word. Christ sets before them an open door that no one can shut and calls His people to hold fast to what they have received.

Old Testament: Isaiah 60:1-5

Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will be seen upon you. And nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising. Lift up your eyes all around, and see; they all gather together they come to you; your sons shall come from afar, and your daughters shall be carried on the hip. Then shall you see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and exult, because the abundance of the sea shall be turned to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you.

Epistle: Revelation 3:7-13

“And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write: ‘The words of the holy one, the true one, who has the key of David, who opens and no one will shut, who shuts and no one opens. ‘I Know your works. Behold, I have set before you an open door, which no one is able to shut. I know that you have but little power, and yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name. Behold, I will make those of the synagogue of Satan who say that they are Jews and are not, but lie – behold, I will make them come and bow down before your feet, and they will learn that I have loved you. Because you have kept my word about patient endurance, I will keep you from the hour of trial that is coming on the whole world, to try those who dwell on the earth. I am coming soon. Hold fast what you have, so that no one may seize your crown. The one who conquers, I will make him a pillar in the temple of my God. Never shall he go out of it,

and I will write on him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which comes down from my God out of heaven, and my own new name. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.’

Gospel: Matthew 28:16-20

Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. And when they saw him they worshiped him, but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”