

Mid-Week Lenten Worship 2 – March 4th 2026

The Seven Churches: Christ Speaks to His Church *Pergamum & Thyatira: Guarding Holiness*

In His letters to Pergamum and Thyatira, the risen Christ commends faithfulness, yet warns against tolerated compromise. Holiness does not disappear in a moment; it erodes when what Christ condemns is quietly permitted. Tonight we hear His call to repentance and renewed faithfulness.

Opening Litany

(Led by Pastor – 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, 9-10, 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: Lord God, You have gathered us again in this holy season to hear Your Son speak to His Church. Grant that we may not grow careless in faith or tolerant of what You have called sin. Guard our hearts from quiet compromise, and restore in us a love for holiness that flows from Your mercy. As You walk among Your lampstands, preserve this congregation in repentance and faith, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Scripture Readings

- **Old Testament: 1 Kings 16:29–33**

(The reign of Ahab and Jezebel – when idolatry was tolerated and holiness was compromised among God’s people.)

- **Epistle: Revelation 2:12–17; 2:18–23**

(To the churches in Pergamum and Thyatira – Christ commends faithfulness yet rebukes tolerated corruption and calls His Church to repentance.)

- **Gospel: Matthew 25:31–46**

(The Son of Man separates the sheep from the goats – revealing that neglected love stands under His judgment.)

L: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

Message:

Chris Wacker

Hymn of the Day:

"In the Cross of Christ I Glory"

LBW 104

First Lutheran Church 
Miles City, Montana

* 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, for ever and ever. Amen.**

Benediction & Sending

L: He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. (*Revelation 2:29*)

C: **To the one who overcomes and keeps My works until the end, I will give authority over the nations.** (*Revelation 2:26*)

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.**



Pergamum & Thyatira

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 churches in Pergamum and Thyatira – congregations commended for faith, yet warned against tolerated compromise. Christ does not ignore what quietly erodes holiness. He calls His people to repentance, endurance, and renewed faithfulness, promising life to those who overcome.

1 Kings 16:29–33

²⁹ In the thirty-eighth year of Asa king of Judah, Ahab the son of Omri began to reign over Israel, and Ahab the son of Omri reigned over Israel in Samaria twenty-two years. ³⁰ And Ahab the son of Omri did evil in the sight of the Lord, more than all who were before him. ³¹ And as if it had been a light thing for him to walk in the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, he took for his wife Jezebel the daughter of Ethbaal king of the Sidonians, and went and served Baal and worshiped him. ³² He erected an altar for Baal in the house of Baal, which he built in Samaria. ³³ And Ahab made an Asherah. Ahab did more to provoke the Lord, the God of Israel, to anger than all the kings of Israel who were before him.

Revelation 2:12–17; 2:18–23

¹² “And to the angel of the church in Pergamum write: ‘The words of him who has the sharp two-edged sword.

¹³ “‘I know where you dwell, where Satan's throne is. Yet you hold fast my name, and you did not deny my faith^[b] even in the days of Antipas my faithful witness, who was killed among you, where Satan dwells. ¹⁴ But I have a few things against you: you have some there who hold the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak to put a stumbling block before the sons of Israel, so that they might eat food sacrificed to idols and practice sexual immorality. ¹⁵ So also you have some who hold the teaching of the Nicolaitans. ¹⁶ Therefore repent. If not, I will come to you soon and war against them with the sword of my mouth. ¹⁷ He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who conquers I will give some of the hidden manna, and I will give him a white stone, with a new name written on the stone that no one knows except the one who receives it.’

¹⁸ “And to the angel of the church in Thyatira write: ‘The words of the Son of God, who has eyes like a flame of fire, and whose feet are like burnished bronze.

¹⁹ “‘I know your works, your love and faith and service and patient endurance, and that your latter works exceed the first. ²⁰ But I have this against you, that you tolerate that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess and is teaching and seducing my servants to practice sexual immorality and to eat food sacrificed to idols. ²¹ I

gave her time to repent, but she refuses to repent of her sexual immorality. ²² Behold, I will throw her onto a sickbed, and those who commit adultery with her I will throw into great tribulation, unless they repent of her works, ²³ and I will strike her children dead. And all the churches will know that I am he who searches mind and heart, and I will give to each of you according to your works.

Matthew 25:31–46

³¹ “When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. ³² Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. ³³ And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left. ³⁴ Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. ³⁵ For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, ³⁶ I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.’ ³⁷ Then the righteous will answer him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? ³⁸ And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? ³⁹ And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?’ ⁴⁰ And the King will answer them, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers,^[f] you did it to me.’

⁴¹ “Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. ⁴² For I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, ⁴³ I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.’ ⁴⁴ Then they also will answer, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to you?’ ⁴⁵ Then he will answer them, saying, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.’ ⁴⁶ And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”