

Mid-Week Lenten Worship 5 – March 25th 2026

The Seven Churches: Christ Speaks to His Church

Laodicea – Lukewarm and Self-Sufficient

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 Laodicea – a congregation that believed it needed nothing. Yet Christ exposes their spiritual poverty and calls them to repentance. Even in rebuke, the Lord speaks in mercy, inviting His Church to receive the true riches that come only from Him.

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 62:5-8

L: For God alone, O my soul, wait in silence,

C: FOR MY HOPE IS FROM HIM.

L: He alone is my rock and my salvation, my fortress;

C: I SHALL NOT BE SHAKEN.

L: On God rests my salvation and my glory; my mighty rock, my refuge is God.

C: TRUST IN HIM AT ALL TIMES.

L: Trust in Him at all times, O people; pour out your heart before Him!

ALL: GOD IS A REFUGE FOR US.

Prayer of the Day

L: Let us pray.

C: Lord Jesus Christ, faithful and true witness, ruler of Your Church, You know our works and see our hearts. Guard us from the pride that trusts in our own strength and the comfort that dulls our faith. Awaken us by Your Word, call us to repentance, and grant us the true riches that come only from You; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Scripture Readings

- **Old Testament: Amos 6:1-7**

(Woe to those who are at ease in Zion and trust in their own comfort.)

- **Epistle: Revelation 3:14-22**

(To the church in Laodicea – Christ rebukes their lukewarm faith and calls them to repentance.)

- **Gospel: John 15:9-17**

(Christ calls His disciples to abide in His love and bear fruit.)

L: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

Message:

Logan Eayrs

Hymn of the Day:

“Beneath the Cross of Jesus”

LBW 107

* 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: Behold, I stand at the door and knock. *(Revelation 3:20)*

C: **IF ANYONE HEARS MY VOICE AND OPENS THE
DOOR, I WILL COME IN TO HIM AND EAT WITH HIM,
AND HE WITH ME.** *(Revelation 3:21)*

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



Laodicea

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 Laodicea – a congregation that believed it needed nothing. Yet Christ reveals their spiritual poverty and calls His people to repentance, urging them to seek the true riches, righteousness, and sight that come only from Him.

Old Testament: Amos 6:1-7

¹ “Woe to those who are at ease in Zion, and to those who feel secure on the mountain of Samaria, the notable men of the first of the nations, to whom the house of Israel comes! ² Pass over to Calneh, and see, and from there go to Hamath the great; then go down to Gath of the Philistines. Are you better than these kingdoms? Or is their territory greater than your territory, ³ O you who put far away the day of disaster and bring near the seat of violence? ⁴ “Woe to those who lie on beds of ivory and stretch themselves out on their couches, and eat lambs from the flock and calves from the midst of the stall, ⁵ who sing idle songs to the sound of the harp and like David invent for themselves instruments of music, ⁶ who drink wine in bowls and anoint themselves with the finest oils, but are not grieved over the ruin of Joseph! ⁷ Therefore they shall now be the first of those who go into exile, and the revelry of those who stretch themselves out shall pass away.”

Epistle: Revelation 3:14-22

¹⁴ “And to the angel of the church in Laodicea write: ‘The words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of God’s creation. ¹⁵ “I know your works: you are neither cold nor hot. Would that you were either cold or hot! ¹⁶ So, because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth. ¹⁷ For you say, “I am rich, I have prospered, and I need nothing,” not realizing that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked. ¹⁸ I counsel you to buy from me gold refined by fire, so that you may be rich, and white garments so that you may clothe yourself and the shame of your nakedness may not be seen, and salve to anoint your eyes, so that you may see. ¹⁹ Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline, so be zealous and repent. ²⁰ Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and

eat with him, and he with me. ²¹ The one who conquers, I will grant him to sit with me on my throne, as I also conquered and sat down with my Father on his throne.

²² He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”

Gospel: John 15:9-17

⁹ As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. ¹⁰ If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love. ¹¹ These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full. ¹² “This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³ Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. ¹⁴ You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵ No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you. ¹⁶ You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you. ¹⁷ These things I command you, so that you will love one another.