



THIRD WEDNESDAY OF
LENT
MARCH 11TH, 2026

Dying to Doubt Living by Faith

Mar. 11th, 2026
Noon & 7 PM Service

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. Psalm 51:1

Jesus, I Will Ponder Now

LSB 440 (vs. 1-2, 4 & 6)

Jesus, I will ponder now
On Your holy passion;
With Your Spirit me endow
For such meditation.
Grant that I in love and faith
May the image cherish
Of Your suff'ring, pain, and death
That I may not perish.

Make me see Your great distress,
Anguish, and affliction,
Bonds and stripes and wretchedness
And Your crucifixion;
Make me see how scourge and rod,
Spear and nails did wound You,
How for them You died, O God,
Who with thorns had crowned You.

Grant that I Your passion view
With repentant grieving.
Let me not bring shame to You
By unholy living.

How could I refuse to shun
Ev'ry sinful pleasure
Since for me God's only Son
Suffered without measure?

Graciously my faith renew;
Help me bear my crosses,
Learning humbleness from You,
Peace mid pain and losses.
May I give You love for love!
Hear me, O my Savior,
That I may in heav'n above
Sing Your praise forever.

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Invocation

In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Confession and Absolution

Let us confess our sins to God and ask his forgiveness.

Almighty God, you call us to trust you and to walk by faith, even though we cannot see what lies ahead. Yet we fail to place our trust in you in times of trouble. With sinful pride, we would rather place our faith in our own abilities. We often fail to trust the guidance and truth of your holy Word. We fail to trust your promises. Have mercy on us, and forgive our sins.

God has had mercy on us. He never fails us, and he kept his promise to send his Son to be our Savior. Jesus suffered and died on the cross for us, and our sins are washed away in his blood. I announce to you that your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Lord, lead us each day to walk by faith and to trust you in all things.

I Am Trusting Thee, Lord Jesus

LSB 861 (vs. 1-2, 6)

I am trusting Thee, Lord Jesus,
Trusting only Thee;
Trusting Thee for full salvation,
Great and free.

I am trusting Thee for pardon;
At Thy feet I bow,
For Thy grace and tender mercy
Trusting now.

I am trusting Thee, Lord Jesus;
Never let me fall.

I am trusting Thee forever
And for all.

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Service of the Word

Prayer of the Day

Lord Jesus, when your disciple Peter walked on the water, he grew frightened when he saw the waves and felt the strong wind. He began to sink, but you reached out and raised him up, leading him to safety. When we are weak, raise us up, and lead us in the power of the Holy Spirit to place our trust in you. Strengthen our faith through the gifts of your holy Word and your body and blood in the Sacrament. When we stumble in faith and wander from your ways, call us to repentance, forgive our sins and help us to grow in grace and faith. Hear our prayers, dear Savior. Amen.

Amen.

Old Testament Reading

Proverbs 3:5-8

⁵ Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. ⁶ In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths. ⁷ Be not wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord, and turn away from evil. ⁸ It will be healing to your flesh and refreshment to your bones.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Epistle

James 1:5-8

⁵ If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him. ⁶ But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind. ⁷ For that person must not suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; ⁸ he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Holy Gospel

Luke 12:16-21

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the twelfth chapter.

Glory to You, O Lord.

²² Immediately, he made the disciples get into the boat and go before him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. ²³ And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up on the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, ⁴ but the boat by this time was a long way from the land, beaten by the waves, for the wind was against them. ²⁵ And in the fourth watch of the night he came to them, walking on the sea.

²⁶ But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, and said, "It is a ghost!" and they cried out in fear.

²⁷ But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, "Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid."

²⁸ And Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water."

²⁹ He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water and came to Jesus.

³⁰ But when he saw the wind, he was afraid, and beginning to sink he cried out, "Lord, save me."

³¹ Jesus immediately reached out his hand and took hold of him, saying to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?"

³² And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased. ³³ And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Eternal Father, Strong to Save

LSB 717 (vs. 1 & 6)

Eternal Father, strong to save,
Whose arm hath bound the restless wave,
Who bidd'st the mighty ocean deep
Its own appointed limits keep:
O hear us when we cry to Thee
For those in peril on the sea.

O Trinity of love and pow'r,
Our people shield in danger's hour;
From rock and tempest, fire and foe,
Protect them wheresoe'er they go;
Thus evermore shall rise to Thee
Glad praise from air and land and sea.

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Message

Vicar Caleb Gustafson

Prayers of the Church

Lord Jesus, the waves of trouble and sorrow in this world sometimes cause us to doubt your presence and your care. When we call on you in prayer, as Peter did, have mercy and come quickly to help us. Raise us up and grant to us the peace that only you can give. Lord, hear our prayer.

Lord, increase our faith!

Lord Jesus, we know that you work through the troubles we experience to make us strong in faith. Encourage us with the promises of your Word. Do not let us look to the storms and waves of trouble that surround us, but teach us to keep our focus on you, dear Savior. Lord, hear our prayer.

Lord, increase our faith!

Lord Jesus, help those who struggle with sorrow, grief, fear and illness, those we name now and those we name in our hearts (*name those known to be sick or in the hospital*). Comfort them with the promises of your Word, and fill them with the peace that you alone can bring. Give us opportunities to bring to them help and encouragement in your name. Lord, hear our prayer.

Lord, increase our faith!

Lord Jesus, you have called us to trust you with all our hearts. Keep us from relying instead on our own understanding. We want to trust you in all of the circumstances of our lives, in days of blessing and in times of sorrow. Lord, hear our prayer.

Lord, increase our faith!

Lord Jesus, as we trust in you for the gift of salvation, for our eternal life, lead us with the help of the Holy Spirit to trust in you each day in this life, too. We pray that our faith will be a witness to others of your unfailing love. Lord, hear our prayer.

Lord, increase our faith! Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Service of the Sacrament

The Words of Our Lord

Dismissal

Blessing of God's People (Benediction)

Salvation unto Us Has Come

LSB 555 (vs. 1 & 9)

Salvation unto us has come
By God's free grace and favor;
Good works cannot avert our doom,
They help and save us never.
Faith looks to Jesus Christ alone,
Who did for all the world atone;
He is our one Redeemer.

Faith clings to Jesus' cross alone
And rests in Him unceasing;
And by its fruits true faith is known,
With love and hope increasing.
For faith alone can justify;
Works serve our neighbor and supply
The proof that faith is living.

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Go in peace to love and
serve the Lord!
Thanks be to God!

Acknowledgments

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Bethlehem Lutheran Church

HOLY WEEK

Dying His Death & Living His Life

PALM SUNDAY & CONFIRMATION

Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes!

Palm Sunday Services: **8 AM • 9:30 AM**

Confirmation Service: **11 AM**

MAUNDY THURSDAY

Love one another as I have loved you.

Maundy Thursday Service: **7 PM**

GOOD FRIDAY TENEBRAE

Behold the Cross!

Services: **12 PM • 7 PM**

EASTER SUNDAY

This is the day the Lord has made;

let us rejoice and be glad!

Services: **7 AM • 9 AM • 11 AM**

Easter Breakfast: **8 - 9 AM**

Easter Egg Hunt: **8:30 AM**

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