

**March 18, 2026**

*Fifth Midweek  
in Lent*



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CHURCH**

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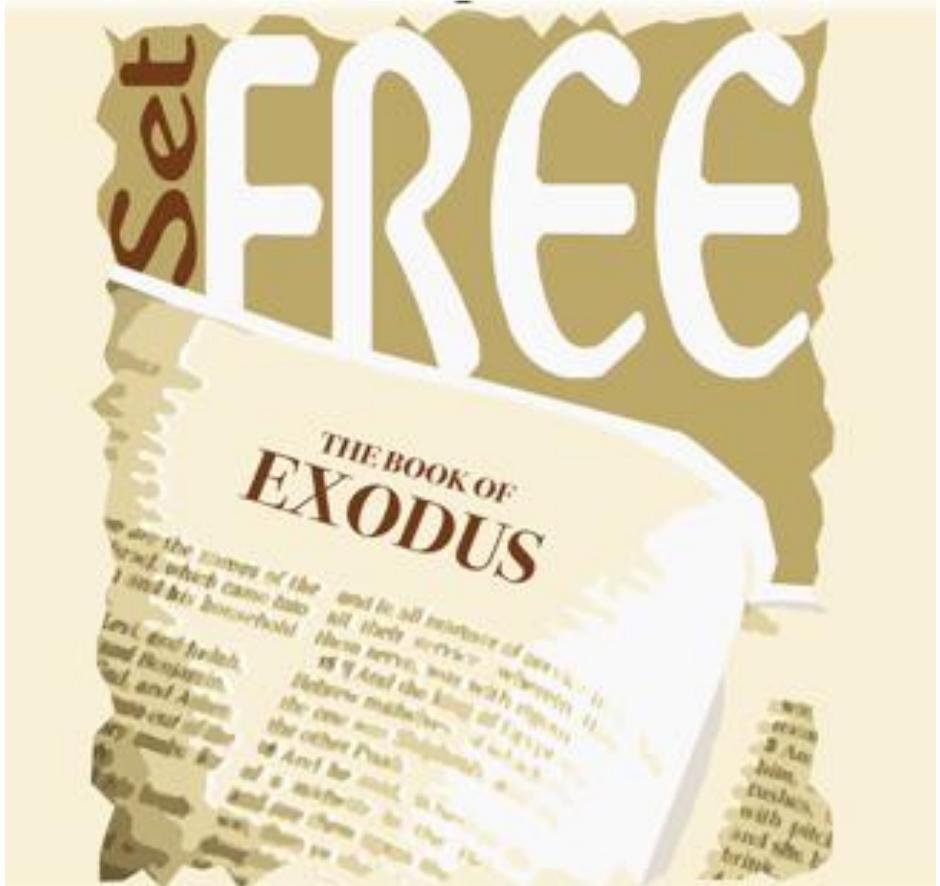
+  
Divine Service:  
8:00, 9:30 & 11:00am  
*Sundays*

Adult Bible Study &  
Sunday School:  
9:30 am

+  
Pastor:  
Richard Willsea

Deaconess:  
Karen Suter

Organist:  
Patty Barnes



**THE FIFTH MIDWEEK IN LENT**

**March 18, 2026**

## ✠ PREPARATION ✠

### PRELUDE

"Christ Is the Way, the Truth, the Life"  
"Lenten Meditation"

T. Kendall  
R. Blake

### WELCOME

*Stand*

### HYMN

"All Who Believe and Are Baptized"

**LSB 601**



1 All who be - lieve and are bap - tized Shall see the Lord's sal - va - tion;  
2 With one ac - cord, O God, we pray: Grant us Your Ho - ly Spir - it.



Bap - tized in - to the death of Christ, They are a new cre - a - tion.  
Help us in our in - fir - mi - ty Through Je - sus' blood and mer - it.



Through Christ's re - demp - tion they shall stand A - mong the glo - rious,  
Grant us to grow in grace each day That by this sac - ra -



heav'n - ly band Of ev - 'ry tribe and na - tion.  
ment we may E - ter - nal life in - her - it.

Text: Thomas Hansen Kingo, 1634–1703; tr. George A. T. Rygh, 1860–1942, alt.  
Tune: Etlich Cristlich liden, 1524, Wittenberg  
Text and tune: Public domain

### OPENING SENTENCES

*Psalm 143:1, 5, 10*

- P** Hear my prayer, O LORD; give ear to my pleas for mercy!
- C** **In Your faithfulness answer me, in Your righteousness!**
- P** I remember the days of old; I meditate on all that You have done;
- C** **I ponder the work of Your hands.**
- P** Teach me to do Your will, for You are my God!
- C** **Let Your good Spirit lead me on level ground!**

**I** *I lift up my eyes to the hills.*

*From where does my help come?*

**II** *My help comes from the LORD,  
who made heaven and earth.*

**I** *He will not let your foot be moved;*

**II** *He who keeps you will not slumber.*

**C** **Behold, He who keeps Israel  
will neither slumber nor sleep.**

**I** *The LORD is your keeper;*

**II** *the LORD is your shade on your right hand.*

**I** *The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.*

**II** *The LORD will keep you from all evil; He will keep your life.*

**C** **The LORD will keep your going out and your coming in  
from this time forth and forevermore.**

*Sit*

**FIRST READING**

*Exodus 4:5–31*

**A** <sup>5</sup>“that they may believe that the LORD, the God of their fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has appeared to you.” <sup>6</sup>Again, the LORD said to him, “Put your hand inside your cloak.” And he put his hand inside his cloak, and when he took it out, behold, his hand was leprous like snow. <sup>7</sup>Then God said, “Put your hand back inside your cloak.” So he put his hand back inside his cloak, and when he took it out, behold, it was restored like the rest of his flesh. <sup>8</sup>“If they will not believe you,” God said, “or listen to the first sign, they may believe the latter sign. <sup>9</sup>If they will not believe even these two signs or listen to your voice, you shall take some water from the Nile and pour it on the dry ground, and the water that you shall take from the Nile will become blood on the dry ground.” <sup>10</sup>But Moses said to the LORD, “Oh, my Lord, I am not eloquent, either in the past or since you have spoken to your servant, but I am slow of speech and of tongue.”

<sup>11</sup>Then the LORD said to him, "Who has made man's mouth? Who makes him mute, or deaf, or seeing, or blind? Is it not I, the LORD?" <sup>12</sup>Now therefore go, and I will be with your mouth and teach you what you shall speak." <sup>13</sup>But he said, "Oh, my Lord, please send someone else." <sup>14</sup>Then the anger of the LORD was kindled against Moses and he said, "Is there not Aaron, your brother, the Levite? I know that he can speak well. Behold, he is coming out to meet you, and when he sees you, he will be glad in his heart. <sup>15</sup>You shall speak to him and put the words in his mouth, and I will be with your mouth and with his mouth and will teach you both what to do. <sup>16</sup>He shall speak for you to the people, and he shall be your mouth, and you shall be as God to him. <sup>17</sup>And take in your hand this staff, with which you shall do the signs."  
<sup>18</sup>Moses went back to Jethro his father-in-law and said to him, "Please let me go back to my brothers in Egypt to see whether they are still alive." And Jethro said to Moses, "Go in peace." <sup>19</sup>And the LORD said to Moses in Midian, "Go back to Egypt, for all the men who were seeking your life are dead." <sup>20</sup>So Moses took his wife and his sons and had them ride on a donkey, and went back to the land of Egypt. And Moses took the staff of God in his hand.  
<sup>21</sup>And the LORD said to Moses, "When you go back to Egypt, see that you do before Pharaoh all the miracles that I have put in your power. But I will harden his heart, so that he will not let the people go. <sup>22</sup>Then you shall say to Pharaoh, 'Thus says the LORD, Israel is my firstborn son, <sup>23</sup>and I say to you, "Let my son go that he may serve me." If you refuse to let him go, behold, I will kill your firstborn son.'"  
<sup>24</sup>At a lodging place on the way the LORD met him and sought to put him to death. <sup>25</sup>Then Zipporah took a flint and cut off her son's foreskin and touched Moses' feet with it and said, "Surely you are a bridegroom of blood to me!" <sup>26</sup>So he let him alone. It was then that she said, "A bridegroom of blood," because of the circumcision.  
<sup>27</sup>The LORD said to Aaron, "Go into the wilderness to meet Moses." So he went and met him at the mountain of God and kissed him. <sup>28</sup>And Moses told Aaron all the words of the LORD with which he had sent him to speak, and all the signs that he had commanded him to do. <sup>29</sup>Then Moses and Aaron went and gathered together all the elders of the people of Israel. <sup>30</sup>Aaron spoke all the words that the LORD had spoken to Moses and did the signs in the sight of the people. <sup>31</sup>And the people believed; and when they heard that the LORD had visited the people of Israel and that he had seen their affliction, they bowed their heads and worshiped.

**A** O Lord, have mercy on us.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

## SECOND READING

Romans 6:3–5

- A** Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.  
For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.

**A** O Lord, have mercy on us.

**G** Thanks be to God.

*Stand*

## THIRD READING

John 14:1–6

- P** <sup>1</sup>Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. <sup>2</sup>In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? <sup>3</sup>And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. <sup>4</sup>And you know the way to where I am going." <sup>5</sup>Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" <sup>6</sup>Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

**P** O Lord, have mercy on us.

**G** Thanks be to God.

## HYMN

"What Prompted Christ"

sts. 1–2

1 What prompt - ed Christ, our Lord, to come  
2 Why did our heav'n - ly Fa - ther send  
down to the cross? What prompt - ed Him to die for my  
down His dear Son? Why did He send His Son down to

soul? It was the Fa - ther's love That  
earth? It shows that God is love; We  
sent Him to the cross That in Christ's bound - less  
learn what is true love. He prom - is - es to  
love He would pay for all sin To  
nev - er us leave nor for - sake. The  
pay for ev - 'ry sin since the fall.  
Gos - pel strength - ens faith— our true birth.

Text: James Pierce, Tune: Southern Harmony, New Haven, 1835, Text: © 2025 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: Creative Worship License no. 110004811  
Tune: Public domain

## PASSION READING

*Mark 15:12–24*

**P** <sup>12</sup>And Pilate again said to them, “Then what shall I do with the man you call the King of the Jews?” <sup>13</sup>And they cried out again, “Crucify him.” <sup>14</sup>And Pilate said to them, “Why, what evil has he done?” But they shouted all the more, “Crucify him.” <sup>15</sup>So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released for them Barabbas, and having scourged Jesus, he delivered him to be crucified.

<sup>16</sup>And the soldiers led him away inside the palace (that is, the governor’s headquarters), and they called together the whole battalion. <sup>17</sup>And they clothed him in a purple cloak, and twisting together a crown of thorns, they put it on him. <sup>18</sup>And they began to salute him, “Hail, King of the Jews!” <sup>19</sup>And they were striking his head with a reed and spitting on him and kneeling down in homage to him. <sup>20</sup>And when they had mocked him, they stripped him of the purple cloak and put his own clothes on him. And they led him out to crucify him.

<sup>21</sup>And they compelled a passerby, Simon of Cyrene, who was coming in from the country, the father of Alexander and Rufus, to carry his cross. <sup>22</sup>And they brought him to the place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull). <sup>23</sup>And they offered him wine mixed with myrrh, but he did not take it. <sup>24</sup>And they crucified him and divided his garments among them, casting lots for them, to decide what each should take.

**P** O Lord, have mercy on us.

**G** Thanks be to God.

*Sit*

**HYMN**

"Chief of Sinners Though I Be"

**LSB 611**



1 Chief of sin - ners though I be, Je - sus shed His  
2 Oh, the height of Je - sus' love, High - er than the  
3 On - ly Je - sus can im - part Balm to heal the  
4 Chief of sin - ners though I be, Christ is all in  
5 O my Sav - ior, help af - ford By Your Spir - it



blood for me, Died that I might live on high,  
heav'ns a - bove, Deep - er than the depths of sea,  
wound - ed heart, Peace that flows from sin for - giv'n,  
all to me; All my wants to Him are known,  
and Your Word! When my way - ward heart would stray,



Lives that I might nev - er die. As the branch is  
Last - ing as e - ter - ni - ty! Love that found me—  
Joy that lifts the soul to heav'n, Faith and hope to  
All my sor - rows are His own. He sus - tains the  
Keep me in the nar - row way; Grace in time of



to the vine, I am His, and He is mine.  
won - drous thought! Found me when I sought Him not.  
walk with God In the way that E - noch trod.  
hid - den life Safe with Him from earth - ly strife.  
need sup - ply While I live and when I die.

Text: William McComb, 1793-1873, alt.  
Tune: Richard Redhead, 1820-1901  
Text and tune: Public domain

**SERMON**

**OFFERING**

**VOLUNTARY**

"Jesus Paid it All"

arr. A. Mason

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new  
a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way  
from Thy pres - ence; and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it  
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va - tion;  
and up - hold me with Thy free spir - it. A - men.

Text: Psalm 51:10-12, Tune: Johann Georg Winer, 1583-1651, adapt, Text and tune: Public domain

## PRAYERS

- P** Let us pray for all people who are unsure of God's hearing their prayers.
- C** **Hear their cries, O Lord, grant them courage as You accompany, and answer them speedily.**
- A** Let us ask God to strengthen the faith of those who only recently have known Him.
- C** **Reveal Yourself gently to them, Lord Jesus, through the caring of Your church.**
- P** Let us pray for those who feel trapped by circumstances beyond their control.
- C** **Assure them that You know their dilemma and that the deliverer has come: Jesus, our Savior and Lord.**
- A** Let us pray for all who fear God's punishment.
- C** **Show them mercy, O Lord, as You passed over Your Old Testament people. Grant them peace through Your presence.**

- P** Let us pray for all who know no good ways to turn, are unsure of the truth, and await only their deaths.
- C** **Tell them again, Lord Jesus, that You alone are the way, and the truth, and the life.**
- A** Finally, let us pray for all who are tired from opposition in the world around them and from their own conflicts within themselves.
- C** **Awaken in them a sense of Your accompanying them on their journey until that day when they and we join those who have gone before us at Your heavenly banquet hall.**
- P** Almighty God, our heavenly Father, Your mercies are new every morning; and though we deserve only punishment, You receive us as Your children and provide for all our needs of body and soul.
- C** **Grant that we may heartily acknowledge Your merciful goodness, give thanks for all Your benefits, and serve You in willing obedience; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord.**
- P** O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works,
- C** **give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness;**
- P** through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** **Amen.**

## LORD'S PRAYER

- C** **Our Father who art in heaven,  
hallowed be 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

**P** The Lord, who protected His people throughout the exodus, bless you.  
 The Lord, who sustained them in the desert, bless you.  
 The Lord, who led them and you to the Promised Land, bless and keep you, now and  
 forever.

**C** Amen.

## HYMN

"Guide Me, O Thou Great Redeemer"

LSB 918



1 Guide me, O Thou great Re - deem - er, Pil - grim through this  
 2 O - pen now the crys - tal foun - tain Whence the heal - ing  
 3 When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, Bid my anx - ious



bar - ren land. I am weak, but Thou art might - y;  
 stream doth flow; Let the fi - ery, cloud - y pil - lar  
 fears sub - side; Death of death and hell's de - struc - tion,



Hold me with Thy pow'r - ful hand. Bread of heav - en,  
 Lead me all my jour - ney through. Strong de - liv - 'rer,  
 Land me safe on Ca - naan's side. Songs of prais - es,



bread of heav - en, Feed me till I want no  
 strong de - liv - 'rer, Be Thou still my strength and  
 songs of prais - es I will ev - er give to



more;                    Feed    me    till    I            want    no    more.  
shield;                Be      Thou still    my        strength and shield.  
Thee;                    I      will    ev - er        give      to    Thee.

Text: William Williams, 1717–91, abr.; (st. 1): tr. Peter Williams, 1722–96, alt.; (sts. 2–3): tr. William Williams, 1717–91  
Tune: John Hughes, 1873–1932  
Text and tune: Public domain

*Sit*

## DISMISSAL

**P** Go in peace as you serve the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE

“Glory to His Name”

arr. F. Ritter

## **Acknowledgments**

*Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series A, Quarter 2.*

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