

Lent 5

PEACE LUTHERAN MINISTRIES

March 18, 2026

WELCOME!

We love that you are here today! Please note these things:

Restrooms are located in the hallway to the right as you exit the worship space, as well as across the hall as you enter into the school.

Quiet room Parents may use the library in the back of this worship space which still enables you to hear/see the service.

A **Connection Card** and pen are found in the pocket of the chair in front of you. You may drop it in the wicker basket along the wall after the service.

THE MAIN PURPOSE OF THESE WEDNESDAY SERVICES

The main reason for our Wednesday evening services during Lent is to hear the Passion History of Christ leading up to his death and burial. This year we are hearing it – segment by segment – from the Gospel of Matthew.

We don't get to hear the Passion History like this in its unbroken entirety any other time of the year. This tradition helps us to prepare for the celebration of Christ's resurrection on Easter Sunday.

THOSE WHO TURNED THEIR BACKS ON HIM

Throughout the Passion History how many times did people close to Jesus turn their backs on Him? If He was to be the Redeemer of the world, He had to go it alone. He would not be cheered, celebrated or assisted along the way. Rather, abandonment, isolation and being singled out were His lot. But He resolved to take this bitter pill for our sakes in order to save us. How precious is His love for us! There is no end to the thanks and obedience we owe Him.

Before the service... here's an idea: look up one of the hymns that we will be singing tonight in the hymnal. Read through the words of the hymn. Drink in what it's saying.

Before the service... you may wish to use prayers from pages 155-158 of the blue hymnal.

WEDNESDAY LENTEN OFFERINGS

The offerings from our Wednesday Lenten services will go toward our Peace Lutheran School tuition assistance. The Tuition Assistance Fund is entirely funded by individual gifts and supports member students who desire to send their children to Peace but cannot afford tuition. The School Board receives these applications and approves financial support based on need and the funds available in the Tuition Assistance Fund.

YOU CAN GIVE GENERAL OFFERINGS ELECTRONICALLY

Log on to our website – www.peacewels.org – and click on “Current Member Information” under the “Church” top menu.

The Bible tells us to give a regular percentage of our income (1 Co 16:2). We are to give from the top and not the leftovers after the bills are paid (Pr 3:9). In this way we ascribe to God his worth to us as well as our confidence in him to provide.

THE SYMBOL ON THE COVER

The letters on the cross (It looks like “ihs”) are the first three letters of the name “Jesus” in Greek. The Christian Church has used this symbol for many centuries to remind us of Jesus.

SERVING IN WORSHIP

Presider..... Rev. Luke C. Werre
Keyboard Mrs. Lisa Schoenherr

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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Peace

LUTHERAN MINISTRIES

The most recent service is our website homepage:

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INVOCATION

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

Amen.

PRAYER

Father in heaven, save us from the treachery of our own hearts. Work in us true repentance. Help us cling for mercy to Christ's atoning death. Give us your Holy Spirit, that we may lead a Christian life, prepare for a blessed departure, and finally fall asleep in peace and so be received joyfully into your heavenly Kingdom, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

PSALM

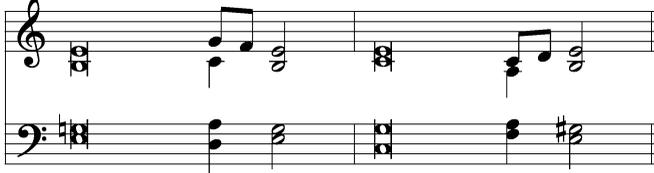
Psalm 22

Refrain



O sa - cred head, now wound-ed, with grief and shame weighed down.

Tone



My God, my God, why have you for- / saken me?

Why are you so far from saving me, so far from my cries of / anguish?

I am a worm and / not a man,

scorned by everyone, despised by the / people.

All who see me / mock me;

they hurl insults, shaking / their heads.

"He trusts in the / LORD," they say,

"let the LORD / rescue him." *Refrain*

All my bones are / on display;

you lay me in the / dust of death.

A pack of villains en- / circles me;

they pierce my hands / and my feet.

They divide my clothes a- / mong them

and cast lots for my / garment.

But you, LORD, do not be / far from me.
You are my strength; come quickly to / help me.
**Glory be to the Father and / to the Son
and to the Holy / Spirit,
as it was in the be- / ginning,
is now, and will be forever. / Amen. Refrain**

Text: attr. Bernard of Clairvaux; German version Paul Gerhardt; The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941 Tune: Hans Leo Hassler Setting: Paul G. Bunjes
Tune: Public domain Setting: © 1982 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: License no. 130004679

READING

Matthew 27:1–26

¹Early in the morning, all the chief priests and the elders of the people reached the decision to put Jesus to death. ²They bound him, led him away, and handed him over to Pontius Pilate, the governor.

³Then when Judas, who had betrayed him, saw that Jesus was condemned, he felt remorse. He brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders ⁴and said, “I have sinned by betraying innocent blood.” But they said, “What is that to us? That’s your problem.”

⁵He threw the pieces of silver into the temple and left. Then he went out and hanged himself. ⁶The chief priests took the pieces of silver and said, “It is not lawful to put these into the treasury, since it is blood money.” ⁷They reached a decision to buy the potter’s field with the money, as a burial place for foreigners. ⁸So that field has been called The Field of Blood to this day. ⁹Then what was spoken through Jeremiah the prophet was fulfilled:

They took the thirty pieces of silver, the price the sons of Israel had set for him, ¹⁰and they gave them for the potter’s field, just as the Lord commanded me.

¹¹When Jesus stood in the presence of the governor, the governor asked him, “Are you the King of the Jews?”

Jesus said to him, “It is as you say.”

¹²When he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he answered nothing. ¹³Then Pilate said to him, “Don’t you hear how many things they are testifying against you?”

¹⁴But he did not answer him—not even one word, so that the governor was very surprised.

¹⁵At the time of the Festival the governor had a custom to release to the crowd any one prisoner they wanted. ¹⁶At that time they were holding a notorious prisoner named Barabbas. ¹⁷So when they were assembled, Pilate said to them, “Which one do you want me to release to you? Barabbas—or Jesus, who is called Christ?” ¹⁸For Pilate knew that they had handed Jesus over to him because of envy.

¹⁹While he was sitting on the judgment seat, Pilate’s wife sent him a message. “Have nothing to do with that righteous man,” she said, “since I have suffered many things today in a dream because of him.” ²⁰But the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowd to ask for Barabbas

and to have Jesus put to death. ²¹The governor asked them, "Which of the two do you want me to release to you?"

"Barabbas!" they said.

²²Pilate said to them, "Then what should I do with Jesus, who is called Christ?"

They all said to him, "Crucify him!"

²³But the governor said, "Why? What has he done wrong?"

But they kept shouting even louder: "Crucify him!"

²⁴When Pilate saw that he was accomplishing nothing and that instead it was turning into a riot, he took water, washed his hands in front of the crowd, and said, "I am innocent of this righteous man's blood. It is your responsibility."

²⁵And all the people answered, "Let his blood be on us and on our children!"

²⁶Then he released Barabbas to them, but he had Jesus flogged and handed him over to be crucified.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

HYMN

O Dearest Jesus, What Law Have You Broken | **CW 432**

DEVOTION

Matthew 27:21-22

The People of Israel

CREED

I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord.

He has redeemed me, a lost and condemned creature, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil, not with gold or silver but with his holy, precious blood and with his innocent suffering and death.

All this he did that I should be his own, and live under him in his kingdom, and serve him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as he has risen from death and lives and rules eternally.

This is most certainly true.

PRAYER

O God our Father, by your mercy and might the world turns safely into darkness and returns again to light. We place into your hands our unfinished tasks, our unsolved problems, and our unfulfilled hopes, knowing that only what you bless will prosper. To your great love and protection we commit each other and all those we love, knowing that you alone are our sure defender; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

HYMN

*Now the Light Has Gone Away*¹ | CW 784:4

4 Now my eve-ning praise I give; you once died that I might live.



All your pre-cious gifts are free— oh, how good you are to me!

Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836–1879, alt.

Tune: Liederbuch für Kleinkinder-Schulen, Kaiserswerth, 1842

Text and tune: Public domain

¹ This hymn would serve as a beautiful bedtime prayer.