

Wednesday Lenten Series
March 11, 2026
10:00 am and 6:30 pm



Zion Lutheran Church
1400 S Duluth Ave
Sioux Falls, SD 57105
605-338-5226
www.zlcsf.org

ORDER OF WORSHIP

WELCOME and REGISTER ATTENDANCE

OPENING WORDS

Pastor: God's people groan under the weight of suffering, injustice, and delayed deliverance. Lamentations capture the cry of a wounded nation: "How long, O Lord?" Their grief reveals a burden deeper than circumstance, the ache of hopes deferred and prayers seemingly unheard. Yet God promises that the one who brings judgment will in turn be judged. Babylon will fall. Oppression will end. And this reversal anticipates Christ, who will take judgment into Himself and bring hope out of ruins.

OPENING HYMN: LSB 421 Jesus, Grant That Balm and Healing

- 1 Jesus, grant that balm and healing
 In Your holy wounds I find,
Ev'ry hour that I am feeling
 Pains of body and of mind.
Should some evil thought within
Tempt my treach'rous heart to sin,
 Show the peril, and from sinning
 Keep me from its first beginning.

- 2 Should some lust or sharp temptation
 Fascinate my sinful mind,
Draw me to Your cross and passion,
 And new courage I shall find.
Or should Satan press me hard,
Let me then be on my guard,
 Saying, "Christ for me was wounded,"
 That the tempter flee confounded.

- 3 If the world my heart entices
With the broad and easy road,
With seductive, sinful vices,
Let me weigh the awful load
You were willing to endure.
Help me flee all thoughts impure
And to master each temptation,
Calm in prayer and meditation.
- 4 Ev'ry wound that pains or grieves me
By Your wounds, Lord, is made whole;
When I'm faint, Your cross revives me,
Granting new life to my soul.
Yes, Your comfort renders sweet
Ev'ry bitter cup I meet;
For Your all-atoning passion
Has procured my soul's salvation.
- 5 O my God, my rock and tower,
Grant that in Your death I trust,
Knowing death has lost its power
Since You crushed it in the dust.
Savior, let Your agony
Ever help and comfort me;
When I die be my protection,
Light and life and resurrection.

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INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES

Pastor: For our sake God made Jesus to be sin who knew no sin,

People: so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.

Pastor: But He was wounded for our transgressions.

People: He was crushed for our iniquities.

Pastor: upon Him was the chastisement that brought us peace,

People: and with His stripes we are healed.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Pastor: Lord Jesus, search our hearts and minds that we may receive Your Word, share in Your Spirit, and be renewed in our relationships with You and with one another. With humble hearts, let us pray together:

People: Lord Jesus, the Father's only Son, the King of kings and Lord of lords, hear us as we pray.

Pastor: Even though You claimed us as Your own in the waters of Baptism, we often do not walk in the newness of life.

People: Our rebellion against You in thought, word, and action is why You died for us—

Pastor: to forgive our sins, to redeem our lives, and to cancel the debt we owe to God.

People: With hearts that are humble and lives ever grateful, help us to receive Your grace, bow before You in worship, and confess that You alone are Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Pastor: Almighty God our heavenly Father shows His mercy to us in the sending of His Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who blesses us with new birth in the water and the Spirit and assures us that our lives belong to Him. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen

PSALM: Psalm 89

Pastor: I will sing of the steadfast love of the Lord, forever;

People: With my mouth I will make known your faithfulness to all generations.

Pastor: For I said, “Steadfast love will be built up forever;

People: In the heavens you will establish your faithfulness.”

Pastor: Let the heavens praise your wonders, O Lord,

People: Your faithfulness in the assembly of the holy ones!

Pastor: O Lord God of hosts, who is mighty as you are, O Lord,

People: With your faithfulness all around you?

Pastor: Righteousness and justice are the foundation of your throne;

People: Steadfast love and faithfulness go before you.

All: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray together.

All: Almighty and everlasting God, give unto us the increase of faith, hope, and charity; and that we may obtain that which Thou dost promise, make us to love that which Thou dost command; through Jesus Christ, Thy Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, ever one God, world without end. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING: Lamentations 3:19-26

I remember my affliction and my wandering, the bitterness and the gall. I well remember them, and my soul is downcast within me.

Yet this I call to mind and therefore I have hope: Because of the LORD's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. I say to myself, "The LORD is my portion; Therefore, I will wait for him." The LORD is good to those whose hope is in him, to the one who seeks him; it is good to wait quietly for the salvation of the LORD.

Pastor: O Lord, have mercy on us.

People: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE READING: Hebrews 10:32-11:1

Remember those earlier days after you had received the light, when you endured in a great conflict full of suffering. Sometimes you were publicly exposed to insult and persecution; at other times you stood side by side with those who were so treated. You suffered along with those in prison and joyfully accepted the confiscation of your property, because you knew that you yourselves had better and lasting possessions. So do not throw away your confidence; it will be richly rewarded. You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what he has promised. For, "In just a little while, he who is coming will come and will not delay." And "But my righteous one will live by faith. And I take no pleasure in the one who shrinks back." But we do not belong to those who shrink back and are destroyed, but to those who have faith and are saved. Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.

Pastor: O Lord, have mercy on us.

People: Thanks be to God.

Pastor: Please rise out of respect for the words and ministry of Jesus Christ.

HOLY GOSPEL: Matthew 24:36-51

Pastor: This is the Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-fourth chapter.

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

“But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark; and they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away. That is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. Two men will be in the field; one will be taken and the other left. Two women will be grinding with a hand mill; one will be taken and the other left. “Therefore, keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come. But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what time of night the thief was coming, he would have kept watch and would not have let his house be broken into. So, you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him. “Who then is the faithful and wise servant, whom the master has put in charge of the servants in his household to give them their food at the proper time? It will be good for that servant whose master finds him doing so when he returns. Truly I tell you, he will put him in charge of all his possessions. But suppose that servant is wicked and says to himself, ‘My master is staying away a long time,’ and he then begins to beat his fellow servants and to eat and drink with drunkards. The master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he is not aware of. He will cut him to pieces and assign him a place with the hypocrites, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Pastor: This is the Holy Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE (6:30 pm only)

SERMON HYMN: LSB 696 O God, My Faithful God (1-3, 6)

- 1 O God, my faithful God,
True fountain ever flowing,
Without whom nothing is,
All perfect gifts bestowing:
Give me a healthy frame,
And may I have within
A conscience free from blame,
A soul unstained by sin.

- 2 Grant me the strength to do
With ready heart and willing
Whatever You command,
My calling here fulfilling;
That I do what I should
While trusting You to bless
The outcome for my good,
For You must give success.

- 3 Keep me from saying words
That later need recalling;
Guard me lest idle speech
May from my lips be falling;
But when within my place
I must and ought to speak,
Then to my words give grace
Lest I offend the weak.

- 6 And on that final day
When all the dead are waking,
Stretch out Your mighty hand,
My deathly slumber breaking.
Then let me hear Your voice,
Redeem this earthly frame,
And bid me to rejoice
With those who love Your name.

THE SERMON

OFFERING | TREASURE BOX (6:30 pm only)

SPECIAL MUSIC: “I Will Glory in the Cross” (6:30 pm only)

HYMN: LSB 773 Hear Us, Father, When We Pray (10 am only)

- 1 Hear us, Father, when we pray,
Through Your Son and in Your Spirit.
By Your Spirit's Word convey
All that we through Christ inherit,
That as baptized heirs we may
Truly pray.
- 2 When we know not what to say
And our wounded souls are pleading,
May Your Spirit, night and day,
Groan within us interceding;
By His sighs, too deep for words,
We are heard.
- 3 Jesus, advocate on high,
Sacrificed on Calv'ry's altar,
Through Your priestly blood we cry:
Hear our prayers, though they may falter;
Place them on Your Father's throne
As Your own.
- 4 By Your Spirit now attend
To our prayers and supplications,
As like incense they ascend
To Your heav'nly habitations.
May their fragrance waft above,
God of love.

LENTEN PRAYER

Pastor: Gracious God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we thank You for blessing us with the opportunity to meditate again on the cross of Christ and receive Your promised treasures.

People: Grant that the message of the Lamb of God slain for our salvation bring us the riches of Your pardon and peace.

Pastor: Lead us to see that our sins caused Jesus' great agony in the garden, that our sins nailed Him to the cross of Calvary,

People: that He was forsaken by His Father so that we might never be forsaken, and that He died so that we may live.

Pastor: Lord Jesus, grant that especially during this sacred season the treasured story of Your wondrous love for us would draw us closer to You.

People: Enable us to see the blessings You have poured out into our lives through the washing of water with the Word.

Pastor: Holy Spirit, lift up troubled souls everywhere. Grant wholeness to those hurting in heart, body, and mind. Work Your healing power in the lives of those in need, [especially . . .], and in the lives of all we name before You in our hearts.

People: All glory, honor, and praise be to You, with the Father and the Son, one God, now and forever. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

All: 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.

LUTHER'S MORNING PRAYER (10 am only)

All: I thank you, my Heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

LUTHER'S EVENING PRAYER (6:30 pm only)

All: I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

BENEDICTION

Pastor: The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve you.

People: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN: LSB 433 Glory Be to Jesus

- 1 Glory be to Jesus,
 Who in bitter pains
 Poured for me the lifeblood
 From His sacred veins!

- 2 Grace and life eternal
 In that blood I find;
 Blest be His compassion,
 Infinitely kind!

- 3 Blest through endless ages
 Be the precious stream
 Which from endless torment
 Did the world redeem!
- 4 Abel's blood for vengeance
 Pleaded to the skies;
 But the blood of Jesus
 For our pardon cries.
- 5 Oft as earth exulting
 Wafts its praise on high,
 Angel hosts rejoicing
 Make their glad reply.
- 6 Lift we, then, our voices,
 Swell the mighty flood;
 Louder still and louder
 Praise the precious blood!

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