



March 25, 2026

The Sixth Wednesday in Lent

Rev. Ken Bersche

Maggie Kent, Secretary

Prelude

Processional Hymn *Please Stand*

“O Worship the King”

- ♪ O worship the King, all-glorious above. O gratefully sing His pow’r and His love;
Our shield and defender, the Ancient of Days,
Pavilioned in splendor and girded with praise.
- ♪ O tell of His might, O sing of His grace, Whose robe is the light, whose canopy space;
His chariots of wrath the deep thunderclouds form,
And dark is His path on the wings of the storm.
- ♪ This earth, with its store of wonders untold, Almighty, Thy pow’r hath founded of old,
Established it fast by a changeless decree,
And round it hath cast, like a mantle, the sea.
- ♪ Thy bountiful care what tongue can recite? It breathes in the air, it shines in the light,
It streams from the hills, it descends to the plain,
And sweetly distills in the dew and the rain.
- ♪ Frail children of dust and feeble as frail, In Thee do we trust, nor find Thee to fail.
Thy mercies, how tender, how firm to the end,
Our maker, defender, redeemer, and friend!
- ♪ O measureless Might, ineffable Love, While angels delight to hymn Thee above,
Thy humbler creation, though feeble their lays,
With true adoration shall sing to Thy praise.

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 804—Text: Robert Grant, 1779–1838, alt.; Text: Public domain

Invocation

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

Matthew 28:19b

Amen.

Confession and Absolution

We confess our sins before God, our heavenly Father.

Have mercy on me, O God, according to Your steadfast love; according to Your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin! For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. Against You, You only, have I sinned and done what is evil in Your sight, so that You may be justified in Your words and blameless in Your judgment. Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me. Behold, You delight in truth in the inward being, and You teach me wisdom in the secret heart. Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that You have broken rejoice. Hide Your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquities. Create in me a

clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Your presence, and take not Your Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit.

Psalms 51:1-12

In His great mercy, God sent His Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who took all our sins to the cross. In His stead and by His command, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen. Thanks be to God.

Prayer

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray. Almighty and eternal God, because it was Your will that Your Son should bear the pain of the cross for us and thus remove from us the power of the adversary, help us to remember and give thanks for our Lord's Passion that we may receive remission of sins and redemption from everlasting death; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Old Testament Reading *Please Be Seated*

Exodus 16:1–18

¹They set out from Elim, and all the congregation of the people of Israel came to the wilderness of Sin, which is between Elim and Sinai, on the fifteenth day of the second month after they had departed from the land of Egypt. ²And the whole congregation of the people of Israel grumbled against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness, ³and the people of Israel said to them, "Would that we had died by the hand of the Lord in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the meat pots and ate bread to the full, for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger."

⁴Then the Lord said to Moses, "Behold, I am about to rain bread from heaven for you, and the people shall go out and gather a day's portion every day, that I may test them, whether they will walk in my law or not. ⁵On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be twice as much as they gather daily." ⁶So Moses and Aaron said to all the people of Israel, "At evening you shall know that it was the Lord who brought you out of the land of Egypt, ⁷and in the morning you shall see the glory of the Lord, because he has heard your grumbling against the Lord. For what are we, that you grumble against us?" ⁸And Moses said, "When the Lord gives you in the evening meat to eat and in the morning bread to the full, because the Lord has heard your grumbling that you grumble against him—what are we? Your grumbling is not against us but against the Lord."

⁹Then Moses said to Aaron, "Say to the whole congregation of the people of Israel, 'Come near before the Lord, for he has heard your grumbling.'" ¹⁰And as soon as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the people of Israel, they looked toward the wilderness, and behold, the glory of the Lord appeared in the cloud. ¹¹And the Lord said to Moses, ¹²"I have heard the grumbling of the people of Israel. Say to them, 'At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall be filled with bread. Then you shall know that I am the Lord your God.'"

¹³In the evening quail came up and covered the camp, and in the morning dew lay around the camp. ¹⁴And when the dew had gone up, there was on the face of the wilderness a fine, flake-like thing, fine as frost on the ground. ¹⁵When the people of Israel saw it, they said to one another, "What is it?" For they did not know what it was. And Moses said to them, "It is the bread that the Lord has given you to eat. ¹⁶This is what the Lord has commanded: 'Gather of it, each one of you, as much as he can eat. You shall each take an omer, according to the number of the persons that each of you has in his

tent.”¹⁷ And the people of Israel did so. They gathered, some more, some less. ¹⁸But when they measured it with an omer, whoever gathered much had nothing left over, and whoever gathered little had no lack. Each of them gathered as much as he could eat.

The Epistle

Philippians 4:10–13

¹⁰I rejoiced in the Lord greatly that now at length you have revived your concern for me. You were indeed concerned for me, but you had no opportunity. ¹¹Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned, in whatever situation I am, to be content. ¹²I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. ¹³I can do all things through him who strengthens me.

Gradual Hymn

“Jesus, Refuge of the Weary”

- ♪ Jesus, refuge of the weary, Blest Redeemer, whom we love,
Fountain in life’s desert dreary, Savior from the world above:
Often have Your eyes, offended, Gazed upon the sinner’s fall;
Yet upon the cross extended, You have borne the pain of all.
- ♪ Do we pass that cross unheeding, Breathing no repentant vow,
Though we see You wounded, bleeding, See Your thorn-encircled brow?
Yet Your sinless death has brought us Life eternal, peace, and rest;
Only what Your grace has taught us Calms the sinner’s deep distress.
- ♪ Jesus, may our hearts be burning With more fervent love for You;
May our eyes be ever turning To behold Your cross anew
Till in glory, parted never From the blessed Savior’s side,
Graven in our hearts forever, Dwell the cross, the Crucified.

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 423 -Text: Girolamo Savonarola 1452-98; tr. James F. Wilde 1826-96; Public domain

Passion History of Our Lord *Please Stand*

Matthew 27:51–66

⁵¹And behold, the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. And the earth shook, and the rocks were split. ⁵²The tombs also were opened. And many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised, ⁵³and coming out of the tombs after his resurrection they went into the holy city and appeared to many. ⁵⁴When the centurion and those who were with him, keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were filled with awe and said, “Truly this was the Son of God!”

⁵⁵There were also many women there, looking on from a distance, who had followed Jesus from Galilee, ministering to him, ⁵⁶among whom were Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James and Joseph and the mother of the sons of Zebedee.

⁵⁷When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who also was a disciple of Jesus. ⁵⁸He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then Pilate ordered it to be given to him. ⁵⁹And Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen shroud ⁶⁰and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had cut in the rock. And he rolled a great stone to the entrance of the tomb and went away. ⁶¹Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were there, sitting opposite the tomb.

⁶²The next day, that is, after the day of Preparation, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered before Pilate ⁶³and said, “Sir, we remember how that impostor said, while he was still alive, ‘After three days I will rise.’ ⁶⁴Therefore order the tomb to be made secure until the third day, lest his disciples go and steal him away and tell the people, ‘He has risen from the dead,’ and the last fraud will be worse than

the first.” ⁶⁵Pilate said to them, “You have a guard of soldiers. Go, make it as secure as you can.” ⁶⁶So they went and made the tomb secure by sealing the stone and setting a guard.

Apostles' Creed

The Hymn *Please Be Seated*

“Cross of Jesus, Cross of Sorrow”

♪ Cross of Jesus, cross of sorrow, Where the blood of Christ was shed,
Perfect Man on thee did suffer, Perfect God on thee has bled!

♪ Here the King of all the ages, Throned in light ere worlds could be,
Robed in mortal flesh is dying, Crucified by sin for me.

♪ O mysterious condescending! O abandonment sublime!
Very God Himself is bearing All the sufferings of time!

♪ Cross of Jesus, cross of sorrow, Where the blood of Christ was shed,
Perfect Man on thee did suffer, Perfect God on thee has bled!

*Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 428 -Text: William J. Sparrow Simpson 1860-1952
Tune: John Stainer 1840-1901; Public Domain*

Proclamation of the Word

“Complaints Are Removed”

Exodus 16:1–18

Response Hymn

“I’m But a Stranger Here”

♪ I’m but a stranger here, Heav’n is my home; Earth is a desert drear,
Heav’n is my home. Danger and sorrow stand Round me on ev’ry hand;
Heav’n is my fatherland, Heav’n is my home.

♪ What though the tempest rage, Heav’n is my home; Short is my pilgrimage,
Heav’n is my home; And time’s wild wintry blast Soon shall be overpast;
I shall reach home at last, Heav’n is my home.

♪ Therefore I murmur not, Heav’n is my home; Whate’er my earthly lot,
Heav’n is my home; And I shall surely stand There at my Lord’s right hand;
Heav’n is my fatherland, Heav’n is my home.

*Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 748-Text: Thomas R. Taylor 1807-35; Tune: Arthur S. Sullivan 1842-1900;
Setting: The Lutheran Hymnal 1941; Public Domain; LSBHymnLicense.net #100012386.*

Prayer of the Church *Please Stand Each petition is concluded with the following:*

Lord, in Your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

Lord’s Prayer

Benediction

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on You with favor and + give You peace.

Amen.

Numbers 6:24–26

Recessional Hymn *Please Be Seated*

“Crown Him with Many Crowns”

- ♪ Crown Him with many crowns, The Lamb upon His throne;
Hark how the heav'nly anthem drowns All music but its own,
Awake, my soul, and sing Of Him who died for thee,
And hail Him as thy matchless king Through all eternity.
- ♪ Crown Him the virgin's Son, The God incarnate born,
Whose arm those crimson trophies won Which now His brow adorn:
Fruit of the mystic rose, Yet of that rose the stem,
The root whence mercy ever flows, The babe of Bethlehem.
- ♪ Crown Him the Lord of love. Behold His hands and side,
Rich wounds, yet visible above, In beauty glorified.
No angels in the sky Can fully bear that sight,
But downward bend their wond'ring eyes At mysteries so bright.
- ♪ Crown Him the Lord of life, Who triumphed o'er the grave
And rose victorious in the strife For those He came to save.
His glories now we sing, Who died and rose on high,
Who died eternal life to bring And lives that death may die.
- ♪ Crown Him the Lord of heav'n, Enthroned in worlds above,
Crown Him the king to whom is giv'n The wondrous name of Love.
Crown Him with many crowns As thrones before Him fall;
Crown Him, ye kings, with many crowns, For He is king of all.

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 525-Text: Matthew Bridges 1800-94, vv. 1-3, Godfrey Thring 1823-1903, v.4; Public domain

Postlude

Door Offering