

Join us  
during this  
**season**  
of Lent.



**March 11, 2026**  
**Midweek Lent 4**

**LUTHERAN CHURCH OF PRAYER**  
8001 Panorama Drive, Bakersfield, CA 93306  
Phone: 661/871-1289 • Fax: 661/872-6302  
Email: [office@lcop.org](mailto:office@lcop.org) • [www.lcop.org](http://www.lcop.org)

**Wonder Window Children's Center**  
661/871-7051

Our Mission Statement  
Lutheran Church of Prayer walks with others and teaches the  
Word of God through relationships and personal example.

**Welcome Friends & Guests!**

We pray you will be blessed by our worship today. A welcome packet can be found at the Welcome Center Desk in our lobby. Please pick one up. Each family is asked to fill out an attendance card. Place the completed card in the offering plate. If you have a prayer request to be included in the service, please write your requests on the blue Prayer Requests sheet found in the pew rack and hand it directly to an Usher before worship begins.

**A Time for Quiet Meditation**

**As you enter the sanctuary for worship you are encouraged to use this time for prayer and meditation to prepare your hearts to worship our Lord and to look over the worship bulletin. Visiting with friends can be done in the narthex area so others will not be disturbed. Thank you.**

**Offering**

The offering is an act of worship for members and friends of Lutheran Church of Prayer, moved by God's love, to support the mission of the church. We do not want guests to feel obligated to participate. We want you to feel welcome and we truly wish to serve you! God bless you!

**Standing**

If at any time during the service it becomes uncomfortable for you to stand, please feel free to sit down, even if others are standing. God knows our strengths and understands our weaknesses too.

**Organist, David Collins • Choir Director, David Ortiz**  
**Pianist, David Collins • Handbell Director, Judy Houston**  
**Praise Band Director, Tammy Poynor**

**Serving Us Today**

Pastor ..... Pastor Dwayne Hendricks  
Elder..... Harry Kralej  
Ushers..... Roy Eynaud & Harry Kralej  
Reader ..... Bryant Arnold  
Greeters .....  
Altar Circle ..... Linda Hartnett & Barb Kralej





hours His own. Let heav'n re - jice, let  
em - pire fell; To - day the saints His  
ho - ly Son! Help us, O Lord; de -  
es of grace; He, in the Lord's name,  
earth can raise. The high - est heav'ns, in



earth be glad And praise sur - round the throne.  
tri - umphs spread And all His won - ders tell.  
scend and bring Sal - va - tion from Your throne.  
comes to us To save our fall - en race.  
which He reigns, Shall give Him no - bler praise.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748, alt.

Tune: Johann Crüger, 1598-1662

Text and tune: Public domain

## Opening Sentences *Psalm 32:1; Matthew 25:29; Exodus 12:13*

**P** Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven,

**C** whose sin is covered.

**P** For to everyone who has will more be given,

**C** and he will have an abundance.

**P** I will pass over you,

**C** and no plague will befall you to destroy you.

## Psalm

*Psalm 32*

**P** Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven,  
whose sin is covered.

**C** **Blessed is the man against whom the LORD counts no iniquity,  
and in whose spirit there is no deceit.**

**P** For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away  
through my groaning all day long.

**C** **For day and night Your hand was heavy upon me;  
my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.**

**P** I acknowledged my sin to You,  
and I did not cover my iniquity;

**C** **I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the LORD,”  
and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

**P** Therefore let everyone who is godly  
offer prayer to You at a time when You may be found;  
surely in the rush of great waters, they shall not reach  
him.

**C** **You are a hiding place for me;  
You preserve me from trouble;  
You surround me with shouts of deliverance.**

- P** I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go;  
I will counsel you with My eye upon you.
- C** **Be not like a horse or a mule, without understanding, which must be curbed with bit and bridle, or it will not stay near you.**
- P** Many are the sorrows of the wicked,  
**C** **but steadfast love surrounds the one who trusts in the LORD.**
- P** Be glad in the LORD, and rejoice, O righteous,  
**C** **and shout for joy, all you upright in heart!**

### **First Reading:**

*Jonah 3*

<sup>1</sup>Then the word of the LORD came to Jonah the second time, saying, <sup>2</sup>“Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and call out against it the message that I tell you.” <sup>3</sup>So Jonah arose and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the LORD. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly great city, three days’ journey in breadth. <sup>4</sup>Jonah began to go into the city, going a day’s journey. And he called out, “Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!” <sup>5</sup>And the people of Nineveh believed God. They called for a fast and put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them to the least of them.

<sup>6</sup>The word reached the king of Nineveh, and he arose from his throne, removed his robe, covered himself with sackcloth, and sat in ashes. <sup>7</sup>And he issued a proclamation and published through Nineveh, “By the decree of the king and his nobles: Let neither man nor beast, herd nor flock, taste anything. Let them not feed or drink water, <sup>8</sup>but let man and beast be covered with sackcloth, and let them call out mightily to God. Let everyone turn from his evil way and from the violence that is in his hands. <sup>9</sup>Who knows? God may turn and relent and turn from his fierce anger, so that we may not perish.”

<sup>10</sup>When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil way, God relented of the disaster that he had said he would do to them, and he did not do it.

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

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

**Second Reading:**

*1 Corinthians 1:20–25*

<sup>20</sup>Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? <sup>21</sup>For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe. <sup>22</sup>For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, <sup>23</sup>but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to

Gentiles, <sup>24</sup>but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. <sup>25</sup>For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

### Third Reading:

*Matthew 12:38–42*

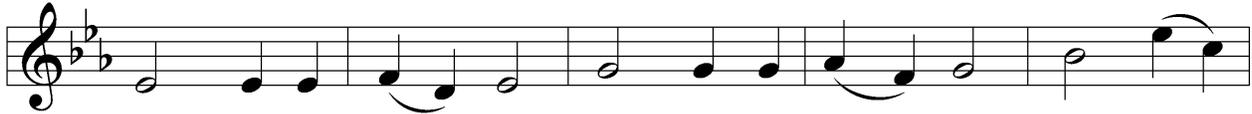
<sup>38</sup>Then some of the scribes and Pharisees answered him, saying, “Teacher, we wish to see a sign from you.” <sup>39</sup>But he answered them, “An evil and adulterous generation seeks for a sign, but no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah. <sup>40</sup>For just as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth. <sup>41</sup>The men of Nineveh will rise up at the judgment with this generation and condemn it, for they repented at the preaching of Jonah, and behold, something greater than Jonah is here. <sup>42</sup>The queen of the South will rise up at the judgment with this generation and condemn it, for she came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon, and behold, something greater than Solomon is here.

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

# Hymn: 537 Beautiful Savior

V 1-4



1 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, King of cre - a - tion, Son of  
2 Fair are the mead - ows, Fair are the wood - lands, Robed in  
3 Fair is the sun - shine, Fair is the moon - light, Bright the  
4 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, Lord of the na - tions, Son of



God and Son of Man! Tru - ly I'd love Thee, Tru - ly I'd  
flow'rs of bloom - ing spring; Je - sus is fair - er, Je - sus is  
spar - kling stars on high; Je - sus shines bright - er, Je - sus shines  
God and Son of Man! Glo - ry and hon - or, Praise, ad - o -



serve Thee, Light of my soul, my joy, my crown.  
pur - er, He makes our sor - r'wing spir - it sing.  
pur - er Than all the an - gels in the sky.  
ra - tion Now and for - ev - er - more be Thine!

Text: Münsterisch Gesangbuch, 1677, Münster; tr. Joseph A. Seiss, 1823-1904  
Tune: Silesian, 19th cent.  
Text and tune: Public domain

## Message

*"God's Grand Story"*

**Offering: "Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart"**

*By Wilbur Held*

## 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.

**P** 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.**

**P** 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.**

**P** 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** O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy, be gracious to all who have gone astray from Your ways  
**C** and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of Your Word; 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.**

### **Luther's Evening Prayer**

**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**

**☐** The Lord, who has passed over you in mercy, bless you.  
The Lord, who sent His Son to pay for your sins, bless you.

The Lord, who calls you His sons and daughters, bless you and keep you, now and forever.

**☐** Amen.

# Hymn: 924 Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing *V 1-3*



1 Lord, dis - miss us with Your bless - ing, Fill our hearts with  
2 Thanks we give and ad - o - ra - tion For Your Gos - pel's  
3 Sav - ior, when Your love shall call us From our strug - gling



joy and peace; Let us each, Your love pos - sess - ing,  
joy - ful sound. May the fruits of Your sal - va - tion  
pil - grim way, Let not fear of death ap - pall us,



Tri - umph in re - deem - ing grace. O re - fresh us;  
In our hearts and lives a - bound. Ev - er faith - ful,  
Glad Your sum - mons to o - bey. May we ev - er,



O re - fresh us, Trav - 'ling through this wil - der - ness.  
ev - er faith - ful To Your truth may we be found.  
may we ev - er Reign with You in end - less day.

Text (sts. 1-2): attr. John Fawcett, 1740-1817, alt.; (st. 3): Godfrey Thring, 1823-1903, alt.

Tune: Henry T. Smart, 1813-79

Text and tune: Public domain

## Dismissal

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

### Acknowledgments

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### Acknowledgments

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## + What We Believe +

**God:** is Triune, Father, Son, Holy Spirit; Three Persons, One Essence. He is the only true God: *Matthew 28:19; 1 Corinthians 8:4*

**Jesus:** is true God, equal to the Father and Holy Spirit, the only Savior of mankind. *John 5:23; John 14:6; Acts 4:12; 20:28*

**Sin:** all mankind is wicked; by nature the human race is spiritually blind, dead, broken in heart/mind, and in need of restoration with God and each other. God's wrath abides on all. *Genesis 8:21; Psalm 51:5; Romans 3:23, 7:15, 18; Mark 7:20-23; John 3:36.*

**Justification:** Sin and God's wrath against it has been dealt with by God through the death of God the Son on the cross. All have salvation through the blood of Jesus where our Father no longer holds our wickedness and sin against us but declares us righteous. We have peace again with God through faith in Jesus. This good news gives believers hope, peace, joy, and love to live as Christians. *Romans 5:1-10; John 3:16, 36; 2 Corinthians 5:19; 1 John 2:1-2; Corinthians 5:18-21.*

**Conversion:** to faith in the Savior is entirely the work of the Holy Spirit through the Word of God (spoken, written, and sacramental). In the message of the cross God gathers His family. *Romans 10:17; 1 Peter 1:23; John 3:5-6; 1 Corinthians 12:3.*

**Holy Baptism:** is a gracious work of the Holy Spirit Who creates faith, washes away sins, and connects us to Jesus and His body the church. *John 3:5-6; Acts 22:16; Galatians 3:27, 1 Peter 3:21; Titus 3:5; 1 Corinthians 12:13.*

**The Holy Spirit's Work:** Converted through faith in Jesus our human nature still threatens our unity with God and each other. Reconciliation, that is repentance and faith, is the daily rhythm of believers. Guilt and sorrow are promptings of the Holy Spirit for us to speak with God confessing thoughts, words, and actions asking Him for forgiveness in Jesus' name. *Ephesians 4:30-32; 2 Corinthians 7:10; Hebrews 10:19-25.*

**The Lord's Supper:** or Holy Communion is Christ's True Body and Blood, where He is really present in the bread and wine to assure us of forgiveness. We gather to receive Jesus often because we daily sin much and are in constant need of His power to live the Christian life of faith, hope, and love/charity. *John 6:53-59; 15:5; Matthew 26:26-28; 1 Corinthians 11: 23-29; 1 Corinthians 10:16.*

**Scripture:** is inspired by God, without error and is our solid guide to life. *John 10:35; 2 Timothy 3:16.*

**Creation:** happened according to Genesis 1-2. Evolution is unscriptural, unscientific, and unnecessary. *Genesis 1:1; Hebrews 11:3; Psalm 33:6.*

**2<sup>nd</sup> Coming:** of Jesus will be sudden/unexpected. *2 Peter 3:10; Mark 13:32; Matthew 24.* We are living in the New Testament era where we rule with Jesus in the activity of sharing His message of love. *1 Corinthians 15:23-26; Ephesians 2:1-7; Matthew 28:19-20; Revelation 20:4-6*