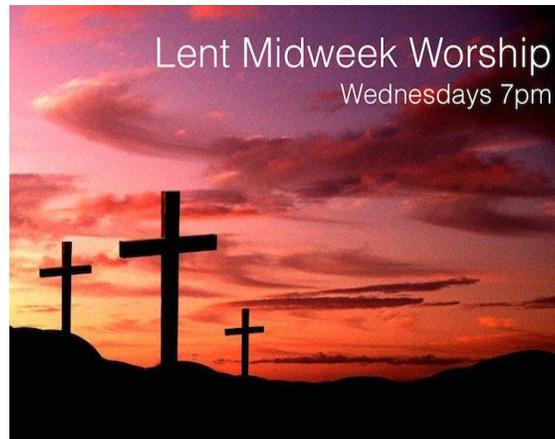


WELCOME
HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH
TWIN LAKES, WI
MARCH 24, 2021



“RETURN TO THE KINGDOM OF GOD”

In the conclusion of his First Letter to his co-worker Timothy, Paul encourages his young friend with a shared vision of what is to come as God fulfills all things. He writes of “the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, which He will display at the proper time—He who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords” (1 Timothy 6:14–15). As Jesus stood before Pilate, who seemed to have the full authority of life and death over Him, our Savior knew who He was and what His kingdom was and is and will be. “My kingdom is not of this world,” Jesus stated (John 18:36a). With the psalmist, we affirm, “The LORD will reign forever” (Psalm 146:10). The very best and most blessed time under His gracious kingship is yet to be!

WELCOME

OPENING HYMN “The Day You Gave Us” (LSB 886)

**1 The day you gave us, Lord, is ended;
the darkness falls at your request.
To you our morning hymns ascended;
your praise shall sanctify our rest.**

**2 We thank you that your church, unsleeping
while earth rolls onward into light,
through all the world its watch is keeping,
and never rests by day or night.**

**3 As over continent and island
each dawn leads on another day,
the voice of prayer is never silent,
nor do the praises die away.**

**4 So be it, Lord, your throne shall never,
like earth’s proud empires, pass away.
Your reign endures and grows forever,
until there dawns your glorious day.**

OPENING AND CONFESSION

P O Lord, open my lips,

C and my mouth will declare Your praise.

P Make haste, O God, to deliver me;

C make haste to help me, O Lord.

C 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. Praise to You, O Christ, Lamb of our salvation.

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

P In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for His sake God forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ He gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit. May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C Amen.

KYRIE

(LSB, p. 152)

P In peace let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

P For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

P For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

P For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

P Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Faithful God, through the ancient prophets You call us to return to You with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength. Let these Lenten days be a time when, remembering how You relentlessly return to us in mercy, we return also to You; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

+ READINGS +

FIRST READING

Isaiah 53:1–3

P A reading from Isaiah, the fifty-third chapter.

¹ Who has believed what they heard from us? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed? ² For He grew up before Him like a young plant, and like a root out of dry ground; He had no form or majesty that we should look at Him, and no beauty that we should desire Him. ³ He was

despised and rejected by men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces He was despised, and we esteemed Him not.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING

1 Timothy 2:1–7

P A reading from First Timothy, the second chapter.

¹ First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, ² for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. ³ This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, ⁴ who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. ⁵ For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, ⁶ who gave Himself as a ransom for all, ⁷ which is the testimony given at the proper time. For this I was appointed a preacher and an apostle (I am telling the truth, I am not lying), a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C **Thanks be to God.**

VERSE FOR LENT

(LSB, p. 157)

C **Return to the Lord, your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and abounding in steadfast love.**

HOLY GOSPEL

John 18:28–38

P A reading from St. John, the eighteenth chapter.

²⁸ Then they led Jesus from the house of Caiaphas to the governor's headquarters. It was early morning. They themselves did not enter the governor's headquarters, so that they would not be defiled, but could eat the Passover. ²⁹ So Pilate went outside to them and said, "What accusation do you bring against this man?" ³⁰ They answered him, "If this man were not doing evil, we would not have delivered Him over to you." ³¹ Pilate said to them, "Take Him yourselves and judge Him by your own law." The Jews said to him, "It is not lawful for us to put anyone to death." ³² This was to fulfill the word that Jesus had spoken to show by what kind of death He was going to die.

³³ So Pilate entered his headquarters again and called Jesus and said to Him, "Are You the King of the Jews?" ³⁴ Jesus answered, "Do you say this of your own accord, or did others say it to you about Me?" ³⁵ Pilate answered, "Am I a Jew? Your own nation and the chief priests have delivered You over to me. What have You done?" ³⁶ Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would have been fighting, that I might not be delivered over to the Jews. But My kingdom is not from the world." ³⁷ Then Pilate said to Him, "So You are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world—to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to My voice." ³⁸ Pilate said to Him, "What is truth?" After he had said this, he went back outside to the Jews and told them, "I find no guilt in Him."

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C **Thanks be to God.**

LENT RESPONSORY

(LSB, p. 231)

P Deliver me, O Lord, my God, for You are the God of my salvation.

C **Rescue me from my enemies, protect me from those who rise against me.**

P In You, O Lord, do I put my trust, leave me not, O Lord, my God.

C **Rescue me from my enemies, protect me from those who rise against me.**

P Deliver me, O Lord, my God, for You are the God of my salvation.

C **Rescue me from my enemies, protect me from those who rise against me.**

HYMN “Lord Jesus Christ, You Set Us Free” *(Tune: LSB 902)*

**1 Lord Jesus Christ, you set us free--
Accept our thanks eternally!
Forgiven through your precious blood,
We now are reconciled to God.**

**2 By virtue of the wounds you bore,
True God and Man, our hope restore.
Give courage when we yield our breath;
Deliver us from hell and death.**

**3 Defend us, Lord, from sin and shame;
Help us by your almighty name
To bear our crosses patiently,
Consoled by your great agony.**

**4 For thus the certainty we gain
That you will always true remain
And not forsake us in our strife
But lead us out of death to life.**

SERMON

Rev. Dr. Timothy Oswald

CONFESSION OF FAITH – THE NICENE CREED

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures, and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life + of the world to come.
Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P With repentant hearts, let us turn to God in prayer for the Church, the world, and all who are in need, trusting that God is gracious and merciful to us in Jesus, abounding in steadfast love.

For the Church, that this Lenten season draws us closer to God and to one another as we focus on Jesus' redemptive acts for us and the life that He calls us to live—marked by repentance, fasting, prayer, and acts of love toward our neighbors. In prayer,

C we return to You, O Lord.

P For leaders throughout the world, that all leaders—national, regional, and local—serve with wisdom, uphold justice, and provide means of caring for those most vulnerable among us. In prayer,

C we return to You, O Lord.

P For those in our community who struggle with poverty, addiction, or unemployment, that during this Lenten time, You reenergize Your Church to serve them and love our neighbors in need as You loved and served the poor and outcast during Your earthly ministry. In prayer,

C we return to You, O Lord.

P For those who are sick, hospitalized, or dying, [*including . . .*], that they experience healing according to Your will, and that in the midst of their suffering they would experience the presence of Jesus in words of hope and acts of care. In prayer,

C we return to You, O Lord.

P For this congregation, that our intensified repentance, fasting, and prayer lead us to live in renewed ways, dying to sin with Christ in Holy Baptism each day, and being raised to new life as well every day and into eternity. In prayer,

C we return to You, O Lord.

P For our loved ones who faithfully followed Jesus in this life and are now with Him in heaven, we give thanks. Bring us to that day when all Your saints, past, present, and future, are returned to You for all eternity. In prayer,

C we return to You, O Lord.

P By the words of the prophets and by the living voice of Jesus in our ears, You call us to return to You, O Lord. According to Your gracious mercy and abounding love, hear these prayers that we this day have spoken, as well as the prayers we have that are too deep for words; for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

C Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

P Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

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.

BENEDICAMUS

P Let us bless the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

BENEDICTION

P The grace of our Lord + Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN “Cross of Jesus, Cross of Sorrow” (*LSB 428*)

1 **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!**

2 **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.**

3 **O myster'ous condescending!
O abandonment sublime!
Very God Himself is bearing
All the sufferings of time!**

4 **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!**

Acknowledgments

Vespers from *Lutheran Service Book*

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**PLEASE JOIN US FOR HOLY WEEK AND EASTER
WORSHIP SERVICES AS FOLLOWS:**

Thursday April 1	7:00 pm	Maundy Thursday Worship
Friday April 2	7:00 pm	Good Friday Worship
Sunday April 4	7:00 am	Easter Sunrise Worship
	9:00 am	Easter Worship

PASTOR:	Rev. Dr. Timothy Oswald
ORGANIST:	George Kelm

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