

HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH – TWIN LAKES, WI

Lenten Mid-week– March 18th, 2026



AS WE GATHER

This year, our Lenten mid-week services consider one of the Bible's greatest wisdom books, the book of Job. Eight sermons during mid-week services and Holy Week will help us dig deeply into Job's central message.

There's a plan where all things work for our good and the Father's glory. The secret is in understanding how it all works together. Job puts it this way—"When he has tested me, I will come forth as gold." (Job 23:10).

✘ PREPARATION ✘

WELCOME

INVOCATION

Pastor In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

CALL TO WORSHIP *(Based upon Job 19:23-27)*

Pastor: Oh, that my words were recorded, that they were written on a scroll.

***People:* That they were inscribed with an iron tool on lead, or engraved in rock forever!**

Pastor: I know that my Redeemer lives, and that in the end he will stand upon the earth.

***People:* And after my skin has been destroyed, yet in my flesh I will see God.**

Pastor: I myself will see him with my own eyes, I, and not another. How my heart yearns within me!

***ALL:* I know that my Redeemer lives!**

OPENING HYMN *“My Song Is Love Unknown”*

LSB 430 St 7

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Loving and merciful Father, when overcome by grief like Job, we wonder what happened to your love and your plan for our lives.

***People:* It feels as though our prayers fall on deaf ears.**

Pastor: Like Job, we begin looking for you to the east, to the west, to the north and to the south—the four points of the horizon and the compass—but you are nowhere to be found.

***People:* The darkness threatens to swallow us whole and we feel as though we are drowning in an ocean of divine silence.**

Pastor: Lord, then we are tempted to do something selfish and sinful

***People:* Or something that will bring great shame upon us and those we love.**

***ALL:* Have mercy on us, O God.**

Pastor: Hear the word of the LORD from Job 42:10, “The LORD restored the fortunes of Job and gave him twice as much as he had before.” Our God also turned Christ’s crucifixion into an awesome resurrection. He who was dead is now alive and he who was once defeated is now reigning in everlasting glory. Christ forgives you all your sins, in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

***ALL:* I know that my Redeemer lives!**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

***People:* And also with you.**

Pastor: Let us pray. Merciful Father, empower us to believe that when you have tested us, we will come forth as gold, for you work all things together for our good and your everlasting glory; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

***ALL:* Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READING

Job 23:1-17

Then Job answered and said:

² “Today also my complaint is bitter;

my hand is heavy on account of my groaning.

³ Oh, that I knew where I might find him,

that I might come even to his seat!
4 I would lay my case before him
and fill my mouth with arguments.
5 I would know what he would answer me
and understand what he would say to me.
6 Would he contend with me in the greatness of his power?
No; he would pay attention to me.
7 There an upright man could argue with him,
and I would be acquitted forever by my judge.
8 “Behold, I go forward, but he is not there,
and backward, but I do not perceive him;
9 on the left hand when he is working, I do not behold him;
he turns to the right hand, but I do not see him.
10 But he knows the way that I take;
when he has tried me, I shall come out as gold.
11 My foot has held fast to his steps;
I have kept his way and have not turned aside.
12 I have not departed from the commandment of his lips;
I have treasured the words of his mouth more than my portion of
food.
13 But he is unchangeable, and who can turn him back?
What he desires, that he does.
14 For he will complete what he appoints for me,
and many such things are in his mind.
15 Therefore I am terrified at his presence;
when I consider, I am in dread of him.
16 God has made my heart faint;
the Almighty has terrified me;
17 yet I am not silenced because of the darkness,
nor because thick darkness covers my face.

Pastor: O Lord, have mercy on us.

***People:* Thanks be to God.**

SCRIPTURE READING

2 Corinthians 5:14-21

¹⁴ For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; ¹⁵ and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised.

¹⁶ From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer. ¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. ¹⁸ All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹ that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. ²⁰ Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹ For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Pastor: O Lord, have mercy on us.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

HYMN

“My Song Is Love Unknown”

LSB 430

Stz 1-4

SERMON

Rev. Paul Muther

OFFERING

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Dear Father, you have reconciled us to yourself through the bitter suffering and death of Jesus.

People: **You have taught us our need for Jesus who is our Mediator and Messiah,**

Pastor: Our Redeemer and Friend.

People: **Let him rule as our King,**

Pastor: Guide us as our Prophet,

People: **And take away our sin as our High Priest.**

Pastor: So that come what may, we will live in him and cleave to him in faith forever.

People: **For we believe that,**

Pastor: When you have tested us, we will come forth as gold, God of tender compassion, we believe that there's a plan.

People: **A divine plan.**

Pastor: A plan where all things are working for our good.

People: **And your glory.**

Pastor: And so we pray confidently in the name of Jesus Christ.

ALL: **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

Pastor: Let us pray.

People: **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.**

ALL: **Amen.**

BENEDICTION

Pastor: The LORD gives.

People: **And the LORD takes away.**

Pastor: Blessed be the name of the LORD.

People: **Yes, blessed be the name of the LORD!**

Pastor: And so we go forth confidently in the name of our LORD.

People: **The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.**

ALL: **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN

“Almighty Father, Bless the Word”

LSB 923

ANNOUNCEMENTS--

Please join us for Lenten Suppers at 6:00 PM followed by our Lenten Worship Service at 7PM next Wednesday, March 25th.

PASTOR: Rev. Dr. Timothy Oswald
ORGANIST: George Kelm
CHOIR DIRECTOR: Gail Feick
ENSEMBLE COORDINATOR Tabra Gomski
A/V TEAM: Stan & Cheryl Grey, Josh Walton
Brian & Amanda Larie