

HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH – TWIN LAKES, WI
Lenten Mid-week– March 4th, 2026



AS WE GATHER

This year, our mid-week services will consider one of the Bible's greatest wisdom books is the book of Job. This Lent, eight sermons will help us dig deeply into Job's central message. Tonight we look at Job 3:1–26 to learn how to lament.

Old Testament laments often make us feel uncomfortable. Why can't these people just pick themselves up and move on? Frequently we respond to their cries with two words—*"Fly over!"* But Job won't let us do that. And neither will Jesus.

✠ 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 “*Come to Calvary’s Holy Mountain*”

LSB 435

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: O God of our salvation,

People: **Give me light as I come to you out of the darkness of my sin.**

Pastor: Let your truth pierce my heart.

People: **Let your Holy Spirit sweep away my excuses.**

Pastor: Bring me mercy and compassion so I see the glory of your kingdom,

People: **Given when you gave your only Son, Jesus Christ, to be my Savior.**

Pastor: Beloved in the Lord, I declare in the name of Jesus Christ, that you are forgiven, washed clean and spotless in the blood of the Lamb. May the God of mercy who forgives you all your sins, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you strong in your faith, fervent in your hope and abounding in great joy!

ALL: I know that my Redeemer lives!

SCRIPTURE READING

Job 3:1-26

After this Job opened his mouth and cursed the day of his birth.

² And Job said:

³ “Let the day perish on which I was born,
and the night that said,
‘A man is conceived.’

⁴ Let that day be darkness!
May God above not seek it,
nor light shine upon it.

⁵ Let gloom and deep darkness claim it.
Let clouds dwell upon it;
let the blackness of the day terrify it.

⁶ That night—let thick darkness seize it!
Let it not rejoice among the days of the year;
let it not come into the number of the months.

⁷ Behold, let that night be barren;
let no joyful cry enter it.

⁸ Let those curse it who curse the day,
who are ready to rouse up Leviathan.

⁹ Let the stars of its dawn be dark;
let it hope for light, but have none,
nor see the eyelids of the morning,

¹⁰ because it did not shut the doors of my mother's womb,
nor hide trouble from my eyes.

¹¹ “Why did I not die at birth,
come out from the womb and expire?

¹² Why did the knees receive me?
Or why the breasts, that I should nurse?

¹³ For then I would have lain down and been quiet;
I would have slept; then I would have been at rest,

¹⁴ with kings and counselors of the earth
who rebuilt ruins for themselves,

¹⁵ or with princes who had gold,
who filled their houses with silver.

¹⁶ Or why was I not as a hidden stillborn child,
as infants who never see the light?

¹⁷ There the wicked cease from troubling,
and there the weary are at rest.

¹⁸ There the prisoners are at ease together;
they hear not the voice of the taskmaster.

¹⁹ The small and the great are there,
and the slave is free from his master.

²⁰ “Why is light given to him who is in misery,
and life to the bitter in soul,

²¹ who long for death, but it comes not,

and dig for it more than for hidden treasures,
22 who rejoice exceedingly
and are glad when they find the grave?
23 Why is light given to a man whose way is hidden,
whom God has hedged in?
24 For my sighing comes instead of my bread,
and my groanings are poured out like water.
25 For the thing that I fear comes upon me,
and what I dread befalls me.
26 I am not at ease, nor am I quiet;
I have no rest, but trouble comes.”

Pastor: O Lord, have mercy on us.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SCRIPTURE READING

2 Corinthians 4:1-7

Therefore, having this ministry by the mercy of God, we do not lose heart. ² But we have renounced disgraceful, underhanded ways. We refuse to practice cunning or to tamper with God's word, but by the open statement of the truth we would commend ourselves to everyone's conscience in the sight of God. ³ And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. ⁴ In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. ⁵ For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. ⁶ For God, who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. ⁷ But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us.

Pastor: O Lord, have mercy on us.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

HYMN

“Glory Be to Jesus”

LSB 433

stzs 1-4

SERMON

Rev. Dr. Timothy Prince

OFFERING

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: We thank you, Father, for the gift of Jesus,

People: **Who bore our sins in his body on the cross.**

Pastor: May this cross be for us like the tree that sweetens our bitter suffering,

People: **Like the rod that blossoms with life and beauty,**

Pastor: Like the bronze serpent that calls us to look to you when the Pain of life overtakes us and we are surrounded with suffering.

People: **Teach us to bear our own cross,**

Pastor: And to believe that with it you send grace and mercy. Forgive us, dear Father, for wanting to fly over pain and confusion.

People: **We stuff it. We deny it. And we would rather avoid it.**

Pastor: Empower us to claim your promise,

People: **“Weeping endures for a night, but joy comes in the morning.”**

Pastor: And so we trust in our Savior’s Easter morning resurrection victory by saying,

ALL: I know that my Redeemer lives!

Pastor: In Christ’s holy name we pray.

People: **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, Son and Holy Spirit.

ALL: Amen.

RECESSIONAL HYMN *“Glory Be to Jesus”*
LSB433 stzs 5-6

ANNOUNCEMENTS--

TONIGHT WE WELCOME REV DR TIMOTHY PRINCE OF GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN IN EAST TROY TO BRING US THE WORD OF GOD.

PLEASE JOIN US FOR LENTEN SUPPERS AT 6:00 PM FOLLOWED BY OUR LENTEN WORSHIP SERVICE AT 7:00 PM EACH WEDNESDAY THROUGH MARCH 25th.

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