

WELCOME
FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT
SAT. MARCH 14/SUN. MARCH 15, 2026



“Jesus Turns Our Darkness into Light”

AS WE GATHER

In the Old Testament Reading, Israel is shown to be a failure as God’s servant: “He sees many things, but does not observe them; his ears are open, but he does not hear” (Isaiah 42:20). Israel is blind and deaf to the truth. God’s true servant is the One who suffers (see Isaiah 52–53). That Suffering Servant will open the eyes of the blind. Believers walk in the Light who is Christ (John 9:5) as they wait for His glory to be fully revealed: “when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, ‘Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you’” (Ephesians 5:13–14).

WELCOME

✠ PREPARATION ✠

OPENING HYMN

“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”

LSB 425

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

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

People: **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.

Pastor: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

People: **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.**

Pastor: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Pastor: Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

✠ WORD ✠

KYRIE



Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer - cy; Lord, have mer - cy.

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, Your mercies are new every morning; and though we deserve judgment, You receive us as Your children and provide for all our needs. Give us new eyes, that we may see Your merciful goodness and give thanks for all the ways Your light scatters our darkness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 42:14–21

¹⁴ For a long time I have held my peace;
I have kept still and restrained myself;
now I will cry out like a woman in labor;
I will gasp and pant.

¹⁵ I will lay waste mountains and hills,
and dry up all their vegetation;
I will turn the rivers into islands,
and dry up the pools.

¹⁶ And I will lead the blind
in a way that they do not know,
in paths that they have not known
I will guide them.
I will turn the darkness before them into light,
the rough places into level ground.
These are the things I do,
and I do not forsake them.

¹⁷ They are turned back and utterly put to shame,
who trust in carved idols,
who say to metal images,
“You are our gods.”

¹⁸ Hear, you deaf,
and look, you blind, that you may see!

¹⁹ Who is blind but my servant,
or deaf as my messenger whom I send?
Who is blind as my dedicated one,
or blind as the servant of the LORD?

²⁰ He sees many things, but does not observe them;
his ears are open, but he does not hear.

²¹ The LORD was pleased, for his righteousness' sake,
to magnify his law and make it glorious.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

CHOIR

“Go to Dark Gethsemane”

LSB 436

Montgmonery/Redhead

EPISTLE

Ephesians 5:8–14

⁸ for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light ⁹ (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), ¹⁰ and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. ¹¹ Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. ¹² For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. ¹³ But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, ¹⁴ for anything that becomes visible is light.

Therefore it says,

“Awake, O sleeper,
and arise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you.”

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

VERSE

LSB 157

**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 9:1–41

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the ninth chapter.

People: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

9 As he passed by, he saw a man blind from birth. 2 And his disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” 3 Jesus answered, “It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him. 4 We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. 5 As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” 6 Having said these things, he spit on the ground and made mud with the saliva. Then he anointed the man's eyes with the mud 7 and said to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). So he went and washed and came back seeing.

8 The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar were saying, “Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?” 9 Some said, “It is he.” Others said, “No, but he is like him.” He kept saying, “I am the man.” 10 So they said to him, “Then how were your eyes opened?” 11 He answered, “The man called Jesus made mud and anointed my eyes and said to me, ‘Go to Siloam and wash.’ So I went and washed and received my sight.” 12 They said to him, “Where is he?” He said, “I do not know.”

13 They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. 14 Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. 15 So the Pharisees again asked him how he had received his sight. And he said to them, “He put mud on my eyes, and I washed, and I see.” 16 Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath.” But others said, “How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?” And there was a division among them. 17 So they said again to the blind man, “What do you say about him, since he has opened your eyes?” He said, “He is a prophet.”

18 The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight, until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight 19 and asked them, “Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?” 20 His parents answered, “We

know that this is our son and that he was born blind. ²¹ But how he now sees we do not know, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself.” ²² (His parents said these things because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that if anyone should confess Jesus to be Christ, he was to be put out of the synagogue. ²³ Therefore his parents said, “He is of age; ask him.”)

²⁴ So for the second time they called the man who had been blind and said to him, “Give glory to God. We know that this man is a sinner.” ²⁵ He answered, “Whether he is a sinner I do not know. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.” ²⁶ They said to him, “What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?” ²⁷ He answered them, “I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?” ²⁸ And they reviled him, saying, “You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. ²⁹ We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.” ³⁰ The man answered, “Why, this is an amazing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. ³¹ We know that God does not listen to sinners, but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does his will, God listens to him. ³² Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a man born blind. ³³ If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.” ³⁴ They answered him, “You were born in utter sin, and would you teach us?” And they cast him out.

³⁵ Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” ³⁶ He answered, “And who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?” ³⁷ Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and it is he who is speaking to you.” ³⁸ He said, “Lord, I believe,” and he worshiped him. ³⁹ Jesus said, “For judgment I came into this world, that those who do not see may see, and those who see may become blind.” ⁴⁰ Some of the Pharisees near him heard these things, and said to him, “Are we also

blind?”⁴¹ Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would have no guilt; but now that you say, ‘We see,’ your guilt remains.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

HYMN OF THE DAY “I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light”
LSB 411

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

OFFERING

✠ SACRAMENT ✠

PREFACE

2 Timothy 4:22

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

PROPER PREFACE

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who overcame the assaults of the devil and gave His life as a ransom for many that with cleansed hearts we might be prepared joyfully to celebrate the Paschal Feast in sincerity and truth. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

SANCTUS

(LSB, page 195)

**Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth;
Heav'n and earth are full of Thy glory.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is He, blessed is He,
Blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.**

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24;

Luke 22:19–20; 1 Corinthians 11:23–25

Pastor: Our Lord Jesus Christ, the same night in which He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He brake it and gave it to His disciples saying, *“Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.”*

After the same manner also He took the cup when He had supped, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying, *“Drink ye all of it; this cup is the new testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the remission of sins. This do, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of Me.”*

PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST

1 Corinthians 11:26; Revelation 22:20

Pastor: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord’s death until He comes.

People: **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

THE LORD’S PRAYER

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

**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.**

PAX DOMINI

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: Amen.

AGNUS DEI “Lamb of God” *LSB 550 St. 1 & 3*

**Your only Son, no sin to hide,
But You have sent Him from Your side
To walk upon this guilty sod,
And to become the Lamb of God.
O Lamb of God, sweet Lamb of God,
I love the holy Lamb of God!
O wash me in His precious blood,
My Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God.**

**I was so lost, I should have died,
But You have brought me to Your side
To be led by Your staff and rod,
And to be called a lamb of God.
O Lamb of God, sweet Lamb of God,
I love the holy Lamb of God!
O wash me in His precious blood,
My Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God**

+DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION+

By communing, a person says publicly that they -

- are baptized and confirmed*
- believe Christ's words*
- repent of their sins*
- fully agree with all that the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod teaches.*

How to receive –

- anyone may come to the altar but keep hands folded if not receiving Communion
- the center of the tray has a cup with just a drop of wine for those who must minimize alcohol
- smile, exude your joy, but keep a reverent demeanor as others commune

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS “Hail to the Lord’s Anointed”
LSB 398

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE

“On My Heart Imprint Your Image” *LSB 422*

**On my heart imprint Your image,
 Blessed Jesus, King of grace,
 That life’s riches, cares, and pleasures
 Never may Your work erase;
 Let the clear inscription be:
 Jesus, crucified for me,
 Is my life, my hope’s foundation,
 And my glory and salvation**

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

BENEDICTION

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you.

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

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

People: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN “Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness”

LSB 849

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH MISSION STATEMENT:

**“Dedicated to knowing Christ and making Christ
know to others”**

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series A, Quarter 1.

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- **Preacher (Sat.):** Rev. Dr. Timothy Oswald
- **Liturgist (Sun.):** Rev. Maurice Lind, Pastor Emeritus
- **Sat. Organist:** Lina Schaal
- **Sun. Organist:** George Kelm
- **Choir Director:** Gail Feick
- **A/V Team:** Brian & Amanda Larie,
Stan & Cheryl Grey, Dawn Oswald

- **Please call (757-831-6948) or e-mail Pastor Oswald
(oswald1@charter.net) with your prayer requests.**

- **Kindly turn off your cellphone prior to Divine Worship.**

- **LENTEN MIDWEEK SERVICE - Join us in the fellowship hall for supper at 6pm then worship 7pm.**
- **TASTY FELLOWSHIP: We would appreciate additional help in providing treats after Sunday services. If you are interested or would like more information, please see Tami Voigt.**
- **ATTENTION ALL HOPE KIDS!**
Hope Lutheran will be hosting an Easter Egg hunt event for the Twin Lakes and surrounding area on Saturday, March 28 from 11am-1pm. The event will include an egg hunt, prizes, games, a craft, and FREE LUNCH! There will be a "Journey to Easter" walk down our hallway, telling the account of Easter in the Bible as we go. Last but not least, we will have LIVE BUNNIES with an opportunity to hold them and take pictures. Mark your calendars and invite your friends! This is an amazing opportunity to share the Good News of Jesus with our community.
- **VOLUNTEERS AND CANDY NEEDED FOR OUR EGG HUNT.**
We are collecting candy to fill our eggs for the egg hunt. Please bring any donations and place in the box in the Narthex of the church. You can direct any questions to MaryBeth Fragassi. We also need several volunteers to help make our event a success. Please contact Tabra Gomski or Dawn Oswald if you would like to help in any way. THANK YOU!
- **TODAY-SPIRITUAL CONVERSATION WORKSHOP, March 15 after Voters Assembly Meeting - Jesus called His**

disciples to go as witnesses throughout the world. But how do we do that when we are reluctant to even talk about our faith in everyday life? This workshop will help you assess your own readiness for witness and make a spiritual growth plan.

We expect that we will spend at least 90 minutes in spiritual reflection during this video-based workshop. Lunch will be provided.

- **HOPE'S TWIN LAKES FOOD PANTRY DONATION LOCATION-**The donation location is moving from under the coat rack to the wire baskets at the top of the stairway to the lower level. Signs on the baskets identify which baskets are for Twin Lakes Food Pantry and which are for the Sharing Center. Thank you for your support of these ministries.

THIS WEEK

Reader:	Gail Feick
Communion:	Mike Gomski
Ushers:	Sue Robinson & Gail Feick
Fellowship:	Phyllis Klen
Altar Guild:	John & Peggy Tueting

NEXT WEEK

Reader:	Rev. Maurice Lind
Communion:	Mike Gomski
Ushers:	Phyllis Klen & Kim Zembal
Fellowship:	Mary Beth Fragassi
Altar Guild:	John & Peggy Tueting

BIRTHDAYS

3/18 Ron Krantz
3/17 Nathan Oswald
3/20 Dave Peschke

Calendar of Events This Week

3/16/26–03/22/26

Monday:	11:00am	Twin Lakes Seniors
Tuesday:	7:00pm	T.L. Sportsman's Club
Wednesday:	6:00pm 7:00pm	Lenten Soup Supper Lenten Service
Thursday:	8:00am 6:00pm	Men's Breakfast AA Meeting
Saturday:	9:30am	Worship Service
Sunday:	8:15am 9:00am 10:20am 7:00pm	Choir Rehearsal Worship Service Bible Study & Children's Sunday School AA Meeting