



Ash Wednesday

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

Olney, Maryland

February 18, 2026 | 7:00 PM

Holy Communion will be at the Rail today.

Gluten Free Communion Wafers are available upon request.

Holy Communion is...

- † The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ received “in, with, and under” the bread and wine for God’s People. *Matthew 26:26, 28*
- † Coming to the table believing the words “given and shed FOR YOU.”
Preparation might involve three questions:
 - Do I believe in the Lord Jesus Christ? Am I sorry for my sins?
 - Am I ready to lead a new life?
- † God’s grace in “forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation.”
Matthew 26:28; 1 Peter 1:18-19; Romans 6:8-9; Romans 8:31-32



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

Joel 2:13b

Please turn off all electronic devices during our worship together, so that we can give glory to God without distraction.

Nursery: The room located at the back of the sanctuary (with windows into the sanctuary), has been set aside for children to be able to play comfortably during Worship. At this time, we ask a parent to remain with their child while using this space. There is a sound system located on the wall to the right after entering the room which allows you to listen to the service.

Please feel free to ask an Elder to assist you as needed.

Why Ash Wednesday? Christians gather on Ash Wednesday to mark the beginning of Lent's baptismal preparation for Easter. During the 40 days of repentance and renewal, the Church gathers midweek to pray and praise. Psalms, hymns, scriptures, meditation, and prayer give us opportunities to reflect again on our baptismal vows, to converse with one another about our mission in the Church of Jesus Christ, and to be moved by God's Spirit to make a difference in our homes, our jobs, and our world. Our journey takes us always past the cross of our Lord, by which we are pointed to our final destination – the Resurrection.

The Imposition of Ashes is a rite that reminds us of our sinfulness and mortality (“you are dust and to dust you shall return”). Mindful of our predicament, we also remember God's power to raise the dead to new life. We receive the ashes in the sign of the cross, to remind us that Jesus died for our sins on the cross so that we might become God's children and share in Jesus' resurrection from the dead.



Therefore . . . learn Christ and him crucified. Learn to praise him and, despairing of yourself, say, “Lord Jesus, you are my righteousness, just as I am your sin. You have taken upon yourself what is mine and have given to me what is yours. You have taken upon yourself what you were not and have given to me what I was not.” Beware of aspiring to such purity that you will not wish to be looked upon as a sinner or to be one. For Christ dwells only in sinners. On this account he descended from heaven, where he dwelt among the righteous, to dwell among sinners. Meditate on this love of his and you will see his sweet consolation. For why was it necessary for him to die if we can obtain a good conscience by our works and afflictions? Accordingly you will find peace only in him and only when you despair of yourself and your own works. Besides, you will learn from him that just as he has received you, so he has made your sins his own and has made his righteousness yours.

If you firmly believe this as you ought (and he is damned who does not believe it), receive your untaught and hitherto erring brothers, patiently help them, make their sins yours, and, if you have any goodness, let it be theirs. Thus the Apostle teaches, “Receive one another as Christ also received you to the glory of God.”

–Martin Luther, Letter to Georg Spenlein, 1516



Ash Wednesday

Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd | February 18, 2026 | 7:00 PM

The Congregation gathers in silence.

Litany of Repentance

Stand

Address

P Dear brothers and sisters of our Lord Jesus Christ, on this day the Church begins a holy season of prayerful and penitential reflection. Our attention is especially directed to the holy sufferings and death of our Lord Jesus Christ.

From ancient times the season of Lent has been kept as a time of special devotion, self-denial, and humble repentance born of a faithful heart that dwells confidently on His Word and draws from it life and hope.

Let us pray that our dear Father in heaven, for the sake of His beloved Son and in the power of His Holy Spirit, might richly bless this Lententide for us so that we may come to Easter with glad hearts and keep the feast in sincerity and truth.

Silence for reflection.

Litany for Ash Wednesday

- P** O Lord,
C **have mercy.**
- P** O Christ,
C **have mercy.**
- P** O Lord,
C **have mercy.**
- P** O Christ,
C **hear us.**
- P** God the Father in heaven,
C **have mercy.**
- P** God the Son, Redeemer of the world,
C **have mercy.**
- P** God the Holy Spirit,
C **have mercy.**
- P** Be gracious to us.
C **Spare us, good Lord.**
- P** Be gracious to us.

C Help us, good Lord.

P By the mystery of Your holy incarnation;
by Your holy nativity;
by Your baptism, fasting, and temptation;
by Your agony and bloody sweat;
by Your cross and passion;
by Your precious death and burial;
by Your glorious resurrection and ascension;
and by the coming of the Holy Spirit, the Comforter:

C Help us, good Lord.

P In all time of our tribulation;
in all time of our prosperity;
in the hour of death;
and in the day of judgment:

C Help us, good Lord.

P We poor sinners implore You

C to hear us, O Lord.

P To prosper the preaching of Your Word;
to bless our prayer and meditation;
to strengthen and preserve us in the true faith;
and to give heart to our sorrow and strength to our repentance:

C We implore You to hear us, good Lord.

P To draw all to Yourself;
to bless those who are instructed in the faith;
to watch over and console the poor, the sick, the distressed, the lonely,
the forsaken, the abandoned, and all who stand in need of our prayers;
to give abundant blessing to all works of mercy;
and to have mercy on us all:

C We implore You to hear us, good Lord.

P To turn our hearts to You;
to turn the hearts of our enemies, persecutors, and slanderers;
and graciously to hear our prayers:

C We implore You to hear us, good Lord.

P Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God,

C we implore You to hear us.

P Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

C have mercy.

P Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

C have mercy.

P Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

C grant us Your peace.

P O Christ,

C hear us.

P O Lord,

- C** have mercy.
P O Christ,
C have mercy.
P O Lord,
C have mercy. Amen.

Concluding Collect

- P** O God, You desire not the death of sinners, but rather that they turn from their wickedness and live. We implore You to have compassion on the frailty of our mortal nature, for we acknowledge that we are dust and to dust we shall return. Mercifully pardon our sins that we may obtain the promises You have laid up for those who are repentant; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** Amen.

Sit

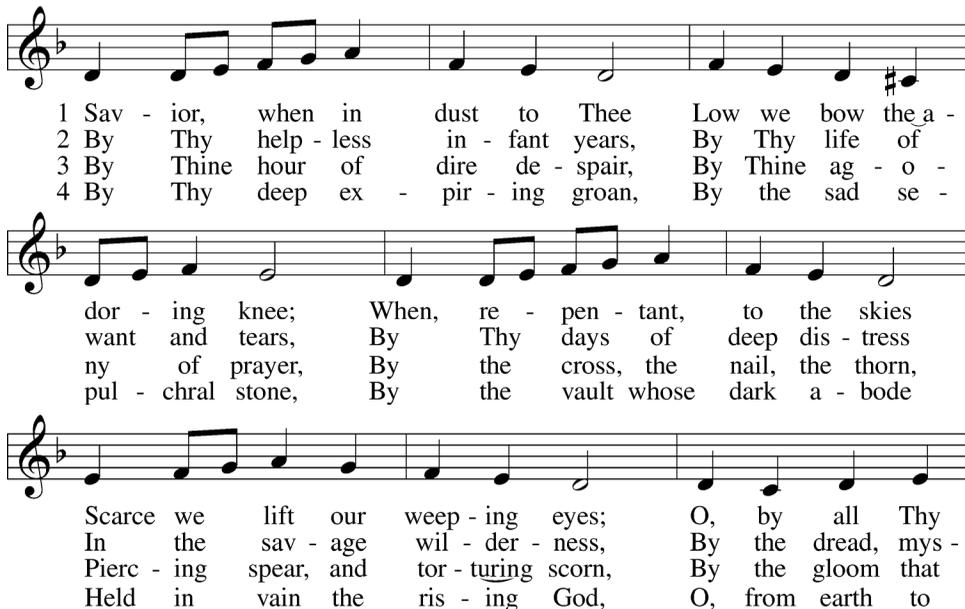
Imposition of Ashes

(Those who desire to receive ashes on their forehead may come to the altar and kneel if able. The ashes serve as a reminder of our fallen humanity: "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return." Please return to your seat in silence.)

Hymn

Savior, When in Dust to Thee

LSB 419



1 Sav - ior, when in dust to Thee Low we bow the a -
 2 By Thy help - less in - fant years, By Thy life of
 3 By Thine hour of dire de - spair, By Thine ag - o -
 4 By Thy deep ex - pir - ing groan, By the sad se -
 dor - ing knee; When, re - pen - tant, to the skies
 want and tears, By Thy days of deep dis - tress
 ny of prayer, By the cross, the nail, the thorn,
 pul - chral stone, By the vault whose dark a - bode
 Scarce we lift our weep - ing eyes; O, by all Thy
 In the sav - age wil - der - ness, By the dread, mys -
 Pierc - ing spear, and tor - turing scorn, By the gloom that
 Held in vain the ris - ing God, O, from earth to

pains and woe Suf - fered once for us be - low, Bend - ing
 te - rious hour Of the in - sult - ing tempt - er's pow'r, Turn, O
 veiled the skies O'er the dread - ful sac - ri - fice, Lis - ten
 heav'n re - stored, Might-y, re - as - cend - ed Lord, Bend - ing

from Thy throne on high, Hear our pen - i - ten - tial cry!
 turn a fa - v'ring eye; Hear our pen - i - ten - tial cry!
 to our hum - ble sigh; Hear our pen - i - ten - tial cry!
 from Thy throne on high, Hear our pen - i - ten - tial cry!

Text: Robert Grant, 1779–1838, alt.
 Tune: Joseph Parry, 1841–1903
 Text and tune: Public domain

Stand

Declaration of Grace

LSB 151

- 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.**

Salutation

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C And also with you.**

Collect of the Day

- P** Let us pray.
 Almighty and everlasting God, You despise nothing You have made and forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create in us new and contrite hearts that lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness we may receive from You full pardon and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C Amen.**

Sit

Old Testament Reading

Joel 2:12–19

12“Yet even now,” declares the LORD,
 “return to me with all your heart,
 with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;

¹³and rend your hearts and not your garments.”
 Return to the LORD, your God,
 for he is gracious and merciful,
 slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love;
 and he relents over disaster.
¹⁴Who knows whether he will not turn and relent,
 and leave a blessing behind him,
 a grain offering and a drink offering
 for the LORD your God?
¹⁵Blow the trumpet in Zion;
 consecrate a fast;
 call a solemn assembly;
¹⁶gather the people.
 Consecrate the congregation;
 assemble the elders;
 gather the children,
 even nursing infants.
 Let the bridegroom leave his room,
 and the bride her chamber.
¹⁷Between the vestibule and the altar
 let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep
 and say, “Spare your people, O LORD,
 and make not your heritage a reproach,
 a byword among the nations.
 Why should they say among the peoples,
 ‘Where is their God?’”
¹⁸Then the LORD became jealous for his land
 and had pity on his people.
¹⁹The LORD answered and said to his people,
 “Behold, I am sending to you
 grain, wine, and oil,
 and you will be satisfied;
 and I will no more make you
 a reproach among the nations.”

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm

Psalm 51:1–13

¹Have mercy on me, O God,
 according to your steadfast love;
 according to your abundant mercy
 blot out my transgressions.

**²Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,
and cleanse me from my sin!**

³For I know my transgressions,
and my sin is ever before me.

**⁴Against you, you only, have I sinned
and done what is evil in your sight,
so that you may be justified in your words
and blameless in your judgment.**

⁵Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity,
and in sin did my mother conceive me.

**⁶Behold, you delight in truth in the inward being,
and you teach me wisdom in the secret heart.**

⁷Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

**⁸Let me hear joy and gladness;
let the bones that you have broken rejoice.**

⁹Hide your face from my sins,
and blot out all my iniquities.

**¹⁰Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.**

¹¹Cast me not away from your presence,
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

**¹²Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
and uphold me with a willing spirit.**

¹³Then I will teach transgressors your ways,
and sinners will return to you.

**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.**

Epistle

2 Corinthians 5:20b—6:10

We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

¹Working together with him, then, we appeal to you not to receive the grace of God in vain. ²For he says,

“In a favorable time I listened to you,
and in a day of salvation I have helped you.”

Behold, now is the favorable time; behold, now is the day of salvation. ³We put no obstacle in anyone’s way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, ⁴but as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: by

great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, ⁵beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; ⁶by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, the Holy Spirit, genuine love; ⁷by truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; ⁸through honor and dishonor, through slander and praise. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; ⁹as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold, we live; as punished, and yet not killed; ¹⁰as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, yet possessing everything.

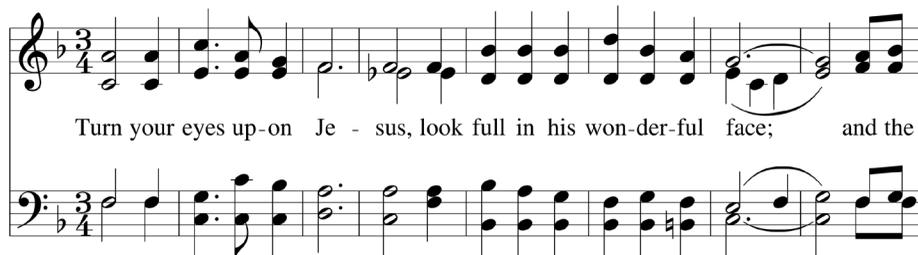
A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

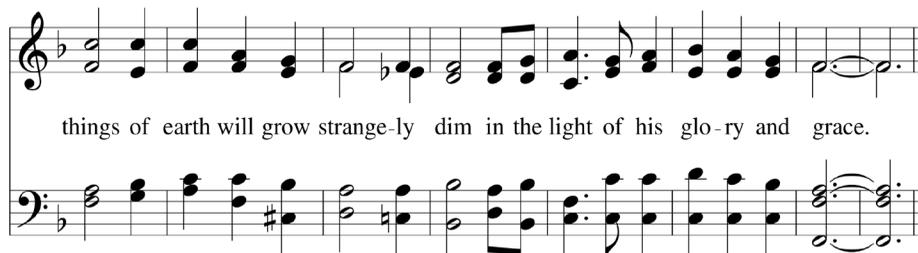
Stand

Lenten Verse

Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus



Turn your eyes up-on Je - sus, look full in his won-der-ful face; and the



things of earth will grow strange-ly dim in the light of his glo-ry and grace.

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Holy Gospel

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the sixth chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

¹[Jesus said:] “Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them, for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven.

²“Thus, when you give to the needy, sound no trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be praised by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. ³But when

you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴so that your giving may be in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

⁵“And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. ⁶But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you. . . .

¹⁶“And when you fast, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. ¹⁷But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, ¹⁸that your fasting may not be seen by others but by your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

¹⁹“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, ²⁰but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Sit



Remember man
that you are
dust and into
dust you shall
return.



1 From depths of woe I cry to Thee, In trial and
 2 Thy love and grace a - lone a - vail To blot out
 3 There - fore my hope is in the Lord And not in



trib - u - la - tion; Bend down Thy gra - cious
 my trans - gres - sion; The best and ho - liest
 mine own mer - it; It rests up - on His



ear to me, Lord, hear my sup - pli - ca - tion.
 deeds must fail To break sin's dread op - pres - sion.
 faith - ful Word To them of con - trite spir - it



If Thou re - mem - b'rest ev - 'ry sin, Who then could heav - en
 Be - fore Thee none can boast - ing stand, But all must fear Thy
 That He is mer - ci - ful and just; This is my com - fort



ev - er win Or stand be - fore Thy pres - ence?
 strict de - mand And live a - lone by mer - cy.
 and my trust. His help I wait with pa - tience.

Text: tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-78, alt.
 Text and tune: Martin Luther, 1483-1546
 Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon

Pastor Timothy Boerger

Stand

Apostles' Creed

**☐ I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
 maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
 who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
 born of the virgin Mary,
 suffered under Pontius Pilate,
 was crucified, died and was buried.**

**He descended into hell.
 The third day He rose again from the dead.
 He ascended into heaven
 and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
 From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
 the holy Christian Church,
 the communion of saints,
 the forgiveness of sins,
 the resurrection of the body,
 and the life † everlasting. Amen.**

Sit

Offering

Anthem

Lord, Show Your Mercy

Handel

Lord, show your mercy unto me,
 In your compassion, cleanse my sin.

Hide your face from my sins,
 And blot out all my iniquities.

Cast me not away from your presence,
 Or withheld your spirit from me.

Text and tune: Public domain

Stand

Offertory

Create in Me

LSB 956

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new
 a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way
 from Thy pres - ence; and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it
 from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va - tion;



and up - hold me with Thy free spir - it. A - men.

Text: Psalm 51:10-12
Tune: Johann Georg Winer, 1583-1651, adapt.
Text and tune: Public domain

Prayers of the Church

Service of the Sacrament

Preface

LSB 160

- P** The Lord be with you.
C **And also with you.**
- P** Lift up your hearts.
C **We lift them to the Lord.**
- P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
C **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

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.**

The Words of Our Lord

- P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My \dagger body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My † blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Pax Domini

LSB 163

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **Amen.**

Agnus Dei



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sins of the world, have mer - cy on us.



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sins of the world, grant us peace.

Steven C. Warner
Music © 1960, 2010, WLP

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Sit

Distribution (*Rail*)

Take, eat; this is the true body of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, given into death for your sins.

Amen.

Take, drink; this is the true blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, shed for the forgiveness of your sins.

Amen.





1 Lord Je - sus, think on me And purge a - way my sin;
 2 Lord Je - sus, think on me, By anx - ious thoughts op - pressed;
 3 Lord Je - sus, think on me A - mid the bat - tle's strife;
 4 Lord Je - sus, think on me Nor let me go a - stray;
 5 Lord Je - sus, think on me That, when this life is past,



From world - ly pas - sions set me free And make me pure with - in.
 Let me Your lov - ing ser - vant be And taste Your prom - ised rest.
 In all my pain and mis - er - y, O be my health and life!
 Through dark - ness and per - plex - i - ty, Point out Your cho - sen way.
 I may the e - ter - nal bright - ness see And share Your joy at last.

Text: Synesius of Cyrene, c. 365–c. 414; tr. Allen W. Chatfield, 1808–96, alt.
 Tune: William Daman, c. 1540–1591
 Text and tune: Public domain

Stand

The Dismissal

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart ✠ in peace.

C **Amen.**

Nunc Dimittis

LSB 258



L Guide us wak - ing, O Lord, and guard us sleep - ing



that a - wake we may watch with Christ and asleep we may rest in peace.



C Lord, now You let Your ser - vant go in peace; Your word has been ful - filled.



My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which You have prepared

in the sight of ev-ry peo-ple: a light to reveal You to the na-tions
and the glory of Your peo-ple Is - ra - el. Glo-ry be to the
Fa-ther and to the Son and to the Ho - ly Spir - it;
as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and will be for -
ev - er. *Antiphon* A - men. Guide us wak - ing, O Lord,
and guard us sleep - ing that a - wake we may
watch with Christ and asleep we may rest in peace.

P Let us bless the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Benediction

P 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.

C **Amen.**

Hymn to Depart

Forth in Thy Name, O Lord, I Go

LSB 854



1 Forth in Thy name, O Lord, I go, My dai - ly
 2 The task Thy wis - dom has as - signed, O let me
 3 Thee may I set at my right hand, Whose eyes my
 4 Give me to bear Thine eas - y yoke, And ev - 'ry



la - bor to pur - sue, Thee, on - ly Thee, re -
 cheer - ful - ly ful - fill; In all my works Thy
 in - most sub - stance see, And la - bor on at
 mo - ment watch and pray, And still to things e -



solved to know In all I think or speak or do.
 pres - ence find, And prove Thy good and per - fect will.
 Thy com - mand, And of - fer all my works to Thee.
 ter - nal look, And has - ten to Thy glo - rious day.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–88, alt.

Tune: Barry L. Bobb, 1951

Text: Public domain

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Announcements

Dismissal

Postlude

Midweek Lenten Services

Wednesday, February 25, 2026
Service 7:00 PM

Wednesday, March 4, 2026
Service 7:00 PM

Wednesday, March 11, 2026
Service 7:00 PM

Wednesday, March 18, 2026
Service 7:00 PM

Wednesday, March 25, 2026
Service 7:00 PM

Holy Week will begin on Sunday, March 29, 2026



Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd

Reverend Timothy M. Boerger, Pastor
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