



Lent 4

Midweek

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

Olney, Maryland

March 18, 2026 | 7:00 PM

L O Lord, open my lips,
 C **and my mouth will declare Your praise.**
 L Make haste, O God, to deliver me;
 C **make haste to help me, O Lord.**
**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.**

Psalm



¹With my voice I cry out | to the LORD;*
 with my voice I plead for mercy | to the LORD.
²**I pour out my complaint be- | fore him;***
I tell my trouble be- | fore him.
³When my spirit faints within me,
 you | know my way!*
 In the path where I walk
 they have hidden a | trap for me.
⁴**Look to the right and see:**
there is none who takes notice | of me;*
no refuge remains to me;
no one cares | for my soul.
⁵I cry to you, | O LORD;*
 I say, “You are my refuge,
 my portion in the land of the | living.”
⁶**Attend to my cry,**
for I am brought | very low!*
Deliver me from my persecutors,
for they are too | strong for me!
⁷Bring me out of prison,
 that I may give thanks | to your name!*
 The righteous will surround me,
 for you will deal bountifully | with me.
Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy | Spirit;
as it was in the be- | ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

Reading

Exodus 5:1—6:9

¹Afterward Moses and Aaron went and said to Pharaoh, “Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, ‘Let my people go, that they may hold a feast to me in the wilderness.’” ²But Pharaoh said, “Who is the LORD, that I should obey his voice and let Israel go? I do not know the LORD, and moreover, I will not let Israel go.” ³Then they said, “The God of the Hebrews has met with us. Please let us go a three days’ journey into the wilderness that we may sacrifice to the LORD our God, lest he fall upon us with pestilence or with the sword.” ⁴But the king of Egypt said to them, “Moses and Aaron, why do you take the people away from their work? Get back to your burdens.” ⁵And Pharaoh said, “Behold, the people of the land are now many, and you make them rest from their burdens!” ⁶The same day Pharaoh commanded the taskmasters of the people and their foremen, ⁷“You shall no longer give the people straw to make bricks, as in the past; let them go and gather straw for themselves.” ⁸But the number of bricks that they made in the past you shall impose on them, you shall by no means reduce it, for they are idle. Therefore they cry, ‘Let us go and offer sacrifice to our God.’” ⁹Let heavier work be laid on the men that they may labor at it and pay no regard to lying words.”

¹⁰So the taskmasters and the foremen of the people went out and said to the people, “Thus says Pharaoh, ‘I will not give you straw. ¹¹Go and get your straw yourselves wherever you can find it, but your work will not be reduced in the least.’” ¹²So the people were scattered throughout all the land of Egypt to gather stubble for straw. ¹³The taskmasters were urgent, saying, “Complete your work, your daily task each day, as when there was straw.” ¹⁴And the foremen of the people of Israel, whom

Pharaoh's taskmasters had set over them, were beaten and were asked, "Why have you not done all your task of making bricks today and yesterday, as in the past?"

¹⁵Then the foremen of the people of Israel came and cried to Pharaoh, "Why do you treat your servants like this? ¹⁶No straw is given to your servants, yet they say to us, 'Make bricks!' And behold, your servants are beaten; but the fault is in your own people." ¹⁷But he said, "You are idle, you are idle; that is why you say, 'Let us go and sacrifice to the LORD.'" ¹⁸Go now and work. No straw will be given you, but you must still deliver the same number of bricks." ¹⁹The foremen of the people of Israel saw that they were in trouble when they said, "You shall by no means reduce your number of bricks, your daily task each day." ²⁰They met Moses and Aaron, who were waiting for them, as they came out from Pharaoh; ²¹and they said to them, "The LORD look on you and judge, because you have made us stink in the sight of Pharaoh and his servants, and have put a sword in their hand to kill us."

²²Then Moses turned to the LORD and said, "O LORD, why have you done evil to this people? Why did you ever send me? ²³For since I came to Pharaoh to speak in your name, he has done evil to this people, and you have not delivered your people at all."

¹But the LORD said to Moses, "Now you shall see what I will do to Pharaoh; for with a strong hand he will send them out, and with a strong hand he will drive them out of his land."

²God spoke to Moses and said to him, "I am the LORD. ³I appeared to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, as God Almighty, but by my name the LORD I did not make myself known to them. ⁴I also established my covenant with them to give them the land of Canaan, the land in which they lived as sojourners. ⁵Moreover, I have heard the groaning of the people of Israel whom the Egyptians hold as slaves, and I have remembered my covenant. ⁶Say therefore to the people of Israel, 'I am the LORD, and I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, and I will deliver you from slavery to them, and I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with great acts of judgment. ⁷I will take you to be my people, and I will be your God, and you shall know that I am the Lord your God, who has brought you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians. ⁸I will bring you into the land that I swore to give to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob. I will give it to you for a possession. I am the Lord.'"

⁹Moses spoke thus to the people of Israel, but they did not listen to Moses, because of their broken spirit and harsh slavery.

Reading

1 Peter 3:13-18

¹³Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good? ¹⁴But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, ¹⁵but in your hearts regard Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; ¹⁶yet do it with gentleness and respect, having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame. ¹⁷For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil.

¹⁸For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit...."

746 Through Jesus' Blood and Merit

LSB 746



1 Through Je - sus' blood and mer - it I am at peace with God.
2 There's noth - ing that can sev - er From this great love of God;
3 For nei - ther life's temp-ta - tion Nor death's most try - ing hour
4 Nor an - y crea - ture ev - er Shall from the love of God



What, then, can daunt my spir - it, How - ev - er dark my road?
No want, no pain what - ev - er, No fam - ine, per - il, flood.
Nor an - gels of high sta - tion Nor an - y oth - er pow'r
This ran - somed sin - ner sev - er; For in my Sav - ior's blood



My cour - age shall not fail me, For God is on my side;
Though thou - sand foes sur - round me, For slaugh - ter mark His sheep,
Nor things that now are pres - ent Nor things that are to come
This love has its foun - da - tion; God hears my faith - ful prayer



Though hell it - self as - sail me, Its rage I may de - ride.
 They nev - er shall con-found me, The vic - t'ry I shall reap.
 Nor height, how - ev - er pleas - ant, Nor dark - est depths of gloom
 And long be - fore cre - a - tion Named me His child and heir.

Text: Simon Dach, 1605-59; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.
 Tune: Musika Teutsch, 1532, Nürnberg
 Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon: Bricks Without Straw

Kyrie

LSB 285

- L O Lord,
- C **have mercy.**
- L O Christ,
- C **have mercy.**
- L O Lord,
- C **have mercy.**

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.**

Apostles' Creed

- C **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.**

Versicles

LSB 286

- L Hear my prayer, O Lord;
- C **let my cry come to You.**

L In the day of my trouble I call upon You,
 C **for You answer me.**
 L Hide Your face from my sins,
 C **and blot out all my iniquities.**
 L Create in me a clean heart, O God,
 C **and renew a right spirit within me.**
 L Cast me not away from Your presence,
 C **and take not Your Holy Spirit from me.**
 L Restore to me the joy of Your salvation,
 C **and uphold me with a willing spirit.**
 L Because Your steadfast love is better than life,
 C **my lips will praise You.**
 L For You have been my help,
 C **and in the shadow of Your wings I will sing for joy.**
 L Teach me Your way, O Lord, that I may walk in Your truth;
 C **unite my heart to fear Your name.**
 L I give thanks to You, O Lord my God, with my whole heart,
 C **and I will glorify Your name forever.**
 L May all who seek You rejoice and be glad in You.
 C **May those who love Your salvation say evermore, "God is great!"**
 L Save Your people and bless Your heritage!
 C **Be their shepherd and carry them forever.**
 L Give ear, O Lord, to my prayer;
 C **listen to my plea for grace.**

Collect of the Day

L Let us pray.
 Almighty God, our heavenly Father, Your mercies are new every morning; and though we deserve only punishment, You receive us as Your children and provide for all our needs of body and soul. Grant that we may heartily acknowledge Your merciful goodness, give thanks for all Your benefits, and serve You in willing obedience; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
 C **Amen.**

Evening

C **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.**
Amen.

Benedicamus

LSB 287

L Let us bless the Lord.
 C **Thanks be to God.**

Blessing

LSB 287

L The Lord bless us, defend us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life.
 C **Amen.**

885 I Lie, O Lord, within Your Care

LSB 885



1 I lie, O Lord, with - in Your care, A -
 3 When shad - ows fall, I will not dwell On
 5 To - mor - row's road I can - not trace Nor
 7 Though trou - bles still may cloud the sky, I'll

wake or when I'm sleep - ing. Who - ev - er trusts in
 trou - bles that dis - tress me, Nor let some pain - ful
 know what ills will meet me. You on - ly ask that
 see be - yond them shin - ing A light to show some

Your strong arms Is safe with - in Your keep - ing.
 mem - o - ry Em - bit - ter and op - press me.
 I be still And trust You there will greet me.
 hid - den way— A way of Your de - sign - ing.

Text: Jochen Klepper, 1903-42; tr. Herman G. Stuempfle, Jr., 1923-2007
 Tune: Joseph Herl, 1959
 Text: © 2000 GIA Publications, Inc. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110002360
 Tune: © 1999 Joseph Herl. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110002360

Acknowledgments

Responsive Prayer 2 from Lutheran Service Book

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2026 Concordia Publishing House.

Give to LCGS through PayPal:



Midweek Lenten Services

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
 4200 Olney-Laytonsville Road
 Olney, Maryland 20832
www.olneygoodshepherd.org