

Lent 4 Midweek

March 18, 2026



GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
SMITHVILLE, TEXAS

Order of Compline
7 PM

“Healing From Demons”

Pastor David Woelmer



Grace Lutheran Church – Lutheran Church Missouri Synod

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Pastor David Woelmer

Welcome to Grace Lutheran Church! We give thanks that our gracious Lord Jesus Christ has gathered us together here for worship. Today again our Lord comes to serve us and lavish us with his gifts of life, forgiveness, and salvation. Rejoicing in those wonderful gifts, we sing with David in Psalm 84: “How lovely is your dwelling place, O LORD of hosts! A day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere.”

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP BELL

WELCOME

HEALING FROM DEMONS

We talked about angels during Midweek of Lent 1. Tonight, we will talk about the darker side of the story—that is, demons. Demons are fallen angels who rebelled against God and His giving of Himself to us. Demons, with Satan chief among them, seek to undermine everything God is and does, even today. In our sermon tonight, we will hear how Jesus heals a man with a demon (Mark 5:1–13) and how that work of healing continues today..

Stand

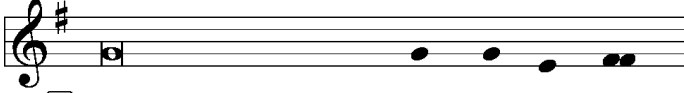
OPENING VERSICLES



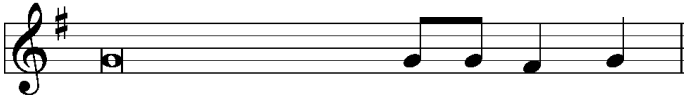
L The Lord Almighty grant us a qui - et night and peace at the last.



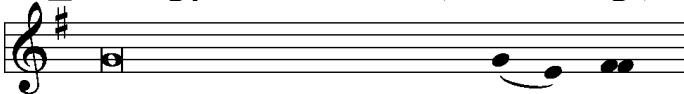
C A - men.



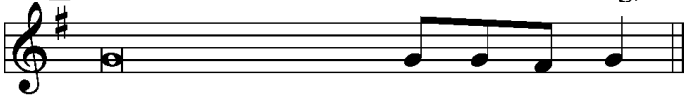
L It is good to give thanks to the Lord,



C to sing praise to Your name, O Most High;



L to herald Your love in the morn - ing,



C Your truth at the close of the day.

PLet us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence for self-examination.

PI confess to God Almighty, before the whole company of heaven and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned in thought, word, and deed by my fault, by my own fault, by my own most grievous fault; wherefore I pray God Almighty to have mercy on me, forgive me all my sins, and bring me to everlasting life. Amen.

CThe almighty and merciful Lord grant you pardon, forgiveness, and remission of all your sins. Amen.

CI confess to God Almighty, before the whole company of heaven and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned in thought, word, and deed by my fault, by my own fault, by my own most grievous fault; wherefore I pray God Almighty to have mercy on me, forgive me all my sins, and bring me to everlasting life. Amen.

PThe almighty and merciful Lord grant you pardon, forgiveness, and remission of all your sins.

CAmen.

PSALM

Psalm 71:1-8

In You, O LORD, do I take refuge; let me never be put to shame!

In Your righteousness deliver me and rescue me; incline Your ear to me, and save me!

Be to me a rock of refuge, to which I may continually come;

You have given the command to save me, for You are my rock and my fortress.

Rescue me, O my God, from the hand of the wicked, from the grasp of the unjust and cruel man.

For You, O Lord, are my hope, my trust, O Lord, from my youth.

Upon You I have leaned from before my birth;

You are He who took me from my mother's womb.

My praise is continually of You.

I have been as a portent to many, but You are my strong refuge.

My mouth is filled with Your praise,

and with Your glory all the day.

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.

Sit



1 In si - lent pain the e - ter - nal Son Hangs der - e - lict and still;
 2 He died that we might die to sin And live for righ - teous - ness;
 3 For strife He came to bring a sword, The truth to end all lies;



In dark - ened day His work is done, Ful - filled, His Fa - ther's will.
 The earth is stained to make us clean And bring us in - to peace.
 To rule in us, our pa - tient Lord, Un - til all e - vil dies:



Up - lift - ed for the world to see He hangs in strang - est vic - to - ry,
 For peace He came and met its cost; He gave Him - self to save the lost;
 For in His hand He holds the stars, His voice shall speak to end our wars,



For in His bod - y on the tree He car - ries all our ill.
 He loved us to the ut - ter - most And paid for our re - lease.
 And those who love Him see His scars And look in - to His eyes.

FIRST READING

Romans 8:9-11

⁹You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. ¹⁰But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. ¹¹If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING

Mark 5:1-13

¹They came to the other side of the sea, to the country of the Gerasenes. ²And when Jesus had stepped out of the boat, immediately there met him out of the tombs a man with an unclean spirit. ³He lived among the tombs. And no one could bind him anymore, not even with a chain, ⁴for he had often been bound with shackles and chains, but he wrenched the chains apart, and he broke the shackles in pieces. No one had the strength to subdue him. ⁵Night and day among the tombs and on the mountains he was always crying out and bruising himself with stones. ⁶And when he saw Jesus from afar, he ran and fell down before him. ⁷And crying out with a loud voice, he said, "What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I adjure you by God, do not torment me." ⁸For he was saying to him, "Come out of the man, you unclean spirit!" ⁹And Jesus asked him, "What is your name?" He replied, "My name is Legion, for we are many." ¹⁰And he begged him earnestly not to send them out of the country. ¹¹Now a great herd of pigs was feeding

there on the hillside, ¹²and they begged him, saying, “Send us to the pigs; let us enter them.” ¹³So he gave them permission. And the unclean spirits came out, and entered the pigs, and the herd, numbering about two thousand, rushed down the steep bank into the sea and were drowned in the sea.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

HOLY GOSPEL

Mark 15:6-32

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the fifteenth chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

⁶Now at the feast he used to release for them one prisoner for whom they asked. ⁷And among the rebels in prison, who had committed murder in the insurrection, there was a man called Barabbas. ⁸And the crowd came up and began to ask Pilate to do as he usually did for them. ⁹And he answered them, saying, “Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews?” ¹⁰For he perceived that it was out of envy that the chief priests had delivered him up. ¹¹But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have him release for them Barabbas instead. ¹²And Pilate again said to them, “Then what shall I do with the man you call the King of the Jews?” ¹³And they cried out again, “Crucify him.” ¹⁴And Pilate said to them, “Why, what evil has he done?” But they shouted all the more, “Crucify him.” ¹⁵So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released for them Barabbas, and having scourged Jesus, he delivered him to be crucified.

¹⁶And the soldiers led him away inside the palace (that is, the governor’s headquarters), and they called together the whole battalion. ¹⁷And they clothed him in a purple cloak, and twisting together a crown of thorns, they put it on him. ¹⁸And they began to salute him, “Hail, King of the Jews!” ¹⁹And they were striking his head with a reed and spitting on him and kneeling down in homage to him. ²⁰And when they had mocked him, they stripped him of the purple cloak and put his own clothes on him. And they led him out to crucify him.

²¹And they compelled a passerby, Simon of Cyrene, who was coming in from the country, the father of Alexander and Rufus, to carry his cross. ²²And they brought him to the place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull). ²³And they offered him wine mixed with myrrh, but he did not take it. ²⁴And they crucified him and divided his garments among them, casting lots for them, to decide what each should take. ²⁵And it was the third hour when they crucified him. ²⁶And the inscription of the charge against him read, “The King of the Jews.” ²⁷And with him they crucified two robbers, one on his right and one on his left. ²⁸And those who passed by derided him, wagging their heads and saying, “Aha! You who would destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, ²⁹save yourself, and come down from the cross!” ³⁰So also the chief priests with the scribes mocked him to one another, saying, “He saved others; he cannot save himself. ³¹Let the Christ, the King of Israel, come down now from the cross that we may see and believe.” Those who were crucified with him also reviled him.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.



L In-to Your hands, O Lord, I com - mend my spir-it.



C In-to Your hands I com - mend my spir - it.



L You have re - deemed me, O Lord, God of truth.



C In-to Your hands I com - mend my spir - it.



L Glory be to the Fa - ther and to the Son and to the Ho-ly Spir-it.



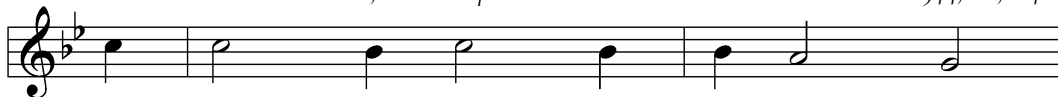
C In-to Your hands I com - mend my spir - it.

Sit

HYMN OF THE DAY:

O Love, How Deep

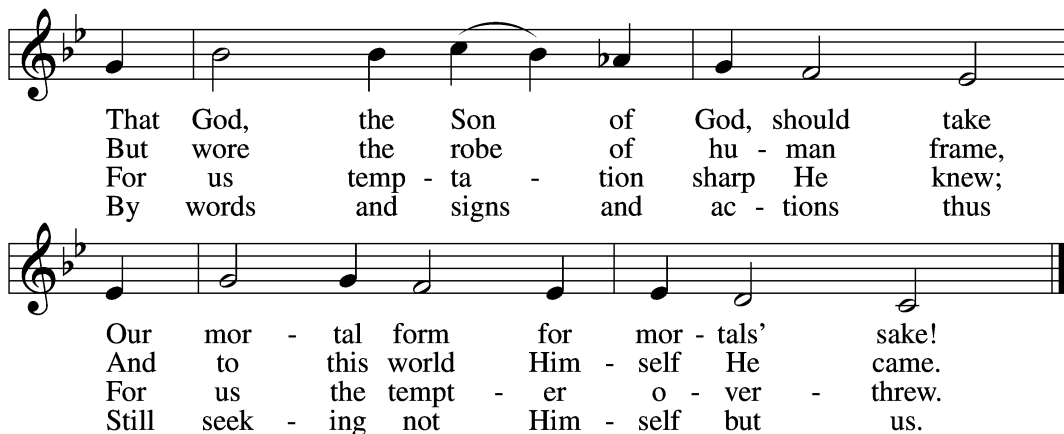
LSB 544, sts, 1-4



1 O love, how deep, how broad, how high,
 2 He sent no an - gel to our race,
 3 For us bap - tized, for us He bore
 4 For us He prayed; for us He taught;



Be - yond all thought and fan - ta - sy,
 Of high - er or of low - er place,
 His ho - ly fast and hun - gered sore;
 For us His dai - ly works He wrought,



That God, the Son of God, should take
 But wore the robe of hu - man frame,
 For us temp - ta - tion sharp He knew;
 By words and signs and ac - tions thus

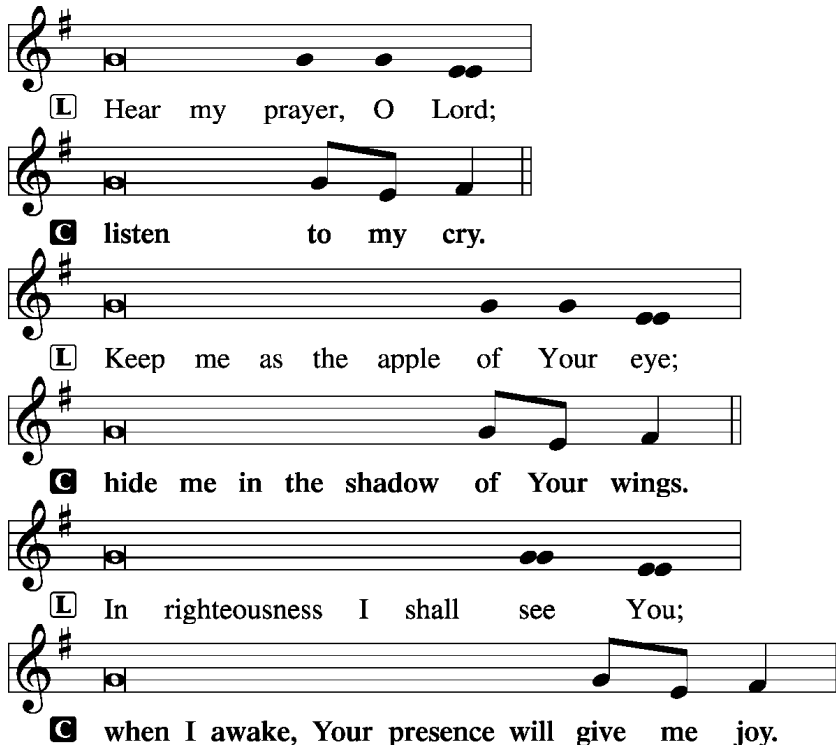
Our mor - tal form for mor - tals' sake!
 And to this world Him - self He came.
 For us the tempt - er o - ver - threw.
 Still seek - ing not Him - self but us.

SERMON "Healing from Demons"

(Based on one of the Scripture readings, the pastor proclaims God's Word of Law and Gospel for our lives today).

Stand

PRAYER



L Hear my prayer, O Lord;
C listen to my cry.

L Keep me as the apple of Your eye;
C hide me in the shadow of Your wings.

L In righteousness I shall see You;
C when I awake, Your presence will give me joy.

P O Lord, support us all the day long of this troubled life, until the shadows lengthen and the evening comes and the busy world is hushed, the fever of life is over, and our work is done. Then, Lord, in Your mercy grant us a safe lodging and a holy rest and peace at the last; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

P Visit our dwellings, O Lord, and drive from them all the snares of the enemy; let Your holy angels dwell with us to preserve us in peace; and let Your blessing be on us always; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

P Eternal God, the hours both of day and night are Yours, and to You the darkness is no threat. Be present, we pray, with those who labor in these hours of night, especially those who watch and work on behalf of others. Grant them diligence in their watching, faithfulness in their service, courage in danger, and competence in emergencies. Help them to meet the needs of others with confidence and compassion; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER: (*We pray the words that Jesus gave us to pray, trusting that our Father will hear and answer us*). LSB 197

P Taught by our Lord and trusting His promises, we are bold to pray:

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.

NUNC DIMITTIS

LSB 258

Antiphon

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

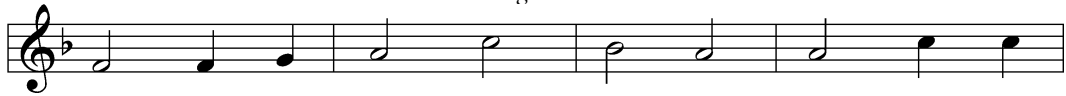
and the glory of Your peo-ple Is - ra - el. Glo-ry be to the
 Fa-ther and to the Son and to the Ho - ly Spir - it;
 as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and will be for -
 ev-er. *Antiphon* A - men. Guide us wak - ing, O Lord,
 and guard us sleep - ing that a - wake we may
 watch with Christ and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

BENEDICTION

LSB 259

P The almighty and merciful Lord, the Fa - ther, the † Son,
 and the Holy Spir - it, bless you and keep you.
C A - men.

Sit



1 Now rest be - neath night's shad - ow The wood - land,
 2 The ra - diant sun has van - ished, Its gold - en
 3 Now all the heav'n - ly splen - dor Breaks forth in
 4 Lord Je - sus, since You love me, Now spread Your
 5 My loved ones, rest se - cure - ly, For God this



field, and mead - ow; The world in slum - ber lies.
 rays are ban - ished From dark - 'ning skies of night;
 star - light ten - der From myr - iad worlds un - known;
 wings a - bove me And shield me from a - larm.
 night will sure - ly From per - il guard your heads.



But you, my heart, a - wak - ing And prayer and mu - sic
 But Christ, the Sun of glad - ness, Dis - pel - ling all our
 And we, this mar - vel see - ing, For - get our self - ish
 Though Sa - tan would de - vour me, Let an - gel guards sing
 Sweet slum - bers may He send you And bid His hosts at -



mak - ing, Let praise to your Cre - a - tor rise.
 sad - ness, Shines down on us in warm - est light.
 be - ing For joy of beau - ty not our own.
 o'er me: This child of God shall meet no harm.
 tend you And through the night watch o'er your beds.

Silent Prayer After Worship

Almighty and merciful God, we have again worshiped in Your presence and received both forgiveness for our many sins and the assurance of Your love in Jesus Christ. We thank You for this undeserved grace and ask You to keep us in faith until we inherit eternal salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

DISMISSAL

