

CrossWords: Redemption

March 18, 2026

ETERNAL LOVE LUTHERAN CHURCH

a member congregation of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS)

FOR OUR GUESTS

Thank you for being here. During your visit today, you will see and hear what we're all about: God's *eternal love* for us through his Son, Jesus Christ! Any directions for speaking or singing, standing or sitting, will be indicated in this folder or projected on the wall in front of you.

Restrooms: are available just outside the chapel doors down the hallway to the left.

Nursery: We encourage families to worship together. If an adult needs to step out of the chapel briefly with a child, the nursery is provided just outside the chapel near the restrooms.

For Kids: Activity sheets for young children are available on the bulletin table. Small bags with quiet activity items hang near the table.

ABOUT OUR LENTEN MIDWEEK SERVICES SERIES: CROSSWORDS

These Wednesdays during Lent we will be selecting one word associated with Jesus' saving work for us as he endured the cross for us. We will learn and refresh powerful truths rooted in the good news of our Savior. Tonight, we reflect on *Faith*.

Our catechism defines Faith: "trust in the true God and in the salvation that Jesus won for us" (p. 378)

ABOUT TONIGHT'S SERVICE

Our worship outline follows a Service of Evening Meditation. We will read and take to heart the Passion History of our Lord, as recorded by Matthew, beginning at Chapter 27:1, tracing our Savior's steps to the cross for us. We will share the reading of a penitential psalm, Psalm 130. We will consider a quote from our Lutheran confessions that helps us to appreciate God's gift of redemption for us.

Pastor Tim Wagner serves us as our guest preacher to encourage us in our walk of faith as we consider this CrossWord: Redemption. Jesus bless your worship this evening!

SERVICE OF EVENING MEDITATION

HYMN

400 Sweet the Moments, Rich in Blessing sts. 1-3



1 Sweet the mo - ments, rich in bless - ing, which be -
2 Here we rest in won - der, view - ing all our
3 Here we find the dawn of heav - en while up -



fore the cross we spend, life and health and
sins on Je - sus laid; here we see re -
on the cross we gaze, see our tres - pass -



peace pos - sess - ing from the sin - ner's dy - ing friend.
demp - tion flow - ing from the sac - ri - fice he made.
es for - giv - en, and our songs of tri - umph raise.

OPENING RESPONSES

Stay with us, for it is nearly evening; the day is almost over.

Luke 24:29

Surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.

Matthew 28:20

Your light will rise in the darkness, and your night will become like the noonday.

The LORD will guide you always.

Isaiah 58:10,11

Your sun will never set again, and your moon will wane no more;

the LORD will be your everlasting light, and your days of sorrow will end. *Isaiah 60:20*

On no day will the gates of the Holy City ever be shut,

for there will be no night there.

Revelation 21:25

A PENITENTIAL* PSALM

Psalm 130[†]

¹Out of the depths I have called to you, O LORD.

²Lord, hear my voice.

Let your ears be attentive to the sound of my cry for mercy.

³If you, LORD, kept a record of guilt,

O Lord, who could stand?

**⁴But with you there is pardon,
so you are feared.**

⁵I wait for the LORD. My soul waits,

and in his word I have put my hope.

⁶My soul waits for the Lord

more than watchmen wait for the morning,

more than watchmen wait for the morning.

⁷Israel, wait confidently for the LORD,

because with the LORD there is mercy.

With him there is abundant redemption.

⁸So he himself will redeem Israel from all its guilt.

PSALM 130 PRAYER

God our Father, you are rich in mercy, and there is forgiveness with you that you may be feared. Do not remember our sins, but blot them out for the sake of Jesus, who has redeemed us by his precious blood and his innocent suffering and death.

Lead us to put our hope in you, for with you is unfailing love. Amen.

* Each remaining Wednesday evening service in Lent, we are reading one of the seven traditionally categorized *penitential* psalms. They are Psalms 6, 32, 38, 51, 102, 130, and 143.

[†] “The psalmist realizes that his sin has separated him from God. But he does not remain in the depths. He knows that the LORD is a forgiving God. God has perfect knowledge of our sins, but he does not charge them against us, because Christ paid for them.” (EHV Study Bible)

HYMN

402 Glory Be to Jesus sts. 1-4



1 Glo - ry be to Je - sus, who in bit - ter pains
 2 Grace and life e - ter - nal in that blood I find;
 3 Blest through end - less a - ges be the pre - cious stream
 4 A - bel's blood for venge - ance plead - ed to the skies,



poured for me the life - blood from his sa - cred veins.
 blest be his com - pas - sion, in - fi - nite - ly kind.
 which from end - less tor - ment did the world re - deem.
 but the blood of Je - sus for our par - don cries.

PASSION HISTORY READING

Matthew 27:1-26

Early in the morning, all the chief priests and the elders of the people reached the decision to put Jesus to death. ²They bound him, led him away, and handed him over to Pontius Pilate, the governor.

The End of Judas

³Then when Judas, who had betrayed him, saw that Jesus was condemned, he felt remorse. He brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders ⁴and said, “I have sinned by betraying innocent blood.” But they said, “What is that to us? That’s your problem.”

⁵He threw the pieces of silver into the temple and left. Then he went out and hanged himself. ⁶The chief priests took the pieces of silver and said, “It is not lawful to put these into the treasury, since it is blood money.” ⁷They reached a decision to buy the potter’s field with the money, as a burial place for foreigners. ⁸So that field has been called The Field of Blood to this day. ⁹Then what was spoken through Jeremiah the prophet was fulfilled:

They took the thirty pieces of silver, the price the sons of Israel had set for him,¹⁰ and they gave them for the potter's field, just as the Lord commanded me.[‡]

Jesus' Trial in Pilate's Court

¹¹When Jesus stood in the presence of the governor, the governor asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?"

Jesus said to him, "It is as you say."

¹²When he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he answered nothing. ¹³Then Pilate said to him, "Don't you hear how many things they are testifying against you?"

¹⁴But he did not answer him—not even one word, so that the governor was very surprised.

Barabbas or Jesus?

¹⁵At the time of the Festival the governor had a custom to release to the crowd any one prisoner they wanted. ¹⁶At that time they were holding a notorious prisoner named Barabbas. ¹⁷So when they were assembled, Pilate said to them, "Which one do you want me to release to you? Barabbas—or Jesus, who is called Christ?" ¹⁸For Pilate knew that they had handed Jesus over to him because of envy.

¹⁹While he was sitting on the judgment seat, Pilate's wife sent him a message. "Have nothing to do with that righteous man," she said, "since I have suffered many things today in a dream because of him." ²⁰But the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowd to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus put to death. ²¹The governor asked them, "Which of the two do you want me to release to you?"

"Barabbas!" they said.

²²Pilate said to them, "Then what should I do with Jesus, who is called Christ?"

They all said to him, "Crucify him!"

²³But the governor said, "Why? What has he done wrong?"

But they kept shouting even louder: "Crucify him!"

²⁴When Pilate saw that he was accomplishing nothing and that instead it was turning into a riot, he took water, washed his hands in front of the crowd, and said, "I am innocent of this righteous man's blood. It is your responsibility."

²⁵And all the people answered, "Let his blood be on us and on our children!"

[‡] See Zechariah 11:12–13; Jeremiah 19:1–13; 32:6–9.

²⁶Then he released Barabbas to them, but he had Jesus flogged and handed him over to be crucified.

PASSION HISTORY HYMN 432 O Dearest Jesus, What Law Have You Broken

sts. 1, 3-5



1 O dear - est Je - sus, what law have you bro - ken
3 Whence come these sor - rows, whence this mor - tal an - guish?
4 What pun - ish - ment so strange is suf - fered yon - der!
5 The sin - less Son of God must die in sad - ness,



that such sharp sen - tence should on you be spo - ken?
It is my sins for which you, Lord, must lan - guish;
The Shep - herd dies for sheep that loved to wan - der;
the sin - ful child of man may live in glad - ness;



Of what great crime have you to make con -
yes, all the wrath, the woe that you in -
the Mas - ter pays the debt his ser - vants
we for - feit - ed our lives, yet are ac -



fes - sion, what dark trans - gres - sion?
her - it, this I do mer - it.
owe him, who would not know him.
quit - ted; God is com - mit - ted.

MESSAGE

Ephesians 1:7 (NIV)

⁷In him we also have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in keeping with the riches of his grace,

CrossWord: Redemption

STAND

READING FROM OUR LUTHERAN CONFESSIONS[§]

Large Catechism on the Apostles' Creed, paragraph 27

Now, if you are asked, "What do you believe in the Second Article about Jesus Christ?" answer briefly,

"I believe that Jesus Christ, God's true Son, has become my Lord."

"But what does it mean to become Lord?"

"It is this. He has redeemed me from sin, from the devil, from death, and from all evil."

BE SEATED

OFFERING

The members of Eternal Love congregation have joined together to do the Lord's work in this city and around the world. Guests need not feel obligated to participate in this offering which supports our church's ministry. If being here today was a blessing to you and you would like to support our ministry, you can scan here and enter your phone number or email address to donate. (Members, please use a phone number or email address that is currently on file with the church).

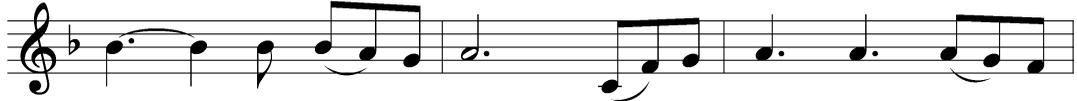


During this time, we ask that everyone take part in completing the worship register. Please fill in the requested information and pass the booklet to the end of the row. Thank you!

[§] Read our Lutheran confessions in the Book of Concord, found in our church library or available online here: bookofconcord.cph.org/.



1 I will sing of my Re - deem - er, and his
 2 I will tell the won - drous sto - ry, how, my
 3 I will praise my dear Re - deem - er, his tri -



won - drous love to me; on the cru - el cross he
 lost es - tate to save, in his bound - less love and
 um - phant pow'r I'll tell, how the vic - to - ry he



suf - fered, from the curse to set me free.
 mer - cy, he the ran - som free - ly gave.
 giv - eth o - ver sin and death and hell.

Refrain



Sing, O sing of my Re - deem - er, with his



blood, he pur - chased me. On the cross he sealed my



par - don, paid the debt, and made me free.

LUTHER'S EVENING PRAYER

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

I thank you, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, your dear Son, that you have graciously kept me this day. Forgive me all my sins, and graciously keep me this night.

Into your hands I commend my body and soul and all things. Let your holy angel be with me, that the wicked foe may have no power over me. Amen.

BLESSING

2 Corinthians 13:14

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ (+), and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Amen.

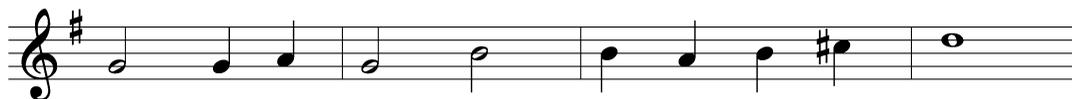
The lights are dimmed for the evening hymn.

HYMN

931 Savior, Again to Thy Dear Name We Raise sts. 2-4



2 Grant us thy peace up - on our home-ward way;
3 Grant us thy peace, Lord, through the com - ing night;
4 Grant us thy peace through - out our earth - ly life,



with thee be - gan, with thee shall end the day.
turn thou for us its dark - ness in - to light.
our balm in sor - row and our stay in strife.



Guard thou the lips from sin, the hearts from shame,
From harm and dan - ger keep thy chil - dren free,
Then, when thy voice shall bid our con - flict cease,



that in this house have called up - on thy name.
for dark and light are both a - like to thee.
call us, O Lord, to thine e - ter - nal peace.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Minister: Pastor Tim Wagner

Usher: Bill Neubauer

Accompanist: Lisa Neuberger

400 Sweet the Moments, Rich in Blessing sts. 1-3

Text: James Allen, 1734-1804; alt. Walter Shirley, 1725-1786. Tune: Erbaulicher Musicalischer Christen-Schatz, Basel, 1745, alt. Text and tune: Public domain

402 Glory Be to Jesus sts. 1-4

Text: Italian, c. 18th cent., abr.; tr. Edward Caswall, 1814-1878, alt. Tune: Friedrich Filitz, 1804-1876. Text and tune: Public domain

432 O Dearest Jesus, What Law Have You Broken sts. 1, 3-5

Text: Johann Heermann, 1585-1647; (sts. 1, 3-4): tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, alt.; (st. 5): tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt. Tune: Johann Crüger, 1598-1662. Text and tune: Public domain

Large Catechism on the Apostles' Creed, paragraph 27

McCain, P. T., ed. (2005). Concordia: The Lutheran Confessions (p. 401). Concordia Publishing House.

527 I Will Sing of My Redeemer

Text: Philip P. Bliss, 1838-1876, abr. Tune: James McGranahan, 1840-1907. Text and tune: Public domain

931 Savior, Again to Thy Dear Name We Raise sts. 2-4

Text: John Ellerton, 1826-1893, abr. Tune: Edward J. Hopkins, 1818-1901. Text and tune: Public domain

Holy Bible

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