

Wednesday in Lent 3

March 15, 2023



Concordia Lutheran Church

The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod

Beulah, North Dakota

Hymn # 427

Invocation

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

Opening Sentences

2 Corinthians 5:21, alt.; Isaiah 53:5

For our sake God made Jesus to be sin who knew no sin,
so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.
But He was wounded for our transgressions;
He was crushed for our iniquities;
upon Him was the chastisement that brought us peace,
and with His stripes we are healed.

Confession and Absolution

Based on Philippians 2:1-11

Lord, Jesus, search our hearts and minds that we may receive Your Word, share in Your Spirit, and be renewed in our relationships with You and with one another.

We observe a moment of silence for personal prayers of confession.

With humble hearts, let us pray together:

**Lord Jesus, the Father's only Son, the King of kings and Lord of lords,
hear us as we pray.**

Darkness seeks to overtake us and rob us of the light, distracting us from Your never-failing presence in our lives.

**Our rebellion against You in thought, word, and actions is why You died
for us—**

to forgive our sins, to redeem our lives, and to cancel the debt we owe to God.

**With hearts that are humble and lives ever grateful, help us to receive Your
grace, bow before You in worship, and confess that You alone are Lord, to
the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

Almighty God our heavenly Father shows His mercy to us in the sending of His Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, the true light of the world who scatters the darkness of our sin and shines upon us the bright beams of His mercy. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Collect of the Day

Let us pray.

Lord Jesus Christ, You are the light of the world, and no amount of darkness in our world can overcome Your presence shining in our lives.

**Renew our hearts and minds during this Lenten season as we receive the
promised treasures of Your Word;**

for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Psalm 27:1-4, 13-14

The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?

The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

When evildoers assail me to eat up my flesh, my adversaries and foes, it is they who stumble and fall.

Though an army encamp against me, my heart shall not fear; though war arise against me, yet I will be confident.

One thing have I asked of the Lord, that will I seek after: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life,

to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord and to inquire in His temple.

I believe that I shall look upon the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living!

**Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage;
wait for the 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.**

Old Testament Reading

Genesis 1:1-5

O Lord, have mercy on us.

Thanks be to God.

Epistle

Ephesians 5:1-2, 8-14

O Lord, have mercy on us.

Thanks be to God.

Verse

Joel 2:13b

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

Holy Gospel

John 8:12-18

The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the eighth chapter.

Glory to You, O Lord.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.

Hymn # 421

Sermon

Light Shining in the Darkness

Offering

Prayer

Gracious God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we thank You for blessing us with the opportunity to meditate again on the cross of Christ and receive Your promised treasures.

Grant that the message of the Lamb of God slain for our salvation bring us the riches of Your pardon and peace.

Lead us to see that our sins caused Jesus' great agony in the garden, that our sins nailed Him to the cross of Calvary,

that He was forsaken by His Father so that we might never be forsaken, and, that He died so that we may live.

Lord Jesus, grant that especially during this sacred season the treasured story of Your wondrous love for us would draw us closer to You.

Enable us to walk in the light of Your grace, knowing that You are truly the light of the world that darkness can never overcome.

Holy Spirit, lift up troubled souls everywhere. Grant wholeness to those hurting in heart, body, and mind. Work Your healing power in the lives of those in need, [*especially . . .*] and in the lives of all we name before You in our hearts.

All glory, honor, and praise be to You, with the Father and the Son, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Inside back cover of hymnal

Luther's Evening Prayer

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.

Benediction

The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve you.

Amen.

Hymn # 878