

*The
Season
of
Lent*



Lenten Service

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church

1764 Meyersville Rd, Meyersville, Texas 77974

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Pastor John Boor

March 18, 2026

Lent 4

Worship Service 7:00 p.m.

THE PRELUDE:

"I Know Whom I Have Believed"

Roger C. Wilson

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING SENTENCES

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

P For our sake God made Jesus to be sin who knew no sin,

C so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.

P But He was wounded for our transgressions;

C He was crushed for our iniquities;

P upon Him was the chastisement that brought us peace,

C and with His stripes we are healed.

HYMN

"O Lord, throughout These Forty Days"

LBW #99

¹O Lord, through-out these forty days

You prayed and kept the fast;

Inspire repentance for our sin,

And free us from our past.

²You strove with Satan, and you won;

Your faith-ful-ness en-dured;

Lend us your nerve, your skill and trust

In God's e-ter-nal Word.

³Though parched and hungry, yet you prayed

And fixed your mind a-bove;

So teach us to de-ny ourselves

That we may know God's love.

⁴Be with us through this season, Lord,

And all our earthly days,

That when the final Easter dawns,

We join in heaven's praise.

Please stand

P In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Based on Philippians 2:1-11

P 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.

P With humble hearts, let us pray together:

C Lord Jesus, the Father's only Son, the King of kings and Lord of lords, hear us as we pray. Even though You claimed us as Your own in the waters of Baptism, we often do not walk in the newness of life. Our rebellion against You in thought, word, and action 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.

P Almighty God our heavenly Father shows His mercy to us in the sending of His Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who blesses us with new birth in the water and the Spirit and assures us that our lives belong to Him. 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.

C Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

C Lord Jesus Christ, You reveal Yourself as the bread of life who satisfies all the hungry souls that return to You in repentance and faith. 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.

Please be seated

FIRST READING**1 Kings 17:8-24**

⁸Then the word of the Lord came to him, ⁹“Arise, go to Zar’ephath, which belongs to Sidon, and dwell there. Behold, I have commanded a widow there to feed you.” ¹⁰So he arose and went to Zar’ephath; and when he came to the gate of the city, behold, a widow was there gathering sticks; and he called to her and said, “Bring me a little water in a vessel, that I may drink.” ¹¹And as she was going to bring it, he called to her and said, “Bring me a morsel of bread in your hand.” ¹²And she said, “As the Lord your God lives, I have nothing baked, only a handful of meal in a jar, and a little oil in a cruse; and now, I am gathering a couple of sticks, that I may go in and prepare it for myself and my son, that we may eat it, and die.” ¹³And Eli’jah said to her, “Fear not; go and do as you have said; but first make me a little cake of it and bring it to me, and afterward make for yourself and your son. ¹⁴For thus says the Lord the God of Israel, ‘The jar of meal shall not be spent, and the cruse of oil shall not fail, until the day that the Lord sends rain upon the earth.’” ¹⁵And she went and did as Eli’jah said; and she, and he, and her household ate for many days. ¹⁶The jar of meal was not spent, neither did the cruse of oil fail, according to the word of the Lord which he spoke by Eli’jah.

¹⁷After this the son of the woman, the mistress of the house, became ill; and his illness was so severe that there was no breath left in him. ¹⁸And she said to Eli’jah, “What have you against me, O man of God? You have come to me to bring my sin to remembrance, and to cause the death of my son!” ¹⁹And he said to her, “Give me your son.” And he took him from her bosom, and carried him up into the upper chamber, where he lodged, and laid him upon his own bed. ²⁰And he cried to the Lord, “O Lord my God, hast thou brought calamity even upon the widow with whom I sojourn, by slaying her son?” ²¹Then he stretched himself upon the child three times, and cried to the Lord, “O Lord my God, let this child’s soul come into him again.” ²²And the Lord hearkened to the voice of Eli’jah; and the soul of the child came into him again, and he revived. ²³And Eli’jah took the child, and brought him down from the upper chamber into the house, and delivered him to his mother; and Eli’jah said, “See, your son lives.” ²⁴And the woman said to Eli’jah, “Now I know that you are a man of God, and that the word of the Lord in your mouth is truth.”

SECOND READING**1 Corinthians 15:20-28**

²⁰But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. ²¹For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. ²²For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. ²³But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. ²⁴Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and

every authority and power. ²⁵For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. ²⁶The last enemy to be destroyed is death. ²⁷“For God has put all things in subjection under his feet.” But when it says, “All things are put in subjection under him,” it is plain that he is excepted who put all things under him. ²⁸When all things are subjected to him, then the Son himself will also be subjected to him who put all things under him, that God may be everything to every one.

GOSPEL VERSE (sung)

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

Please stand

HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 7:11-17

P The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 7th chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord. (sung)

¹¹Soon afterward he went to a city called Na'in, and his disciples and a great crowd went with him. ¹²As he drew near to the gate of the city, behold, a man who had died was being carried out, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow; and a large crowd from the city was with her. ¹³And when the Lord saw her, he had compassion on her and said to her, “Do not weep.” ¹⁴And he came and touched the bier, and the bearers stood still. And he said, “Young man, I say to you, arise.” ¹⁵And the dead man sat up, and began to speak. And he gave him to his mother. ¹⁶Fear seized them all; and they glorified God, saying, “A great prophet has arisen among us!” and “God has visited his people!” ¹⁷And this report concerning him spread through the whole of Judea and all the surrounding country.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ. (sung)

MESSAGE

Pastor John

¹There is a green hill far away,
Outside a city wall,
Where the dear Lord was crucified,
Who died to save us all.

²We may not know, we cannot tell,
What pains he had to bear,
But we believe it was for us
He hung and suffered there.

³He died that we might be forgiv'n;
He died to make us good,
That we might go at last to heav'n,
Saved by his precious blood.

Please stand

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit,
and born of the Virgin Mary,
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
He descended into hell.
On the third day he rose again;
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father,
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

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

SHARING OF THE PEACE

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us share that peace.

OFFERING:

"Abiding Love"

Donald F. Callender

PRAYER

P 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.

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

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

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

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

C **Enable us to see the blessings You have poured out into our lives through the washing of water with the Word.**

P 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.

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

LORD'S PRAYER

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.

LUTHER'S EVENING PRAYER

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.

BENEDICTION

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

C Amen.

HYMN

"The Old Rugged Cross"

(Verses 1 & 4)

On a hill far away stood an Old Rugged Cross,
The emblem of suffering and shame;
And I love that old cross where the dearest and best
For a world of lost sinners was slain.

So I'll cherish the Old Rugged Cross,
Till my trophies at last I lay down;
And I will cling to the Old Rugged Cross,
And exchange it some day for a crown.

To the Old Rugged Cross, I will ever be true,
It's shame and reproach, gladly bear;
Then He'll call me some day to my home far away,
Where His glory forever I'll share.

So I'll cherish the Old Rugged Cross,
Till my trophies at last I lay down;
And I will cling to the Old Rugged Cross,
And exchange it some day for a crown.

(The congregation leaves in silence)