

The Fourth Wednesday in Lent

March 18, 2026

The congregation assembles in silence.

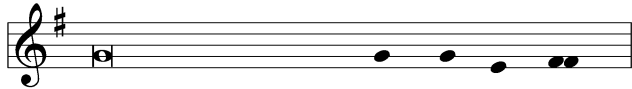
Kneel/Stand



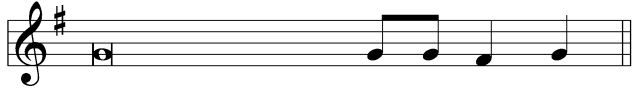
L The Lord Almighty grant us a qui - et night and peace at the last.



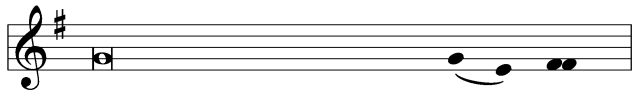
C A - men.



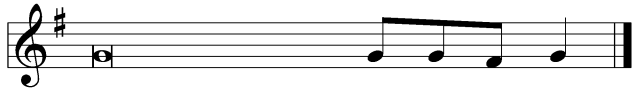
L It is good to give thanks to the Lord,



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.

Confession

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

Silence for self-examination.

L I 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.

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

C **I 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.**

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

C **Amen.**

Stand

Psalm

Psalm 38; antiphon vss. 9-10

¹O LORD, rebuke me not in your | anger,*
nor discipline me | in your wrath!

²For your arrows have sunk | into me,*
and your hand has come | down on me.

³There is no soundness in my flesh
because of your indig- | nation;*

there is no health in my bones
 because | of my sin.
⁴For my iniquities have gone o- | ver my head; *
 like a heavy burden, they are too heav- | y for me.
⁵My wounds stink and | fester *
 because of my | foolishness,
⁶I am utterly bowed down and | prostrate; *
 all the day I go about | mourning.
⁷For my sides are filled with | burning, *
 and there is no soundness | in my flesh.
⁸I am feeble | and crushed; *
 I groan because of the tumult | of my heart.
⁹O Lord, all my longing is be- | fore you; *
 my sighing is not hid- | den from you.
¹⁰My heart throbs; my strength | fails me, *
 and the light of my eyes—it also has | gone from me.
¹¹My friends and companions stand aloof | from my plague, *
 and my nearest kin stand | far off.
¹²Those who seek my life lay their snares;
 those who seek my hurt speak of | ruin *
 and meditate treachery | all day long.
¹³But I am like a deaf man; I | do not hear, *
 like a mute man who does not o- | pen his mouth.
¹⁴I have become like a man who | does not hear, *
 and in whose mouth are | no rebukes.
¹⁵But for you, O LORD, | do I wait, *
 it is you, O Lord my God, who will | answer.
¹⁶For I said, “Only let them not rejoice | over me, *
 who boast against me when my | foot slips!”
¹⁷For I am read- | y to fall, *
 and my pain is ever be- | fore me.
¹⁸I confess my in- | iquity, *
 I am sorry | for my sin.
¹⁹But my foes are vigorous, they are | mighty, *
 and many are those who hate me | wrongfully.
²⁰Those who render me e- | vil for good *
 accuse me because I follow | after good.
²¹Do not forsake me, | O LORD! *
 O my God, be not | far from me!
²²Make haste to | help me, *
 O Lord, my sal- | vation!

880 Now Rest beneath Night's Shadow

st. 1, 6-7

The musical score is written on four staves in a single system. Each staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The lyrics are: "I Now rest be - neath night's shad - ow The wood - land, field, and mead - ow; The world in slum - ber lies. But you, my heart, a - wak - ing And prayer and mu - sic mak - ing, Let praise to your Cre - a - tor rise."

6. To rest my body hasteth, Aside its garments casteth,
Types of mortality; These I put off and ponder
How Christ will give me yonder, A robe of glorious majesty.
7. Ye weary limbs now rest you, For toil hath sore oppressed you
And quiet sleep you crave, A sleep shall once o'ertake you
From which no man can wake you, In your last narrow bed—the grave.

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607–76; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.
Tune: Heinrich Isaac, c. 1450–1517
Text and tune: Public domain

Readings from Holy Scripture

One or more of the following are read.

¹Therefore, while the promise of entering his rest still stands, let us fear lest any of you should seem to have failed to reach it. ²For good news came to us just as to them, but the message they heard did not benefit them, because they were not united by faith with those who listened. ³For we who have believed enter that rest, as he has said,

“As I swore in my wrath,
‘They shall not enter my rest,’”

although his works were finished from the foundation of the world. ⁴For he has somewhere spoken of the seventh day in this way: “And God rested on the seventh day from all his works.” ⁵And again in this passage he said,

“They shall not enter my rest.”

⁶Since therefore it remains for some to enter it, and those who formerly received the good news failed to enter because of disobedience, ⁷again he appoints a certain day, “Today,” saying through David so long afterward, in the words already quoted,

“Today, if you hear his voice,
do not harden your hearts.”

⁸For if Joshua had given them rest, God would not have spoken of another day later on. ⁹So then, there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God, ¹⁰for whoever has entered God’s rest has also rested from his works as God did from his.

¹¹Let us therefore strive to enter that rest, so that no one may fall by the same sort of disobedience. ¹²For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. ¹³And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account.

¹⁴Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. ¹⁵For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. ¹⁶Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Silence for reflection.

Responsory



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.

Lenten Catechesis

The Fourth Petition

Give us this day our daily bread.

Give us today our daily bread.

What does this mean?

God certainly gives daily bread to everyone without our prayers, even to all evil people, but we pray in this petition that God would lead us to realize this and to receive our daily bread with thanksgiving.

What is meant by daily bread?

Daily bread includes everything that has to do with the support and needs of the body, such as food, drink, clothing, shoes, house, home, land, animals, money, goods, a devout husband or wife, devout children, devout workers, devout and faithful rulers, good government, good weather, peace, health, self-control, good reputation, good friends, faithful neighbors, and the like.

The Fifth Petition

And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

What does this mean?

We pray in this petition that our Father in heaven would not look at our sins, or deny our prayer because of them. We are neither worthy of the things for which we pray, nor have we deserved them, but we ask that He would give them all to us by grace, for we daily sin much and surely deserve nothing but punishment. So we too will sincerely forgive and gladly do good to those who sin against us.

The Sixth Petition

And lead us not into temptation.

Lead us not into temptation.

What does this mean?

God tempts no one. We pray in this petition that God would guard and keep us so that the devil, the world, and our sinful nature may not deceive us or mislead us into false belief, despair, and other great shame and vice. Although we are attacked by these things, we pray that we may finally overcome them and win the victory.

The Seventh Petition

But deliver us from evil.
But deliver us from evil.

What does this mean?

We pray in this petition, in summary, that our Father in heaven would rescue us from every evil of body and soul, possessions and reputation, and finally, when our last hour comes, give us a blessed end, and graciously take us from this valley of sorrow to Himself in heaven.

The Conclusion

For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are Yours now and forever. Amen.

What does this mean?

This means that I should be certain that these petitions are pleasing to our Father in heaven, and are heard by Him; for He Himself has commanded us to pray in this way and has promised to hear us. Amen, amen means “yes, yes, it shall be so.”

759 This Body in the Grave We Lay



1 This bod - y in the grave we lay There to a -
2 And so to earth we now en - trust What came from
3 The soul for - ev - er lives with God, Who free - ly
4 All tri - als and all griefs are past, A bless - ed



wait that sol - emn day When God Him - self shall
dust and turns to dust And from the dust shall
hath His grace be - stowed And through His Son re -
end has come at last. Christ's yoke was borne with



bid it rise To mount tri - um - phant to the skies.
rise that day In glo - rious tri - umph o'er de - cay.
deemed it here From ev - 'ry sin, from ev - 'ry fear.
read - y will; Who di - eth thus is liv - ing still.

5 We have no cause to mourn or weep;
Securely shall this body sleep
Till Christ Himself shall death destroy
And raise the blessed dead to joy.

6 Then let us leave this place of rest
And homeward turn, for they are blest
Who heed God's warning and prepare
Lest death should find them unaware.

7 So help us, Jesus, ground of faith;
Thou hast redeemed us by Thy death
From endless death and set us free.
We laud and praise and worship Thee.

Meditation on the Priestly Ministry of Our Lord Jesus Christ through Life and Death

Kneel/Stand

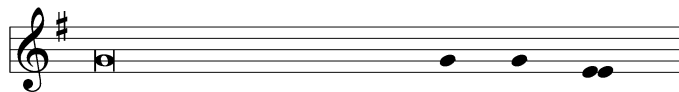
Prayer



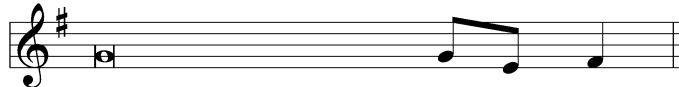
L Hear my prayer, O Lord;



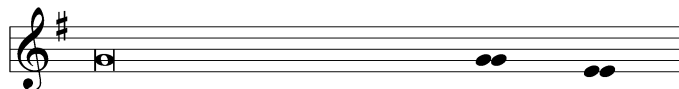
C listen to my cry.



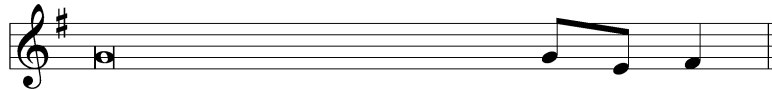
L Keep me as the apple of Your eye;



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.

Collects

- L** Abide with us, Lord, for it is toward evening, and the day is far spent. Abide with us and with Your whole Church. Abide with us at the end of the day, at the end of our life, at the end of the world. Abide with us with Your grace and goodness, with Your holy Word and Sacrament, with Your strength and blessing. Abide with us when the night of affliction and temptation comes upon us, the night of fear and despair, the night when death draws near. Abide with us and with all the faithful, now and forever.



C A - men.

Lord's Prayer

LSB 257

- L** 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.

Stand

Nunc Dimittis

LSB 258

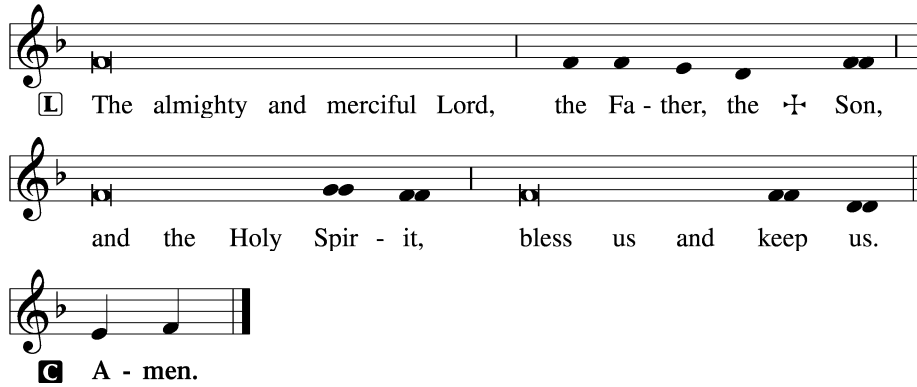
Antiphon

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. A - men. *Antiphon* 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



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

708 Lord, Thee I Love with All My Heart

st. 3



3 Lord, let at last Thine an-gels come, To A-br'ham's bos-om
bear me home, That I may die un-fear-ing; And
in its nar-row cham-ber keep My bod-y safe in
peace-ful sleep Un-til Thy re-ap-pear-ing. And then from
death a-wak-en me, That these mine eyes with joy may see,
O Son of God, Thy glo-rious face, My Sav-ior
and my fount of grace. Lord Je-sus Christ, my prayer at-
tend, my prayer at-tend, And I will praise Thee with-out end.

Text: Martin Schalling, 1532-1608; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-78, alt.
Tune: Zwey Bücher . . . Tabulatur, 1577, Strassburg
Text and tune: Public domain

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