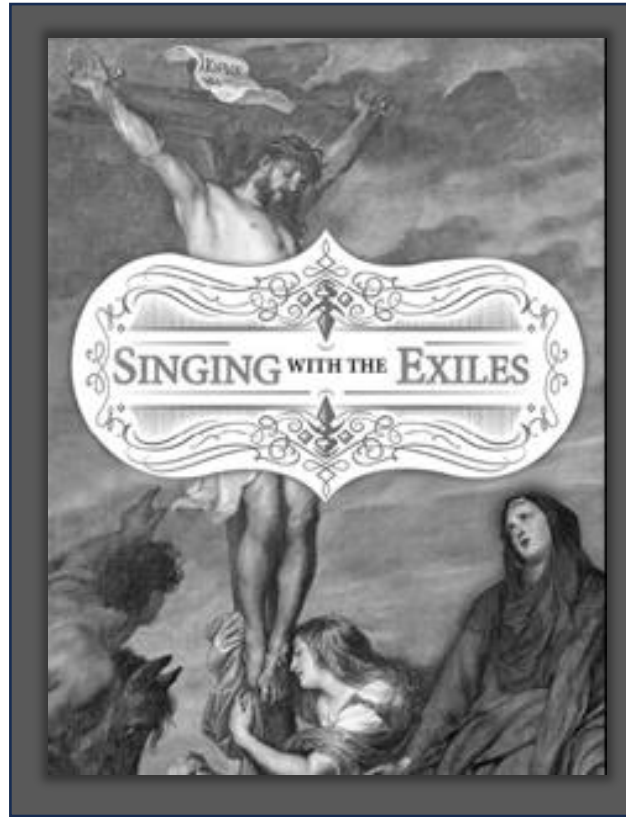


# The Order of Worship for **MIDWEEK LENT 2**

“He Only Has Eyes for You”  
March 12, 2025



“God is faithful; God will never Break His covenant of blood, Signed when our Redeemer died, Sealed when he was glorified” (LSB 435:4). These priceless promises come from the well-known hymn “Come to Calvary’s Holy Mountain.” It summarizes the gist of Isaiah 43:1–7. Twenty-five times in these verses the prophet employs the word “you.” You are redeemed. You belong to God. You are honored. You are valuable. God loves you!

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS- LCMS  
*Welcoming all to walk together  
toward abundant life in Christ.*

## SINGING WITH THE EXILES

Gathered by the waters of Babylon, Judean exiles wistfully wondered: Is God for real? If so, does He really care about us? What does our future hold? Will this ever change? God's people had watched their world shatter into a million pieces. They were demoralized and disillusioned. Their disaster looked terminal.

Do you feel this way? Does it look as though your current problems are more than you can bear? Do you find yourself asking: Why did this happen? Why did God allow it? Is there any order in the world? Will God really deliver on what He said?

Isaiah answers these questions in chapters 40–55 of his book. He announces that just when Israel's history seemed closed and controlled by hopeless Babylonian imperial policy, to the shock and surprise of everyone the Lord will stir up a king named Cyrus and a new exodus will explode in the desert! A Servant will be wounded for our transgressions and crushed for our iniquities. And barren Zion will be given so many children that, like the old woman in the shoe, she won't know what to do! Standing behind these marvelous promises is God's almighty Word. "The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever" (Isaiah 40:8). The exiles are going home!

**That's why we are "Singing with the Exiles" as they are restored to their home.**

This Lent, Isaiah 40–55 will shape us through...

<i>Lent Three</i>	<b>"Marked"</b>	(Isaiah 44:1–5)
<i>Lent Four</i>	<b>"Breaking Down the Gates"</b>	(Isaiah 45:1–8)
<i>Lent Five</i>	<b>"Get Out!"</b>	(Isaiah 48:17–22)
<i>Lent Six</i>	<b>"One Little Word Can Fell Him"</b>	(Isaiah 49:1–6)
<i>Maundy Thursday</i>	<b>"He Prepares a Table"</b>	(Isaiah 49:7–13)
<i>Good Friday</i>	<b>"All"</b>	(Isaiah 52:13–53:12)
<i>Easter</i>	<b>"We Are Going Home"</b>	(Isaiah 55:6–13)

This Lent, our Call to Worship/Confession and Absolution is drawn from the Seven Penitential Psalms, so named by Cassiodorus (c. AD 485–c. AD 585) in the sixth century AD. For centuries, Psalms 6, 32, 38, 51, 102, 130, and 143 have served as a source of prayer and reflection during Lent. Their honest confessions invite us to turn to our Lord with the same candor and humility.

## PRE-SERVICE MUSIC & RINGING OF THE BELL



## INVOCATION

- P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. (2 Corinthians 13:14)
- C **Amen.**

## OPENING HYMN

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

*LSB 700 sts. 1–3*

1. Love divine, all loves excelling,  
Joy of heav'n, to earth come down!  
Fix in us Thy humble dwelling,  
All Thy faithful mercies crown.  
Jesus, Thou art all compassion,  
Pure, unbounded love Thou art;  
Visit us with Thy salvation,  
Enter ev'ry trembling heart.



2. Breathe, O breathe Thy loving Spirit  
Into ev'ry troubled breast;  
Let us all in Thee inherit;  
Let us find Thy promised rest.  
Take away the love of sinning;  
Alpha and Omega be;  
End of faith, as its beginning,  
Set our hearts at liberty.

3. Come, Almighty, to deliver;  
Let us all Thy life receive;  
Suddenly return, and never,  
Nevermore Thy temples leave.  
Thee we would be always blessing,  
Serve Thee as Thy hosts above,  
Pray and praise Thee without ceasing,  
Glory in Thy perfect love.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–88

Text: Public domain

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

*Psalm 32*

- P Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.
- C **Blessed is the man against whom the LORD counts no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.**
- P For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long.
- C **For day and night Your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as in the heat of summer. I acknowledged my sin to You, and did not cover my iniquity. I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the LORD,” and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

*Silence for private confession of sins*

P God forgives the guilt of your sin. It is my duty and delight to announce to you the full forgiveness of all your sins because of the shed blood of Christ and His empty tomb. He was delivered over for our sins and raised again for our justification. These promises are yours in the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **O God, You are my hiding place; You will protect me from trouble and surround me with songs of deliverance.**

P Many are the woes of the wicked, but the LORD's unfailing love surrounds the one who trusts in Him.

C **Rejoice in the LORD and be glad, you righteous; sing, all you who are upright in heart!**

## RESPONSE

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

*LSB 700 st. 4*

4. Finish then Thy new creation,  
Pure and spotless let us be;  
Let us see Thy great salvation  
Perfectly restored in Thee,  
Changed from glory into glory,  
Till in heav'n we take our place,  
Till we cast our crowns before Thee,  
Lost in wonder, love, and praise!

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–88

Text: Public domain



## PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you,

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray. O God of mercy and might, although You have an entire universe to govern and uphold, You still call us by name and give us infinite value. Grant us Your Holy Spirit so that we may all the more have the faith to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth of Your love for us through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen**

## THE SCRIPTURE LESSONS HAVE AS THEIR THEME “OUR VALUE IN GOD’S EYES”

### OLD TESTAMENT

*Isaiah 43:1–7*

<sup>1</sup> But now thus says the LORD, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: “Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine.

<sup>2</sup> When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. <sup>3</sup> For I am the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior. I give Egypt as your ransom, Cush and Seba in exchange for you. <sup>4</sup> Because you are precious in my eyes, and honored, and I love you, I give men in return for you, peoples in exchange for your life. <sup>5</sup> Fear not, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather you. <sup>6</sup> I will say to the north, Give up, and to the south, Do not withhold; bring my sons from afar and my daughters from the end of the earth, <sup>7</sup> everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made.”

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

### EPISTLE

*Hebrews 2:10–18*

<sup>10</sup> For it was fitting that he, for whom and by whom all things exist, in bringing many sons to glory, should make the founder of their salvation perfect through suffering. <sup>11</sup> For he who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one source. That is why he is not ashamed to call them brothers, <sup>12</sup> saying, “I will tell of your name to my brothers; in the midst of the congregation I will sing your praise.” <sup>13</sup> And again, “I will put my trust in him.” And again, “Behold, I and the children God has given me.” <sup>14</sup> Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, <sup>15</sup> and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery. <sup>16</sup> For surely it is not angels that he helps, but he helps the offspring of Abraham. <sup>17</sup> Therefore he had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. <sup>18</sup> For because he himself has suffered when tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

## THE GOSPEL LESSON

*Matthew 6:25–34*

<sup>25</sup> “Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? <sup>26</sup> Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? <sup>27</sup> And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life? <sup>28</sup> And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, <sup>29</sup> yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. <sup>30</sup> But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? <sup>31</sup> Therefore do not be anxious, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ <sup>32</sup> For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. <sup>33</sup> But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. <sup>34</sup> “Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

## APOSTLES’ CREED

C I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

**And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

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

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <p>1. Come to Calv'ry's holy mountain,<br/>Sinners, ruined by the fall;<br/>Here a pure and healing fountain<br/>Flows for you, for me, for all,<br/>In a full, perpetual tide,<br/>Opened when our Savior died.</p>          | <p>3. Come in sorrow and contrition,<br/>Wounded, impotent, and blind;<br/>Here the guilty, free remission,<br/>Here the troubled, peace may find.<br/>Health this fountain will restore;<br/>They that drink shall thirst no more.</p> |
| <p>2. Come in poverty and meanness,<br/>Come defiled, without, within;<br/>From infection and uncleanness,<br/>From the leprosy of sin,<br/>Wash your robes and make them<br/>white;<br/>Ye shall walk with God in light.</p> | <p>4. They that drink shall live forever;<br/>'Tis a soul-renewing flood.<br/>God is faithful; God will never<br/>Break His covenant of blood,<br/>Signed when our Redeemer died,<br/>Sealed when He was glorified.</p>                 |
- Text: James Montgomery, 1771–1854, alt.

**SERMON**      **“He Only Has Eyes for You”**

Pastor Menk

**OFFERING**

**PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

*(1 Timothy 2:1-4)*

- P    Father of mercy and God of all comfort, we thank and praise You that in Holy Baptism You claim us as Your own. We rejoice that You say,
- C    **“Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are Mine” (Isaiah 43:1).**
- P    You look upon our frailties and faults, yet still say,
- C    **“You are precious in My eyes, and honored, and I love you” (Isaiah 43:4).**
- P    You not only have eyes for us, Your heart is also full of eternal love for us. Our Savior has said,
- C    **“As the Father has loved Me, so have I loved you” (John 15:9).**
- P    What is more, gracious God, You have ears for us, because Christ our Lord promises,
- C    **“Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you” (Matthew 7:7).**
- P    And in the Holy Supper You give us the true body and blood of Christ, for His words of institution are sure and certain.
- C    **“Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of your sins” (Matthew 26:28).**
- P    Hear us, loving Father, as we pray the family prayer, “Our Father . . . ”

## BENEDICTION

### CLOSING HYMN

On My Heart Imprint Your Image

LSB 422

1. On my heart imprint Your image,  
Blessèd Jesus, King of grace,  
That life's riches, cares, and pleasures  
Never may Your work erase;  
Let the clear inscription be:  
Jesus, crucified for me,  
Is my life, my hope's foundation,  
And my glory and salvation!

Text: Thomas Hansen Kingo, 1634–1703; tr. Peer O. Strömme, 1856–1921, alt.  
Text: Public domain



### SILENT PRAYER

Dear Father, the slaughtered Lamb, the empty tomb, and the gift of the Holy Spirit testify to this one indisputable fact—we are valuable in Your eyes! In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

### POSTLUDE

#### Acknowledgments

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**For next week** read Isaiah 44:1–5 and answer these questions:

1. “Jeshurun” appears in Isaiah 44:2. The name is linked with the verb “to be straight, upright.” “Jacob,” on the other hand, means “crooked.” What does this tell you about the exiles in Babylon? What does this tell you about your life?
2. The Holy Spirit is likened to water poured on dry ground (Isaiah 44:3). How does this apply to you today?
3. Isaiah envisions believers writing on their hands “Belonging to the LORD” (Isaiah 44:5). What did this mean for Israelites in Babylon? What does it mean for you?

## **SERMON NOTES**

## **“He Only Has Eyes for You”**

“You are valuable in My eyes.” (Isaiah 43:4)

To emphasize the value God places on *you*, He employs \_\_\_\_\_ second person *singular* word forms in Isaiah 43:1–7.

## **THE QUESTIONS FOR THE DAY: WHERE DO I FIND MY \_\_\_\_\_?**

When we feel worthless, we not only discount \_\_\_\_\_, we begin discounting \_\_\_\_\_.

Value is based on \_\_\_\_\_.

“Bring *My* sons from afar and *My* daughters from the end of the earth. All upon whom *My* name is called, and whom *I* created for *My* glory, whom *I* formed and whom *I* made” (Isaiah 43:6–7).

Value is based on how much someone is willing \_\_\_\_\_.

“And I will give people in exchange for you, and nations in exchange for your life” (Isaiah 43:4).

“Although in supreme trials you seem nothing in your own eyes and are condemned as one cast off by the world, in My eyes you are glorious. Therefore you may be vile in your own eyes, in the eyes of the world, and even in those of your brothers (as happened to us on the part of our Enthusiast brothers). Fear not. In My eyes I regard you as a precious jewel.”<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Martin Luther, *Lectures on Isaiah: Chapters 40–66*, ed. Jaroslav Pelikan, et al., Luther’s Works (St. Louis: Concordia, 1972), 17:88.