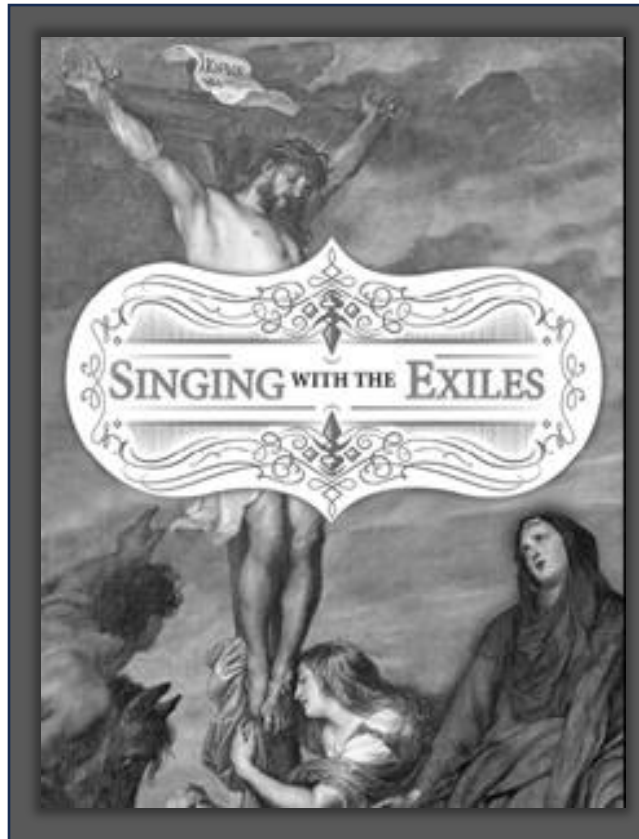


The Order of Worship for  
**MIDWEEK LENT 3**

“Marked”  
March 19, 2025



The prophet Isaiah also wants Judean exiles in Babylon to know the joy of belonging to God. The problem, though, was that these people weren't interested in singing the song of salvation. Babylon seemed to offer so much more! Isaiah counters with some of the most magnificent promises in the Old Testament, all to the end that God's people remember that they are His. On the day when you were baptized in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, your pastor probably also spoke these words to you: "Receive the sign of the holy cross, both upon your forehead and upon your heart, to mark you as one redeemed by Christ the crucified." We are marked forever!

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 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

Come Unto Me, Ye Weary

*LSB 684 sts. 1–3*

1. “Come unto Me, ye weary,  
And I will give you rest.”  
O blessed voice of Jesus,  
Which comes to hearts oppressed!  
It tells of benediction,  
Of pardon, grace, and peace,  
Of joy that hath no ending,  
Of love that cannot cease.

2. “Come unto Me, ye wand’ers,  
And I will give you light.”  
O loving voice of Jesus,  
Which comes to cheer the night!  
Our hearts were filled with sadness,  
And we had lost our way;  
But Thou hast brought us gladness  
And songs at break of day.

3. “Come unto Me, ye fainting,  
And I will give you life.”  
O cheering voice of Jesus,  
Which comes to aid our strife!  
The foe is stern and eager,  
The fight is fierce and long;  
But Thou hast made us mighty  
And stronger than the strong.

Text: William C. Dix, 1837–98, alt.

Text: Public domain

# Come to Me...

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

*Psalm 38*

P LORD, do not rebuke me in Your anger or discipline me in Your wrath.

C **My guilt has overwhelmed me like a burden too heavy to bear.**

P My wounds fester and are loathsome because of my sinful folly.

C **I am bowed down and brought very low; all day long I go about mourning.**

P I am feeble and utterly crushed; I groan in anguish of heart.

C **All my longings lie open before You, O Lord; my sighing is not hidden from You.**

P My heart pounds; my strength fails me; even the light has gone from my eyes.

C **I am like a deaf man, who cannot hear, like a mute, who cannot open his mouth;**

P We wait for You, O LORD; You will answer, O Lord our God.

*Silence for private confession of sins*

P God has heard your cry for help and comes to you in mercy and grace. Christ's blood forgives you; His resurrection absolves you; His Holy Spirit enlivens you, and His sacraments of Holy Baptism and the Lord's Supper assure you that He has put away your sins as far as the east is from the west. These promises belong to you in the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

## RESPONSE

Come Unto Me, Ye Weary

LSB 684 st. 4

4. "And whosoever cometh,  
I will not cast him out."  
O patient love of Jesus,  
Which drives away our doubt,  
Which, though we be unworthy  
Of love so great and free,  
Invites us very sinners  
To come, dear Lord, to Thee!

Text: William C. Dix, 1837–98, alt.

Text: Public domain



## PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you,

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray. Loving and gracious Father, we thank and praise You for the gift of Holy Baptism. Through water and the Word You cleanse us from our sin, fill us with Your Holy Spirit, and make us Yours forever. May we always treasure and cherish this gift, 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 "GOD'S CALL ON OUR LIVES"

### OLD TESTAMENT

*Isaiah 44:1–5*

<sup>1</sup> "But now hear, O Jacob my servant, Israel whom I have chosen! <sup>2</sup> Thus says the LORD who made you, who formed you from the womb and will help you: Fear not, O Jacob my servant, Jeshurun whom I have chosen. <sup>3</sup> For I will pour water on the thirsty land, and streams on the dry ground; I will pour my Spirit upon your offspring, and my blessing on your descendants. <sup>4</sup> They shall spring up among the grass like willows by flowing streams. <sup>5</sup> This one will say, 'I am the LORD's,' another will call on the name of Jacob, and another will write on his hand, 'The LORD's,' and name himself by the name of Israel."

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

## **EPISTLE**

*Hebrews 4:15–5:6*

<sup>15</sup> For 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. <sup>16</sup> Let 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. <sup>1</sup> For every high priest chosen from among men is appointed to act on behalf of men in relation to God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins. <sup>2</sup> He can deal gently with the ignorant and wayward, since he himself is beset with weakness. <sup>3</sup> Because of this he is obligated to offer sacrifice for his own sins just as he does for those of the people. <sup>4</sup> And no one takes this honor for himself, but only when called by God, just as Aaron was. <sup>5</sup> So also Christ did not exalt himself to be made a high priest, but was appointed by him who said to him, “You are my Son, today I have begotten you”; <sup>6</sup> as he says also in another place, “You are a priest forever, after the order of Melchizedek.”

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

## **THE GOSPEL LESSON**

*Matthew 9:9–13*

<sup>9</sup> As Jesus passed on from there, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth, and he said to him, “Follow me.” And he rose and followed him. <sup>10</sup> And as Jesus reclined at table in the house, behold, many tax collectors and sinners came and were reclining with Jesus and his disciples. <sup>11</sup> And when the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, “Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?” <sup>12</sup> But when he heard it, he said, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. <sup>13</sup> Go and learn what this means: ‘I desire mercy, and not sacrifice.’ For I came not to call the righteous, but sinners.”

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.**

**SERMON HYMN**

All Who Believe And Are Baptized

*LSB 601*

1. All who believe and are baptized  
Shall see the Lord's salvation;  
Baptized into the death of Christ,  
They are a new creation.  
Through Christ's redemption they  
shall stand  
Among the glorious, heav'nly band  
Of ev'ry tribe and nation.

2. With one accord, O God, we pray:  
Grant us Your Holy Spirit.  
Help us in our infirmity  
Through Jesus' blood and merit.  
Grant us to grow in grace each day  
That by this sacrament we may  
Eternal life inherit.

Text: Thomas Hansen Kingo, 1634–1703; tr. George A. T. Rygh, 1860–1942, alt.  
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**SERMON**

**“Marked”**

Pastor Menk

**OFFERING**

**PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

*(1 Timothy 2:1-4)*

P Lord of power and might, we are forever thankful that our Savior bore on His body the marks of holy love.

C **The whips, thorns, nails, and spear left their mark.**

P You have left Your mark upon us in the waters of Holy Baptism:

C **Cleansing forgiveness, new birth, and the gift of eternal life.**

P You empower us to leave this mark upon others

C **Through “love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.”** (Galatians 5:22–23)

P Enable us to bear on our body the marks of Christ

C **Until the whole world knows that He is Savior and Lord.**

P Hear us, loving Father, as we pray the family prayer, “Our Father . . . ”

**BENEDICTION**

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and T give you peace.

C **Amen.**

1. Christ the eternal Lord,  
Whose promise here we claim,  
Whose gifts of grace are freely poured  
On all who name Your name;  
With thankfulness and praise  
We stand before Your throne,  
Intent to serve You all our days  
And make Your glory known.
  
3. Christ the redeeming Son,  
Who shares our human birth,  
And by His death salvation won  
For ev'ry child of earth;  
Inspire our hearts, we pray,  
To tell Your love abroad,  
That all may honor Christ today  
And follow Him as Lord.
  
5. Christ the ascended King  
Exalted high above,  
Whose praise unending ages sing,  
Whom yet unseen we love;  
When mortal life is past  
Your voice from heaven's throne  
Shall call Your children home at last  
To know as we are known.



Text: Timothy Dudley-Smith, 1926–2024

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## **SILENT PRAYER**

Father, we recall the water, remember the Word, and forever cherish this liturgical rite. “Receive the sign of the holy cross, both upon your forehead and upon your heart, to mark you as one redeemed by Christ the crucified.” Amen and amen!

## **POSTLUDE**

### **Acknowledgments**

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**For next week,** read Isaiah 45:1–8 and answer these questions:

1. What seems strange about God calling the Persian King Cyrus His anointed one (Isaiah 45:1)? See Isaiah 45:9–10 for how the Babylonian exiles responded. How do you react to God’s choices for your life that are unexpected?
2. How does God depict Cyrus’s defeat of Babylon (Isaiah 45:1–2)? What closed doors does God open for you?
3. What did it mean for the exiles that the LORD is the only God (Isaiah 45:6)? What does this mean for you?

## SERMON NOTES

**“Marked”**

“This one will write upon his hand, *Leyahweh*” = “Belonging to \_\_\_\_\_.”  
(Isaiah 44:5)

Babylon wants people to be marked with *Lebabel* = “Belonging to \_\_\_\_\_.”

### GOD’S CALL ON OUR LIVES:

WHEN IN BABYLON, DON’T \_\_\_\_\_ THE BABYLONIANS.

The dominant American narrative = “You can buy lasting \_\_\_\_\_!”

### GOD’S VIEW OF BABYLON

The nation is a \_\_\_\_\_ in the bucket. (Isaiah 40:12)

Its leaders are \_\_\_\_\_. (Isaiah 40:23)

Its gods are an \_\_\_\_\_. (Isaiah 41:29)

### GOD WRITES HIS COUNTER-CULTURAL NARRATIVE ON PEOPLE’S SKIN

He places a mark upon \_\_\_\_\_. (Genesis 4:15)

He marks Israel with \_\_\_\_\_. (Deuteronomy 6:8–9)

He marks the faithful with an \_\_\_\_\_. (Ezekiel 9:4)

He marks Jesus with \_\_\_\_\_. (Isaiah 50:4–9)

“I bear on my body the marks of Jesus.” (Galatians 6:17)