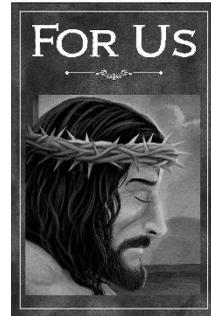


O Love, How Deep, How Broad, How High

“FOR US HE SEEKS”

Lent Midweek IV—March 11, 2026

Jesus said He came to seek and to save the lost. He does not wait passively until we get up the gumption to ask Him for help. Nor does He act out of selfish gain, like our health-care system seems to do so often today. Praying, teaching, working. In all these things, Jesus seeks us out and looks for ways to help us. This work is often overlooked because it is so ordinary—water, bread and wine, the folly of preaching. In all these ordinary works, Jesus continues His ministry among us. This ministry of forgiveness means that Jesus continues to strengthen and help us.



THE OPENING HYMN #424 “O Christ, You Walked the Road”



1 O Christ, You walked the road Our wan - d'ring feet must go.
2 No bread of earth a - lone Can fill our hun - g'ring hearts.
3 No blind - ing sign we ask, No won - der from a - bove.
4 When lures of eas - y gain With prom - ise bright - ly shine,
5 O Christ, You walked the road Our wan - d'ring feet must go.



You faced with us temp - ta - tion's pow'r And fought our an - cient foe.
Lord, help us seek Your liv - ing Word, The food Your grace im - parts.
Lord, help us place our trust a - lone In Your un - swerv - ing love.
Lord, help us seek Your king - dom first; Our wills with Yours a - lign.
Stay with us through temp - ta - tion's hour To fight our an - cient foe.

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(please stand)

THE INVOCATION AND OPENING SENTENCES Joel 2:13; Isaiah 55:6–7

P: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: Return to the Lord, your God, for He is gracious and merciful,

C: slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and relents of disaster.

P: Seek the Lord while He may be found; call upon Him while He is near.

C: Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the Lord, that He may have compassion on him, and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon.

THE PSALM Psalm 32 (ESV)

P: Blessèd is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

C: Blessèd 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 by the heat of summer.

P: I acknowledged my sin to You, and I did not cover my iniquity;

C: I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD," and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

P: Therefore let everyone who is godly offer prayer to You at a time when You may be found;

C: surely in the rush of great waters, they shall not reach him.

P: You are a hiding place for me; You preserve me from trouble;

C: You surround me with shouts of deliverance.

P: I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go;

C: I will counsel you with My eye upon you.

P: Be not like a horse or a mule, without understanding,

C: which must be curbed with bit and bridle, or it will not stay near you.

P: Many are the sorrows of the wicked,

C: but steadfast love surrounds the one who trusts in the LORD.

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray. Heavenly Father, You did not remain apart from Your creation. You sought us when we were not seeking You and did for us what we could not do for ourselves. For all this we give You thanks and praise; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

(please be seated)

THE READING OF THE PASSION HISTORY

THE LENT RESPONSORY

P: Deliver me, O Lord, my God, for You are the God of my salvation.

C: Rescue me from my enemies, protect me from those who rise against me.

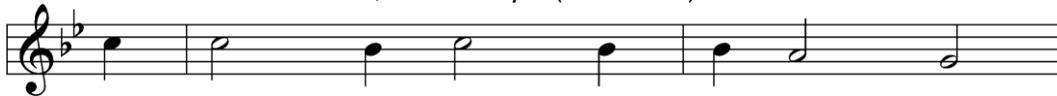
P: In You, O Lord, do I put my trust, leave me not, O Lord, my God.

C: Rescue me from my enemies, protect me from those who rise against me.

P: Deliver me, O Lord, my God, for You are the God of my salvation.

C: Rescue me from my enemies, protect me from those who rise against me.

THE HYMN #544 "O Love, How Deep" (verses 1-4)



1 O love, how deep, how broad, how high,
2 He sent no an - gel to our race,
3 For us bap - tized, for us He bore
4 For us He prayed; for us He taught;



Be - yond all thought and fan - ta - sy,
Of high - er or of low - er place,
His ho - ly fast and hun - gered sore;
For us His dai - ly works He wrought,



That God, the Son of God, should take
But wore the robe of hu - man frame,
For us temp - ta - tion sharp He knew;
By words and signs and ac - tions thus



Our mor - tal form for mor - tals' sake!
And to this world Him - self He came.
For us the tempt - er o - ver - threw.
Still seek - ing not Him - self but us.

THE SERMON "For Us He Seeks"

Text: Mark 1:35-39 And rising very early in the morning, while it was still dark, [Jesus] departed and went out to a desolate place, and there He prayed. And Simon and those who were with him searched for Him, and they found Him and said to Him, "Everyone is looking for You." And He said to them, "Let us go on to the next towns, that I may preach there also, for that is why I came out." And He went throughout all Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and casting out demons.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

(please stand)

THE PRESENTATION OF OUR OFFERINGS *(pages 192-193 in the hymnal)*

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

Cast me not away from Thy presence; and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.

Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation; and uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen.

THE PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

The Kyrie



C Lord, have mer-cy; Christ, have mer-cy; Lord, have mer-cy.

The Lord's Prayer

The Collects

P: Almighty God, You justify the ungodly and desire not the death of the sinner. We humbly ask You to assist us by Your heavenly aid and to shield us always from the evil foe.

Grant that we may not be separated from You by any temptation but, trusting in Your mercy, may serve You without ceasing; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

P: Ever-present God, stay with us, for darkness has come and the day is now past. Forgive, we pray, both our neglect in doing good this day and the wrongs we have done. Awaken us in the morning, bathed in the grace of our Baptism, so that we will be ready to love and serve You and our neighbor; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

P: Eternal God, the hours both of day and night are Yours, and to You the darkness is no threat. Be present, we pray, with those who labor in these hours of night, especially those who watch and work on behalf of others. Grant them diligence in their watching, faithfulness in their service, courage in danger, and competence in emergencies. Help them to meet the needs of others with confidence and compassion; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

P: We thank You, Lord God, heavenly Father for all Your benefits. Bless us, and all the gifts which we receive from Your bountiful goodness, including the food by which You give us our daily bread, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

P: Lord God, You have called Your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go but only that Your hand is leading us and Your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

THE BENEDICAMUS

P: Let us bless the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

THE BENEDICTION

P: The grace of our Lord ✕ Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: Amen.

