

RETURN TO THE LORD

February 25, 2026 – Return from False Witness – Pastor Schaller

Hymns: 151, 723, 145 Scripture Lessons: Psalm 27:11-14; Acts 22:12-16: PH #2

Sermon Text: Matthew 26:57-68 ⁵⁹ Now the chief priests and the whole council were seeking false testimony against Jesus that they might put him to death, ⁶⁰ but they found none, though many false witnesses came forward. At last two came forward ⁶¹ and said, "This man said, 'I am able to destroy the temple of God, and to rebuild it in three days.'" ⁶⁵ Then the high priest tore his robes and said, "He has uttered blasphemy. What further witnesses do we need? You have now heard his blasphemy. ⁶⁶ What is your judgment?" They answered, "He deserves death."

March 4, 2026 – Return from Denial – Pastor Bernthal

Hymns: 565, 179, 153 - Scripture Lessons: Isaiah 59:1-3,12-13; 1 Peter 5:6-10: PH #3

Sermon Text: Luke 22:54-62 ⁵⁶ Then a servant girl, seeing him as he sat in the light and looking closely at him, said, "This man also was with him." ⁵⁷ But he denied it, saying, "Woman, I do not know him." ⁵⁸ And a little later someone else saw him and said, "You also are one of them." But Peter said, "Man, I am not." ⁵⁹ And after an interval of about an hour still another insisted, saying, "Certainly this man also was with him, for he too is a Galilean." ⁶⁰ But Peter said, "Man, I do not know what you are talking about." And immediately, while he was still speaking, the rooster crowed.

March 11, 2026 – Return from Betrayal – Pastor Gurath

Hymns: 159, 760, 153 – Scripture Lessons: 2 Samuel 15:12, 17:1-4; Acts 3:14-19; PH #4

Sermon Text: John 18:1-11 ⁴ Then Jesus, knowing all that would happen to him, came forward and said to them, "Whom do you seek?" ⁵ They answered him, "Jesus of Nazareth." Jesus said to them, "I am he." Judas, who betrayed him, was standing with them. ⁶ When Jesus said to them, "I am he," they drew back and fell to the ground. ⁷ So he asked them again, "Whom do you seek?" And they said, "Jesus of Nazareth." ⁸ Jesus answered, "I told you that I am he. So, if you seek me, let these men go." ⁹ This was to fulfill the word that he had spoken: "Of those whom you gave me I have lost not one." ¹⁰ Then Simon Peter, having a sword, drew it and struck the high priest's servant and cut off his right ear. (The servant's name was Malchus.) ¹¹ So Jesus said to Peter, "Put your sword into its sheath; shall I not drink the cup that the Father has given me?"

March 18, 2026 – Return to Prayer – Pastor Kesterson

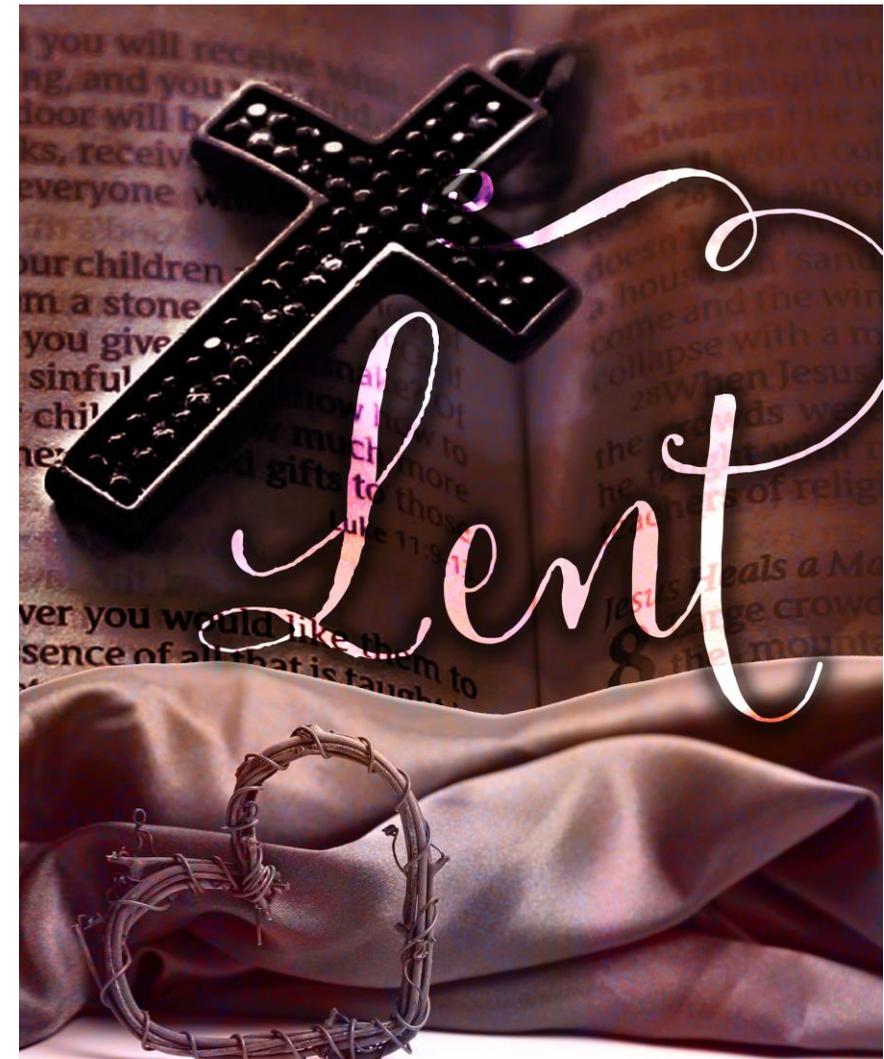
Hymns: 142:1-3, 456, 159 - Scripture Lessons: Genesis 32:22-30; Romans 8:22-28; PH #5

Sermon Text: Matthew 26:36-46 ³⁹ And going a little farther he fell on his face and prayed, saying, "My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will." ⁴² Again, for the second time, he went away and prayed, "My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done." ⁴³ And again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy. ⁴⁴ So, leaving them again, he went away and prayed for the third time, saying the same words again.

March 25, 2026 – Return to the Kingdom of God -- Pastor Schaller

Hymns: 721, 400, 153 – Scripture Lessons: Isaiah 53:1-3; 1 Timothy 2:1-7; PH #6

Sermon Text: John 18:12-14, 28-38 ³⁵ Pilate answered, "Am I a Jew? Your own nation and the chief priests have delivered you over to me. What have you done?" ³⁶ Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world, my servants would have been fighting, that I might not be delivered over to the Jews. But my kingdom is not from the world." ³⁷ Then Pilate said to him, "So you are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world—to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice." ³⁸ Pilate said to him, "What is truth?" After he had said this, he went back outside to the Jews and told them, "I find no guilt in him."



“Even now,” declares the LORD,
“return to me with all your heart.”

Joel 2:12, NIV

RETURN TO THE LORD • LENT 2026

MIDWEEK LENTEN WORSHIP

Luther Memorial • Ascension Lutheran • Messiah Lutheran • Peace through Christ
The Church of the Lutheran Confession • clclutheran.org • fdllutheran.com



Divine Worship. . . 6:00pm

Andrew A. Schaller, Pastor

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MIDWEEK LENTEN WORSHIP

February 25, March 4, 11, 18, 25 - 2026

PRAYER

OPENING HYMN: (Bulletin Back)

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation: (Spoken) "Amen."

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Return to the LORD, your God, for He is gracious and merciful,

Congregation: slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.

Pastor: Let us rend our hearts, confessing our sins to God, our Father.

All: Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by our own hands, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We deserve Your present and eternal punishment. Have mercy on us in Your son. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your name. Amen.

Pastor: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. He has opened His hands to give you the free blessings of the forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation. As a called servant of Christ, and at His direction, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation: (Spoken) "Amen."

SCRIPTURE LESSONS/PRAYER (Pastor)

CONFESSION OF FAITH:

SECOND ARTICLE/APOSTLES' CREED

HYMN: (Bulletin Back)

THE SERMON:

(Bulletin Back)

RETURN TO THE LORD

Return...from false witness (Pastor Schaller) – Matthew 26:57-68

Return...from Denial (Pastor Bernthal) – Luke 22:54-62

Return... from Betrayal (Pastor Gurath) – John 18:1-11

Return to Prayer... (Pastor Kesterson) – Matthew 26:36-46

Return to the Kingdom of God (Pastor Schaller) - Mark 14:12-16

THE OFFERINGS OF THANKFUL HEARTS

We express our thanksgiving for what the Savior Jesus has done for us by supporting His Work with our time, talents and gifts.

THE OFFERING HYMN

(TLH 148:1,7-8)

♪ Lord Jesus Christ, my Life, my Light, My Strength by day, my Trust by night, On earth I'm but a passing guest And sorely with my sins opprest.

♪ Lord, in Thy nail-prints let me read That Thou to save me hast decreed And grant that in Thine opened side My troubled soul may ever hide.

♪ Since Thou hast died, the Pure, the Just. I take my homeward way in trust. The gates of heaven, Lord, open wide When here I may no more abide.

PRAYER(S) /THE LORD'S PRAYER

HYMN: (Bulletin Back)

PASSION HISTORY READING

BENEDICTION

CLOSING HYMN

LOVE DIVINE, ALL LOVE EXCELLING

1. Love Divine, all love excelling, Joy of heaven, 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 every trembling heart.

2. Breathe, oh, breathe Thy loving Spirit Into every troubled breast; Let us all in Thee inherit, Let us find the 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.

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 heaven we take our place, Till we cast our crowns before Thee, Lost in wonder, love, and praise.