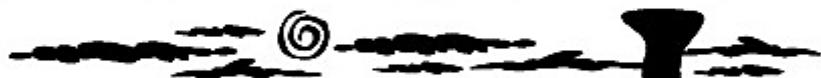


MIDWEEK



LENT



SERVICE

February 25, 2026
Pastor Seth Meyer

OPENING VERSICLES

253

P: The Lord Almighty grant us a quiet night and peace at the last.

C: Amen.

P: It is good to give thanks to the Lord,

C: to sing praises to Your name, O Most High;

P: to herald Your love in the morning,

C: Your truth at the close of the day.

EXHORTATION + CONFESSION OF SINS

LSB 254

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

P: 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.

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

C: Amen.

PSALM

Psalm 143

¹Hear my prayer, O LORD;

give ear to my pleas for mercy!

In your faithfulness answer me, in your righteousness!

²Enter not into judgment with your servant,

for no one living is righteous before you.

³For the enemy has pursued my soul;

he has crushed my life to the ground;

he has made me sit in darkness like those long dead.

⁴Therefore my spirit faints within me;

my heart within me is appalled.

⁵I remember the days of old;

I meditate on all that you have done;

I ponder the work of your hands.

**⁶I stretch out my hands to you;
my soul thirsts for you like a parched land.**

**⁷Answer me quickly, O LORD!
My spirit fails!**

**Hide not your face from me,
lest I be like those who go down to the pit.**

**⁸Let me hear in the morning of your steadfast love,
for in you I trust.**

**Make me know the way I should go,
for to you I lift up my soul.**

**⁹Deliver me from my enemies, O LORD!
I have fled to you for refuge!**

**¹⁰Teach me to do your will,
for you are my God!**

**Let your good Spirit lead me
on level ground!**

**¹¹For your name's sake, O LORD, preserve my life!
In your righteousness bring my soul out of trouble!**

**¹²And in your steadfast love you will cut off my enemies,
and you will destroy all the adversaries of my soul,
for I am your servant.**

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as
it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Joel 1:1–12

¹The word of the LORD that came to Joel, the son of Pethuel:

²Hear this, you elders;
give ear, all inhabitants of the land!

Has such a thing happened in your days,
or in the days of your fathers?

³Tell your children of it,
and let your children tell their children,
and their children to another generation.

⁴What the cutting locust left,
the swarming locust has eaten.

What the swarming locust left,
the hopping locust has eaten,
and what the hopping locust left,
the destroying locust has eaten.

⁵Awake, you drunkards, and weep,
and wail, all you drinkers of wine,

because of the sweet wine,
for it is cut off from your mouth.

⁶For a nation has come up against my land,
powerful and beyond number;
its teeth are lions' teeth,
and it has the fangs of a lioness.

⁷It has laid waste my vine and splintered my fig tree;
it has stripped off their bark and thrown it down;
their branches are made white.

⁸Lament like a virgin wearing sackcloth
for the bridegroom of her youth.

⁹The grain offering and the drink offering are cut off
from the house of the LORD.

The priests mourn, the ministers of the LORD.

¹⁰The fields are destroyed, the ground mourns,
because the grain is destroyed,
the wine dries up, the oil languishes.

¹¹Be ashamed, O tillers of the soil;
wail, O vinedressers,
for the wheat and the barley,
because the harvest of the field has perished.

¹²The vine dries up; the fig tree languishes.
Pomegranate, palm, and apple,
all the trees of the field are dried up,
and gladness dries up from the children of man.

P: O Lord, have mercy on us.

C: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE READING

Hebrews 9:11–15

¹¹When Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and more perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation) ¹²he entered once for all into the holy places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves but by means of his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption. ¹³For if the sprinkling of defiled persons with the blood of goats and bulls and with the ashes of a heifer sanctifies for the purification of the flesh, ¹⁴how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God.

¹⁵Therefore he is the mediator of a new covenant, so that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance, since a death has occurred that redeems them from the transgressions committed under the first covenant.

P: O Lord, have mercy on us.

C: Thanks be to God.

HOLY GOSPEL READING

Matthew 3:1-4

¹In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, ²Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." ³For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah when he said,

"The voice of one crying in the wilderness:

'Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight.'"

⁴Now John wore a garment of camel's hair and a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey.

P: O Lord, have mercy on us.

C: Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORY

LSB 255

P: Into Your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.

C: Into Your hands I commend my spirit.

P: You have redeemed me, O Lord, God of truth.

C: Into Your hands I commend my spirit.

P: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

C: Into Your hands I commend my spirit.

THE DAY IS SURELY DRAWING NEAR



1 The day is sure - ly draw - ing near When Je - sus, God's a - noint - ed,
2 The fi - nal trum - pet then shall sound And all the earth be shak - en,
3 The books are o - pened then to all, A rec - ord tru - ly tell - ing
4 Then woe to those who scorned the Lord And sought but car - nal plea - sures,



In all His pow - er shall ap - pear As judge whom God ap -
And all who rest be - neath the ground Shall from their sleep a -
What each has done, both great and small, When he on earth was
Who here de - spised His pre - cious Word And loved their earth - ly



point - ed. Then fright shall ban - ish i - dle mirth, And flames on
wak - en. But all who live will in that hour, By God's al -
dwell - ing, And ev - 'ry heart be clear - ly seen, And all be
trea - sures! With shame and trem - bling they will stand And at the



flames shall rav - age earth As Scrip - ture long has warned us.
might - y, bound - less pow'r, Be changed at His com - mand - ing.
known as they have been In thoughts and words and ac - tions.
judg - e's stern com - mand To Sa - tan be de - liv - ered.

- 5 My Savior paid the debt I owe
And for my sin was smitten;
Within the Book of Life I know
My name has now been written.
I will not doubt, for I am free,
And Satan cannot threaten me;
There is no condemnation!
- 6 May Christ our intercessor be
And through His blood and merit
Read from His book that we are free
With all who life inherit.
Then we shall see Him face to face,
With all His saints in that blest place
Which He has purchased for us.
- 7 O Jesus Christ, do not delay,
But hasten our salvation;
We often tremble on our way
In fear and tribulation.
O hear and grant our fervent plea:
Come, mighty judge, and set us free
From death and ev'ry evil.

Text: Bartholomäus Ringwaldt, 1532-99; tr. Philip A. Peter, 1832-1919, alt. Tune: Geistliche Lieder aufs new gebessert, 1535, Rittenberg, ed. Joseph Klug Text and tune: Public domain

SERMON

Joel 1:1-12

Cutting, Swarming, Hopping, Destroying Locusts!

VERSICLES

256

P: Hear my prayer, O Lord;

C: listen to my cry.

P: Keep me as the apple of Your eye;

C: hide me in the shadow of Your wings.

P: In righteousness I shall see You;

C: when I awake, Your presence will give me joy.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Lent 1

O Lord God, You led Your ancient people through the wilderness and brought them to the promised land. Guide the people of Your Church that following our Savior we may walk through the wilderness of this world toward the glory of the world to come; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

COLLECT

At the close of the day (1)

P: Be present, merciful God, and protect us through the hours of this night, so that we who are wearied by the changes and chances of life may find our rest in You; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

257

P: 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.**

NUNC DIMITTIS

258

P: Guide us waking, O Lord, and guard us sleeping that awake we may watch with Christ and asleep we may rest in peace.

**C: Lord, now You let Your servant go in peace;
Your word has been fulfilled.
My own eyes have seen the salvation
which You have prepared in the sight of ev'ry people:
a light to reveal You to the nations
and the glory of Your people Israel.
Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.
Guide us waking, O Lord, and guard us sleeping
that awake we may watch with Christ
and asleep we may rest in peace.**

BENEDICTION

259

P: The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the T Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless us and keep us.

C: Amen.

TODAY YOUR MERCY CALLS US



1 To - day Your mer - cy calls us To wash a - way our sin.
2 To - day Your gate is o - pen, And all who en - ter in
3 To - day our Fa - ther calls us; His Ho - ly Spir - it waits;
4 O all - em - brac - ing Mer - cy, O ev - er - o - pen Door,



How - ev - er great our tres - pass, What - ev - er we have been,
Shall find a Fa - ther's wel - come And par - don for their sin.
His bless - ed an - gels gath - er A - round the heav'n - ly gates.
What should we do with - out You When heart and eye run o'er?



How - ev - er long from mer - cy Our hearts have turned a - way,
The past shall be for - got - ten, A pres - ent joy be giv'n,
No ques - tion will be asked us How of - ten we have come;
When all things seem a - gainst us, To drive us to de - spair,



Your pre - cious blood can wash us And make us clean to - day.
A fu - ture grace be prom - ised, A glo - rious crown in heav'n.
Al - though we oft have wan - dered, It is our Fa - ther's home.
We know one gate is o - pen, One ear will hear our prayer.

Text: Oswald Allen, 1816-78, alt. Tune: Friedrich K. Anthes, 1812-after 1857 Text and tune: Public domain

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Next Week...

Wednesday, March 4th - Pastor Warneke (Joel 1:13-20)

"A Time of Sacred Fasts and Sackcloth"