



Service Focus:

Scattered Sheep

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church | Santa Barbara, California

Midweek Lent 3 | March 4, 2026



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Welcome!

Welcome and thank you for joining us for worship today! You have joined us for the most important time we spend together. Each time we gather as a family of faith, we make the gospel (or good news) of Jesus our central focus. It is not just information about what Jesus did to save sinners. It is also the power God uses to work faith in our hearts and transform our lives. In the message and meal (Holy Communion), in specially selected Scripture readings, and in carefully crafted songs, prayers, and creeds, our service proclaims the good news about Jesus from start to finish. Many of the elements of this service have ancient roots in the Christian church. Some are very recent. Lutheran worship is also designed to include the participation of the entire assembly (including children).

Are you visiting with us today? Thank you! We love meeting our neighbors and would be grateful for the opportunity to extend our thanks in a more formal way. **Please consider filling out one of the Welcome/Connect cards in the rack in front of you, or scan the QR code** to the right to help us know you better.

Connect Card



For Your Convenience

- **The order of service** is printed in this folder. If a song is not printed in this service folder, it can be found in the blue hymnal in front of your seat. The pastor will speak the words in normal print. **The congregation is invited to speak those printed in bold.** Please participate as you are comfortable today.
- **Restrooms** are located in the fellowship hall building to the left as you exit church.
- Please reserve the rows in the back of the church for families with small children.
- If you are in need of any other assistance, any one of our members will be happy to assist you.

Participation & Children

Sometimes parents (and even churches) think that worship is not a place for children. At Our Redeemer, we're convinced that nothing could be further from the truth. We want children in church worshipping with their families and learning about Jesus' love for them. Why?

- Even from the earliest of ages, **children are models of faith** from which we can all learn (Luke 18:16,17). Similarly, they learn how to "do church" by watching mom & dad. Model worship for them.
- Our worship format not only encourages families to be together, but is ideally suited for active worship engagement and participation by all, including children, balancing new service elements each week with regular repetition for learning and memorization.
- The **sights and sounds of active children** during worship isn't bad at all – it's a reminder to the adults that the next generation of church leaders is already among us.

We realize that, especially at first, having children in church can be a challenge for parents. To help, we offer the following:

- If your child needs some individual attention to calm them down, an area in the fellowship hall, located just to the left as you exit church, is available. Worship can be watched and heard in this room.
- Other families are willing and ready to help. Let us know if we can offer a hand with your little ones.
- Activity sheets that kids can work on throughout the service are available on the stand in the back.

Series Focus: "It Is Finished!"

Our midweek Lent series this year explores the prophecies of Zechariah, offering an enriching look at our Savior Jesus, particularly as these prophecies relate to the events of Jesus' Holy Week passion, death, and resurrection.

February 18	Ash Wednesday	Return to Me!
February 25	Midweek Lent 2	What's He Worth to You?
March 4	Midweek Lent 3	Scattered Sheep
March 11	Midweek Lent 4	The Truth, the Whole Truth, and Nothing but the Truth
March 18	Midweek Lent 5	The Kingly Priest
March 25	Midweek Lent 6	Look at the One Who Was Pierced

Service Focus

On the night Jesus was betrayed, he quoted the words of the prophet Zechariah: "Strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered." When the sword of God's judgment fell on the Good Shepherd, the disciples scattered in fear and confusion. Yet through that suffering God was doing something greater—refining his people. Tonight we see that because the Shepherd was struck for us, scattered sheep are gathered, purified, and called God's own people.

Prayer before the Service

Heavenly Father, you sent your Son Jesus to be the Good Shepherd who laid down his life for the sheep. When the sword of judgment struck him, we were the scattered ones—fearful, wandering, and lost. Yet through his suffering you gathered us again and made us your people. As we worship today, refine our faith through your Word, strengthen us to trust in your saving name, and assure us that through Christ we belong to you forever; through Jesus our Shepherd and Savior. Amen.

Serving God and Us Today

Presiding Minister: Pastor Daniel Schroeder

Music Operator: Al Todd

Audio/Visual Booth: Josh Schueler

Usher: Carl Schueler

Welcome Table: Joyce Ampe

The Service

Welcome

Opening Hymn

Now Rest beneath Night's Shadow
Christian Worship 794

This hymn expresses trust in God for peace and safety during the evening. The text was written by Paul Gerhardt (1607-1676). A native of Wittenberg, Germany, he became a Lutheran minister and served first in Berlin and then in Luben. Baron Bunsen (1830) writes of this hymn: "Ever since its publication this hymn has been one of the most beloved and best-known hymns of devout meditation over the whole of Germany. Experienced and conceived in a truly childlike popular spirit, it unites with a rare naive simplicity of expression, a loftiness of thought, a depth of Christian experience, a grace of poetry, so that for this union of qualities it must rank as an enduring masterpiece among hymns."

Confession of Sins

Psalm 124:8

Our help is in the name of the Lord,
the maker of heaven and earth.

Let us confess our sins in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence for personal reflection

Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
we have sinned against you in our thoughts, in our words, in our deeds, and in all that we have not done. Forgive us in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Deliver and restore us, that we may rest in peace.

By the mercy of God we are redeemed by Jesus Christ, and in him we are forgiven. Let us rest in his peace until the rising of the sun, when we shall serve him in newness of life.

Amen.

*The Church sings
Psalm 73 in services
that encourage us
to persevere in faith
through the challenges
of life.*

Psalm of the Day

Psalm 73:23-26

I am always with you;
you hold me by my right hand.

You guide me with your counsel,
and afterward you will take me into glory.

Whom have I in heav'n but you?
And earth has nothing I desire besides you.

My flesh and my heart may fail,

but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.

Psalm Prayer

Lord Jesus, we are shortsighted and focus only on this life. We try to make this earth our perfect home and become discontent when life goes better for the wicked than it does for us. Turn our eyes toward you, and help us to live each day with the confidence that heaven is our ultimate and perfect home, for there we will live with you and the Father and the Spirit. Amen.

Amen.

Passion History

Matthew 26:36-56

Gethsemane

³⁶ Then Jesus went with his disciples to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to them, “Sit here while I go over there and pray.” ³⁷ He took Peter and the two sons of Zebedee along with him, and he began to be sorrowful and troubled. ³⁸ Then he said to them, “My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me.”

³⁹ Going a little farther, he fell with his face to the ground and prayed, “My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will.”

⁴⁰ Then he returned to his disciples and found them sleeping. “Couldn’t you men keep watch with me for one hour?” he asked Peter. ⁴¹ “Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.”

⁴² He went away a second time and prayed, “My Father, if it is not possible for this cup to be taken away unless I drink it, may your will be done.”

⁴³ When he came back, he again found them sleeping, because their eyes were heavy. ⁴⁴ So he left them and went away once more and prayed the third time, saying the same thing.

⁴⁵ Then he returned to the disciples and said to them, “Are you still sleeping and resting? Look, the hour has come, and the Son of Man is delivered into the hands of sinners. ⁴⁶ Rise! Let us go! Here comes my betrayer!”

⁴⁷ While he was still speaking, Judas, one of the Twelve, arrived. With him was a large crowd armed with swords and clubs, sent from the chief priests and the elders of the people. ⁴⁸ Now the betrayer had arranged a signal with them: “The one I kiss is the man; arrest him.” ⁴⁹ Going at once to Jesus, Judas said, “Greetings, Rabbi!” and kissed him.

⁵⁰ Jesus replied, “Do what you came for, friend.”

Then the men stepped forward, seized Jesus and arrested him. ⁵¹ With that, one of Jesus’ companions reached for his sword, drew it out and struck the servant of the high priest, cutting off his ear.

⁵² “Put your sword back in its place,” Jesus said to him, “for all who draw the sword will die by the sword. ⁵³ Do you think I cannot call on my Father, and he will at once put at my disposal more than twelve legions of angels? ⁵⁴ But how then would the Scriptures be fulfilled that say it must happen in this way?”

⁵⁵ In that hour Jesus said to the crowd, “Am I leading a rebellion, that you have come out with swords and clubs to capture me? Every day I sat in the temple courts teaching, and you did not arrest me. ⁵⁶ But this has all taken place that the writings of the prophets might be fulfilled.” Then all the disciples deserted him and fled. (NIV)

Hymn of the Day

What Wondrous Love Is This
Christian Worship 526

This early 19th-century American folk hymn of anonymous authorship reflects on the astonishing love of Christ shown in his suffering and death for sinners. With its simple, repeated question in the first stanza—“What wondrous love is this?”—this repetition is not the sign of a weak poet who has a narrow range of expression, but a fellow traveler who has experienced profoundly the sacrificial love of Christ and can only express again and again “What wondrous love is this.”

*When the Lord strikes the Shepherd—
Jesus—the sheep are scattered, but through this suffering God refines his people like gold in fire so that they call on his name and he declares, “They are my people.”*

Sermon

Zechariah 13:7-9

“Scattered Sheep”

⁷ “Awake, sword, against my shepherd,
against the man who is close to me!” declares the LORD Almighty.
“Strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered,
and I will turn my hand against the little ones.
⁸ In the whole land,” declares the LORD,
“two-thirds will be struck down and perish; yet one-third will be left in it.
⁹ This third I will put into the fire; I will refine them like silver and test them like gold.
They will call on my name and I will answer them;
I will say, ‘They are my people,’ and they will say, ‘The LORD is our God.’” (NIV)

In Lutheranism, the reviewing the catechism has long been associated with Lent.

Confession of Faith

I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord.

Prayer

Psalm 17:1

Hear my prayer, O Lord;
listen to my cry.

Psalm 17:8

Keep me as the apple of your eye;
hide me in the shadow of your wings.

In righteousness I shall see you;

Psalm 17:15

when I awake, your presence will give me joy.

Be present, O Merciful God, and protect us through the silent hours of this night, so that we who are wearied by the changes and chances of this fleeting world may rest in your eternal changelessness; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer trains our faith, teaching us through its petitions to cling to God's promises and rely on his goodness.

Blessing

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him.

Romans 15:13

Amen.

Closing Hymn

O Dearest Jesus, What Law Have You Broken
Christian Worship 432 (st. 4)

4 What pun - ish - ment so strange is suf - fered yon - der!

The Shep - herd dies for sheep that loved to wan - der;

the Mas - ter pays the debt his ser - vants

owe him, who would not know him.

This is a classic Lutheran Passion hymn in which the believer confesses that personal sin—not merely the actions of Christ's enemies—caused the Savior's suffering and death. Written by Lutheran pastor Johann Heermann during the hardships of the Thirty Years' War, it remains one of the church's most powerful Good Friday hymns of repentance and gratitude.

Acknowledgments

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Offering

For those who wish to give an offering this evening, you can place an offering in the **offering plate** located near the doors where you entered church today. You may also **scan the QR code** to the right with your smartphone's camera to be redirected to a page where you can give an offering. While the members of Our Redeemer support this ministry with their gifts, we understand that you might want to learn more about us before you choose to do the same.



Join us each Wednesday in Lent for our devotional worship at 7:00 pm.
Next Wednesday we focus on the theme: "Scattered Sheep"

Let us know you were here!

