

Zion Lutheran Church LCMC, 15 S. 4th Street, Harrisburg, PA 17110
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WORSHIP ON WEDNESDAY SERVICE OF WORD & PRAYER
1ST Wednesday in Lent
12:10pm on February 25, 2026

Dying to Sin, Living in Forgiveness

THEME VERSE: Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. Psalm 51:1

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. David the psalmist writes, "Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered" (Psalm 32:1). In humble repentance, we seek the blessing of God and forgiveness for our sins.

C Almighty God, we confess that we have turned away from your Word and from your will for our lives. Instead of following your ways, we listen to the temptations of the world around us and seek to live according to our own sinful desires. We do not love others as we should. Have mercy on us, and forgive our sins for Jesus' sake. Create in us new hearts and willing spirits to glorify you and serve others in your name.

P The psalmist writes, "I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not cover my iniquity; I said, 'I will confess my sins to the Lord,' and you forgave the iniquity of my sin" (Psalm 32:5). God has had mercy on us, sending his Son to suffer the penalty of death that we deserved for our sins and forgiving us for Jesus' sake. I announce to you that your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

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

PRAYER OR THE DAY

P Lord Jesus, today we continue in the season of Lent. We will follow in your steps as you take up your path to the cross. Lead us in the power of the Holy Spirit to walk in love as you walked. It was love that led you to die on the cross for our sins. It is love that leads us to serve as you served and to forgive as we have been forgiven. Hear our prayer and accept our grateful praise, dear Savior. Amen.

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 18:21-35

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the sixth chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

P Then Peter came up and said to him, "Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?" Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you seven times,

but seventy-seven times. Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. When he began to settle, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. And since he could not pay, his master ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' And out of pity for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. But when that same servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him, he began to choke him, saying, 'Pay what you owe.' So his fellow servant fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' He refused and went and put him in prison until he should pay the debt. When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their master all that had taken place. Then his master summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?' And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt. So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

HOMILY

PRAYERS

P Lord Jesus, by your death and resurrection, we were delivered from Satan's domain of darkness and brought into your kingdom. In you we have forgiveness for our sins. Lord, create in each of us a clean heart.

C **Restore to us the joy of the salvation that we have through faith in your name.**

P Lord Jesus, forgive us when we keep count of the wrongs of others. Teach us to forgive others as we have been forgiven, knowing that because of your suffering and death, our sins have been removed forever from your sight. Lord, create in each of us a clean heart.

C **Restore to us the joy of the salvation that we have through faith in your name.**

P Lord Jesus, lead us to walk in love as you walked. Teach us to bear the burdens of others and to share with them the forgiveness that you show to us. As we encounter those who have gone astray from your Word and ways, lead us to reach out to them in love and kindness, reflecting your love and grace. Lord, create in each of us a clean heart.

C **Restore to us the joy of the salvation that we have through faith in your name.**

P Lord Jesus, bless those who are hurting and those who are suffering from illness, grief and sorrow. Help us to serve them in love, sharing with them the promises and comfort that are

found in your holy Word. Lord, create in each of us a clean heart.

C Restore to us the joy of the salvation that we have through faith in your name.

P Lord Jesus, create in us hearts that are willing to serve, to love and to forgive, hearts that reflect the love and forgiveness that you have shown to us. Lord, create in each of us a clean heart.

C Restore to us the joy of the salvation that we have through faith in your name.

P *Additional petitions offered...*

P Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, through our Savior Jesus Christ. **C Amen.**

P Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

LORD'S PRAYER

**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.

BENEDICTION

P Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

C Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit.

P The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.

C Amen.

Please join us for lunch in Fellowship Hall directly after the worship service.

Presiding Minister:	Pastor Karin Pejack
Minister of Technology:	Catherine Germann
Hospitality:	Eileen Marks

WOW (Worship On Wednesday) 12:10pm Service & Lunch Fellowship

12:10pm Service of Word & Prayer (in-person & online)

Service of Holy Communion on 1st Wednesday of the month

12:35pm Lunch Fellowship (in-person only)

LENTEN Worship Series: "Dying His Death, Living His Life"

Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we also live with him. – Romans 6:8

February 25, Lent 1:	Dying to Sin, Living in Forgiveness
March 4, Lent 2:	Dying to Pride, Living for Others (1 st Wed. COMMUNION)
March 11, Lent 3:	Dying to Greed, Living for the Treasures of Heaven
March 18, Lent 4:	Dying to Doubt, Living by Faith
March 25, Lent 5:	Dying to Turmoil, Living in Peace
April 1, Holy Wednesday:	Dying to Judgment, Living in Grace (1 st Wed. COMMUNION)
April 2, Maundy Thursday:	Remember His Death (Maundy Thursday Communion)
April 3, Good Friday:	He Died For All (Tenebrae Service)

Series of Services for Lent by Fred Niedner; purchased from Creative Communications for the Parish. Purchase of this kit gives the purchaser copyright release to use the material in any format in worship.

PARKING for WEDNESDAYS: 12:10pm WOW Services:

Please enter at the chapel doors on 4th Street. An outdoor sign will mark the appropriate doorway. There is very limited free parking on site. Parking on the street is actively enforced at this time of day on a weekday, so please plan to pay for parking if you park on the street. Speak with pastor about parking options for regular WOW attenders.