

Mid-Week Lenten Service

March 11, 2026



6:30 p.m. Worship | Augustana Lutheran Church
Pastors *Loren Mellum & Amy Kelly*
Accompanist *Kaele Peterson*

GATHERING

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God. (*stand if able)*

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CALL TO WORSHIP

P: Let us gather together, hungry and thirsty. Come, all who long to be filled with good things.

C: The bread of life satisfies our hunger and thirst.

P: Let us open our hands to receive from God's son, our brother and friend.

C: The bread of life loves us and knows our needs.

P: Let us quiet our minds and awaken our hearts to be transformed by God's Spirit, who redeems us.

C: The bread of life has come to sustain us. Believing this promise, let us worship together!

***OPENING PRAYER**

Holy God, throughout history you have fed people in body, mind, and spirit. As we gather in worship today, we rest in the knowledge that you continue to care for us. We come into this space with complicated lives, different needs, and unique situations. You know all of our longings, and you look at us with compassion and love. Because we know the bread of life, Jesus, is the sustaining source of hope, we lean into this hour of worship with expectancy and faith. You have provided for our needs from the beginning, and you will meet us once again today.

Amen.

***CALL AND PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

P: Because we live in a world with both hunger and unnecessary waste, let us confess our sins and seek a new path of righteousness.

C: Holy God, even though we choose to follow Jesus, live his way, and share in the bread of life, we confess we have overlooked the hungry in our midst. We confess it is easier to avoid people and places that demand our attention and resources, and go about our days turning our eyes from those in need. But Jesus shows us a different way—a way of sharing, a way of justice. Forgive us for the times we have looked away from those who are hungry and their needs for food, clothing, friendship, or anything else. Forgive us for neglecting our neighbors and our community. Help us be faithful to this calling.

Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

P: Paul writes, “There is no one who is righteous, not even one.” Yet in Christ, we are forgiven, justified, and transformed to carry on in the way of love and justice.

P: Savor the good news of this pardon and be at peace.

C: Amen.

GOSPEL READING *John 6:25-40*

SERMON: BREAD OF LIFE

Pastor Loren Mellum

“What Wonderful Love Is This”

ELW #666



1 What won-drous love is this, O my soul, O my soul! What
2 When I was sink - ing down, sink-ing down, sink-ing down, when
3 To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing; to
4 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on; and



won - drous love is this, O my soul! What won-drous love is this
I was sink - ing down, sink-ing down, when I was sink - ing down
God and to the Lamb I will sing; to God and to the Lamb,
when from death I'm free, I'll sing on; and when from death I'm free,



that caused the Lord of bliss to bear the dread-ful curse for my
be - neath God's righ-teous frown, Christ laid a - side his crown for my
who is the great I AM, while mil - lions join the theme, I will
I'll sing God's love for me, and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing



soul, for my soul, to bear the dread-ful curse for my soul?
soul, for my soul, Christ laid a - side his crown for my soul.
sing, I will sing, while mil - lions join the theme, I will sing.
on, I'll sing on; and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing on.

Text: North American folk hymn, 19th cent., alt.
Music: WONDROUS LOVE, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

We believe Jesus Christ is the bread of life.

Born to live among us, suffering every human frailty, even unto death. Empowered not to rule with force but by invitation; not with a sword, but by sacrifice.

Filled with compassion, always caring about the physical needs of the people.

Rejecting earthly fortune, meeting daily needs, turning no one away.

Jesus turned bread lines into feasts, welcoming everyone to the table.

Jesus gave freely to all in need, even when they gave nothing in return.

We believe Jesus Christ is the bread of life. Amen.

Holden Evening Prayer

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***CHARGE AND BENECTION**

P: Go now into the world brimming with love for God and others. May you share the bread of life, offering not only what sustains the body but what nourishes the soul. Live your lives serving in the way of Jesus, extending compassion to the weary, hope to the despairing, and bread to the hungry. As you go, may the love of God enfold you, the peace of Christ guide you, and the power of the Holy Spirit sustain you, now and forever.

C: Amen.



Lenten Series

5:30 Meal; 6:30 Worship

- February 25, Hope
- March 4, Hope
- March 11, Augustana
- March 18, Zion
- March 25, Zion