

SIXTH WEDNESDAY OF LENT

March 25, 2026

Plattville Lutheran Church

The assembly gathers in silence.

*We begin our service this evening in the name of the +
Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen

***PRAYER OF LENT**

Creator God, you prepare a new way in the wilderness, and your grace waters our desert. Open our hearts to be transformed by the new thing you are doing, that our lives may proclaim the extravagance of your love given to all through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

***GATHERING: PSALM 51**

L: Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; in your great compassion blot out my offenses.

C: Wash me through and through from my wickedness and cleanse me from my sin.

L: For I know my offenses, and my sin is ever before me.

C: Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight; so you are justified when you speak and right in your judgment.

L: Indeed, I was born steeped in wickedness, a sinner from my mother's womb.

C: Indeed, you delight in truth deep within me, and would have me know wisdom deep within.

L: Remove my sins with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be purer than snow.

C: Let me hear joy and gladness; that the body you have broken may rejoice.

L: Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my wickedness.

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

L: 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 sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.

L: Let me teach your ways to offenders, and sinners shall be restored to you.

C: Rescue me from bloodshed, O God of my salvation, and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness.

L: O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.

C: For you take no delight in sacrifice, or I would give it. You are not pleased with burnt offering.

L: The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit; a troubled and broken heart, O God, you will not despise.

C: Favor Zion with your good pleasure; build up the walls of Jerusalem. Then you will delight in the

**appointed sacrifices, in burnt and whole offerings;
then young bulls shall be offered upon your altar.**

***Prayer**

L: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you

C: Gracious and holy God, give us diligence to seek you, wisdom to perceive you, and patience to wait for you. Grant us, O God, a mind to meditate on you; eyes to behold you; ears to listen for your word; a heart to love you; and a life to proclaim you; through the power of the Spirit of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen

***Hymn #608 "Softly and Tenderly"**

First Lesson – Isaiah 58: 1-9

58 "Shout it aloud, do not hold back.

Raise your voice like a trumpet.

Declare to my people their rebellion

and to the descendants of Jacob their sins.

² For day after day they seek me out;

they seem eager to know my ways,

as if they were a nation that does what is right

and has not forsaken the commands of its God.

They ask me for just decisions

and seem eager for God to come near them.

³ 'Why have we fasted,' they say,

'and you have not seen it?

Why have we humbled ourselves,

and you have not noticed?'

"Yet on the day of your fasting, you do as you please
and exploit all your workers.

⁴ Your fasting ends in quarreling and strife,
and in striking each other with wicked fists.

You cannot fast as you do today
and expect your voice to be heard on high.

⁵ Is this the kind of fast I have chosen,
only a day for people to humble themselves?

Is it only for bowing one's head like a reed
and for lying in sackcloth and ashes?

Is that what you call a fast,
a day acceptable to the LORD?

⁶ "Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen:

to loose the chains of injustice
and untie the cords of the yoke,

to set the oppressed free
and break every yoke?

⁷ Is it not to share your food with the hungry
and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter—

when you see the naked, to clothe them,
and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood?

⁸ Then your light will break forth like the dawn,
and your healing will quickly appear;

then your righteousness^[a] will go before you,
and the glory of the LORD will be your rear guard.

⁹ Then you will call, and the LORD will answer;
you will cry for help, and he will say: Here am I.

*The Holy Gospel of our Lord

Matthew 6:16-18

Glory to you, O Lord

¹⁶ "And whenever you fast, do not look somber, like the hypocrites, for they mark their faces to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ¹⁷ But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, ¹⁸ so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret, and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

L: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Offering

***Offertory Prayer "Create in Me" Insert in Pew**

***Hymn #611 "I Heard the Voice of Jesus"**

***The Lord's Prayer**

***The Benediction**

L: May our Lord pour out upon us the unifying Spirit, and awaken in us a holy hunger for unity, peace, love and caring, through God the Father, God the Son + and God the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen

***Sending**

L: Family of Plattville Lutheran Church, you have been gathered to prepare for the sacrifice and resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ. Now go in peace, prepare your heart, and meditate on the precious gift given to all.

C: Praise be to God!