



Our Lenten theme this year is entitled, “The Parables of Jesus.” Each of our round-robin speakers will focus on a different parable of Jesus. Our round-robin series will conclude with our Good Friday service.

Wednesday Lenten Services (7:30pm):

The Parable of the Sower

Darold Bitterman

The Parable of the Foolish Builders

Maurice Bueber

The Parable of the Wicked Tenets

Pastor Barry Nelson

The Parable of the Great Banquet

Hope: April 2 – Del Neumeister

The Parable of the Minas

First American: April 9 – Pastor Kevin Czymbor

Lenten Offerings:

First American – All Nations Family Center on the Rosebud Reservation. This is the ministry served by Johnny and Heidi Wade. Heidi is the daughter of Jan Jerke.

Hope – Split equally between Southeastern South Dakota Lutherans for Life ultrasound fund (which supports the ultrasound ministry of the Alpha Center in Sioux Falls) and the Douglas County Food Pantry.

Lenten Suppers (6-7pm):

First American will have soup suppers on March 12th, March 26th, and April 9th. Hope will have a soup supper on March 19th and a taco supper on April 2nd. A sign-up sheet will be posted in the narthex of each church for volunteers to help with these meals.

Hope Lutheran Church

Lenten Service

April 2, 2025

Please stand as you are able **Bold Items are read in unison*

Invocation & Call to Worship

Psalm 49:1,13-20

¹ Hear this, all you peoples; listen, all who live in this world,

¹³ **This is the fate of those who trust in themselves,
and of their followers, who approve their sayings,**

¹⁴ They are like sheep and are destined to die; death will be their shepherd
(but the upright will prevail over them in the morning).

Their forms will decay in the grave, far from their princely mansions.

¹⁵ But God will redeem me from the realm of the dead;
he will surely take me to himself.

¹⁶ **Do not be overawed when others grow rich,
when the splendor of their houses increases;**

¹⁷ for they will take nothing with them when they die,
their splendor will not descend with them.

¹⁸ **Though while they live they count themselves blessed—
and people praise you when you prosper—**

¹⁹ they will join those who have gone before them,
who will never again see the light of life.

²⁰ **People who have wealth but lack understanding
are like the beasts that perish.**

* Opening Hymn – *Teach Me Thy Way, O Lord* Red **#611**

Lenten Reading

Matthew 27:11-26



¹¹ Meanwhile Jesus stood before the governor, and the governor asked him, “Are you the king of the Jews?” “You have said so,” Jesus replied. ¹² When he was accused by the chief priests and the elders, he gave no answer. ¹³ Then Pilate asked him, “Don’t you hear the testimony they are bringing against you?” ¹⁴ But Jesus made no reply, not even to a single charge—to the great amazement of the governor. ¹⁵ Now it was the governor’s custom at the festival to release a prisoner chosen by the crowd. ¹⁶ At that time they had a well-known prisoner whose name was Jesus Barabbas. ¹⁷ So when the crowd had gathered, Pilate asked them, “Which one do you want me to release to you: Jesus Barabbas, or Jesus who is called the Messiah?” ¹⁸ For he knew it was out of self-interest that they had handed Jesus over to him. ¹⁹ While Pilate was

sitting on the judge's seat, his wife sent him this message: "Don't have anything to do with that innocent man, for I have suffered a great deal today in a dream because of him." ²⁰ But the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowd to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus executed. ²¹ "Which of the two do you want me to release to you?" asked the governor. "Barabbas," they answered. ²² "What shall I do, then, with Jesus who is called the Messiah?" Pilate asked. They all answered, "Crucify him!" ²³ "Why? What crime has he committed?" asked Pilate. But they shouted all the louder, "Crucify him!" ²⁴ When Pilate saw that he was getting nowhere, but that instead an uproar was starting, he took water and washed his hands in front of the crowd. "I am innocent of this man's blood," he said. "It is your responsibility!" ²⁵ All the people answered, "His blood is on us and on our children!" ²⁶ Then he released Barabbas to them. But he had Jesus flogged, and handed him over to be crucified.

Confession of Sin: **Merciful God and Heavenly Father, whose grace endures to all generations, You are patient and longsuffering and have promised to forgive the sins of those who truly repent. We have sinned against You and are unworthy of Your goodness and love. Look with compassion upon us, and hear our cries for mercy. Forgive us of all our sins, and help us to walk in a manner worthy of the calling we have received. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

Declaration of Grace & Prayers of the Church

Epistle Galatians 3:1-9

You foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you? Before your very eyes Jesus Christ was clearly portrayed as crucified. ² I would like to learn just one thing from you: Did you receive the Spirit by the works of the law, or by believing what you heard? ³ Are you so foolish? After beginning by means of the Spirit, are you now trying to finish by means of the flesh? ⁴ Have you experienced so much in vain—if it really was in vain? ⁵ So again I ask, does God give you his Spirit and work miracles among you by the works of the law, or by your believing what you heard? ⁶ So also Abraham "believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness."

⁷ Understand, then, that those who have faith are children of Abraham. ⁸ Scripture foresaw that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, and announced the gospel in advance to Abraham: "All nations will be blessed through you." ⁹ So those who rely on faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith.

* Offertory: **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. Restore unto me the joy of Your salvation: and uphold me with Your free Spirit.**

* Confession of Faith Augsburg Confession, Article IV on Justification
It is taught among us that we cannot obtain forgiveness of sin and righteousness before God by our own merits, works, or satisfactions, but that we receive forgiveness of sin and become righteous before God by grace, for Christ's sake, through faith, when we believe that Christ suffered for us and that for his sake our sin is forgiven and righteousness and eternal life are given to us. For God will regard and reckon this faith as righteousness. Amen.

Hymn – *Softly and Tenderly* Red **#431**
Gospel Luke 14:15-24

¹⁵ When one of those at the table with him heard this, he said to Jesus, "Blessed is the one who will eat at the feast in the kingdom of God."

¹⁶ Jesus replied: "A certain man was preparing a great banquet and invited many guests. ¹⁷ At the time of the banquet he sent his servant to tell those who had been invited, 'Come, for everything is now ready.'

¹⁸ "But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said, 'I have just bought a field, and I must go and see it. Please excuse me.'

¹⁹ "Another said, 'I have just bought five yoke of oxen, and I'm on my way to try them out. Please excuse me.'

²⁰ "Still another said, 'I just got married, so I can't come.'

²¹ "The servant came back and reported this to his master. Then the owner of the house became angry and ordered his servant, 'Go out quickly into the streets and alleys of the town and bring in the poor, the crippled, the blind and the lame.'

²² "'Sir,' the servant said, 'what you ordered has been done, but there is still room.'

²³ "Then the master told his servant, 'Go out to the roads and country lanes and compel them to come in, so that my house will be full. ²⁴ I tell you, not one of those who were invited will get a taste of my banquet.'"

Sermon – *Invitation* Del Neumeister

* Closing Hymn – *Almost Persuaded* Red **#426**

* Lord's Prayer: **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 & Doxology: (sung, p. 24 for melody): **Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below; Praise Him above, ye heavenly host: Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

* Dismissal: L: Go in Peace, and Serve the Lord. C: Thanks be to God.