

Muddy Creek Lutheran Church

Cocalico Area Lutheran Ministries
Mid-Week Lenten Service

4th Wednesday in Lent – March 18, 2026
Lenten Service 12 noon

Service of Word, Worship, and Prayer



*“For as the body is one, and hath many members,
and all the members of that one body,
being many, are one body; so also is Christ.”*

1 Corinthians 12:12

www.mclchurch.org 717-336-2770 office@mclchurch.org

11 South Muddy Creek Rd, Denver, PA 17517

This service is livestreamed and posted on our website and YouTube channel.

Welcome to Muddy Creek Lutheran Church

We are now halfway through our forty-day Lenten journey.
 We recall that the Word of God is not simply words in a book
 or a word about God, but a living word, Jesus Christ.
 So it is that God's Word saves us now, today, from all that would keep us from God and faith.

PRELUDE: "O Divine Redeemer" C. Gounod

Welcome

Announcements

***HYMN OF INVOCATION: "God is Here!"**#526

1 God is here! As we your people
 meet to offer praise and prayer,
 may we find in fuller measure
 what it is in Christ we share.
 Here, as in the world around us,
 all our varied skills and arts
 wait the coming of the Spirit
 into open minds and hearts.

2 Here are symbols to remind us
 of our lifelong need of grace.
 Here are table, font, and pulpit;
 here the cross has central place.
 Here, in honesty of preaching,
 here, in silence, as in speech,
 here, in newness and renewal,
 God the Spirit comes to each.

3 Here our children find a welcome
 in the Shepherd's flock and fold;
 here, as bread and wine are taken,
 Christ sustains us as of old.
 Here the servants of the Servant
 seek in worship to explore
 what it means in daily living
 to believe and to adore.

4 Lord of all, of Church and kingdom,
 in an age of change and doubt,
 keep us faithful to the gospel;
 help us work your purpose out.
 Here, in this day's dedication,
 all we have to give, receive;
 we, who cannot live without you,
 we adore you! We believe!

***Greeting**

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: **And also with you**

***Prayer of the Day**

P: Let us pray.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, O God, that we who live in the baptismal waters of your grace may be given new life today. Increase in us the gifts of the spirit, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence.

C: **Amen.**

1st Reading: Exodus 14:10-14

We are so enamored with our strength that we often despair when the truth of our weakness is revealed. God will not fail us or stop fighting for us.

¹⁰ As Pharaoh drew near, the Israelites looked back, and there were the Egyptians advancing on them. In great fear the Israelites cried out to the LORD. ¹¹ They said to Moses, “Was it because there were no graves in Egypt that you have taken us away to die in the wilderness? What have you done to us, bringing us out of Egypt? ¹² Is this not the very thing we told you in Egypt, ‘Let us alone so that we can serve the Egyptians’? For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the wilderness.” ¹³ But Moses said to the people, “Do not be afraid, stand firm, and see the deliverance that the LORD will accomplish for you today, for the Egyptians whom you see today you shall never see again. ¹⁴ The LORD will fight for you, and you have only to keep still.”

Prayer

We are swayed to believe in many other things in this life. Give us discerning hearts and minds that we may trust in you alone, O God.

A brief silence is held for reflection

Psalm 107:19-22

In the depths of doubt and disaster, we look to God for help and deliverance.

¹⁹ Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble,
and he saved them from their distress;

²⁰ he sent out his word and healed them
and delivered them from destruction.

²¹ Let them thank the LORD for his steadfast love,
for his wonderful works to humankind.

²² And let them offer thanksgiving sacrifices
and tell of his deeds with songs of joy.

Prayer

Lamb of God, shine your light into our world that suffering and war might end. Help us to remember your word and to give thanks.

A brief silence is held for reflection



2nd Reading: Revelation 21:22-26

God's saving reign marches forward with us in tow. The promise is that "its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no night there."

²² I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. ²³ And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God is its light, and its lamp is the Lamb. ²⁴ The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it. ²⁵ Its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no night there. ²⁶ People will bring into it the glory and the honor of the nations.

Prayer

Clear away our hypocrisy and excuses, Lord. Turn us from death to life.

A brief silence is held for reflection

Gospel Reading: John 1:1-14

Christ lives and dies for love of the world, but those who might be expected to most readily receive him often refuse to trust God's intentions. Once more we hear the comforting news that God's claim comes without our choice.

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴ in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it. ⁶ There was a man sent from God whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸ He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹ The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world came into being through him, yet the world did not know him. ¹¹ He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him.

¹² But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³ who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. ¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

Prayer

With grateful thanks we offer our lives to your service, O God. Thank you for the Word and thank you for choosing us as your own.

A brief silence is held for reflection



THE SENDING

***SENDING HYMN: "Beneath the Cross of Jesus"#338**

1 Beneath the cross of Jesus
I long to take my stand;
The shadow of a mighty rock
Within a weary land;
A home within the wilderness,
A rest upon the way,
From burns beneath the noontide heat
And burdens of the day.

2 Upon that cross of Jesus
Mine eyes at times can see
The very dying form of One
Who suffer'd there for me;
And from my stricken heart, with tears,
Two wonders I confess:
The wonders of redeeming love,
And my unworthiness.

3 O safe and happy shelter!
O refuge tried and sweet!
O sacred place where Heaven's love
And Heaven's justice meet!
As to the exil'd patriarch
That wondrous dream was given,
So seems my Savior's cross to me:
A ladder up to Heav'n.

***Blessing**

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.
C: **Amen** (sung)

***Dismissal**

P: Go in Peace. Serve God and one another in Faith.
C: **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE: "Postlude in G Minor" G. Merkel

***You are invited to time of fellowship, soup and sliders in our Fellowship Hall.
Use the stairs at either end of the building or the rear elevator.***

OFFERINGS:

Cocalico Lutheran Ministries mid-week Lenten services support synod mission trips. Collection boxes are located at entrances. Please make checks payable to:
North Lancaster Conference Deans Fund for Disaster Relief.