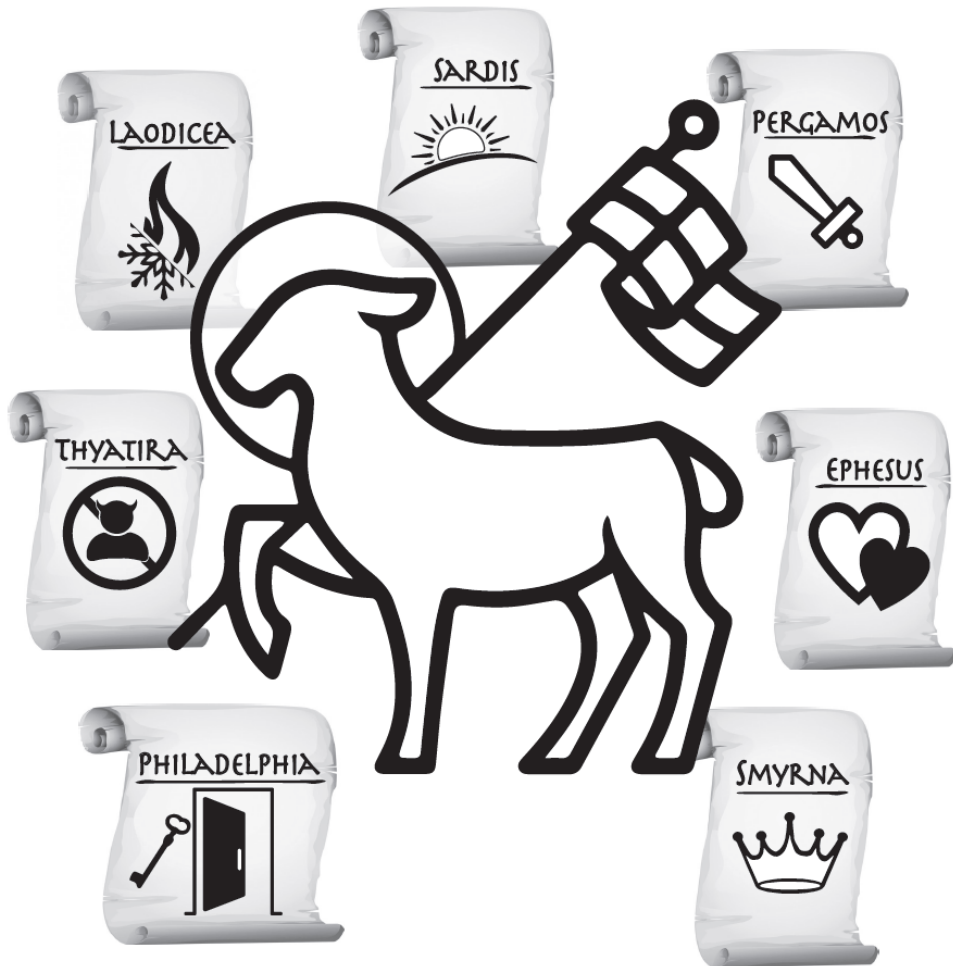


Grace Lutheran Church Lent 2021



The Lamb's Lenten Letters of Love

Order of Midweek Lenten Worship

Opening Prayer:

Opening Hymn:

Confession & Absolution:..... With TLH 219/LSB 532: The Head that Once ...

Pastor: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation: Amen.

P: Jesus says of Himself: “I am the Alpha and the Omega, *the* Beginning and *the* End, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.”

C: **“As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent.”**

P: “Do not be afraid; I am the First and the Last. I *am* He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen.”

C: **“And I have the keys of Hades and of Death.”**

Sing [♪]: **The Head that once was crowned with thorns
Is crowned with glory now;
A royal diadem adorns
The mighty Victor’s brow.**

P: Jesus cautions us with great care and loving concern for our souls when He says: “I know your works”

C: **“I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot.”**

P: Therefore, Jesus warns us that the luster of this fading world will eventually come to an end: “Repent, or else I will come to you quickly.”

C: **“Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place – unless you repent.” Lord Jesus, confident of your mercy, forgive us for we have sinned.**

P: Grace to you and peace from Him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven Spirits who are before His throne, and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. You are forgiven, in Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood, and has made us kings and priests to His God and Father. To Him *be* glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

C: **“Salvation *belongs* to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb! Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom, Thanksgiving and honor and power and might, *Be* to our God forever and ever. Amen.”**

P: Yes, rejoice, dear Christian, for Jesus promises you: “Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.”

C: “Behold, I am coming quickly! Hold fast what you have, that no one may take your crown. He who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments, and I will not blot out his name from the Book of Life; but I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.” Amen.

**Sing [♪]: The Joy of all who dwell above, The Joy of all below
To whom He manifests His love And grants His name to know.
To them the cross, with all its shame, With all its grace, is giv’n;
Their name an everlasting name, Their joy the joy of heav’n.**

Passion Reading:..... A Harmony of the Gospels

Confession of Faith:..... Luther’s Explanation to the Second Article

I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord. He has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sin, from death, and from the power of the devil, not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and His innocent suffering and death. He did this that I should be His very own, live under Him in His kingdom, and serve Him in eternal righteousness, innocence, and joy; just as He is risen from death, lives and reigns in eternity. This is most certainly true.

Response:..... With TLH 219/LSB 532: The Head that Once ...

**Sing [♪]: The cross He bore is life and health, Though shame and death to Him:
His people’s hope, His people’s wealth, Their everlasting theme.**

Sermon: The Lamb’s Lenten Letters of Love

Response:..... With TLH 219/LSB 532: The Head that Once ...

**Sing [♪]: The highest place that heav’n affords Is His, is His by right,
The King of kings and Lord of lords, And heav’n’s eternal Light.
They suffer with their Lord below, They reign with Him above,
Their profit and their joy to know The mystery of His love.**

Hymn:

Offering, Prayer, Lord’s Prayer (Lord’s Supper on Ash Wednesday):

Benediction:

Closing Hymn:

NOTE: Please return bulletins for continued use during the Lenten season.

Summary of the Seven Letters to the Seven Churches

	Christ	Commends	Condemns	Calls to Repent	Promises
Ephesus	Holds seven stars in His right hand; walks among the seven lampstands	Have endurance; cannot bear evil; are not weary	Have left your first love	Repent, do first works, or else I will remove your lampstand	I will grant to eat of the tree of life in the paradise of God
Smyrna	The First and the Last, who was dead and came back to life	I know your suffering and poverty	Are afraid of suffering	Stop being afraid of coming suffering, poverty; be faithful to death	Will not be hurt by the second death
Pergamos	Has the sharp two-edged sword	Hold on to My name; did not deny the faith even when Antipas was martyred	Some hold to the teachings of Balaam (idolatry, immorality) and of the Nicolaitans	Repent, else I will war with the sword of My mouth	I will give of the hidden manna and a white stone and a secret name
Thyatira	The Son of God with eyes like fire and feet like brass; searches thoughts and hearts	Have love, faith, service, endurance; your last works are more than your first works	Tolerate the prophetess of Jezebel, who teaches people to commit sexual immorality and eat idolatrous food	Repent of adultery; the faithful hold fast to what they have	I will give authority to rule the nations with an iron scepter and will give the morning star
Sardis	Has the seven Spirits of God and seven stars	A few have not polluted their garments, are worthy to be dressed in white	I know your works; have a reputation of being alive but are dead	Repent; keep what you received; watch, lest I return as a thief	Will be dressed in white; I will not remove his name from the book of life
Philadelphia	The holy and true One, who has the key of David and opens and closes	I have placed before you an open door; have kept My Word and not denied My name	Have but a little power to take advantage of open doors, opportunities to serve	Hold on to what you have; I will protect you during testing; I am coming quickly	I will place him as a pillar in God's temple; I will write on him God's name
Laodicea	The Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, the source of the creation of God		Lukewarm; do not know own wretchedness	I am about to vomit you out; be zealous and repent	I will grant to sit with Me on My throne



The Lamb's Lenten Letters of Love

Seven Letters to the Seven Churches of Revelation

Laodicea: "Dear Lukewarm Congregation ... Be Zealous and Repent": Revelation 3:14-22

¹⁴ "And to the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write, 'These things says the Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God: ¹⁵ "I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. ¹⁶ "So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth. ¹⁷ "Because you say, 'I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing'-- and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked-- ¹⁸ "I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich; and white garments, that you may be clothed, *that* the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see. ¹⁹ "As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent. ²⁰ "Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me. ²¹ "To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne. ²² "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.'""

Hymns: TLH 140; TLH 166; TLH 558

Pastor John Hein – February 17, 2021 (Ash Wednesday)

Pergamos: "Dear Steadfast Congregation ... Maintain Church Discipline": Revelation 2:12-17

¹² "And to the angel of the church in Pergamos write, 'These things says He who has the sharp two-edged sword: ¹³ "I know your works, and where you dwell, where Satan's throne *is*. And you hold fast to My name, and did not deny My faith even in the days in which Antipas *was* My faithful martyr, who was killed among you, where Satan dwells. ¹⁴ "But I have a few things against you, because you have there those who hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balak to put a stumbling block before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols, and to commit sexual immorality. ¹⁵ "Thus you also have those who hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which thing I hate. ¹⁶ 'Repent, or else I will come to you quickly and will fight against them with the sword of My mouth. ¹⁷ "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes I will give some of the hidden manna to eat. And I will give him a white stone, and on the stone a new name written which no one knows except him who receives *it*.'""

Hymns: WS 721; TLH 477:1-3; WS 783

Rev. David Schierenbeck – February 24, 2021

Thyatira: "Dear Fruitful Congregation ... Do Not Tolerate Evil": Revelation 2:18-29

¹⁸ "And to the angel of the church in Thyatira write, 'These things says the Son of God, who has eyes like a flame of fire, and His feet like fine brass: ¹⁹ "I know your works, love, service, faith, and your patience; and *as* for your works, the last *are* more than the first. ²⁰ "Nevertheless I have a few things against you, because you allow that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess, to teach and seduce My servants to commit sexual immorality and eat things sacrificed to idols. ²¹ "And I gave her time to repent of her sexual immorality, and she did not repent. ²² "Indeed I will cast her into a sickbed, and those who commit adultery with her into great tribulation, unless they repent of their deeds. ²³ "I will kill her children with death, and all the churches shall know that I am He who searches the minds and hearts. And I will give to each one of you according to your works. ²⁴ "Now to you I say, and to the rest in Thyatira, as many as do not have this doctrine, who have not known the depths of Satan, as they say, I will put on you no other burden. ²⁵ "But hold fast what you have till I come. ²⁶ "And he who overcomes, and keeps My works until the end, to him I will give power over the nations-- ²⁷ 'He shall rule them with a rod of iron; They shall be dashed to pieces like the potter's vessels ' -- as I also have received from My Father; ²⁸ "and I will give him the morning star. ²⁹ "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.'""

Hymns: TLH 149; TLH 141; TLH 150:5

Rev. Daniel Fleischer – March 3, 2021

Smyrna: “Dear Suffering Congregation ... Be Faithful”:..... Revelation 2:8-11

⁸ “And to the angel of the church in Smyrna write, ‘These things says the First and the Last, who was dead, and came to life: ⁹ “I know your works, tribulation, and poverty (but you are rich); and I know the blasphemy of those who say they are Jews and are not, but *are* a synagogue of Satan. ¹⁰ “Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer. Indeed, the devil is about to throw *some* of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life. ¹¹ “He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. He who overcomes shall not be hurt by the second death.””

Hymns: TLH 394; TLH 354; TLH 552:1,7-8

Pastor Nathan Pfeiffer – March 10, 2021

Sardis: “Dear Lethargic Congregation ... Wake Up”:..... Revelation 3:1-6

¹ “And to the angel of the church in Sardis write, ‘These things says He who has the seven Spirits of God and the seven stars: “I know your works, that you have a name that you are alive, but you are dead. ² “Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die, for I have not found your works perfect before God. ³ “Remember therefore how you have received and heard; hold fast and repent. Therefore if you will not watch, I will come upon you as a thief, and you will not know what hour I will come upon you. ⁴ “You have a few names even in Sardis who have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with Me in white, for they are worthy. ⁵ “He who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments, and I will not blot out his name from the Book of Life; but I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels. ⁶ “He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.””

Hymns: TLH 175; TLH 264:1-4; TLH 653

Rev. David Schierenbeck – March 17, 2021

Philadelphia: “Dear Little Congregation ... Hold on to What You Have”: Revelation 3:7-13

⁷ “And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write, ‘These things says He who is holy, He who is true, “He who has the key of David, He who opens and no one shuts, and shuts and no one opens”: ⁸ “I know your works. See, I have set before you an open door, and no one can shut it; for you have a little strength, have kept My word, and have not denied My name. ⁹ “Indeed I will make *those* of the synagogue of Satan, who say they are Jews and are not, but lie-- indeed I will make them come and worship before your feet, and to know that I have loved you. ¹⁰ “Because you have kept My command to persevere, I also will keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth. ¹¹ “Behold, I am coming quickly! Hold fast what you have, that no one may take your crown. ¹² “He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he shall go out no more. And I will write on him the name of My God and the name of the city of My God, the New Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from My God. And I will write on him My new name. ¹³ “He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.””

Hymns: TLH 172:1,6,9-10; TLH 173; TLH 553

Rev. Daniel Fleischer – March 24, 2021

Ephesus: “Dear Diligent Congregation ... Don’t Forget Your First Love”: Revelation 2:1-7

¹ “To the angel of the church of Ephesus write, ‘These things says He who holds the seven stars in His right hand, who walks in the midst of the seven golden lampstands: ² “I know your works, your labor, your patience, and that you cannot bear those who are evil. And you have tested those who say they are apostles and are not, and have found them liars; ³ “and you have persevered and have patience, and have labored for My name’s sake and have not become weary. ⁴ “Nevertheless I have *this* against you, that you have left your first love. ⁵ “Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place-- unless you repent. ⁶ “But this you have, that you hate the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate. ⁷ “He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes I will give to eat from the tree of life, which is in the midst of the Paradise of God.””

Hymns: TLH 349:1-4,6-7; TLH 170; TLH 154; TLH 558

Pastor John Hein – April 2, 2021 (Good Friday)

Easter: “The Lord of the Church is Alive Forevermore”:..... Revelation 1:9-11