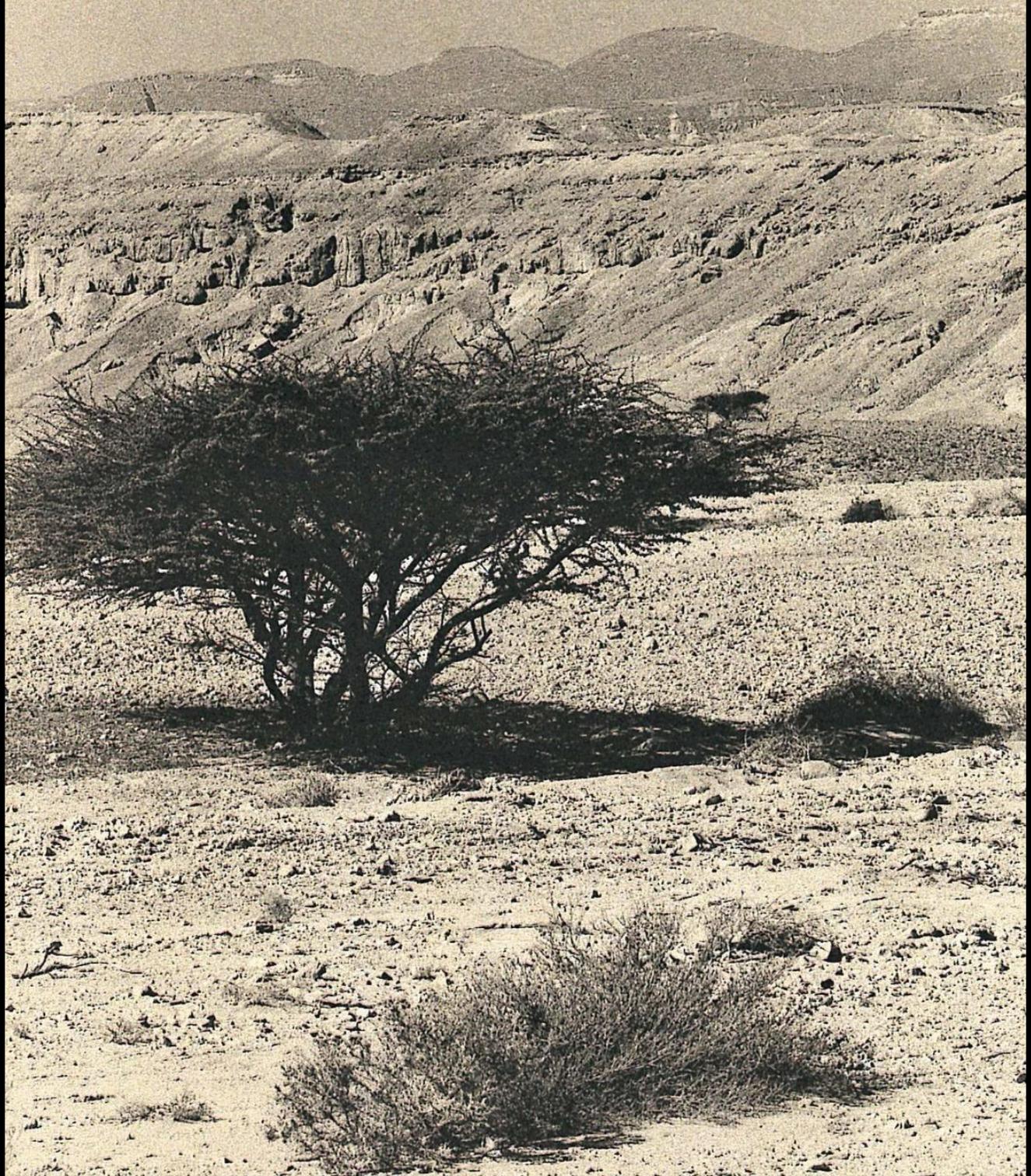


Jesus was in the wilderness forty days

MARK 1:13





+ First Sunday In Lent +
February 21, 2021

AS WE GATHER

Today we hear of God testing Abraham and of Satan tempting Jesus. James reminds us that God tempts no one. So, how can we know whether God is testing us or Satan is tempting us? James reminds us that “Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change” (James 1:17). As we go through life, striving to live out our calling as God’s people, we will hit obstacles and face tests to our faith and to how we live that faith. God can work through these tests to draw us closer to Him. On the other hand, Satan wants to lure and entice us away from the path God would have us walk.

REGARDING COMMUNION

*Beginning on Ash Wednesday, the forty days of Lent mark off our journey to Easter. When we were baptized into the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, the sign of the cross was made upon our foreheads and hearts to mark us as people redeemed by the cross of the Christ. We rose to newness of life through the resurrection of Jesus and began a life of pilgrimage in faith. The cross of ash made on our foreheads at the beginning of Lent reminds us that the Christian life is one of repentance (or change from wrongs done) ... a life of constant returning to our Lord’s Table to be forgiven and renewed, for here we have the bread of Christ’s Body and the wine of his Blood as strength for the journey. **Since Christian denominations have differing understandings of Holy Communion, if you are not a member of a Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod congregation and have not communed here before, we ask that you speak with the pastor or elder prior to communing with us the first time. Those not communing are invited to cross their arms over their chests and approach the pastor for a blessing during the distribution. Also, if certain factors prohibit you from partaking of regular wine, non-alcoholic wine is available in the center circle of the tray. If you would like to begin sharing this sacred meal with us on a regular basis, please ask the pastor for a time of faith instruction and formation.***

Liturgical Color:

Purple is the color of humility and repentance.

Near the large cross by the pulpit is a basket with slips of paper, pencils, and tacks. Feel free to write down any of your burdens, worries, wrongs, and sins and tack them to the cross at any time during this season of Lent. They will not be read but removed on Good Friday and burned in the Easter Vigil fire on Holy Saturday. Our Lord takes our darkness and replaces it with his light!

Prelude Gary Moege, Sheri Mattson, Lorraine Miller

Welcome

Invocation Hymn..... "To Jordan's River Came Our Lord" #405 (1,3,6)

1 To Jor - dan's riv - er came our Lord, The Christ, whom
3 As Je - sus in the Jor - dan stood And John bap -
6 Now rise, faint hearts, be res - o - lute; This man is
heav'n - ly hosts a - dored, The God from God, the
tized the Lamb of God, The Ho - ly Spir - it,
Christ, our sub - sti - tute! He was bap - tized in
Light from Light, The Lord of glo - ry, pow'r, and might.
heav'n - ly dove, De - scend - ed on Him from a - bove.
Jor - dan's stream, Pro - claimed Re - deem - er, Lord su - preme.

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Divine Service, Setting Three

Confession and Absolution

The sign of the cross † may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

Confession and Absolution.....pages 184-185

- P** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.
- P** Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.
- P** Our help is in the name of the Lord.
- C** who made heaven and earth.
- P** I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord.

C and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

P O almighty God, merciful Father,

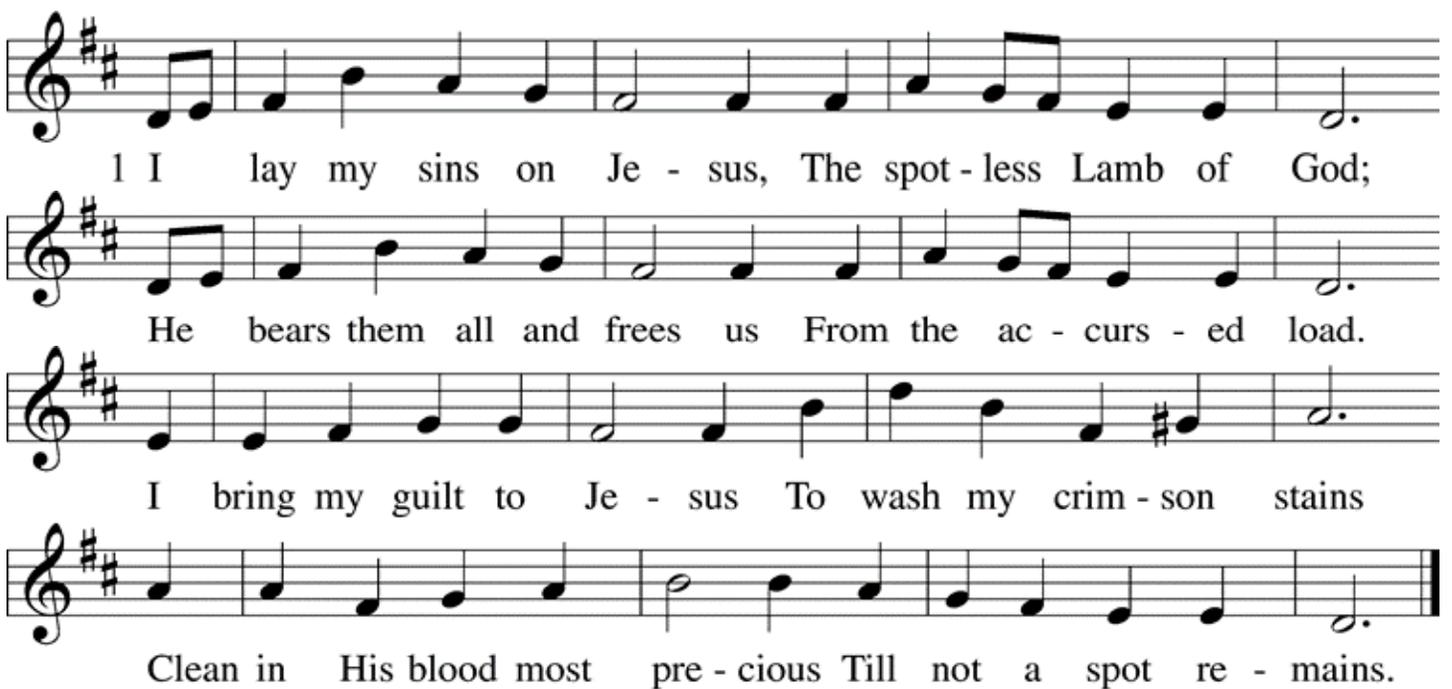
C I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

P Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Service of the Word

Entrance Hymn *"I Lay My Sins on Jesus" #606 (1)*



I lay my sins on Je - sus, The spot - less Lamb of God;
He bears them all and frees us From the ac - curs - ed load.
I bring my guilt to Je - sus To wash my crim - son stains
Clean in His blood most pre - cious Till not a spot re - mains.

Text and tune: Public domain

Kyrie.....*page 186*



C Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -

not withheld your son, your only son, from me.” And Abraham lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, behind him was a ram, caught in a thicket by his horns. And Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son. So Abraham called the name of that place, “The LORD will provide”; as it is said to this day, “On the mount of the LORD it shall be provided.”

And the angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven and said, “By myself I have sworn, declares the LORD, because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of his enemies, and in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gradual *(spoken in unison)*

**[O come, let us fix our eyes on] Jesus,
the founder and perfecter of our faith,
who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the
shame,
and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.**

Epistle Reading **James 1:12-18**

Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him. Let no one say when he is tempted, “I am being tempted by God,” for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one. But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.

Do not be deceived, my beloved brothers. Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Holy Gospel Mark 1:9-15

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the first chapter.

C **Glory be to Thee, O Lord.**

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And when he came up out of the water, immediately he saw the heavens opening and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased."

The Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. And he was in the wilderness forty days, being tempted by Satan. And he was with the wild animals, and the angels were ministering to him.

Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise be to Thee, O Christ.**

Nicene Creed.....page 191

**I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,**

whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,

the Lord and giver of life,

who proceeds from the Father and the Son,

who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,

who spoke by the prophets.

And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,

I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,

and I look for the resurrection of the dead

and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Sit

Hymn of the Day *"The Lamb" #547 (1-3)*

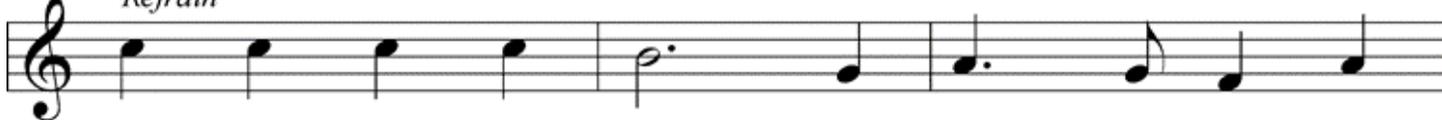


1 The Lamb, the Lamb, O Fa - ther, where's the sac - ri - fice?
2 The Lamb, the Lamb, One per - fect fi - nal of - fer - ing.
3 The Lamb, the Lamb, As way - ward sheep their shep - herd kill



Faith sees, be - lieves God will pro - vide the Lamb of price!
The Lamb, the Lamb, Let earth join heav'n His praise to sing.
So still, His will On our be - half the Law to fill.

Refrain



Wor - thy is the Lamb whose death makes me His



own! The Lamb is reign - ing on His throne!

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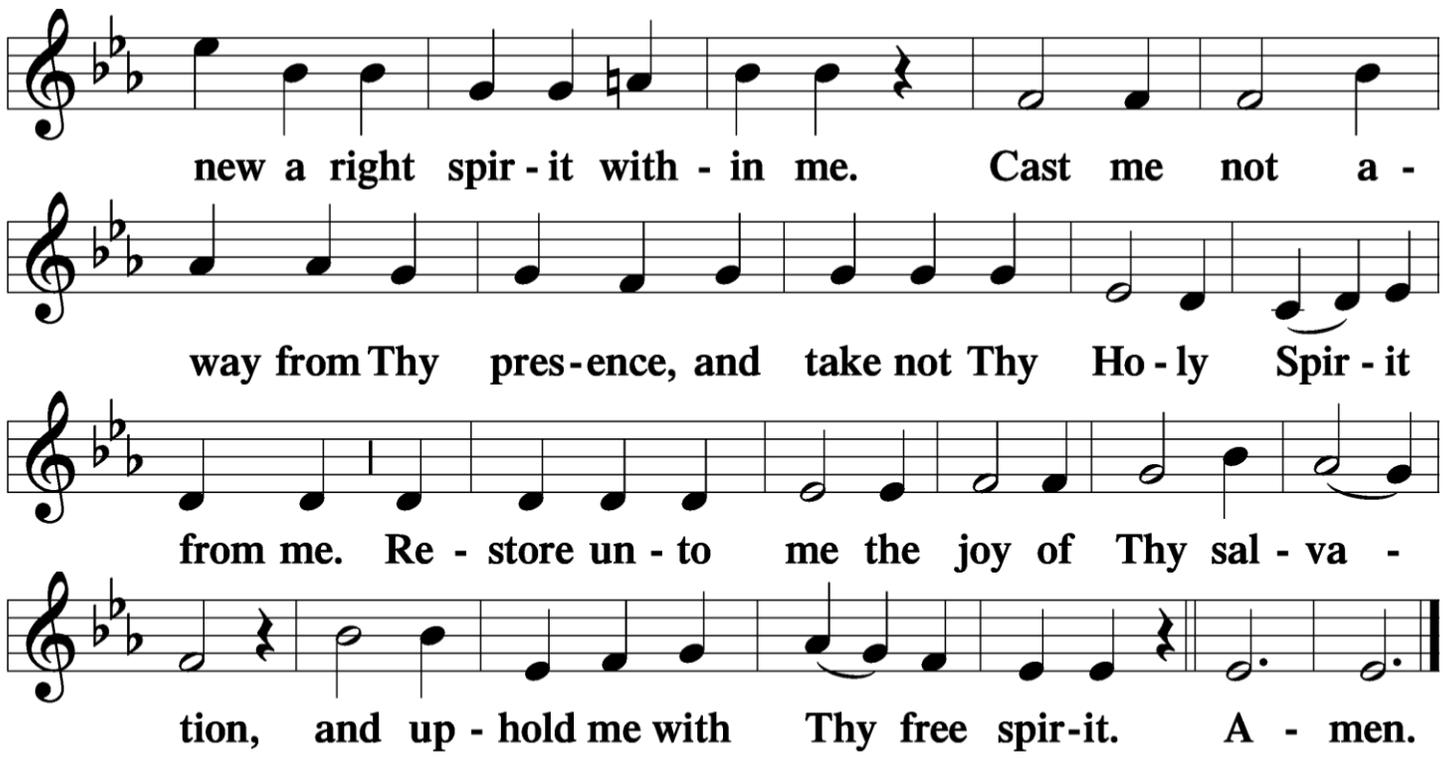
Sermon..... *"In the Wilderness"*

Stand

Offertory *pages 192-193*



☐ Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -



new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -
 way from Thy pres - ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it
 from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -
 tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir-it. A - men.

Sit

Reflection Gary Moege, Sheri Mattson, Lorraine Miller
(Andante from Symphony #29, W. A. Mozart (1756-1791)

(Music and time for while preparation is made for Holy Communion.)

Offering

Offering plates are not being passed during the service; worshipers may place their offerings into the plate located at the entrance.

“Through him (Jesus) then let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his name. Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.” (Hebrews 13:15-16)

Prayer of the Church

- P** Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** hear our prayer.

Service of the Sacrament

Communion Liturgypages 194-197

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** And with thy spirit.
- P** Lift up your hearts.
- C** We lift them up unto the Lord.

P Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God.

C It is meet and right so to do.

P It is truly meet, right and salutary . . . evermore praising You and singing:



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth;



heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo - ry. Ho - san - na,



ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He,



bless - ed is He, bless - ed is He that com - eth in the name of the Lord.



Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Lord's Prayer

C 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.

The Words of Our Lord.....page 197

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

Agnus Dei.....page 198

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the world, have mer - cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the world, have mer - cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace. A - men.

Sit (until motioned to rise and proceed forward if going for Communion or a blessing).

Communion HymnsGary Moege, Sheri Mattson, Lorraine Miller

Communion Distribution

Distribution of the Lord's gifts in Holy Communion is in standing format with Pastor and the Elder near the chancel steps. You will be released by the usher to head forward, maintaining physical distance between each person or family unit. Pastor

will drop the wafer into your hands, so please cup them together and hold them chest-level. Individual plastic cups only are being used, so if you're not taking the non-alcoholic wine from the center, please make sure to take from the outer circle first until all of those are gone before reaching for the next level in. A basket to the left of the table is available for you to place your used cup inside.

Nunc Dimittis.....pages 199-200



Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant de - part in peace ac -
cord - ing to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,
which Thou hast pre - pared be - fore the face of all people,
a light to light - en the Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of Thy
peo - ple Is - ra - el. Glo - ry be to the Father and
to the Son and to the Ho - ly Ghost; as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A - men.

Thanksgiving.....pages 200-201

- P** O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,
- C** and His mercy endureth forever.
- P** Let us pray.
- C** We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Salutation and Benedicamus..... *page 201*

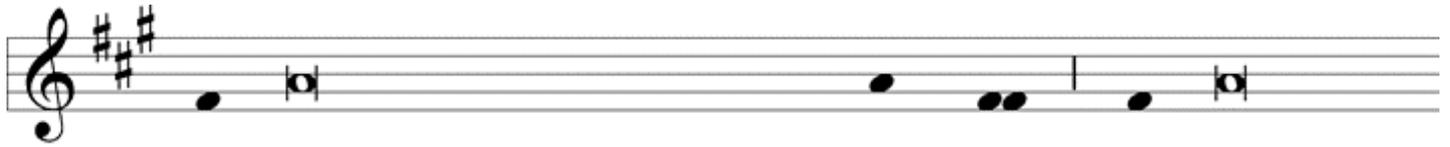
P The Lord be with you.

C And with thy spirit.

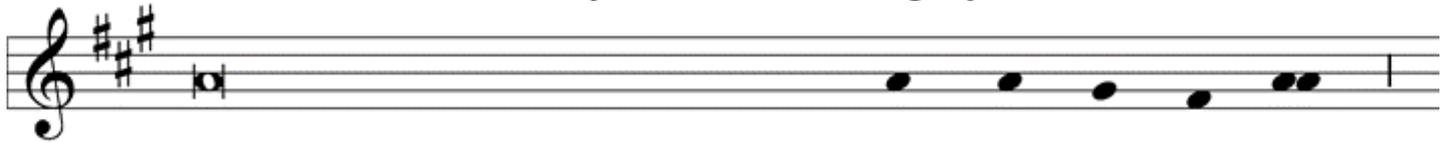
P Bless we the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

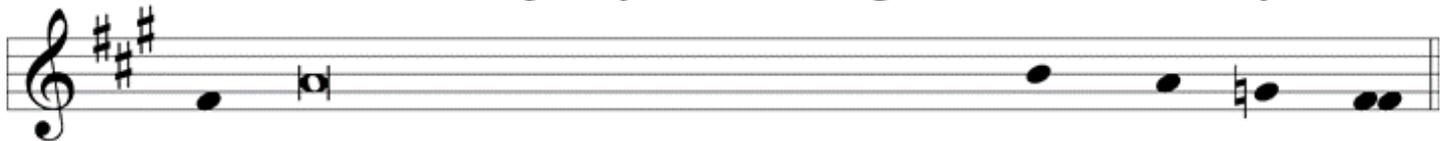
Benediction..... *page 202*



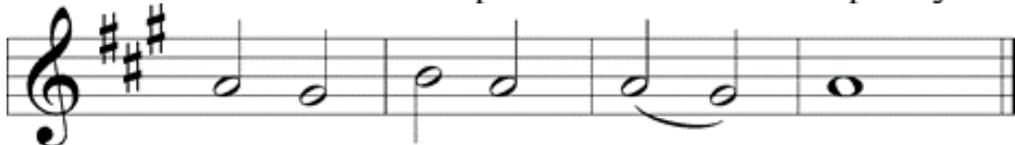
P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make



His face shine upon you and be gra - cious un - to you.



The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give you peace.

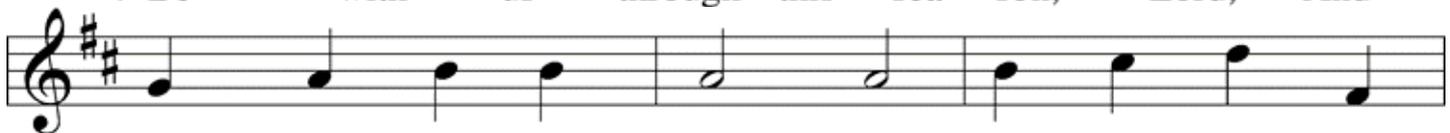


C A-men, a-men, a - men.

Sending Hymn..... *"O Lord, throughout These Forty Days" #418*



1 O Lord, through - out these for - ty days You
2 You strove with Sa - tan, and You won; Your
3 Though parched and hun - gry, yet You prayed And
4 Be with us through this sea - son, Lord, And



prayed and kept the fast; In - spire re - pen - tance
faith - ful - ness en - dured; Lend us Your nerve, Your
fixed Your mind a - bove; So teach us to de -
all our earth - ly days, That when the fi - nal



for our sin, And free us from our past.
 skill and trust In God's e - ter - nal Word.
 ny our - selves, Since we have known God's love.
 Eas - ter dawns, We join in heav - en's praise.

Tune: Public domain

Text: © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110003555

Dismissal (Bethlehem's Mission)

- P** Grow in Christ,
- C** Live in Love and Share the Faith!

Postlude Gary Moege, Sheri Mattson, Lorraine Miller

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Next week's readings:
Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16; Romans 5:1-11; Mark 8:27-38

Attendance Last Saturday: 10	Attendance Last Sunday: 13
Attendance Ash Wednesday: 42	
Total Offering: \$3,844.57	Missions: \$0.00
Home Use: \$3,794.57	Benevolences: \$50.00

Serving us today:

- Elders/Ushers.....Jeremy VanWey
- Musician.....Gary Moege, Sheri Mattson, Lorraine Miller
- Altar Committee.....Darlene Laubenstein (Chair), Karon Harding,
 Esther Keseman, Georgia Luker
- Flower CommitteePenny Humphrey (Chair), Sheree Moody

This Week's Schedule

- Monday 10:00 a.m. Moms and Tots
- Wednesday 7:00 p.m. Midweek Lenten Service
- Thursday 9:30 a.m. Pastor at Warrensburg Christian School
- 7:00 p.m. "Jesus' Final Week"—Zoom Bible Study
- Saturday 5:30 p.m. Worship
- Sunday 8:00 a.m. The Lutheran Hour broadcast on 96.9
- 9:00 a.m. Radio Broadcast 98.5 (can also be heard at

www.blchurch.com, under the Sermons tab)

- 9:30 a.m. Sunday School—Jr. and Sr. Youth
10:30 a.m. Worship
1:00 p.m. Catechesis

Prayers

For Sustenance, Healing, and Provision—We remember those who are dealing with illness, are homebound or in nursing homes, undergoing and recovering from surgery, as well as going through hospitalization & rehabilitation: Don Apprill (Cindy Schnell’s dad), Leora Baack (Charlene McCarter’s mother), Pr. Ricky Bertels, Paula Brewer, Ray & Mary Carstensen, Carie (Julie Crespo’s friend), Denise (Penny Humphrey’s sister), Marion & Leona Droege, Wilma Gertz, Ralph Hein, Roy Hillmann (Bonnie Rich’s father), Don Hillsman, Sharon Hochsprung, Mary Johnson, Creed Kueker (Pr. Jesse Kueker’s son—Trinity, Clinton), Marty Lehn, Marvin Logan (Nicole Clemons’ father), Troy McCarter (Lloyd McCarter’s brother), Kathy Marshall, Johnny Nichol, Jim Rudy, Lynne Trimble (Kaye Fair’s sister), and Paula Willis (Bonnie Rich’s friend). *We remember as well all who are dealing with COVID—19, especially the healthcare providers who are straining to prevent, stem the spread, and treat those who are ill!*

For Pregnant Mothers, especially Brittany Brown as she and her husband Joe await childbirth this year. May the Lord grant good health and joyful expectation!

For Seminarian Jonathan Sharp (and his wife Bridgette) as he continues his studies and prepares to receive his vicarage assignment at the end of April.

For Military Members—We remember all service and support personnel who are deployed and stationed away from us and their families: Andy Burden, Ty Carter, Ethan Hillsman, Chance Hillsman and Logan LeBaige.

Worship Services (Masks required at all services)

Sunday Services are at 10:30 a.m. You can also watch it live on Facebook or YouTube, or go to it directly from the webpage at blchurch.com.

Saturday Services are at 5:30 p.m. The order of worship is the shorter service of Early Evening Prayer. Holy Communion is observed on 1st, 3rd and 5th weekends of the month, as has been our regular practice.

Re⁺lent means “to give up or abandon—to become less severe, to soften” and is of central importance to the passage from Joel that sets the tone for Lent: “Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love; and he relents over disaster. Who knows whether he will not turn and relent, and leave a blessing behind him, a grain offering and a drink offering for

the Lord your God?” (2:13b-14). **Re-** is a prefix meaning “to go back or retrace to the original—to do again.” In the season of **Lent** (which has its origin in the root of the word “length”), we head through lengthening daylight toward Easter/spring and find that as we face what darkens our lives. Join us for the following Wednesday Services as we discover anew the blessing of loss and gain through the cross and resurrection of Jesus. **Join us each Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.—February 24-Excuses, March 3-Lambasting, March 10-Excess, March 17-Negativity, & March 24-Trashing.**

Service Opportunities

Music Gifts? The music committee seeks you, your time, and your gifts! 1) If you would like to help in the process of selecting the hymns for our worship services, you could be part of the rotation. It can be a devotionally enriching experience. 2) ANYONE interested in playing for any service is more than welcome to do so! Students preparing for recitals or contests, former church musicians who want to get back in the swing, new learners who want to expand their abilities (this certainly includes visiting grandchildren!), and so on are encouraged to participate. This could even be a selection or two during the service or beforehand. We applaud Cindy Smith and Penny & Abby Humphrey for their recent musical offerings on Saturday evenings. To find out more or ask any questions, please call Paula Easterwood at 660-441-0493. Thanks for your consideration and contact!

Hygiene Product Collection—during the month of February, Mary-Martha Guild and the Mission Board will be collecting hygiene products for Nursing Homes and the Food Center. There is a container by the north entrance where you can leave items that you would like to donate. Some things might include shampoo, deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrushes, etc. These things are extremely needed and will be very much appreciated!

Food Center Needs: pouch tuna, canned meats, cake mixes and icing, diapers, jelly in squeezable bottles. Other staples are also welcome. Donations can be dropped off at 137 E. Culton, **T & TR, 1-4 pm & Saturday, 9-11 am** or left at the north church entrance in the round barrel by the bulletin board.

Faith Discussion and Bible Study

Let It FLOW!—All junior and senior high youth are welcomingly encouraged to attend this Bible study being led by Pr. Joel every Sunday morning **until February 28th** (in the downstairs youth room) **from 9:30—10:10 a.m.** We’re focusing on what Jesus meant about coming “**For the Life Of the World**” and what that means for us and the purpose of our lives. Each session includes viewing a superb video and

having a discussion that bridges us from there to Scripture and daily life. So, whether you attend Sunday school every week, hardly ever, or never, please consider attending this excellent and engaging study before it's over! Jeremy VanWey will be starting **a new one on March 7th** that will be exploring C.S. Lewis's classic on the wily ways of evil, *The Screwtape Letters*.

Zoom Bible Study—Open to Everyone. This Bible study began is being held weekly on **Thursdays at 7:00 p.m.** We're looking at "**Jesus' Final Week**" from Palm Sunday, the Last Supper, and the trial to Jesus' death and resurrection. Focusing on these events will bring new understanding to who Jesus is and how he loves us. **Please contact Cindy or Rebecca if you are interested in joining this class so that we can get materials out to you.** It's not too late to join!

Resuming Romans Study on Sunday Mornings! To all who attended the Sunday Bible study last year and didn't think we'd finish Romans by the end of the year, you were right! We will be **resuming on March 7th from 9:30-10:10 a.m.**, keeping it a bit shorter while still packing a lot in. We'll be meeting in the conference room, unless you hear otherwise. Please consider joining us!

Miscellaneous

Lenten Devotion Booklets are now available at each entrance of the church. If you would like one mailed to you, please let us know.

Prayer Requests & Spiritual Care—If you would like to make a prayer request, contact Pr. Joel or email the church office. Also, if you're feeling the strain and needing to talk and be encouraged in the living of life from day to day, don't hesitate to call or text Pr. Joel or contact your elder or the church office. We rely upon the Holy Spirit and his gifts in Christ during every time of uncertainty, and can never be thankful enough for the gift of each other!

Offerings

You can mail your offerings to Bethlehem and have pastor put it in the offering plate on the altar with a prayer of trust for you, or you can give through the online offering called "*Simply Giving*".

Elders

Jeff Harris (last name begins A-E) 660-624-1571, elvis100669@yahoo.com

Willie Crespo (last name begins F-H) 660-679-8121, willie.crespo@fairwaymc.com

Jack Easterwood (last name begins I-Ma) 660-678-2045, easter.egg2380@gmail.com

Caleb Thomas (last name begins Mc-R) 660-441-2010, calebthomas50@gmail.com

Jeremy VanWey (last name begins S-Z) 606-909-4765, jeremy.vanwey@gmail.com

Midweek Lenten Services

February 24

RE  LENTing from Excuses

March 3

RE  LENTing from Lambasting

March 10

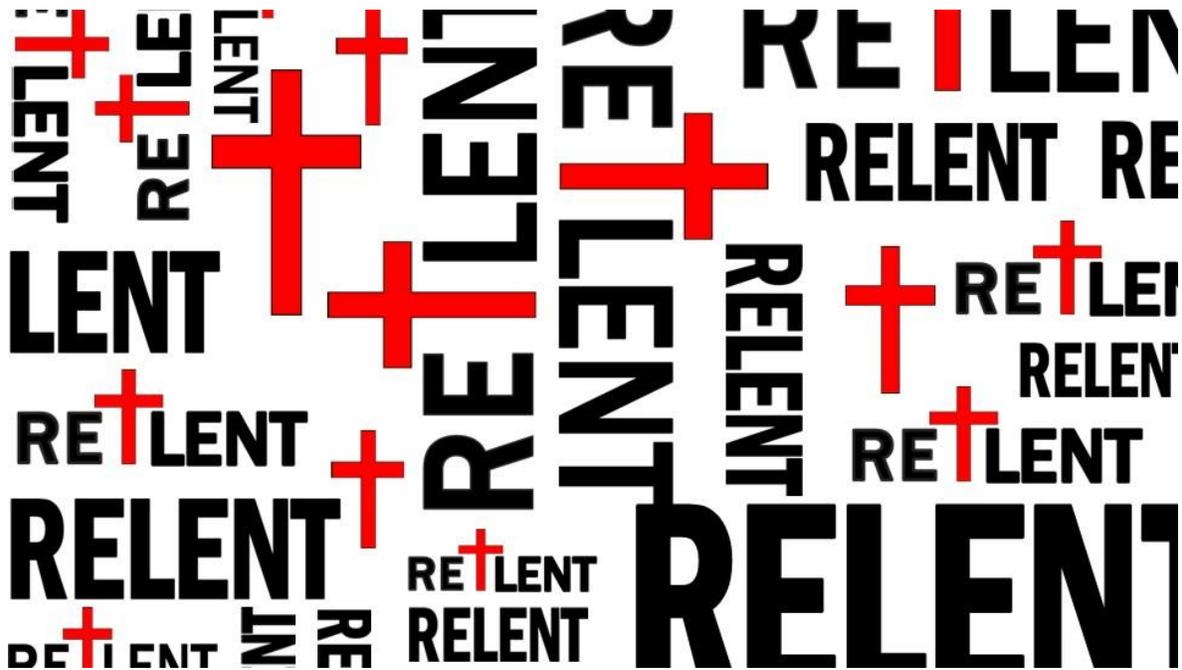
RE  LENTing from Excess

March 17

RE  LENTing from Negativity

March 24

RE  LENTing from Trashing



Contact Information

Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 607 N. Maguire, Warrensburg, MO 64093

Our Mission

· Grow in Christ · Live in Love · Share the Faith

Our Vision

To be a community of believers, disciples, and servants while we deepen our personal faith and reach others for Christ.



Rev. Joel R. Kurz

Tuesday & Thursday: 8am–5pm, Wednesday & Friday: 10am–5pm

Otherwise by appointment

Office: 660-747-6742

Cell Phone: 660-441-5710

Email: pastor@blchurch.com

Website: www.blchurch.com Facebook: [blcwarrensburg](https://www.facebook.com/blcwarrensburg)

Office Manager:

Cindy Smith

Monday–Friday: 8am–5pm

660-747-6742

officemanager@blchurch.com

Congregational Life Facilitator:

Rebecca Stewart

MTW: 8am–2pm

Thursday by appointment

clf@blchurch.com

Bookkeeper:

Teresa Hillsman

Tuesday: 3pm–6pm

Thursday by appointment

financial@blchurch.com

Please note that Bethlehem Lutheran Church has a closed-circuit video system. This allows for the viewing of the service on screens in the building and helps to enhance our security. Please see a trustee or an elder if you have any questions.