



Jesus was led
by the Spirit in
the wilderness

LUKE 4:1



+ First Sunday In Lent +
March 5 & 6, 2022

AS WE GATHER

The First Sunday in Lent begins with the temptation of Jesus. Alone in the wilderness, Jesus faces the temptations of the devil, who tries to use God's own Word to entrap Jesus. The collect reminds us that we are also walking through the wilderness of this world, taunted and tempted by the devil, who still uses God's Word to entrap us. Jesus does not simply show us how to resist but reveals that our strength lies in the same Word of God. In Christ, we stand strong against the wiles of the devil and, when and if we fall, we find refuge in Christ to be forgiven and restored.

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!

Visitors: We are glad you have chosen to be with us today! We would especially like to follow-up with you beyond today, so please take a moment to leave your best contact information in the guest books at each entrance/exit or in the Record of Fellowship books found on each pew. **A cry-room for parents and children is just off from the front entryway, and there's a wonderful nursery downstairs at the end of the fellowship hall for you to make use of at any time.** Do you have any questions about anything here? Don't hesitate to ask one of the ushers or elders, or talk to the pastor.

Prelude Lorraine Miller & Rich Vanderburgh

Welcome

Stand

Invocation 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.

Divine Service, Setting Three

Confession and Absolution

(Saturday Only: Verses & responses are spoken, but longer portions are sung.)

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 Almighty God, our maker and redeemer, we poor sinners, confess unto You that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against You by thought, word, and deed. Wherefore we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C O most merciful God, who has given Your only begotten Son to die for us, have mercy upon us and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by Your Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of You and of Your will and true obedience to Your Word, to the end that by Your Grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

P Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us and has given His only Son to die for us and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To those who believe on His name He gives power to become the children of God and has promised them His Holy Spirit. He that believes and is baptized shall be saved. Grant this, Lord, unto us all.

C Amen.

Service of the Word

Entrance Hymn *"Father, We Thank Thee" #652*



1 Fa - ther, we thank Thee who hast plant - ed Thy ho - ly
 2 Watch o'er Thy Church, O Lord, in mer - cy, Save it from
 name with - in our hearts. Knowl - edge and faith and life im -
 e - vil, guard it still, Per - fect it in Thy love, u -
 mor - tal Je - sus, Thy Son, to us im - parts.
 nite it, Cleansed and con - formed un - to Thy will.
 Thou, Lord, didst make all for Thy plea - sure, Didst
 As grain, once scat - tered on the hill - sides, Was
 give us food for all our days, Giv - ing in Christ the
 in this bro - ken bread made one, So from all lands Thy
 Bread e - ter - nal; Thine is the pow'r, be Thine the praise.
 Church be gath - ered In - to Thy king - dom by Thy Son.

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Kyrie.....page 186



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

Salutation

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** And with thy spirit.
- P** Let us pray.

Collect of the Day *(spoken in unison)*

O Lord God, You led Your ancient people through the wilderness and brought them to the promised land. Guide the people of Your Church that following our Savior we may walk through the wilderness of this world toward the glory of the world to come; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Old Testament Reading..... **Deuteronomy 26:1-11**

“When you come into the land that the LORD your God is giving you for an inheritance and have taken possession of it and live in it, you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from your land that the LORD your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket, and you shall go to the place that the LORD your God will choose, to make his name to dwell there. And you shall go to the priest who is in office at that time and say to him, ‘I declare today to the LORD your God that I have come into the land that the LORD swore to our fathers to give us.’ Then the priest shall take the basket from your hand and set it down before the altar of the LORD your God.

“And you shall make response before the LORD your God, ‘A wandering Aramean was my father. And he went down into Egypt and sojourned there, few in number, and there he became a nation, great, mighty, and populous. And the Egyptians treated us harshly and humiliated us and laid on us hard labor. Then we cried to the LORD, the God of our fathers, and the LORD heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. And the LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with great deeds of terror, with signs and wonders. And he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. And behold, now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground, which you, O LORD, have given me.’ And you shall set it down before the LORD your God and worship before the LORD your God. And you shall rejoice in all the good that the LORD your God has given to you and to your house, you, and the Levite, and the sojourner who is among you.”

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. *(Hebrews 12:2)*

Epistle Reading Romans 10:8b-13

“The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart” (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved. For the Scripture says, “Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame.” For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing his riches on all who call on him. For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Pastoral Chant..... *“This Gospel How Precious” (Shaker Hymn)*

Holy Gospel **Luke 4:1-13**

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the fourth chapter.



C Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness for forty days, being tempted by the devil. And he ate nothing during those days. And when they were ended, he was hungry. The devil said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread.” And Jesus answered him, “It is written, ‘Man shall not live by bread alone.’” And the devil took him up and showed him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time, and said to him, “To you I will give all this authority and their glory, for it has been delivered to me, and I give it to whom I will. If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours.” And Jesus answered him, “It is written,

“You shall worship the Lord your God,
and him only shall you serve.”

And he took him to Jerusalem and set him on the pinnacle of the temple and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, for it is written, “He will command his angels concerning you,
to guard you,’

and

“On their hands they will bear you up,
lest you strike your foot against a stone.”

And Jesus answered him, "It is said, 'You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.'" And when the devil had ended every temptation, he departed from him until an opportune time.

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.

Hymn of the Day "O Christ, You Walked the Road" #424



1 O Christ, You walked the road Our wan-d'ring feet must go.
2 No bread of earth a-lone Can fill our hun-g'ring hearts.
3 No blind-ing sign we ask, No won-der from a-bove.
4 When lures of eas-y gain With prom-ise bright-ly shine,
5 O Christ, You walked the road Our wan-d'ring feet must go.



You faced with us temp-ta-tion's pow'r And fought our an-cient foe.
Lord, help us seek Your liv-ing Word, The food Your grace im-parts.
Lord, help us place our trust a-lone In Your un-swerv-ing love.
Lord, help us seek Your king-dom first; Our wills with Yours a-lign.
Stay with us through temp-ta-tion's hour To fight our an-cient foe.

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Sit

Sermon..... "Deserted ... and Not!"

Stand

Offertorypages 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.

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 Let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

...

C Amen.

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..... "Father in Heaven"



1 Fa - ther in heav - en, gra - cious God a - bove,
 2 Your king - dom come, Your rule of love with - in;
 3 Give us this day our dai - ly bread, we pray;
 4 Lead us, O Lord, and keep our foot - steps true
 5 Yours, Lord, a - lone the king - dom, pow'r, and praise;



Bold - ly we come be - fore Your throne of love:
 Lord, by Your Spir - it turn our hearts from sin.
 Thank You for all Your gifts to us each day.
 When we are tempt - ed to a - ban - don You.
 Your glo - rious reign shall last for end - less days . . .



Ho - ly Your name of tri - une maj - es - ty,
 Your will be done in ev - 'ry place on earth,
 For - give our debts, our debt - ors we for - give—
 Keep us from e - vil, res - cue us from harm;
 "Yes, yes, dear Lord!" With faith we say a - gain:



May all we do re - flect Your pu - ri - ty.
 As it is done where an - gels sing Your worth.
 Your mer - cy known, Your mer - cy we must live.
 Lord, let Your love our fears at death dis - arm.
 "So shall it be— A - men! A - men! A - men!"

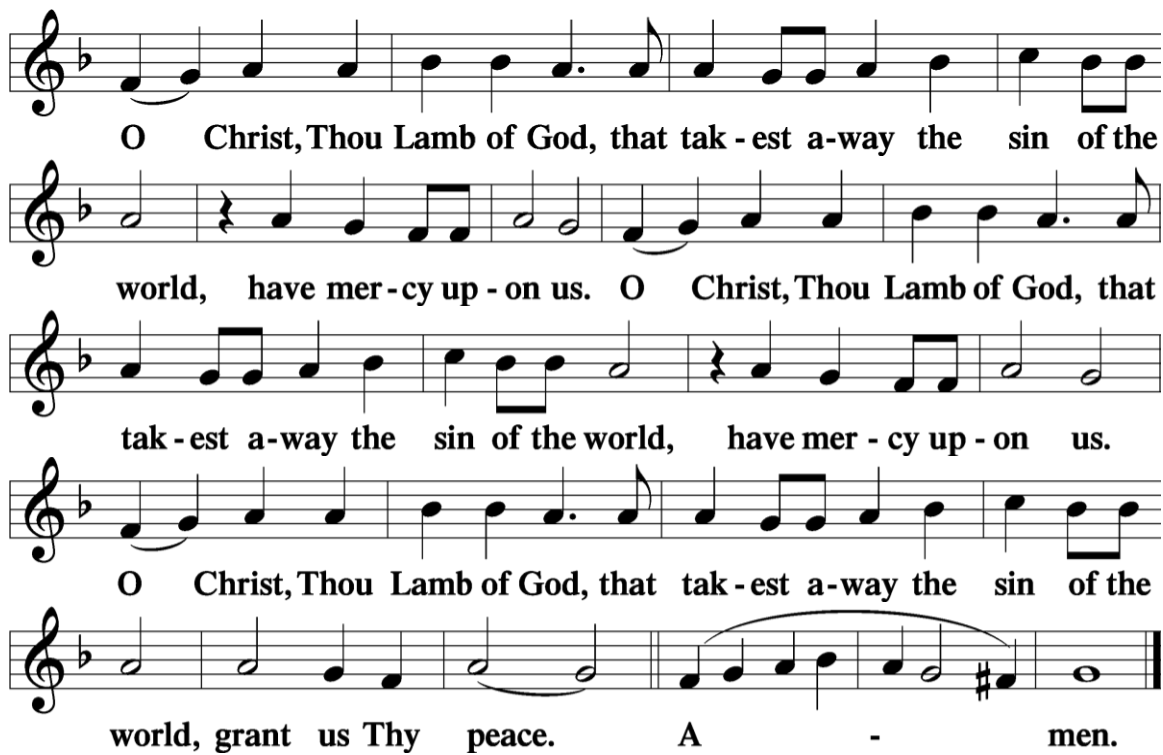
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The Words of Our Lord.....page 197

Pax Domini.....page 197

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).

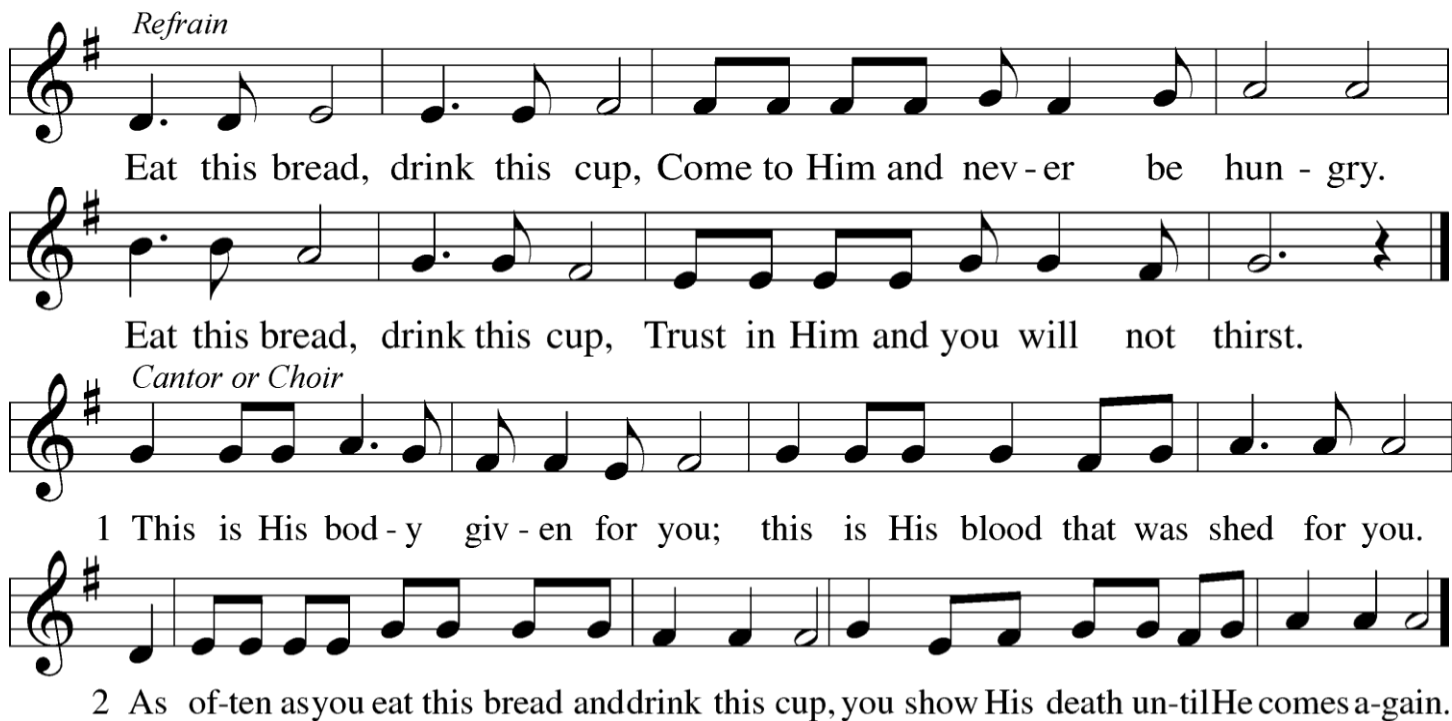
Communion Distribution

You might want to use the prayers "Before communing" and "Thanksgiving after receiving the Sacrament" inside the front cover of the hymnal for your devotional meditation.

(Sunday Only)

Communion Hymn "Eat This Bread" #638

(choir sings each verse, congregation sings refrain)



Refrain
 Eat this bread, drink this cup, Come to Him and nev - er be hun - gry.
 Eat this bread, drink this cup, Trust in Him and you will not thirst.

Cantor or Choir
 1 This is His bod - y giv - en for you; this is His blood that was shed for you.
 2 As of - ten as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you show His death un - til He comes a - gain.



3 Eat His flesh and drink His blood, and Christ will raise you up on the Last Day.



4 An - y - one who eats this bread will live for - ev - er.



5 If we be-lieve and eat this bread, we will have e - ter - nal life.

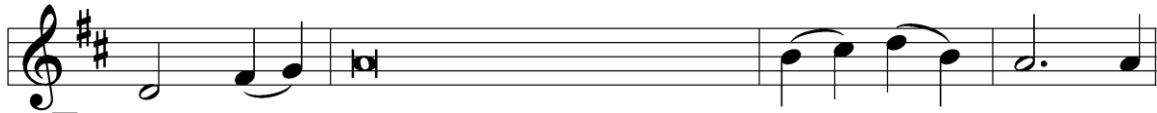
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Instrumentals

Stand

Nunc Dimittis.....pages 199-200

Nunc Dimittis



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 - tles 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

Benediction.....page 202

Sending Hymn..... "Lead Me, Guide Me" #721

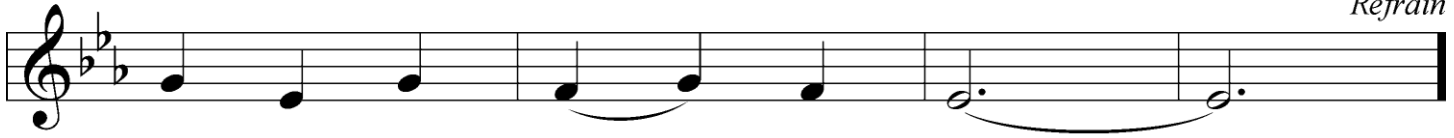
Refrain



Lead me, guide me, a - long the way;
For if You lead me, I can - not stray.
Lord, let me walk each day with Thee.
Lead me, O Lord, lead me.
1 I am weak and I need Thy strength and pow'r
2 Help me tread in the paths of righ - teous - ness,
3 I am lost if You take Your hand from me,
To help me o - ver my weak - est hour.
Be my aid when Sa - tan and sin op - press.
I am blind with - out Thy light to see.



Help me through the dark-ness Thy face to see.
 I am put - ting all my trust in Thee.
 Lord, al - ways let me Thy ser - vant be.



Lead me, O Lord, lead me.
 Lead me, O Lord, lead me.
 Lead me, O Lord, lead me.

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Dismissal (Bethlehem’s Mission)

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

Postlude Lorraine Miller & Rich Vanderburgh

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Next week’s readings:
Jeremiah 26:8-15; Philippians 3:17-4:1; Luke 13:31-35

Attendance Last Saturday: 20	Attendance Last Sunday: 81
Total Offering: \$4,689.00	Missions: \$100.00
Home Use: \$3,224.00	Benevolences: \$1,365.00
Attendance Ash Wednesday: 90	
Total Offering: \$2,419.00	Missions: \$232.00
Home Use: \$2,067.00	Benevolences: \$120.00

Serving us today:

- Elders/Ushers..... Alan Miller (Sat), Willie Crespo, Caleb Thomas (Sun)
- Musician..... Lorraine Miller & Rich Vanderburgh
- Altar Committee..... Darlene Laubenstein (Chair), Karon Harding,
 Esther Keseman, Georgia Luker
- Flower Committee Penny Humphrey (Chair), Lori Sloan

This Week's Schedule

Monday	9:30 a.m.	Exercise Class
	10:00 a.m.	Moms and Tots
	6:30 p.m.	Scouts
Tuesday		<i>Pastor at Circuit Meeting</i>
	9:30 a.m.	Quilting
	7:00 p.m.	Church Council Meeting
Wednesday	9:30 a.m.	Exercise Class
	10:30 a.m.	Bible Study
	6:00 p.m.	Choir Practice
	7:00 p.m.	Lenten Service
Thursday		<i>Pastor's Vacation</i>
	1:00 p.m.	Games and Cards Group
	7:00 p.m.	Zoom-Lent Bible Class
Friday		<i>Pastor's Vacation</i>
	9:30 a.m.	Exercise Class
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)
	9:15 a.m.	Sunday School/Adult Bible Class
	10:30 a.m.	Worship

Absence/Presence

Pr. Joel will be gone this Thursday through next Monday. We are thankful to **Pr. Ricky Bertels** for leading this weekend's services!

Prayers

For Those Preparing for Baptism & Confirmation—The forty days of Lent are preparation for the annual remembrance of Jesus' crucifixion and Easter resurrection, as well as a call to greater awareness of our baptismal life together "dying and rising" daily in Christ's newness of life. Throughout this season, keep in your prayers Kersten, Trevor, and Connor Thomas (who will be baptized at the Easter Vigil service), as well as Jeremy Allison, Noah Lipham, Jordan Martin, and Mike Rich (who will be confirmed on Palm Sunday). May the Holy Spirit lead us all to fuller life together as the Body of Christ!

For Sustenance, Healing, and Provision—We remember those who are dealing with illness, are homebound or in nursing homes, are undergoing and recovering from

surgery, as well as going through hospitalization and rehabilitation: Paula Brewer, Felisa Brown, Ray & Mary Carstensen, Barb Compton, Mollie Dinwiddie, Marion & Leona Droege, Renae Ernesti (Charlene McCarter's niece), Wilma Gertz, Ralph Hein, Maxine Jaeger, Mary Johnson, Marty Lehn, Heather Long (Carol Kurz's great-niece), Lynn Lowe, Ron Niemeyer, Judy Pierce, Rose Steitz, Linda Tomblinson and Joe Zeman.

For Pregnant Mothers (& Waiting Fathers), especially Caitlin and Eric Hulshizer (due in a couple of weeks!) and Samantha & Nathan Schultz (Mark and Felisa Brown's daughter & son-in-law). May the Lord grant good health and joyful expectation!

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, Gabe Crespo, Luke Lockard (Limback's grandson) and Chance Hillsman.

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!

Worship Services

Saturday Services start at 5:30 p.m. Sunday Services are at 10:30 a.m. Sunday's Services are live on Facebook and YouTube and the webpage at blchurch.com.

Take a Lenten Journey with Joseph—The last thirteen of Genesis's fifty chapters deal exclusively with the epic saga of Joseph. While his name means "he adds/increases," for a long stretch it seemed nothing but unlucky—subtraction and decreasing to say the least! Nevertheless, Joseph's life of being sinned against by others became a powerful demonstration of the Lord's faithful mercy and freeing forgiveness. It's really no surprise that surveying the pivotal events of his life helps us grasp more insightfully the suffering and saving life-work of Jesus. **Join us for Wednesdays in Lent** as we undertake *A Lenten Journey with Joseph* and see how it all relates to the intersection of our lives with Joseph's—and more, with the cross of Jesus. The weekly themes we'll be exploring are: 1) *The Genesis of Joseph & Our Return*, 2) *A Wondrous Silence*, 3) *A Miracle of Miracles*, 4) *Wait for the Lord*, 5) *Chased by a Dirty Conscience*, 6) *God Does Have a Plan*, 7) *Forgiveness Finished (Good Friday)*. **All services will be at 7 p.m. in the sanctuary, with Holden Evening Prayer—except for Good Friday.**

Spring Mission Festival—The weekend services on **March 26 & 27** will call attention to the ongoing work of Food For The Poor—an ecumenical Christian agency (based in Florida) which provides life's basic necessities to the impoverished in Latin America and the Caribbean. Our guest preacher and speaker will be the Rev. Dr. Roy Maack, the former Southeastern District President of the LCMS. This will be his second visit to Bethlehem. *Maybe consider saving up your Lenten alms (offerings for the needy— which can easily collect from money you're not spending on what you're fasting from this Lent) to donate to FFTP that weekend!* To learn more about what they do and where, go to foodforthe poor.org.

Sunday School and Christian Education

Sunday School for PreK-12th grade begins at 9:15 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. This is a great opportunity for children and youth to grow in knowledge of Scripture and in love toward the Lord and our neighbors, as Jesus said matters most!

Third Sunday at Three—All junior and senior high youth are invited (and encouraged) to join up here **on that day (March 20) and that time (3:00 p.m.)** for this monthly youth get-together and activity time. In March, we'll be doing the yardwork we didn't get done for the church members in February due to snow, so come dressed for the outdoors. There will also be time for faith-sharing and planning. **We'll wrap up by 5:00 p.m.**

Lenten Home Devotions

Devotions for the season of Lent will be available from Lutheran Hour Ministries and Higher Things for you to take home. Printed copies (also available in large print) will be found at both entrances of the church. If you would like one mailed or delivered to you please let the office know.

Reflecting on Jesus' Cross (and Ours) this Lent—A wooden cross and devotional card was handed out Ash Wednesday. Each Wednesday service an accompanying item will be given as well. Set the cross in a prominent place within your home and reflect on the connected passages from Scripture (and each new item) throughout each week, then incorporate what you glean from that in your prayers and actions and share that with someone else who might need to hear that.

Faith Discussion and Bible Study

Sunday Bible Study is working through the book *Death, Heaven, Resurrection, and the New Creation* (by Concordia Seminary faculty) and discussing our way through Scripture and personal experiences so that we can all be strengthened in believing and living through Christ's own life, death, and resurrection. Plan to join us **in the conference room from 9:15 to 10:10 a.m.!**

Wednesday Bible Study is currently exploring the short book of Jonah. Join us **in the conference room from 10:30 to noon** as we see what Jonah has to do with us.

Thursday “Lent/Easter Zoom Bible Study is a Zoom Bible study that will begin **Thursday, March 10, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.** We will be discussing God’s forgiving love for us in Christ Jesus. This Bible Study focuses on the scripture readings each Sunday. If you would like to join, please contact Cindy or Rebecca if you are interested in joining this class.

Four Quarters on Christ—The natural year has the four quarters of winter, spring, summer, and fall, so we’ll aim to fill those—give and take a month here and there—with opportunities to see Jesus the Christ more clearly (read the Pastor’s Page). Based on John Stott’s four-part exploration called ***The Incomparable Christ, we’ll begin on Thursday, March 31, at 7:00 p.m.*** with a talk and discussion on “The Original Jesus: How the New Testament Witnesses to Him.” Invite a friend, since this will be open to anyone who wants to come. Also, bring a quarter, if you can!

Opportunities to Help & Serve

March Brings Spring! Keep your eyes open for opportunities to help with the ongoing transformation of our Bethlehem Community Garden to raised beds, plus help with planting, cutting back the herb garden, and all sorts of other necessary and enjoyable tasks. If you want to make sure you know about work days and opportunities, let Pr. Joel or Shawn Lindley know so that we can make sure you’re aware of what’s happening and needs to be done.

Thrivent Choice Dollars—Members with 2021 choice dollars available need to designate these funds before March 31 or they will expire. You may direct your choice dollars to: Bethlehem or your choice of another organization on the Thrivent list. Choice Dollars may be designated at [Thrivent.com/Thrivent choice](https://www.thrivent.com/Thrivent-choice) or by calling 800-847-4836 and when prompted say "Thrivent Choice". This past year Bethlehem Thrivent members used \$1,000 of choice dollars to assist with the Warrensburg Angel Tree Project. Please contact Larry Haase if you have questions about any of our activities including Choice Dollars and Action Team Projects.

Bethlehem’s 2022 SHINE! Event—Mark your calendars for **Saturday, April 30**, from **10-noon** (plus early and after for set-up and take-down) as we host an outdoor community outreach event called *Grow Green—Glow & Glean*. The morning will focus on stewardship living which is rooted in the Lord’s Good Earth and known by growth, harvest, and generous sharing. Hopefully there’ll be workshops, hands-on planting, free seeds and free raffles, information to glean, plus an appearance by the Green Lantern (*if we have a volunteer who wants to take on that role*). This is our unique congregational effort, as part of the district-wide outreach initiative, so

the more members who help—including in the planning and preparation—the better! **Let the church office know if you'd like to help and in what way.** More details will be forthcoming.

Worship Readers/Lectors—Please consider volunteering to assist in congregational worship by reading the first two Scripture passages during Saturday or Sunday services! There is a sign-up sheet on the board by the mailboxes, and the Scripture readings are listed by each date. Pr. Joel is available to provide suggestions for those who'd like to have some.

The Warrensburg Food Center is in need of the following items: smaller boxes of dried cereal, this time. Please throw in a few items when you are doing your grocery shopping to help the Food Center. You can place them in the basket by the bulletin board at the north entrance of the building for delivery to the Food Center.

Dementia Friends is a global movement that is changing the way people think, act and talk about dementia. The program can benefit anyone who encounters someone with dementia in their daily lives—including bankers, grocers, other retailers, government and healthcare workers, nonprofit employees, first responders and more. You need not know someone with dementia to benefit and learn from this program. By helping everyone in the community understand dementia and how it affects families, each of us can make a difference for people touched by dementia. Give us an hour, and we will show you how. Register online at goaging.org/event/dementia-friends or call 1-800-748-7826. If there is enough interest from Bethlehem we can have our own group event.

Fellowship

Mary Martha Guild will hold their next meeting on Monday, March 14. The program will be about Altar Set-up with Teresa Hillsman and Darlene Laubenstein. We will meet upstairs **AT 6:00 P.M.** This will be informative and interesting even if you are not currently on the Altar Committee. (How Communion is prepared, the vessels cleaned afterward, how/why the paraments and banners are changed, planning for special times like Christmas and Easter, etc. and why it all matters!)

Exercise Class is being held at **9:30 a.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays** in the Fellowship Hall. This class is low impact exercise open to anyone, men or women. For more information, contact Judy Smith.

The Games and Card Group meets on **Thursdays at 1:00 p.m.** in the Youth room downstairs. Anyone, men and women, are welcome to come. If you have any questions, please contact Melvin Theroff.

The Quilting Group meets on the **second and fourth Tuesday** of the month from **9:30 a.m. until 2:30 p.m.** (September through May). Anyone is welcome to help with this project. No special sewing skills needed. Bring your own lunch. If you have any questions, please contact Georgia Luker.

Miscellaneous

Country Kitchen Cards are available! You can get 10 buy-one, get-one meal **FREE** coupons for just **\$10.00**. All proceeds go towards helping the youth group. See a youth member, or you can stop by the office and purchase one.

Ongoing thanks to those who generously give to the Bethlehem Emergency Fund, which enables Pr. Joel to assist members and certain people in the community who are in crisis situations. Much appreciation for your good support!

Offerings

Simply Giving is the online program for donations and offerings. The website has changed a bit recently. If you need assistance, please let the office know and we will provide you with the steps to start it or help you change where you place your funds.

2022 Elders

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

Ricky Bertels (last name begins E-H), 660-262-8080, rick1janice2@gmail.com

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

Alan Miller (last name begins Mc-R) 660-909-1764, alormiller@aol.com

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

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

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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

Tue & Thurs: 8am–5pm

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 live streaming on the web, 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.