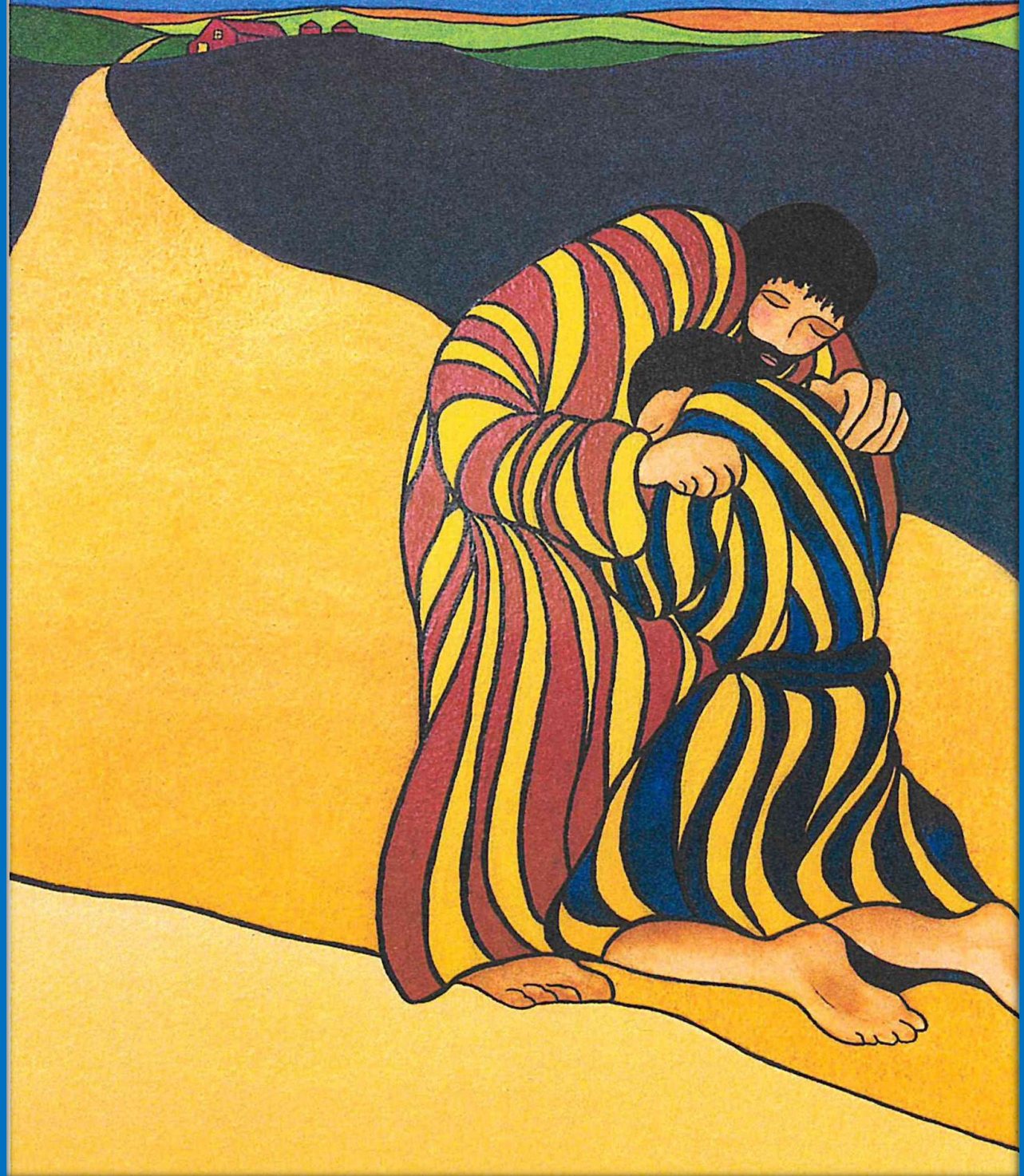


This son of mine was dead
and is **alive again!**

LUKE 15:24





+ Fourth Sunday In Lent +

March 27, 2022 Spring Mission Festival

AS WE GATHER

No parable more fully describes the profound character of God's mercy than the prodigal son and the waiting father. We are the rebels who begin to think we deserve our heavenly Father's kindness and who demand from Him what is not our right to claim. But instead of disowning us, He meets us with joy, welcomes us with His forgiveness, restores our tattered righteousness with the robe of Christ's holiness, and sets His Table before us. This is what happens every Sunday as the Lord reclaims us from our sins, restores joy to our heavy hearts, reminds us of His baptismal promise, and feeds our body and soul with the body and blood of His Son. This is the source of our holy joy and this is the peace that passes all understanding.

The pottery vessels on the altar remind us that although Holy Communion is not celebrated today, our Lord's sacred gifts are still central to our life of faith. Holy Communion is celebrated every 1st, 3rd, and 5th weekend (and major festivals).

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.

**Lord, how glad we are that we don't hold You, but that You hold us!
(A Prayer from Haiti)**

Welcome

Stand

Gathering Hymn..... "As Rebels, Lord, Who Foolishly Have Wandered", #612



1 As reb - els, Lord, who fool - ish - ly have wan - dered
2 Still we re - turn, our con - trite words re - hears - ing,
3 A feast of love for us You are pre - par - ing;



Far from Your love— un - fed, un - clean, un - clothed—
Speech, that with - in Your warm em - brace soon dies;
We who were lost, You give an hon - ored place!



Dare we re - call Your wealth so rash - ly squan - dered,
All of our guilt, our shame, our pain re - vers - ing
"Come, eat; come, drink, and be no more de - spair - ing—



Dare hope to glean that boun - ty which we loathed?
As tears of joy and wel - come fill Your eyes.
Here taste a - gain the trea - sures of My grace."

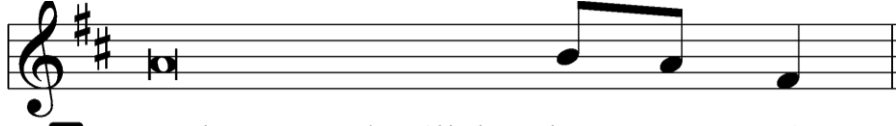
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Matins

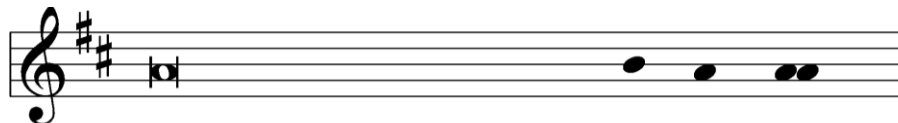
Opening Verses..... page 219



L O Lord, o - pen my lips,



C and my mouth will de - clare Your praise.



L Make haste, O God, to de - liv - er me;



C make haste to help me, O Lord.



C Glo-ry be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spir - it;



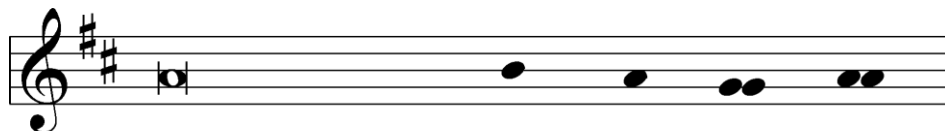
as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and will be for-ev-er. A - men.



Praise to You, O Christ, Lamb of our sal - va - tion.

Psalmody

Antiphon (Lent)..... page 220

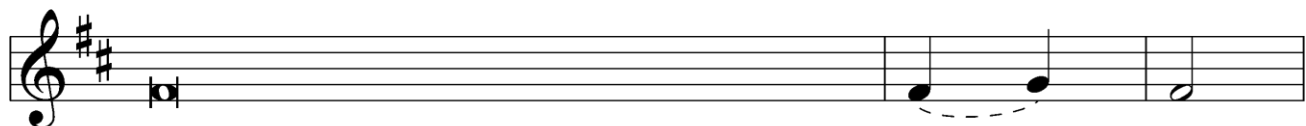


L The Lord has re - deemed His peo - ple.

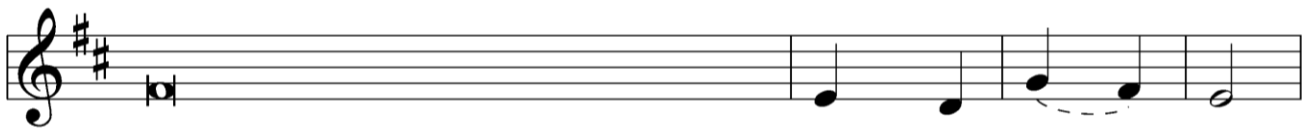


C O come, let us wor - ship Him.

Venite..... pages 220-221

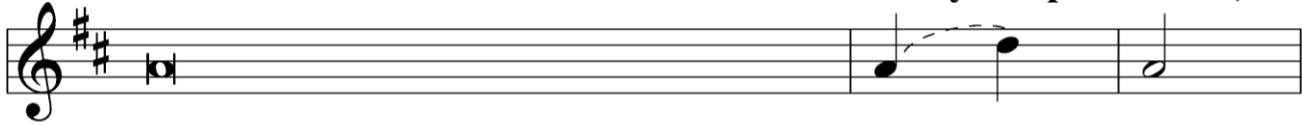


- C** 1 O come, let us sing to the Lord,
- 2 For the Lord is a great God
- 3 The sea is His, for He made it,
- 5 Glory be to the Father and to the Son

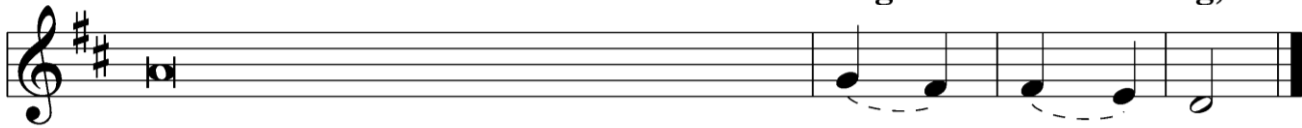


1 let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our sal - va - tion.
 2 and a great king a - bove all gods.
 3 and His hand formed the dry — land.

5 and to the Ho - ly Spir - it;

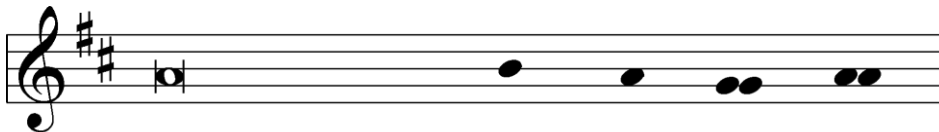


1 Let us come into His presence with thanks - giv - ing,
 2 The deep places of the earth are in His hand;
 3 O come, let us worship and bow — down,
 4 For He is our God,
 5 as it was in the be - gin - ning,



1 let us make a joyful noise to Him with songs of praise.
 2 the strength of the hills is His — al - so.
 3 let us kneel before the Lord, our mak - er.
 4 and we are the people of His pasture and the sheep — of His hand.
 5 is now, and will be for - ev - er. A - men.

Antiphon (Lent)..... *page 220*



L The Lord has re - deemed His peo - ple.



C O come, let us wor - ship Him.

Psalm 32 (*spoken responsively by half-verse*)

Blessèd is the one whose transgression is forgiven,
whose sin is covered.

Blessèd is the man against whom the LORD counts no iniquity,
and in whose spirit there is no deceit.

For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away
through my groaning all day long.

For day and night your hand was heavy upon me;
my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.

I acknowledged my sin to you,

and I did not cover my iniquity;

I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD,"

and you forgave the iniquity of my sin.

Therefore let everyone who is godly

offer prayer to you at a time when you may be found;

surely in the rush of great waters,

they shall not reach him.

You are a hiding place for me;

you preserve me from trouble;

you surround me with shouts of deliverance.

I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go;

I will counsel you with my eye upon you.

Be not like a horse or a mule, without understanding,

which must be curbed with bit and bridle,

or it will not stay near you.

Many are the sorrows of the wicked,

but steadfast love surrounds the one who trusts in the LORD.

Be glad in the LORD, and rejoice, O righteous,

and shout for joy, all you upright in heart!

Glory be to the Father and to the Son

and to the Holy Spirit;

as it was in the beginning

is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Sit

Office Hymn *"Lord of All Nations, Grant Me Grace" #844*



1	Lord	of	all	na -	tions,	grant	me	grace
2	Break	down	the	wall	that	would	di -	vide
3	For -	give	me,	Lord,	where	I	have	erred
4	Give	me	Thy	cour -	age,	Lord,	to	speak
5	With	Thine	own	love	may	I	be	filled



To	love	all	peo -	ple,	ev -	'ry	race;	
Thy	chil -	dren,	Lord,	on	ev -	'ry	side.	
By	love -	less	act	and	thought	-	less	word.
When -	ev -	er	strong	op -	press	-	the	weak.
And	by	Thy	Ho -	ly	Spir	-	it	willed,



And in each per - son may I see
My neigh - bor's good let me pur - sue;
Make me to see the wrong I do
Should I my - self the vic - tim be,
That all I touch, wher - e'er I be,



My kin - dred, loved, re - deemed by Thee.
Let Chris - tian love bind warm and true.
Will grieve my wound - ed Lord a - new.
Help me for - give, re - mem - b'ring Thee.
May be di - vine - ly touched by Thee.

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Readings

Old Testament Reading..... Isaiah 12:1-6

You will say in that day:

“I will give thanks to you, O LORD,
for though you were angry with me,
your anger turned away,
that you might comfort me.

“Behold, God is my salvation;
I will trust, and will not be afraid;
for the LORD GOD is my strength and my song,
and he has become my salvation.”

With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. And you will say in that day:

“Give thanks to the LORD,
call upon his name,
make known his deeds among the peoples,
proclaim that his name is exalted.

“Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done gloriously;
let this be made known in all the earth.

Shout, and sing for joy, O inhabitant of Zion,
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.”

P This is the Word of the Lord

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle Reading2 Corinthians 5:16-21

From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Holy GospelLuke 15:1-3, 11-32

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

C Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

Now the tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear [Jesus]. And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, "This man receives sinners and eats with them."

So he told them this parable: . . .

"There was a man who had two sons. And the younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of property that is coming to me.' And he divided his property between them. Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took a journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in reckless living. And when he had spent everything, a severe famine arose in that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. And he was longing to be fed with the pods that the pigs ate, and no one gave him anything.

"But when he came to himself, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have more than enough bread, but I perish here with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as one of

your hired servants.” And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. And the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ But the father said to his servants, ‘Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet. And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate. For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.’ And they began to celebrate.

“Now his older son was in the field, and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. And he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. And he said to him, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fattened calf, because he has received him back safe and sound.’ But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, but he answered his father, ‘Look, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command, yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him!’ And he said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. It was fitting to celebrate and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.’”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

Responsory (Lent).....page 222



- L** 1 We have an advocate with the Fa-ther; Jesus is the propitiation for our sins.
- 2 Blessed is he whose
transgression is for - giv - en and whose sin is put a - way.
- 3 We have an advocate with the Fa-ther; Jesus is the propitiation for our sins.



C He was delivered up to death; He was delivered
for the sins of the peo-ple.

Sit

Children’s Message

Sermon.....“Faith Hope Love” (I Cor. 13) “Food For The Poor”

Stand

Canticle

Hymn of Dedication..... "Lord, Help Us Walk Your Servant Way" #857



1 Lord, help us walk Your ser - vant way Wher -
2 You came to earth, O Christ, as Lord, But
3 No gold - en scep - ter but a towel You
4 You bid us bend our hu - man pride Nor
5 Lord, help us walk Your ser - vant way Wher -



ev - er love may lead And, bend - ing low, for -
pow'r You laid a - side. You lived Your years in
place with - in the hands Of those who seek to
count our - selves a - bove The low - est place, the
ev - er love may lead And, bend - ing low, for -



get - ting self, Each serve the oth - er's need.
ser - vant - hood; In low - li - ness You died.
fol - low You And live by Your com - mands.
mean - est task That waits the gift of love.
get - ting self, Each serve the oth - er's need.

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Offering

Offerings may be placed in the plate located at the entrance. To give directly to Food For the Poor, please read the bulletin insert and make use of the enclosed envelope at any time. If you'd like to give your offering through Bethlehem, write the check to Bethlehem with "Food For The Poor" in the memo line, or designate it to them if you give electronically so that the funds can get to them in bulk.

"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)

Instrumental for Silent Reflection "Sicilienne, Op. 78" (Faure)
(Jerode Marsh-piano, Daniel Johnson-cello)

Prayer

Kyrie.....page 227



Lord, have mer-cy; Christ, have mer-cy; Lord, have mer-cy.

Lord's Prayer Hymn "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 . . .



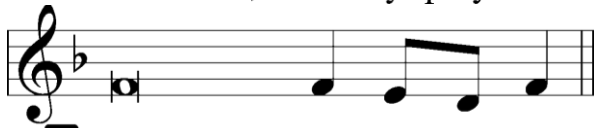
Ho - ly Your name of tri - une maj - es - ty,
Your will be done in ev - 'ry place on earth,
For - give our debts, our debt - ors we for - give—
Keep us from e - vil, res - cue us from harm;
"Yes, yes, dear Lord!" With faith we say a - gain:



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!"



L O Lord, hear my prayer.



C And let my cry come to You.

Collect of the Day (in unison)

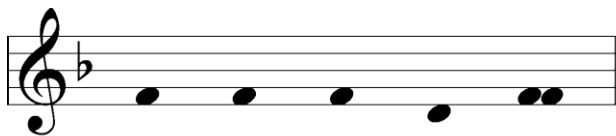
Almighty God, our heavenly Father, Your mercies are new every morning; and though we deserve only punishment, You receive us as Your children and provide for all our needs of body and soul. Grant that we may heartily acknowledge Your merciful goodness, give thanks for all Your benefits, and serve You in willing obedience; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Additional Collects ending Amen.

P O Lord, our heavenly Father, almighty and everlasting God, You have safely brought us to the beginning of this day. Defend us in the same with Your mighty power and grant that this day we fall into no sin, neither run into any kind of danger, but that all our doings, being ordered by Your governance, may be righteous in Your sight; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Benedicamus.....page 228



L Let us bless the Lord.



C Thanks be to God.

Benediction.....page 228



P The grace of our Lord ✠ Je - sus Christ and the love of God



and the communion of the Holy Spir - it be with you all.



C A - men.

Sending Hymn..... *“Spread the Reign of God the Lord” #830*



1 Spread the reign of God the Lord, Spo - ken, writ - ten, might-y Word;
2 Tell how God the Fa - ther’s will Made the world, up - holds it still,
3 Tell of our Re-deem-er’s grace, Who, to save our hu - man race
4 Tell of God the Spir - it giv’n Now to guide us on to heav’n,



Ev - 'ry - where His crea-tures call To His heav'n-ly ban - quet hall.
How His own dear Son He gave Us from sin and death to save.
And to pay re - bel-lion’s price, Gave Him - self as sac - ri - fice.
Strong and ho - ly, just and true, Work - ing both to will and do.

5 Enter, mighty Word, the field; 6 Lord of harvest, great and kind,
Ripe the promise of its yield. Rouse to action heart and mind;
But the reapers, oh, how few Let the gath’ring nations all
For the work there is to do! See Your light and heed Your call.

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Dismissal (Bethlehem’s Mission)

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

Postlude Cody Clemons

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Bless, O God, the diligent work of all people who try to earn their daily bread for themselves and their families. Good Lord, help the miserable, comfort the sad, give rest to the tired and weary; give courage to those who suffer, freedom to the oppressed, protection and shelter to the orphans, and

strength to the weak in their struggle against all temptations of violence and danger, we pray in the name of Christ Jesus, our Savior and Bread of Life. (A Prayer from the Czech Republic).

Next week's readings:

OT: Isaiah 43:16-21; Epistle: Phil. 3:4b-14; Gospel: Luke 20:9-20

Attendance Last Saturday: 36	Attendance Last Sunday: 70
Lenten Midweek Attendance: 60	
Total Offering: \$4,211.69	Missions: \$50.00
Home Use: \$3,441.69	Benevolences: \$720.00

Serving us today:

Elders.....	Caleb Thomas
Reader	Beryl Lindley
Musician	Cody Clemons
Altar Committee.....	Darlene Laubenstein (Chair), Karon Harding, Esther Keseman, Georgia Luker
Flower Committee	Penny Humphrey (Chair), Lori Sloan

This Week's Schedule

Sunday	1:00 p.m.	Adult Catechesis
	3:15 p.m.	Youth Catechesis
	7:00 p.m.	Singing Saints Home Concert in Concordia
Monday	9:30 a.m.	Exercise Class
	10:00 a.m.	Moms and Tots
	6:30 p.m.	4-H Meeting
Wednesday	9:30 a.m.	Exercise Class
	10:30 a.m.	Bible Study
	7:00 p.m.	Lenten Service
Thursday	9:30 a.m.	Pastor at Warrensburg Christian School
	1:00 p.m.	Games and Cards Group
	7:00 p.m.	Four Quarters on Christ Talk & Discussion
	7:00 p.m.	Zoom-Lent Bible Study
Friday	9:30 a.m.	Exercise Group
Saturday	5:30 p.m.	Holy Communion
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. Holy Communion

1:00 p.m. Adult Catechesis

Welcome

This Weekend's Guest Preacher & Teacher is Rev. Dr. Roy A. Maack, the Emeritus LCMS Southeastern District President, who lives at Lutheran Haven in Oviedo, Florida. He was born in the Ozarks, and his first call as a pastor was to the Washington D.C. area (a real cultural shock)! His father was a tent preacher, so he grew up on the road and was home-schooled as an early 'Road Scholar.' In his years of ministry within the LCMS, Dr. Maack also served congregations in Baltimore and the D.C. area and was a summer replacement speaker on the International Lutheran Hour. In retirement, he has helped churches with stewardship ministries, worked with troubled congregations, led world tours with his wife Ann (with whom he shared 66 years of marriage), and now is grateful to serve with Food For The Poor as a speaker all over the U.S.A. He has four children—two of whom are medical physicians and two are in ministry. We are thankful he is in our midst!

Prayers

For Those Who Mourn, especially the Hillsman Family—Don, Teresa, & Don Jr. and Vanna, Ethan, Joshua, Gavin, Ryeley, Ethan, & Kiersten (along with all their relatives) on the sudden loss of their beloved son, brother, husband, and father Bill this past Sunday. May Jesus, who wept at the grave of his friend Lazarus, uphold them with every comfort and peace as they grieve Bill's loss but also give thanks for the life they shared and the life he now has with all the company of heaven—awaiting the resurrection yet to come!

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: Leora Baack (Charlene McCarter's mother), Paula Brewer, Felisa Brown, Ray & Mary Carstensen, Barbara Compton, Marion & Leona Droege, Wilma Gertz, Ralph Hein, Maxine

Jaeger, Mary Johnson, Marty Lehn, Lynn Lowe, Judy Pierce, Maryanna Savery, Rose Steitz, Patsy Theroff (Melvin's niece), Linda Tomblinson and Joe Zeman.

For those rejoicing in the birth of children, especially Caitlin and Eric Hulshizer and Rosie and Stori on the birth of their daughter and sister (Caroline Renee). Much joy and goodness in the Lord!

For Pregnant Mothers (& Waiting Fathers), especially 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 (the 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 yet to explore are: 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.**

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!

Lenten Home Devotions

Reflecting on Jesus' Cross (and Ours) this Lent—A wooden cross and devotional card was handed out Ash Wednesday. An accompanying item is being given out each Wednesday 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 the prophet Nahum. Join us **in the conference room from 10:30 to noon** as we see what we can learn for him long ago that meets us in the here and now.

Thursday "Lent/Easter Zoom Bible Study is on Thursdays 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

Church Clean-Up Day—All are invited to come on **Saturday, April 9 at 9:30 a.m. to noon** (*come and go as you need to*), to help spring clean the inside of our church building. Adults, teens, and children are all encouraged to come and help make the interior look extra nice for Holy Week and Easter Sunday. We have lots of small jobs that anyone can help with, and it's always better working together!

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, plus keep your eyes open for future planning meetings.

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.

[Fellowship](#)

Wedding of Sarah Conger—Lloyd and Charlene McCarter would like to invite everyone to the wedding of Sarah (their granddaughter) **on April 2 at 2:00 p.m. at the Red Cedars Event Barn, 15576 Highway 65 Hughesville, MO 65334.**

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.

This & That

Easter Lilies—The flower committee is taking orders for Easter Lilies through this weekend. There are forms available at each entrance of the church. The cost of the lilies will be **\$8.00**. Please make checks out to Mary Martha Guild and return to Penny Humphrey or place in her mailbox.

The Warrensburg Community Center is blooming with art from Mid-Missouri Artists who are displaying results from their 2021 Art Challenge, “Flowers.” Several BLC members have art in the show which can be viewed through **April 26**.

The *Singing Saints* of Saint Paul Lutheran High School, of Concordia, Missouri, will be performing their home concert on **March 27, at 7:00 p.m.** at St. Paul’s Lutheran Church in Concordia. The 50-voice concert choir will be performing a varied program that includes classic works by J. S. Bach, Mendelssohn, and Tomas Tallis, as well as some traditional spirituals, hymns, and anthems, such as the famous “God So Loved the World” by Sir John Stainer, and “Hark, I Hear the Harps Eternal” arranged by Alice Parker. The award-winning choir is under the direction of Dr. Jerrode Marsh. The concert is free, but donations are kindly requested to help cover their expenses for the annual spring tour.

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

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

Tue & Thurs: 8am–5pm

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.