

I meditate on all thy works





+ Fourth Sunday In Lent +
March 18/19, 2023

AS WE GATHER

Some of the central people in the Gospel narratives we get to know by name; others we do not. Although the man born blind is a major person in John 9, we never learn what his name might be. We meet his parents and his neighbors and we meet the Pharisees to whom he tells the story of the miraculous restoration of his sight. Although we do not learn his name, Jesus said of the man born blind that the works of God were displayed in him. As the One brightening our lives with the light of salvation, Jesus brings a new vision to our lives—an eternal vision of life with God that never ends. God knows our names. He directs the cross currents of our daily lives. In His light we see light—and that is what matters!

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.***

***If you are in need of a gluten-free wafer for Communion,
please let Pastor or an Elder know.***

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. **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

Welcome

Please rise.

(Prayer request cards will be collected by an usher passing through the aisle.)

Invocation Hymn....."Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise" #802



1 Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,
2 Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,
3 To all life Thou giv - est— to both great and small—
4 Great Fa - ther of glo - ry, pure Fa - ther of light,



In light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,
Nor want - ing, nor wast - ing, Thou rul - est in might;
In all life Thou liv - est, the true Life of all;
Thine an - gels a - dore Thee, all veil - ing their sight;



Most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,
Thy jus - tice like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove
We blos - som and flour - ish as leaves on the tree
All laud we would ren - der: O help us to see



Al - might - y, vic - to - rious, Thy great name we praise.
 Thy clouds which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.
 And with - er and per - ish— but naught chang - es Thee.
 'Tis on - ly the splen - dor of light that hides Thee.

Text and tune: Public domain. Used by permission. LSB Hymn License No. 110003555

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! . . . 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, . . . 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, . . . Grant this, Lord, unto us all.
- C** **Amen.**

Service of the Word

Entrance Hymn“O God of Light” #836



1 O God of light, Your Word, a lamp un - fail - ing,
 2 From days of old, through blind and will - ful a - ges,
 3 Un - dimmed by time, those words are still re - veal - ing
 4 To all the world Your sum - mons You are send - ing,



Shall pierce the dark - ness of our earth - bound way
 Though we re - belled, You gent - ly sought a - gain
 To sin - ful hearts Your jus - tice and Your grace;
 Through all the earth, to ev - 'ry land and race,



And show Your grace, Your plan for us un - veil - ing,
 And spoke through saints, a - pos - tles, proph - ets, sa - ges,
 And quest - ing spir - its, long - ing for Your heal - ing,
 That myr - iad tongues, in one great an - them blend - ing,



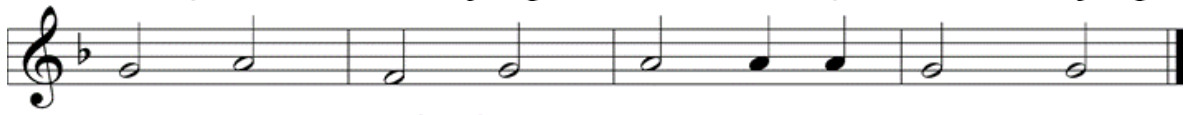
And guide our foot - steps to the per - fect day.
 Who wrote with ea - ger or re - luc - tant pen.
 See Your com - pas - sion in the Sav - ior's face.
 May praise and cel - e - brate Your gift of grace.

Tune: © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship. Text: © 1952, renewed 1980 The Hymn Society, admin. Hope Publishing Co.
 Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110003555

Kyrie.....*page 186*



Q 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.



G And with thy spir - it.



P Let us pray.

Collect of the Day (*spoken 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.

Please be seated.

Old Testament Reading.....**Isaiah 42:14-21**

For a long time I have held my peace;
I have kept still and restrained myself;
now I will cry out like a woman in labor;
I will gasp and pant.
I will lay waste mountains and hills,
and dry up all their vegetation;
I will turn the rivers into islands,
and dry up the pools.
And I will lead the blind
in a way that they do not know,
in paths that they have not known
I will guide them.
I will turn the darkness before them into light,
the rough places into level ground.
These are the things I do,
and I do not forsake them.
They are turned back and utterly put to shame,
who trust in carved idols,
who say to metal images,
“You are our gods.”
Hear, you deaf,

and look, you blind, that you may see!
Who is blind but my servant,
or deaf as my messenger whom I send?
Who is blind as my dedicated one,
or blind as the servant of the Lord?
He sees many things, but does not observe them;
his ears are open, but he does not hear.
The Lord was pleased, for his righteousness' sake,
to magnify his law and make it glorious.

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 **Ephesians 5:8-14**

For at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,

“Awake, O sleeper,
and arise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you.”

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Please rise.

Holy Gospel **John 9:1-7, 13-17, 34-39**

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the ninth chapter.



C Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

As [Jesus] passed by, he saw a man blind from birth. And his disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” Jesus answered, “It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” Having said these things, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva. Then he anointed the man’s eyes with the mud and said to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). So he went and washed and came back seeing. . . .

They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. So the Pharisees again asked him how he had received his sight. And he said to them, “He put mud on my eyes, and I washed, and I see.” Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath.” But others said, “How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?” And there was a division among them. So they said again to the blind man, “What do you say about him, since he has opened your eyes?” He said, “He is a prophet.” . . .

They answered him, “You were born in utter sin, and would you teach us?” And they cast him out.

Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” He answered, “And who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?” Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and it is he who is speaking to you.” He said, “Lord, I believe,” and he worshiped him. Jesus said, “For judgment I came into this world, that those who do not see may see, and those who see may become blind.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

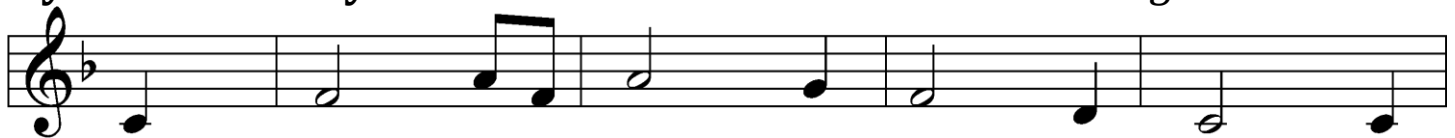
Nicene Creed.....*page 191*

**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,**

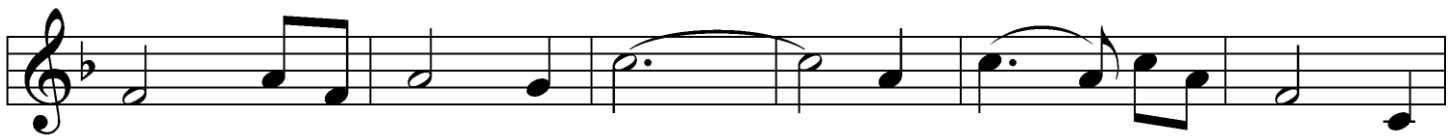
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
 God of God, Light of Light,
 very God of very God,
 begotten, not made,
 being of one substance with the Father,
 by whom all things were made;
 who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
 and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
 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.

Please be seated.

Hymn of the Day *“Amazing Grace” #744*



1	A	-	maz	-	ing	grace—	how	sweet	the	sound—	That
2	The	Lord	has	prom	-	ised	good	to	me,	His	
3	Through	man	-	y	dan	-	gers,	toils,	and	snare	I
4	Yes,	when	this	flesh	and	heart	shall	fail	And		
5	When	we've	been	there	ten	thou	-	sand	years,	Bright	



saved a wretch like me! I once was lost but
 Word my hope se - cures; He will my shield and
 have al - read - y come; His grace has brought me
 mor - tal life shall cease, A - maz - ing grace shall
 shin - ing as the sun, We've no less days to



now am found, Was blind but now I see!
 por - tion be As long as life en - dures.
 safe thus far, His grace will lead me home.
 then pre - vail In heav - en's joy and peace.
 sing God's praise Than when we'd first be - gun.

Text and tune: Public domain. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110003555

Sermon..... "How Do You See?"

Choir Anthem (*Sunday Only*)..... "Ave Verum Corpus" (*W. A. Mozart*)

Jesus, Saviour, we behold thee,
 Mary's son in bread and wine revealed:
 Born and suffered, for us offered,
 Thy cross all our wounds hath healed:
 From thy body, pierced and broken,
 Came forth water and precious blood:
 Be to us by thy example In death's hour of trial our food,
 in death's hour of trial our food.

Tell the Next Generation—Family Discipleship Sharing

Offering Music

Please rise.

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.

Prayer of the Church

P Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

...

C Amen.

Service of the Sacrament

Communion Liturgypages 194-197

P The Lord be with you.

C And with thy spir-it.

P Lift up your hearts.

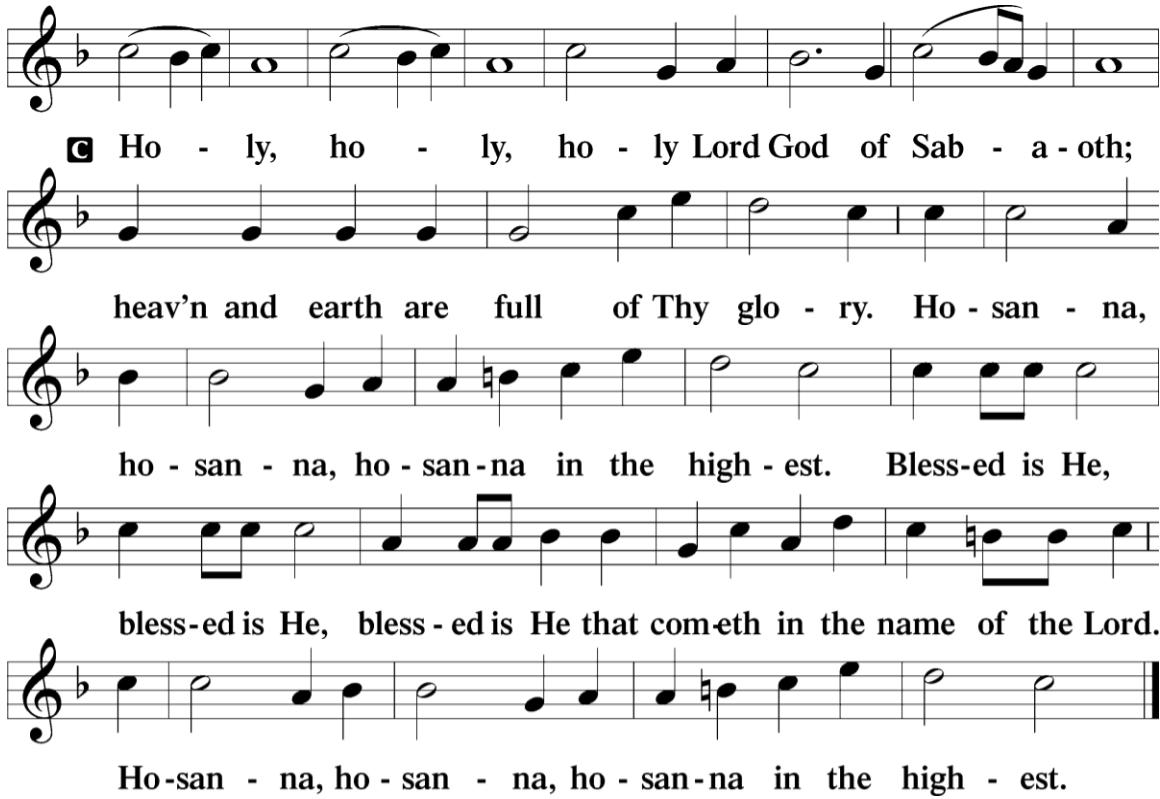
C We lift them up un-to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks un-to 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:

Sanctus..... *page 195*



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..... *page 196*



C For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the
glo - ry for - ev - er and ev - er. A - men.

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

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, . . . as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

Pax Domini..... *page 197*



P The peace of the Lord be with you al - ways.
C A - men.

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

Instrumental

(Sunday Only)

Communion Hymn ... "Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness", #849

1 Praise the One who breaks the dark - ness With a lib - er -
 2 Praise the One who blessed the chil - dren With a strong, yet
 3 Let us praise the Word In - car - nate, Christ, who suf - fered
 at - ing light; Praise the One who frees the pris - 'ners,
 gen - tle, word; Praise the One who drove out de - mons
 in our place. Je - sus died and rose vic - to - rious
 Turn - ing blind - ness in - to sight. Praise the One who preached the
 With the pierc - ing, two-edged sword. Praise the One who brings cool
 That we may know God by grace. Let us sing for joy and



Gos - pel, Heal - ing ev - 'ry dread dis - ease, Calm - ing
 wa - ter To the des - ert's burn - ing sand; From this
 glad - ness, See - ing what our God has done; Let us



storms, and feed - ing thou - sands With the ver - y Bread of peace.
 Well comes liv - ing wa - ter, Quench - ing thirst in ev - 'ry land.
 praise the true Re - deem - er, Praise the One who makes us one.

Text: © 1987 Hope Publishing Co. Tune: Public domain. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110003555

Communion Hymn *"Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness", #636*



1 Soul, a - dorn your - self with glad - ness, Leave the
 2 Has - ten as a bride to meet Him, And with
 3 He who craves a pre - cious trea - sure Nei - ther
 4 Now in faith I hum - bly pon - der O - ver



gloom - y haunts of sad - ness, Come in - to the day - light's
 lov - ing rev - 'rence greet Him. For with words of life im -
 cost nor pain will mea - sure; But the price - less gifts of
 this sur - pass - ing won - der That the bread of life is



splen - dor, There with joy your prais - es ren - der.
 mor - tal He is knock - ing at your por - tal.
 heav - en God to us has free - ly giv - en.
 bound - less Though the souls it feeds are count - less:



Bless the One whose grace un - bound - ed This a - maz - ing
 O - pen wide the gates be - fore Him, Say - ing, as you
 Though the wealth of earth were prof - fered, None could buy the
 With the choic - est wine of heav - en Christ's own blood to



ban - quet found - ed; He, though heav'n - ly, high, and
 there a - dore Him: Grant, Lord, that I now re -
 gifts here of - fered: Christ's true bod - y, for you
 us is giv - en. Oh, most glo - rious con - so -



ho - ly, Deigns to dwell with you most low - ly.
 ceive You, That I nev - er - more will leave You.
 riv - en, And His blood, for you once giv - en.
 la - tion, Pledge and seal of my sal - va - tion!

5 Jesus, source of lasting pleasure,
 Truest friend, and dearest treasure,
 Peace beyond all understanding,
 Joy into all life expanding:
 Humbly now, I bow before You;
 Love incarnate, I adore You;
 Worthily let me receive You
 And, so favored, never leave You.

7 Lord, by love and mercy driven,
 You once left Your throne in heaven
 On the cross for me to languish
 And to die in bitter anguish,
 To forego all joy and gladness
 And to shed Your blood in sadness.
 By this blood redeemed and living,
 Lord, I praise You with thanksgiving.

6 Jesus, sun of life, my splendor,
 Jesus, friend of friends, most tender,
 Jesus, joy of my desiring,
 Fount of life, my soul inspiring:
 At Your feet I cry, my maker,
 Let me be a fit partaker
 Of this blessed food from heaven,
 For our good, Your glory, given.

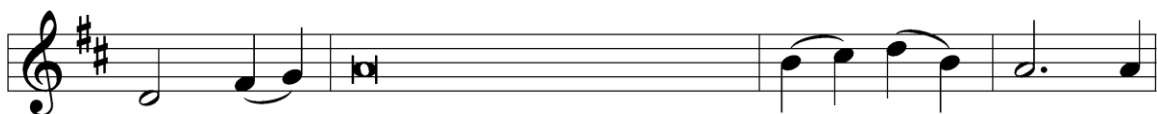
8 Jesus, bread of life, I pray You,
 Let me gladly here obey You.
 By Your love I am invited,
 Be Your love with love requited;
 By this Supper let me measure,
 Lord, how vast and deep love's
 treasure.
 Through the gift of grace You give me
 As Your guest in heav'n receive me.

Text (sts. 2-6, 6-8) and tune: Public domain

Text (sts. 1, 4-5): © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110003555

Please rise.

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*

A O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,
C and His mercy endureth for - ev - er.
P Let us pray. . . one God, now and forever.
C A - men.

Salutation and Benedicamus *page 201*

Benediction *page 202*

Sending Hymn *"Awake, O Sleeper, Rise from Death" #697*

1 A - wake, O sleep - er, rise from death, And
 2 To us on earth He came to bring From
 3 Then walk in love as Christ has loved, Who
 4 For us Christ lived, for us He died, And
 Christ shall give you light; So learn His love, its
 sin and fear re - lease, To give the Spir - it's
 died that He might save; With kind and gen - tle
 con - quered in the strife; A - wake, a - rise, go
 length and breadth, Its full - ness, depth, and height.
 u - ni - ty, The ver - y bond of peace.
 hearts for - give As God in Christ for - gave.
 forth in faith, And Christ shall give you life.

Text: © 1980 Augsburg Publishing House. Tune: Public domain. 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

Acknowledgements Divine Service, Setting Three from Lutheran Service Book. Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2023 Concordia Publishing House.

Next week’s readings:
O.T. Ezekiel 37:1-14; EP: Rom. 8:1-11; G: John 11:17-27, 38-53

Attendance Last Saturday: 35	Attendance Last Sunday: 54
Attendance: Lent-45	
Total Offering: \$3,828.00	Missions: \$300.00
Home Use: \$3,317.00	Benevolences: \$211.00

Serving us today:

- Elders.....Jack Easterwood (Sat), Alan Miller, Willie Crespo (Sun)
- MusicianJerode Marsh
- Altar Committee.....Darlene Laubenstein (Chair), Julie Crespo,
 Karon Harding, Georgia Luker, Amy Martin
- Flower Committee Penny Humphrey (Chair), Lori Sloan

This Week's Schedule

Sunday	3:00 p.m.	Youth Rock Climbing @ UCM Rec & Wellness
Monday	9:30 a.m.	Exercise Class
	2:00 p.m.	Moms and Tots
	6:30 p.m.	Scouts
Tuesday	3:00 p.m.	Mission Board Meeting
Wednesday	9:30 a.m.	Exercise Class
	7:00 p.m.	Lenten Service
	8:00 p.m.	Choir Practice
Thursday	9:30 a.m.	Pastor at WCS
	1:00 p.m.	Games and Cards Group
Friday	9:30 a.m.	Exercise Group
Saturday	10:00 a.m.	Chili and Soup Day Preparation
	11:00 a.m.	Chili and Soup Day
	5:30 p.m.	Worship (Spring Mission Festival)
Sunday	6:30 p.m.	Mission Festival Fellowship
	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 (Spring Mission Festival)
	12:00 p.m.	Mission Festival Fellowship

Prayers

Of Welcome Rejoicing—We gladly receive new members by transfer, Sean & Becca Estanek from Immanuel in Lawrence, KS and Paige Hart from Trinity in St. Charles (Orchard Farm), MO—whose husband Colin's transfer came from St. Louis in January. The Lord's blessing upon them and us as we grow and serve together in 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: Charlie Becker, Mel Bockelman, Paula Brewer, Ray & Mary Carstensen, Bob & Barbara Compton, Marion Droege, Wilma Gertz, Karen Haase, Mary Johnson, Wanda Kreisel, Ron McComas, Judy Pierce, Maryanna Savery, Ben Smith, Denny Spanton, Rose Steitz, & Joe Zeman.

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 and Chance Hillsman.

For Jonathan and Bridgette Sharp as they finish their time at Concordia Seminary and prepare for upcoming pastoral and deaconess calls this April!

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, feel free 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!

Special Days for Members This Week

Birthdays—Becky Limback-23rd, **Anniversaries**—Tim and Cindy Schnell-19th.

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.

Sunday School and Christian Education

Wednesday Bible Study—We are currently taking a break from Wednesday Bible Study during the Lenten season—join us for midweek worship in the evening! We will resume on **April 12 at 10:30 a.m.**

Sunday Bible Study (9:15-10:10 a.m. in the conference room)—We're using Trevor Sutton's 2018 book *Clearly Christian: Following Jesus in This Age of Confusion* as an inroad to Scripture, the Christian faith, and life. Join us for this discussion and exploration of who Christ is and what believing and living in Him really means! At the present, we're discussing aspects of the word *spiritual*.

Grazing Grace, Lenten Midweek Theme for 2023—Since this is the 250th anniversary of the hymn text *Amazing Grace*, we're exploring the tumultuous life of John Newton (who wrote it), along with the passages of Scripture from which it emerged in his life of transformation. For each of the following five weeks before Holy Week, we're focusing on the meaning of *grace* (& *graze*) by exploring a different verse of *Amazing Grace* and an accompanying passage from Scripture. Continuing through March 29, weekly themes yet are: 4) *Prevailing Grace!*, & 5) *No Less Days!* **Join us in the sanctuary on Wednesday evenings at 7 p.m., and invite others!**

Sunday School is at 9:15 a.m. on Sunday mornings downstairs for ages Preschool through 12th grade. We invite all children of the congregation (and outside too!) to come and be a part of this time set aside for growing together in Christ.

Our Spring Mission Festival will be held on the weekend of **March 25-26**. We'll be welcoming Pola Ann Farve, the director of Lutheran Indian Ministries' campus outreach—Haskell LIGHT—at Haskell Indian Nations University in Lawrence, Kansas. Haskell LIGHT turned 50 last year and continues to promote healing, growth and support for the students who come from 145 tribes. *Pola will only be here on Sunday*, but Pr. Joel will share in her stead on Saturday, plus, there will be special music at both services. **There will be a fellowship time after each service**, and there will be a chance to visit with Pola on Sunday in addition to a Q & A time as well.

Vacation Bible School—Mark your calendars for **June 23-25!** Vacation Bible School will give children a chance to dive into *God's Living Water: Covered in Jesus' Grace*. Watch for more details as the date get closer.

Music

Choir Practice during Lent is starting at 8:00 p.m., following the midweek service, but choir fellowship is still happening in the conference room from 6:30 to 7:00 beforehand. All previous and *prospective* choir members are invited to attend and participate in this collaborative way of building up those who gather through songs of faith!

Bob Bennett in concert at Bethlehem again! Six years to the date after he was last here, Bob will be here for a community-wide concert on **Sunday, April 23 at 2 p.m.** This will be our Shine! (Matthew 5:16) event for this year, especially fitting since that verse is what Bob has signed with his name for decades. Admission will be food items to donate to the Food Center. Start spreading the word! And if you're not familiar with this superb California guitarist/singer-songwriter, look up his website (www.bobbennett.com) and give a view/listen (through YouTube or such), especially to "Hand of Kindness," "Man of the Tombs," and "I Know that My Redeemer Lives." He'll also be singing some in our weekend services!

Mary Martha Guild

Easter Lilies—The Flower Committee is taking orders for Easter Lilies. If you wish to purchase a lily, fill out a form (near each entrance) and return it with your money to Penny Humphrey. You can also leave the form and money in her mailbox. **Please make a donation for your lily as the flower shops do not have an estimated cost yet. All checks need to be made out to Mary Martha Guild.**

Fellowship

Spring Chili and Soup Day—Spring is just around the corner and so is the Men's Club Chili and Soup Day. Join us on **March 25th**, beginning at **11:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.** for Chili or Vegetable Beef Soup, relishes, pies, cakes and drinks. **Adult tickets are**

\$6 and child tickets (ages 5-12) are \$4. Tickets can be purchased at the door or from club members. **Also look for a sign-up sheet near the mailboxes for volunteers to help.**

Exercise Class happens 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 are needed. Bring your own lunch. If you have any questions, please contact Georgia Luker.

This & That

Warrensburg Christian School is holding its Annual Gala on **March 25, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.** in the UCM Ballroom. The theme for the evening is **Western Attire**. There will be entertainment, games, silent auction, appetizers and a cash bar. Tickets are \$30.00. If you would like tickets, see Liz Fatka or Felisa Brown or stop by the Warrensburg Christian School and purchase one. Looks like a fun evening!

SOS (Servants of the Saints) Spring Rummage Sale at Saint Paul Lutheran High School in Concordia, MO is coming up! **The sale begins Wednesday, March 29th from 6:00-8:00pm for a \$5 preview sale fee.** Shop Thursday, March 30th from 7:00am-6:00pm and Friday, March 31st from 8:00am-6:00pm. The final day is Saturday, April 1st from 8:00am-12:00pm for \$5 bag day, anything you can fit in a bag for \$5! The sale will take place in the annex; please park behind the gym and use the north door.

The Katy Trail medical mobile unit continues to be in Warrensburg each **Tuesday from 9am-3pm**. If you know someone who has medical needs and would benefit from *affordable or free healthcare* (thanks to a generous Bethlehem donor), *along with prescription help as well*, please pass on this information! The unit is located behind the food pantry at **137 E. Culton Street Warrensburg**. First Presbyterian Church is currently hosting a **free lunch** at that time (with others, such as us, donating the ingredients). **The lunch is served from 11:30am-1pm**. All are welcome. Most insurances are accepted. **Call 877-733-5824 to schedule an appointment.**

Thrivent Choice Dollars—Members with 2022 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, or by calling 800-847-4836 and when prompted say "Thrivent Choice". This past year Bethlehem Thrivent members used choice dollars to assist with the annual Warrensburg Angel Tree Project and food and supplies for Bethlehem's Vacation Bible School. We also funded several other mission type projects with either Choice Dollars or many Action Team Project Grants from various Thrivent members of Bethlehem. Please contact Larry Haase if you have questions or seek information on how you can be involved with our activities or projects.

Garden & Greenspace—Thanks to all who've helped over the past few weeks and are chomping at the bit to make up for rained out work days! Keep your eyes and ears open for upcoming opportunities as we enter spring officially this week. If you're looking for something to do on **Saturday mornings between 10 a.m. and noon** (and maybe a bit before and after), you'll generally find someone in our churchyard who'd be happy to have help.

Country Kitchen Cards—We have Country Kitchen Cards. Stop by the office if you would like to purchase one. They are \$10 and you get 10 buy-one- get-one free meal deals. All proceeds go to the youth group. Thanks for your support!

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 in shining the light of Christ! If you'd ever like to hear some of the stories from how these funds have been used, just ask Pr. Joel.

2023 Elders

Willie Crespo (last name begins A-F) 660-679-8121, crespo6fam@gmail.com

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

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

Alan Miller (last name begins P-Z) 660-909-1764, alormiller@aol.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

Bookkeeper:

Teresa Hillsman

Tuesday: 9am-11am

Thursday: 9am-11am

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.