

*Jesus  
was in the  
wilderness  
forty days*

MARK 1:13





+ First Sunday In Lent +

**February 17-18, 2024**

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## **AS WE GATHER**

The season of Lent lasts for forty days (excluding Sundays). This forty-day season of Lent is a time of fasting and repentance. It is a time when we recall Jesus' forty days of fasting and temptation in the wilderness. Throughout these forty days, remember where we are going. We are headed toward the cross and empty tomb of Jesus. We are headed toward Jesus' victory over sin, death, and the devil.

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## **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.***

*Each week as we head toward Good Friday, a candle is extinguished on the Lenten wreath since darkness comes before the bright dawn of Easter morning.*

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 will be 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

## Pastoral Welcome

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

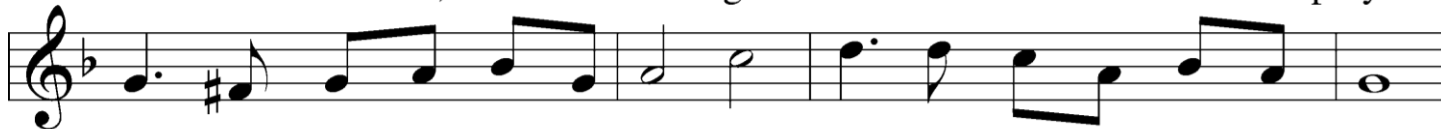
### Invocation Hymn ..... "What a Friend We Have in Jesus", #770



1 What a friend we have in Je - sus, All our sins and griefs to bear!  
2 Have we tri - als and temp-ta-tions? Is there trou-ble an - y-where?  
3 Are we weak and heav - y lad - en, Cum - bered with a load of care?



What a priv - i - lege to car - ry Ev - 'ry-thing to God in prayer!  
We should nev - er be dis - cour-aged— Take it to the Lord in prayer.  
Pre - cious Sav - ior, still our ref - uge— Take it to the Lord in prayer.



Oh, what peace we of - ten for - feit; Oh, what need-less pain we bear—  
Can we find a friend so faith - ful Who will all our sor-rows share?  
Do thy friends de-spise, for-sake thee? Take it to the Lord in prayer.



All be - cause we do not car - ry Ev - 'ry-thing to God in prayer!  
Je - sus knows our ev - 'ry weak-ness— Take it to the Lord in prayer.  
In His arms He'll take and shield thee; Thou wilt find a sol-ace there.

# *Divine Service, Setting Four*

## **Confession and Absolution**

**Invocation and Confession & Absolution**.....page 203

- P** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**C** Amen.  
**P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,  
**C** **who made heaven and earth.**  
**P** If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?  
**C** **But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.**  
**P** Since we are gathered . . .God, be merciful to me, a sinner.  
**C** **Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.**  
**P** Almighty God, . . . of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**C** Amen.

*We take a few moments to greet those around us with a handshake or wave as a sign of the forgiveness and coming together in peace we are called to as followers of Jesus (Matt. 5:22-24; Eph. 4:1-3; 2 Cor. 5:14-21). Words to accompany those gestures can be Peace to you, Christ's peace to you, Peace (or something similar).*

## **Service of the Word**

**Entrance Hymn** ..... "*Great is Thy Faithfulness*", #809



1 Great is Thy faith - ful - ness, O God my Fa - ther;  
2 Sum - mer and win - ter and spring - time and har - vest,  
3 Par - don for sin and a peace that en - dur - eth,



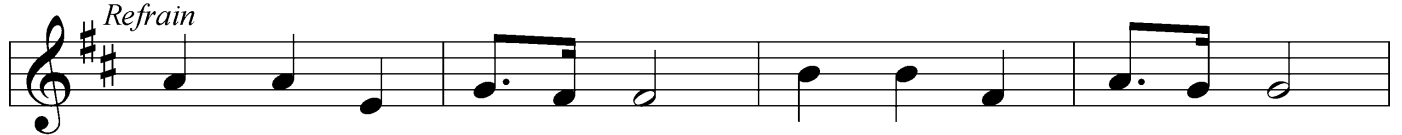
There is no shad - ow of turn - ing with Thee.  
Sun, moon, and stars in their cours - es a - bove  
Thine own dear pres - ence to cheer and to guide;



Thou chang - est not: Thy com - pas - sions, they fail not;  
Join with all na - ture in man - i - fold wit - ness  
Strength for to - day and bright hope for to - mor - row,



As Thou hast been, Thou for - ev - er wilt be.  
To Thy great faith - ful - ness, mer - cy, and love.  
Bless - ings all mine, with ten thou - sand be - side!



Great is Thy faith - ful - ness! Great is Thy faith - ful - ness!



Morn - ing by morn - ing new mer - cies I see;



All I have need - ed Thy hand hath pro - vid - ed;



Great is Thy faith - ful - ness, Lord, un - to me!

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**Kyrie** .....page 204



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

**Salutation** .....page 205

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

**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.**

*Please be seated.*

**Old Testament Reading**..... **Genesis 22:1-18**

After these things God tested Abraham and said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here am I." He said, "Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you." So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and his son Isaac. And he cut the wood for the burnt offering and arose and went to the place of which God had told him. On the third day Abraham lifted up his eyes and saw the place from afar. Then Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey; I and the boy will go over there and worship and come again to you." And Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son. And he took in his hand the fire and the knife. So they went both of them together. And Isaac said to his father Abraham, "My father!" And he said, "Here am I, my son." He said, "Behold, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?" Abraham said, "God will provide for himself the lamb for a burnt offering, my son." So they went both of them together.

When they came to the place of which God had told him, Abraham built the altar there and laid the wood in order and bound Isaac his son and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to slaughter his son. But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" And he said, "Here am I." He said, "Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him, for now I know that you fear God, seeing you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me." And Abraham lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, behind him was a ram, caught in a thicket by his horns. And Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son. So Abraham called the name of that place, "The Lord will provide"; as it is said to this day, "On the mount of the Lord it shall be provided."

And the angel of the Lord called to Abraham a second time from heaven and said, "By myself I have sworn, declares the Lord, because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, I will surely bless you, and I will surely

multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of his enemies, and in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice.”

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

**Gradual**..... *(spoken in unison)*

[O come, let us fix our eyes on] Jesus,

the founder and perfecter of our faith.

who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. *(Hebrews 12:2)*

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

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

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

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

*Please rise.*

**Verse Hymn**..... *“Triune God, Be Thou Our Stay”, #505*

Tri - une God, be Thou our stay; O let us per-ish nev - er!

Cleanse us from our sins, we pray, And grant us life for - ev - er.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in treble clef. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of the hymn, and the second staff contains the melody for the second line. The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes.

Keep us from the e - vil one; Up - hold our faith most ho - ly,  
 And let us trust Thee sole - ly With hum - ble hearts and low - ly.  
 Let us put God's ar - mor on, With all true Chris - tians run - ning  
 Our heav'n - ly race and shun - ning The dev - il's wiles and cun - ning.  
 A - men, a - men! This be done; O Lord, have mer - cy on us.

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## Holy Gospel ..... Mark 1:9-15

- P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the first chapter.
- C** **Glory to You, O Lord.**

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

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

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

- P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.
- C** **Praise to You, O Christ.**

## Nicene Creed ..... page 206

**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** ..... *"The Lamb", #547*

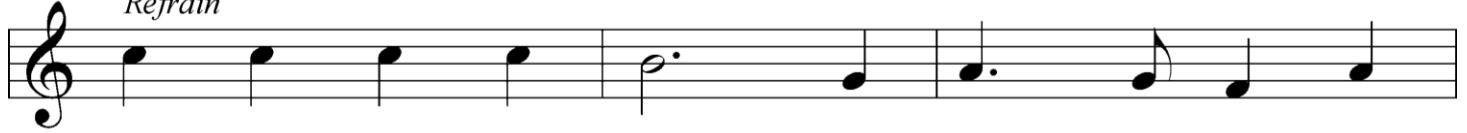


1 The Lamb, the Lamb, O Fa - ther, where's the sac - ri - fice?  
2 The Lamb, the Lamb, One per - fect fi - nal of - fer - ing.  
3 The Lamb, the Lamb, As way - ward sheep their shep - herd kill  
4 He sighs, He dies, He takes my sin and wretch - ed - ness.  
5 He rose, He rose, My heart with thanks now o - ver - flows.



Faith sees, be - lieves God will pro - vide the Lamb of price!  
 The Lamb, the Lamb, Let earth join heav'n His praise to sing.  
 So still, His will On our be - half the Law to fill.  
 He lives, for - gives, He gives me His own righ - teous - ness.  
 His song pro - long Till ev - 'ry heart to Him be - long.

*Refrain*



Wor - thy is the Lamb whose death makes me His



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

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**Sermon** ..... “Desertified!”

**Offering**

**Offertory** (*Sat Only*)..... (Becky Limback)  
*“Take My Hand, Precious Lord”*

*Please rise.*

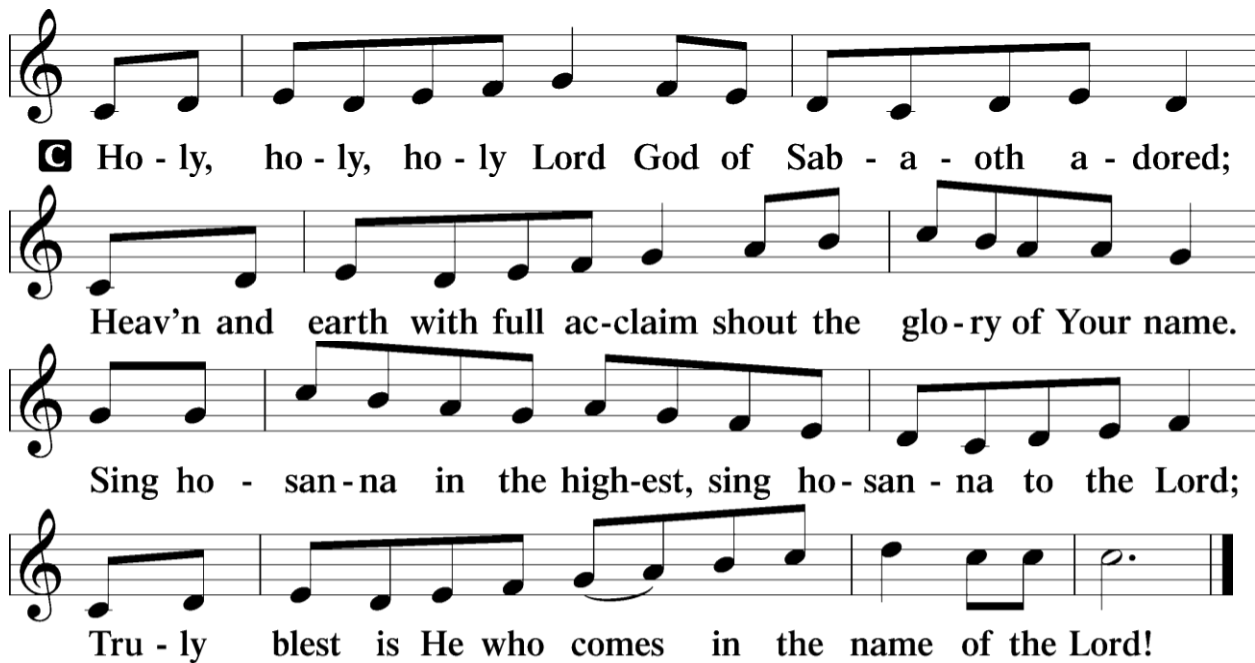
**Prayer of the Church**

- P** Lord, in your mercy.
- C** Hear our prayer.

## Service of the Sacrament

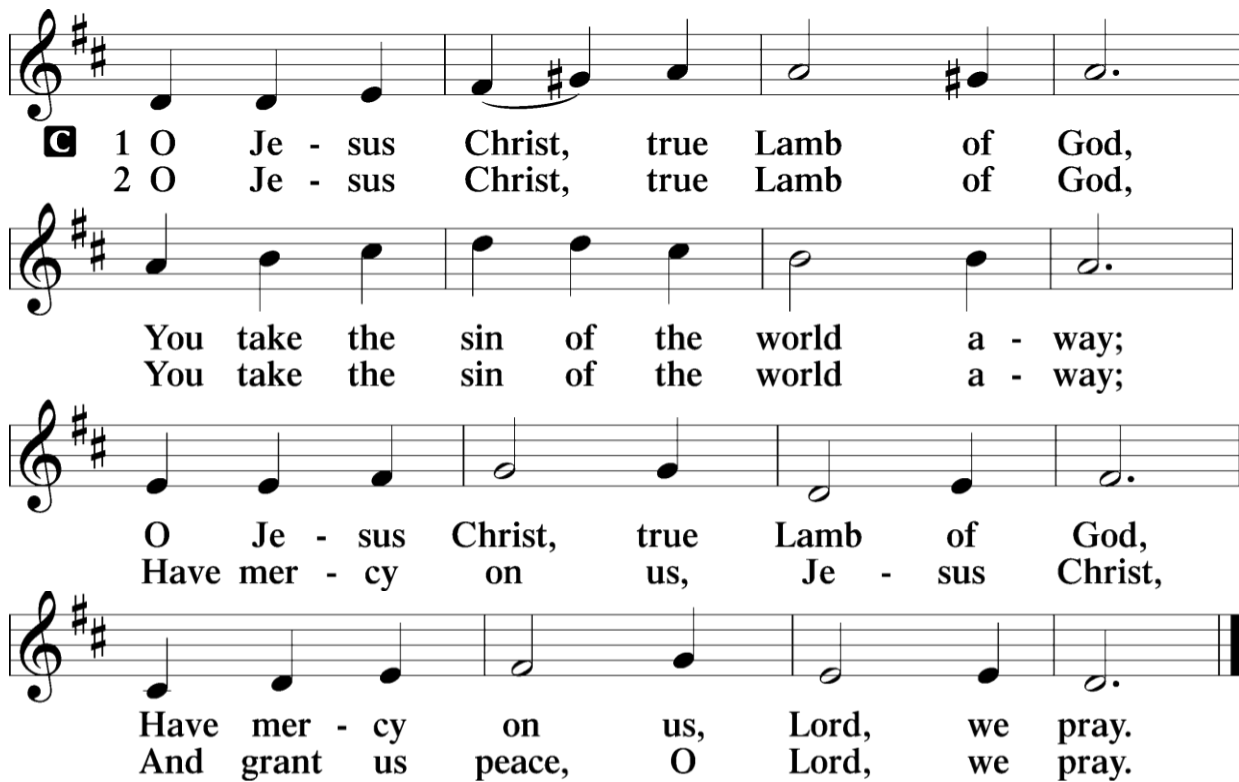
**Communion Liturgy** .....*pages 208-210*

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** And also with you.
- P** Lift up your hearts.
- C** We lift them to the Lord.
- P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- C** It is right to give Him thanks and praise.
- P** It is truly good, right, and beneficial . . . evermore praising You and saying:



**C** Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth a - dored;  
 Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.  
 Sing ho - san-na in the high-est, sing ho-san - na to the Lord;  
 Tru - ly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

**Agnus Dei** .....page 210



**C** 1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
 2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
 You take the sin of the world a - way;  
 You take the sin of the world a - way;  
 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
 Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,  
 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.  
 And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

*Please be seated, until motioned to rise & proceed forward if going for Communion or a blessing.*

**Silent Reflection/Instrumental**

(Sunday Hymns Only)

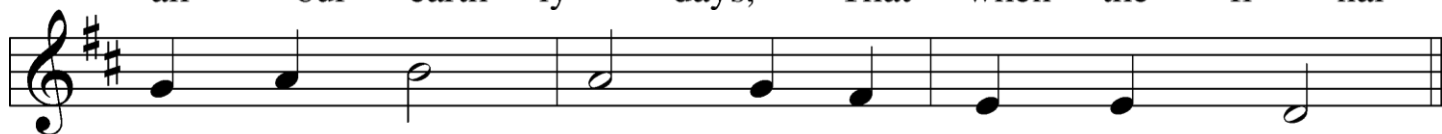
Communion Hymn ..... "O Lord, throughout These Forty Days", #418



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.

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Communion Hymn ..... "O Living Bread from Heaven", #642

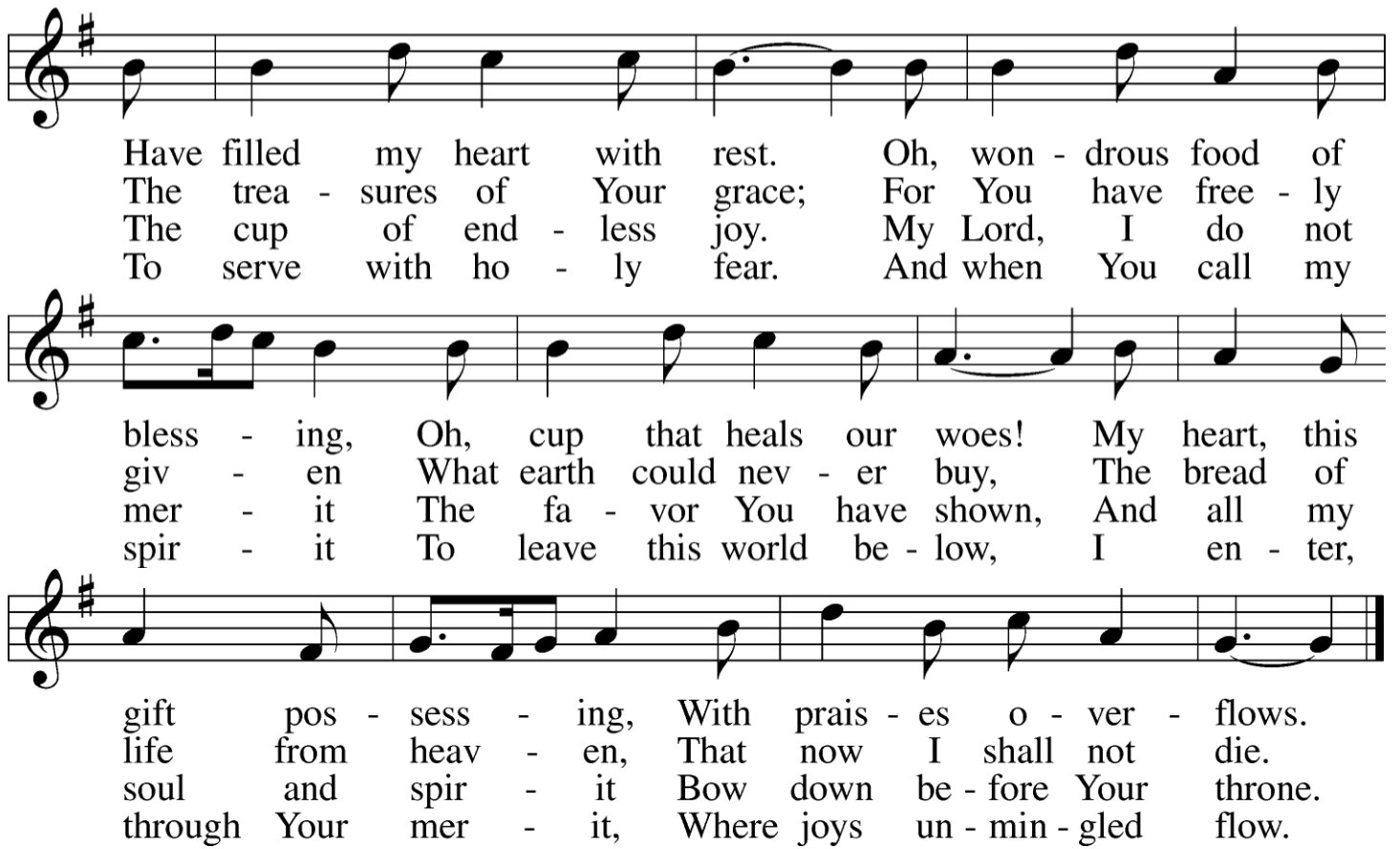


1 O liv - ing Bread from heav - en, How well You  
2 My Lord, You here have led - me To this most  
3 You gave me all I want - ed; This food can  
4 Lord, grant me then, thus strength - ened With heav'n - ly



feed Your guest! The gifts that You have giv - en  
ho - ly place And with Your - self have fed me  
death de - stroy. And You have free - ly grant - ed  
food, while here My course on earth is length - ened,





Have filled my heart with rest. Oh, wondrous food of  
 The treasures of Your grace; For You have freely  
 The cup of endless joy. My Lord, I do not  
 To serve with holy fear. And when You call my  
 bless - ing, Oh, cup that heals our woes! My heart, this  
 giv - en What earth could never buy, The bread of  
 mer - it The favor You have shown, And all my  
 spir - it To leave this world below, I enter,  
 gift possess - ing, With praises overflow.  
 life from heaven, That now I shall not die.  
 soul and spirit Bow down before Your throne.  
 through Your merit, Where joys unmingled flow.

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*Please rise*

**Post Communion Canticle**..... *“Nunc Dimittis” page 211*



**1** O Lord, now let Your servant De -  
**2** All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, All  
 part in heav'n - ly peace, For I have seen the  
 glo - ry to the Son, All glo - ry to the  
 glo - ry Of Your re - deem - ing grace:  
 Spir - it, For - ev - er Three in One;  
 A light to lead the Gen - tiles Un -  
 For as in the be - gin - ning, Is

to Your ho - ly hill, The glo - ry of Your  
now, shall ev - er be, God's tri - une name re -

**Post-Communion Collect**..... page 212

**Benedicamus and Benediction**..... page 212

**Sending Hymn** ..... “Christ Be My Leader”, #861

1 Christ be my Lead - er by night as by day; Safe through the  
2 Christ be my Teach - er in age as in youth, Drift - ing or  
3 Christ be my Sav - ior in calm as in strife; Death can - not

dark - ness, for He is the way. Glad - ly I fol - low, my  
doubt - ing, for He is the truth. Grant me to trust Him; though  
hold me, for He is the life. Nor dark - ness nor doubt - ing nor

fu - ture His care, Dark - ness is day - light when Je - sus is there.  
shift - ing as sand, Doubt can - not daunt me; in Je - sus I stand.  
sin and its stain Can touch my sal - va - tion; with Je - sus I reign.

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**Dismissal** ..... (Bethlehem’s Mission)

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

**Postlude**

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**Next week’s readings:**

**OT: Genesis. 17:1-7, 15-16; Epistle: Romans 5:1-11; Gospel: Mark 8:27-38**

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**Attendance Last Saturday: 36**

**Total Offering: \$3,474.00**

**Home Use: \$2,804.00**

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**Attendance Last Sunday: 54**

**Missions: \$0.00**

**Benevolences: \$670.00**

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**Serving us today:**

Elders .....Jimmy Smithers (Sat), Evan Florida, Alan Miller (Sun)

Musicians .....Rich Vanderburgh (Sat), Lorraine Miller, Gary Moege (Sun)

Altar Committee ..... Darlene Laubenstein (Chair), Bambi Burden,  
Julie Crespo, Diana Holland, Georgia Luker

Flower Committee .....Penny Humphrey (Chair), Lori Sloan

**This Week's Schedule**

Sunday	1:00 p.m.	Youth Catechesis
	3:00 p.m.	Youth Lock-in at LSC (3-9pm)
Monday	9:30 a.m.	Exercise Class
Tuesday	3:00 p.m.	Mission Board Meeting
	7:00 p.m.	Elders' Meeting
Wednesday	9:30 a.m.	Exercise Class
	10:30 a.m.	Bible Study
	4:00 p.m.	KinderLent
	5:30 p.m.	Lenten Meal
	7:00 p.m.	Lenten Midweek Service
	8:00 p.m.	Choir Practice
Thursday	9:30 a.m.	Pastor at Wsbg Christian School
	1:00 p.m.	Games and Cards Group
	7:00 p.m.	Galatians Bible Study
Friday	9:30 a.m.	Exercise Class
	3:00 p.m.	Crafternoon
Saturday	10:00 a.m.	Garden Workday
	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 <a href="http://www.blchurch.com">www.blchurch.com</a> , under the Sermons tab)
	9:15 a.m.	Christian Education
	10:30 a.m.	Holy Communion

## Prayers

**Prayers for Roy and Judy Schache** as they faithfully serve their brothers and sisters in Christ of all ages in Papua New Guinea from now until April.

**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, Carrie Brunkhorst (Dorothy's daughter-in-law), Ray & Mary Carstensen, Galen Cobb, Bob & Barbara Compton, Marion Droege, Rev. Tom Fatka (Tommy Fatka's dad), Peggy Forstad, Ana Fonseca (Willie Crespo's grandmother), Wilma Gertz, Winnie & George Goldsmith (Steve's parents), Karen Haase, Juanita Holcomb (Peggy Forstad's mother), Mary Johnson, Lloyd McCarter, Ronnie Moody (Sheree's mother), Maryanna Savery, 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.

**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!

## Weekly Worship Services

**Saturday Services start at 5:30 p.m. Sunday Services are at 10:30 a.m.** Sunday Services are live on Facebook, YouTube and the webpage at [blchurch.com](http://blchurch.com).

## Faith Formation & Special Services

**Lenten Midweek Worship Services**—Gather with us in the sanctuary on Wednesdays this Lent at **7:00 p.m.** as we explore the theme *The Carpenter's Cross: Making, Building, Repairing*. During the Lenten season we will reflect together on *The Carpenter's Branch, A Carpenter's Yoke, A Carpenter's Plow, A Carpenter's Door, & A Carpenter's Stone*—all of those services being the evening prayer service of Compline. Plan to attend, and think of inviting others, too!

**KinderLent is happening at 4:00 p.m. on Wednesdays through** the Lenten season. Rebecca would like to preview and extend an invitation to the Lenten devotion series she is planning, as a focus on children whose bedtimes line up with the 7:00 services. But all are welcome to join us! She will be using **Gayle Boss's book *Wild Hope: Stories for Lent from the Vanishing***. Pastor used her Advent book several



years ago. Her Lenten book is focused on animal species who are in trouble due to hunger, sickness, habitat loss, pollution, and hunting. Through focusing on these species' struggles, we will learn together how to make small sacrifices to protect Creation, increasing our focus on Christ's sacrifice for us.

**Spring Mission Festival** will be held the weekend of **March 9-10**. Gary Moreau, the Executive Director of Mobility Worldwide will be here as the guest speaker. There will also be a potluck dinner with the congregation after the Sunday service. If he is able to speak at the Saturday service, we will take him to a restaurant (anyone else in the congregation is welcome to attend).

### Children & Youth

**Creation School**—Join us on the first Friday **of each month from 10-11 am** for our faith-focused version of the trendy forest school. We'll do our best to enjoy Creation in all weather, so be sure to dress appropriately. Please invite any families with young children that you know, as the hope is to welcome all in the community into our green space.

**Third Sunday @ 3—February 18<sup>th</sup>** this month is the day for our monthly junior & senior youth gathering, but from **3:00-9:00 p.m.** this time as the youth will get together for a lock-in evening. There will be a faith discussion on living what Lent is about, fellowship, food and fun times at the Lutheran Campus Center on Holden Street. Bring a friend or two, and talk to Penny or Pr. Joel if you want to know more.

Junior & Senior High District Youth Gathering is planned for April 5-7 at the Cross Point Retreat Center, Lake Ozark, Missouri. The church has funds available for this gathering. If you are interested, and want to attend, please let Penny or Pr. Joel know ASAP so that the registration can get in.

### School and Christian Education

**Sunday School is at 9:15 a.m. on Sunday mornings downstairs for ages Preschool through 12<sup>th</sup> grade.** We start out with a combined opening with the adults to kick off each Sunday, then we split up at **9:20 or so**. We invite all children to come and be a part of this time growing together in Christ!

**Sunday Proverbs Bible Study**—*Oh, to love wisdom and live wisely!* How many times have you said and thought that? Join us for our Sunday Bible study—*Living (& Loving) Wisdom*—which explores the book of Proverbs through the lens of the Ten Commandments and Christ “the Wisdom of God” (I Cor. 1:24. Pr. Joel is drawing from David Coe's *Provoking Proverbs*. **We start at 9:15 a.m.** in the conference room. We're just starting to look at the 4<sup>th</sup> Commandment!

**Wednesday Bible Study**—Join us at **10:30 a.m.** in the conference room. We're looking at the Apocrypha, from the time between the two Testaments. Come and find out what it's about!

**Thursday Bible Study at 7:00 p.m.**—Pastor Bertels is leading a Bible study on the book of Galatians. It meets in the conference room and is open to all who have the interest and time available. Come and join us!

### Music

**During Lent, the choir will meet on Wednesdays at 8:00 p.m. or immediately after the service.** We are always looking for new members! Please contact Peggy Forstad with any questions about joining the choir.

### Opportunities to Serve

**Bulletin Board**—A section of the bulletin board at the North entrance has been dedicated to our congregation members who are home-bound and in nursing homes. Please check it out to see how you can reach out to those who can no longer come to services regularly. Send a card or leave one in the pocket on the board to be delivered during a visit. If you have a picture of a loved one you can share, please send it to Rebecca to have it posted!

**Want to be on the Bethlehem Woods Trail Crew?** Yes, we have our own nature trail at the back end of our property! Two of the bridges are in need of some major attention, so if you'd like to help with that and some of the other occasional maintenance back there, please contact Ron Rode (660.238.1557) and he'll let you know when the work is ready to start. Thanks!

**Think Spring and Another Garden Growing Season!** In order to get our community gardens in readiness for spring planting, plus, make needed improvements and gear-up for an outreach event in April, we'll be having another work morning on Saturday, **February 24<sup>th</sup> from 10-noon.** Think about joining us for this good, cooperative time together ... and put the **2<sup>nd</sup> Saturdays of March (9<sup>th</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup>)** on your calendar, as well!

### Fellowship

**Weekly Meals**—To increase intergenerational fellowship, we plan to have a meal at **5:30 p.m. each Wednesday of Lent,** immediately following KinderLent. This is open to anyone that doesn't want to cook before the Lenten service. The menu will include soup, sandwiches, spaghetti, tacos, pizza & breakfast for dinner, along with some sides and desserts. Rebecca will be calling on different committees to help serve meals. We plan to cover the cost of meals with an Action Team and will take

care of most of the preparation; we just need a few volunteer servers.

**Crafternoon—On the fourth Friday from 3-5 pm**, let's get together to craft! A project and supplies will be waiting for you in the fellowship hall. We'll make seasonal crafts and cards that can be shared with others and conspire to deliver them with good cheer and a visit.

**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.

**The Games and Card Group** meets on **Thursdays at 1:00 p.m.** in the Youth Room downstairs. Everyone is welcome to come to this fellowship time.

**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 or go out and grab something. If you have any questions, please contact Georgia Luker.

### [This and That](#)

**The Johnson County Resource Center happens every Tuesday and Thursday from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.** in the basement of First Presbyterian Church (206 N. College)—providing breakfast, a hot lunch, and a place to hang out. Housing assistance and case management are provided, as well as Medicaid sign-up. **Katy Trail's Mobile Medical Unit will be resuming its services in April!**

**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 of how these funds have been used, just ask Pr. Joel.

### [2024 Elders](#)

**Evan Florida** (last name begins A-B) 660-238-4919, [evan.keyrealty@gmail.com](mailto:evan.keyrealty@gmail.com)

**Jimmy Smithers** (last name begins C-E) 660-864-5370, [jimmyds1980@gmail.com](mailto:jimmyds1980@gmail.com)

**Rich Vanderburgh** (last name begins F-H) 660-864-3762, [rvburgh@gmail.com](mailto:rvburgh@gmail.com)

**Sean Estanek** (last name begins J-L) 440-396-6439, [organvoicer@gmail.com](mailto:organvoicer@gmail.com)

**Willie Crespo** (last name begins M-R) 660-679-8121, [crespo6fam@gmail.com](mailto:crespo6fam@gmail.com)

**Alan Miller** (last name begins S-Z) 660-909-1764, [alormiller@aol.com](mailto: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](mailto:pastor@blchurch.com)

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

#### **Office Manager:**

Cindy Smith

Monday–Friday: 8am-5pm

660-747-6742

[officemanager@blchurch.com](mailto:officemanager@blchurch.com)

#### **Congregation Life Facilitator:**

Rebecca Holland-VanWey

Wednesday: 1pm-5pm

Thursday: 1pm-5pm

[clf@blchurch.com](mailto:clf@blchurch.com)

#### **Bookkeeper**

Teresa Hillsman

Tuesday: 9am-11am

Thursday: 9am-11am

[financial@blchurch.com](mailto: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.