

Welcome to Worship!

Bethlehem Lutheran Church (LCMS)
607 N. Maguire, Warrensburg, Missouri
660-747-6742
www.blchurch.com



*The Carpenter's Cross:
Making, Building, Repairing
(A Carpenter's Yoke)*



LENT

February 28, 2024

A Prayer from Iona Abbey, Scotland

+O Christ, the Master Carpenter, who at the last, through wood and nails, purchased our whole salvation, wield well your tools in the workshop of your world, so that we who come rough-hewn to your bench may here be fashioned to a truer beauty of your hand. We ask it for your own name's sake. Amen.

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.

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

Please rise.

Gathering Hymn "Come unto Me, Ye Weary", #684



1 "Come un - to Me, ye wea - ry, And I will give you rest."
 2 "Come un - to Me, ye wan - d'ers, And I will give you light."
 3 "Come un - to Me, ye faint - ing, And I will give you life."
 4 "And who - so - ev - er com - eth, I will not cast him out."



O bless - ed voice of Je - sus, Which comes to hearts op-pressed!
 O lov - ing voice of Je - sus, Which comes to cheer the night!
 O cheer - ing voice of Je - sus, Which comes to aid our strife!
 O pa - tient love of Je - sus, Which drives a - way our doubt,



It tells of ben - e - dic - tion, Of par-don, grace, and peace,
 Our hearts were filled with sad - ness, And we had lost our way;
 The foe is stern and ea - ger, The fight is fierce and long;
 Which, though we be un - wor - thy Of love so great and free,

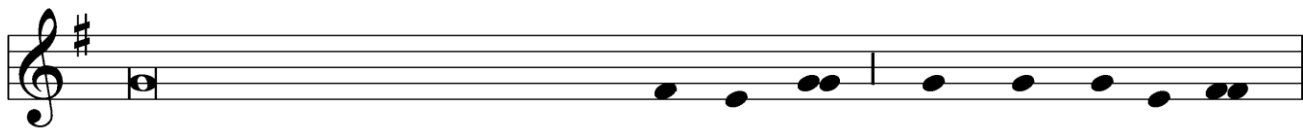


Of joy that hath no end - ing, Of love that can - not cease.
 But Thou hast brought us glad - ness And songs at break of day.
 But Thou hast made us might - y And strong - er than the strong.
 In - vites us ver - y sin - ners To come, dear Lord, to Thee!

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Compline

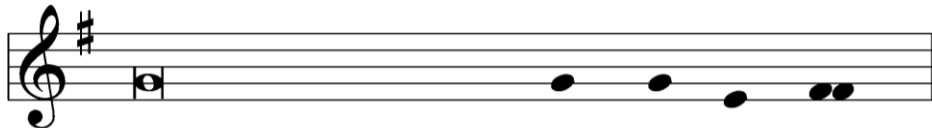
Opening Verses..... page 253



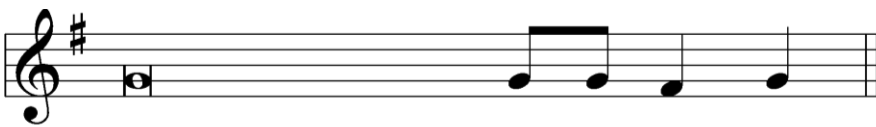
L The Lord Almighty grant us a qui - et night and peace at the last.



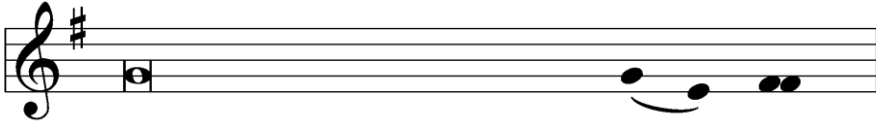
C A - men.



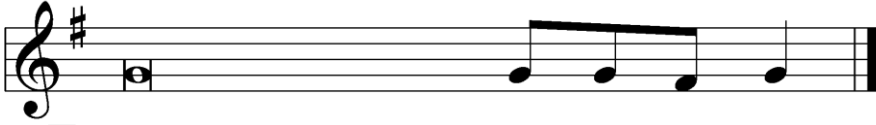
L It is good to give thanks to the Lord,



C to sing praise to Your name, O Most High;



L to herald Your love in the morn - ing,



C Your truth at the close of the day.

Confession page 254

- P** Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.
I confess to God Almighty, before the whole company of heaven and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned in thought, word, and deed by my fault, by my own fault, by my own most grievous fault; wherefore I pray God Almighty to have mercy on me, forgive me all my sins, and bring me to everlasting life. Amen.
- C** The almighty and merciful Lord grant you pardon, forgiveness, and remission of all your sins. Amen.
- C** I confess to God Almighty, before the whole company of heaven and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned in thought, word, and deed by my fault, by my own fault, by my own most grievous fault; wherefore I pray God Almighty to have mercy on me, forgive me all my sins, and bring me to everlasting life. Amen.
- P** The almighty and merciful Lord grant you pardon, forgiveness, and remission of all your sins.
- C** Amen.

Psalm 13 (*spoken in unison*)

How long, O Lord? Will you forget me forever?
 How long will you hide your face from me?
 How long must I take counsel in my soul
 and have sorrow in my heart all the day?
 How long shall my enemy be exalted over me?
 Consider and answer me, O Lord my God;
 light up my eyes, lest I sleep the sleep of death,
 lest my enemy say, "I have prevailed over him,"
 lest my foes rejoice because I am shaken.

But I have trusted in your steadfast love;
 my heart shall rejoice in your salvation.
 I will sing to the Lord,
 because he has dealt bountifully with me.
 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.

Please be seated.

Office Hymn..... *“Why Should Cross and Trial Grieve Me” #756 (1-3)*



1 Why should cross and tri - al grieve me? Christ is near
 2 When life's trou - bles rise to meet me, Though their weight
 3 God gives me my days of glad - ness, And I will



With His cheer; Nev - er will He leave me.
 May be great, They will not de - feat me.
 Trust Him still When He sends me sad - ness.



Who can rob me of the heav - en That God's Son
 God, my lov - ing Sav - ior, sends them; He who knows
 God is good; His love at - tends me Day by day,



For me won When His life was giv - en?
 All my woes Knows how best to end them.
 Come what may, Guides me and de - fends me.

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Readings

Old Testament Reading.....1 Kings 12:1-14

Rehoboam went to Shechem, for all Israel had come to Shechem to make him king. And as soon as Jeroboam the son of Nebat heard of it (for he was still in

Egypt, where he had fled from King Solomon), then Jeroboam returned from Egypt. And they sent and called him, and Jeroboam and all the assembly of Israel came and said to Rehoboam, “Your father made our yoke heavy. Now therefore lighten the hard service of your father and his heavy yoke on us, and we will serve you.” He said to them, “Go away for three days, then come again to me.” So the people went away.

Then King Rehoboam took counsel with the old men, who had stood before Solomon his father while he was yet alive, saying, “How do you advise me to answer this people?” And they said to him, “If you will be a servant to this people today and serve them, and speak good words to them when you answer them, then they will be your servants forever.” But he abandoned the counsel that the old men gave him and took counsel with the young men who had grown up with him and stood before him. And he said to them, “What do you advise that we answer this people who have said to me, ‘Lighten the yoke that your father put on us’?” And the young men who had grown up with him said to him, “Thus shall you speak to this people who said to you, ‘Your father made our yoke heavy, but you lighten it for us,’ thus shall you say to them, ‘My little finger is thicker than my father’s thighs. And now, whereas my father laid on you a heavy yoke, I will add to your yoke. My father disciplined you with whips, but I will discipline you with scorpions.’”

So Jeroboam and all the people came to Rehoboam the third day, as the king said, “Come to me again the third day.” And the king answered the people harshly, and forsaking the counsel that the old men had given him, he spoke to them according to the counsel of the young men, saying, “My father made your yoke heavy, but I will add to your yoke. My father disciplined you with whips, but I will discipline you with scorpions.”

Stand

Holy GospelMatthew 11:25-30

At that time Jesus declared, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to little children; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

Please be seated.

Sermon..... “A Carpenter’s Yoke”

Offering

Please rise.

Responsory.....page 255



L In-to Your hands, O Lord, I com - mend my spir - it.



C In-to Your hands I com - mend my spir - it.



L You have re - deemed me, O Lord, God of truth.



C In-to Your hands I com - mend my spir - it.



L Glory be to the Fa - ther and to the Son and to the Ho-ly Spir-it.



C In-to Your hands I com - mend my spir - it.

Prayer

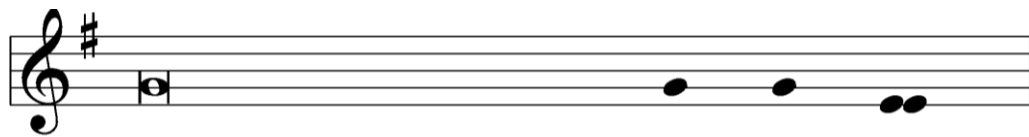
Prayer.....pages 256-257



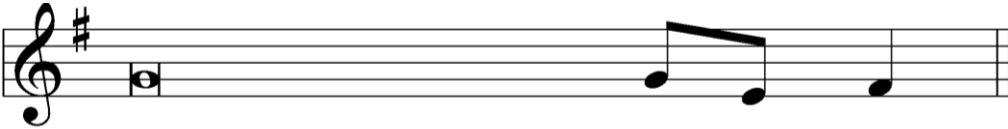
L Hear my prayer, O Lord;



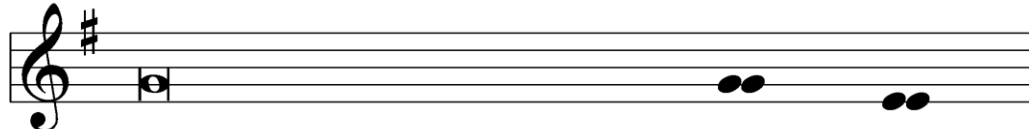
C listen to my cry.



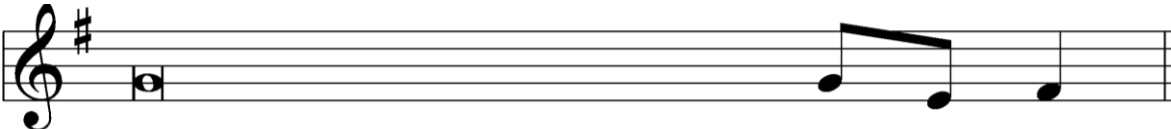
L Keep me as the apple of Your eye;



C hide me in the shadow of Your wings.



L In righteousness I shall see You;



C when I awake, Your presence will give me joy.

Lord's Prayerpage 257

Nunc Dimittispage 258



Antiphon

L Guide us wak - ing, O Lord, and guard us sleep - ing



that a - wake we may watch with Christ and asleep we may rest in peace.



C Lord, now You let Your ser - vant go in peace; Your word has been ful - filled.



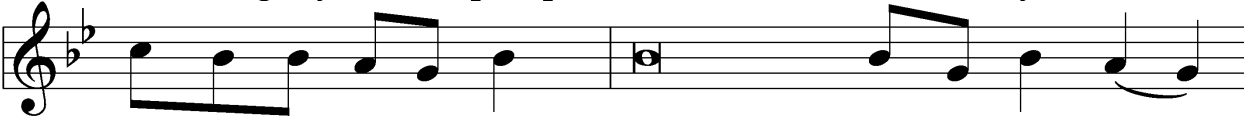
My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which You have prepared



in the sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple: a light to reveal You to the na - tions



and the glory of Your peo - ple Is - ra - el. Glo - ry be to the



Fa - ther and to the Son and to the Ho - ly Spir - it;

as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and will be for -
Antiphon
 ev - er. A - men. Guide us wak - ing, O Lord,
 and guard us sleep - ing that a - wake we may
 watch with Christ and asleep we may rest in peace.

Benediction.....page 259

L The almighty and merciful Lord, the Fa - ther, the Son,
 and the Holy Spir - it, bless us and keep us.
C A - men.

Sending Hymn..... "Drawn to the Cross, Which Thou Has Blessed", #560

1 Drawn to the cross, which Thou hast blessed With heal - ing
 2 Thou know - est all my griefs and fears, Thy grace a -
 3 Wash me and take a - way each stain; Let noth - ing
 4 And then for work to do for Thee, Which shall so
 gifts for souls dis - tressed, To find in Thee my
 bused, my mis - spent years; Yet now to Thee with
 of my sin re - main. For cleans - ing, though it
 sweet a ser - vice be That an - gels well might



life, my rest, Christ cru - ci - fied, I come.
 con - trite tears, Christ cru - ci - fied, I come.
 be through pain, Christ cru - ci - fied, I come.
 en - vy me, Christ cru - ci - fied, I come.

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Dismissal (Bethlehem’s Mission)

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

Postlude

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Serving Us Today:

Elder Alan Miller
 Musician Rich Vanderburgh
 Altar Committee..... Darlene Laubenstein (Chair), Bambi Burden,
 Julie Crespo, Diana Holland, Georgia Luker
 Flower Committee Penny Humphrey (Chair), Lori Sloan

This Week’s Schedule:

Thursday	9:30 a.m.	Pastor at WCS
	1:00 p.m.	Cards and Games Group
	7:00 p.m.	Ephesians Bible Study
Friday	9:30 a.m.	Exercise Class
	10:00 a.m.	Creation School
	6:00 p.m.	Family Fun Night (<i>everything Irish</i>)
Saturday	5:30 p.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday	9:15 a.m.	Christian Education
	10:30 a.m.	Holy Communion

The Carpenter's Cross

by Caryll Houselander (1955)



+Long before He took hold of this great cross in Jerusalem, He accepted it and rejoiced in it; in the labours and hardships of all working men. He received His Cross as a boy in Nazareth. He welcomed and made His own the labours and necessities of all the workers who would come into the world. Like them He had to toil patiently, perseveringly, to acquire the skill for His craft, gradually to train His hands and His muscles and His mind. Day after day, year after year, He who had created the wood of the trees wrestled with human limitations like other craftsmen, in order to be able to wrest the beauty from the wood, to show its flowing grain, its rose and ivory, its walnut and gold; to polish it with the smooth bright steel of His finely sharpened chisels.

In Nazareth Christ received His cross. Working in the carpenter's shop He laid His hands upon it day after day, the wood that He was to glorify. He sawed and planed it, He drove the nails into it, and the joyous refrain that would be repeated again and again in the generations to come was already the song in His heart: "Faithful Cross, O tree all beautiful, / Tree all peerless and divine: / Not a grove on earth can show us / Such a leaf and flower as thine. / Sweet the nails and sweet the wood, / Laden with so sweet a load." He accepted the cross in Nazareth, making the daily life of every worker His own; giving to the hardships, the monotony and the labours of countless hidden lives the power to redeem; restoring manual labour to the dignity of creative work, transforming it from being a punishment for sin, and only that, to a contemplation of God in which the worker could know something of the joy of the Creator in making that which he had conceived within himself.

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: jkurz@blchurch.com

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

Office Manager

Cindy Smith

Monday–Friday: 8am-5pm

660-747-6742

csmith@blchurch.com

Congregation Life Facilitator

Rebecca Holland-VanWey

Wednesday: 1pm-5pm

Thursday: 1pm-5pm

rholland@blchurch.com

Bookkeeper

Teresa Hillsman

Tuesday: 9am-11am

Thursday: 9am-11am

thillsman@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.