

Zeal for your house will consume me

JOHN 2:17





+ Third Sunday In Lent +

March 2-3, 2024

AS WE GATHER

In our Gospel today, we find Jesus clearing the temple of all those who have made it a house of trade. Jesus disrupts not just the sinfulness of these practices, showing a different side of Him than we expect to see. He also disrupted the status quo—everyday realities that had come to be accepted in the temple. May Jesus so disrupt our lives where it is needed.

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!

Prayers for your use before and during today's service can be found at the very front of the Lutheran Service Book hymnal. Let us gather and endeavor prayerfully!

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 "The Law of God is Good and Wise", #579



1 The Law of God is good and wise And sets His
2 Its light of ho - li - ness im - parts The knowl - edge
3 To those who help in Christ have found And would in
4 But those who scorn - ful - ly dis - dain God's Law shall



will be - fore our eyes, Shows us the way of righ - teous -
of our sin - ful hearts That we may see our lost es -
works of love a - bound It shows what deeds are His de -
then in sin re - main; Its ter - ror in their ear re -



ness, And dooms to death when we trans - gress.
tate And turn from sin be - fore too late.
light And should be done as good and right.
sounds And keeps their wick - ed - ness in bounds.

5 The Law is good; but since the fall
Its holiness condemns us all;
It dooms us for our sin to die
And has no pow'r to justify.

6 To Jesus we for refuge flee,
Who from the curse has set us free,
And humbly worship at His throne,
Saved by His grace through faith alone.

Text and tune: Public domain. Used by permission: Bethlehem Lutheran Church no. 110003555

Please rise, as able.

Divine Service, Setting Four **Confession and Absolution**

Invocation and Confession & Absolutionpage 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 "*Create in Me*", #956

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.

Text and tune: Public domain. Used by permission: Bethlehem Lutheran Church no. 110003555

Kyriepage 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 God, whose glory it is always to have mercy, be gracious to all who have gone astray from Your ways and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of Your Word; 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..... **Exodus 20:1-17**

And God spoke all these words, saying,

“I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.

“You shall have no other gods before me.

“You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the LORD

your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments.

“You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes his name in vain.

“Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor, and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates. For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.

“Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.

“You shall not murder.

“You shall not commit adultery.

“You shall not steal.

“You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

“You shall not covet your neighbor’s house; you shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, or his male servant, or his female servant, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor’s.”

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 **1 Corinthians 1:18-31**

The word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written,

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the

folly of what we preach to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

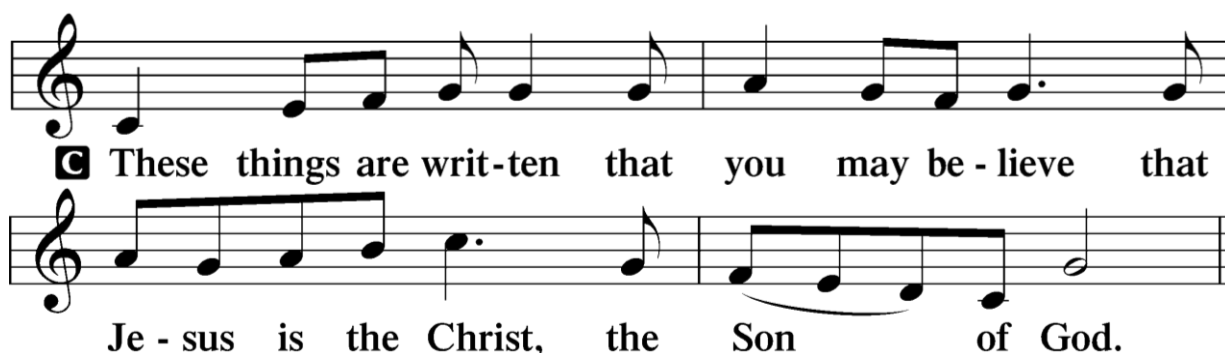
For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, whom God made our wisdom and our righteousness and sanctification and redemption. Therefore, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Please rise.

Versepage 205



C These things are writ-ten that you may be - lieve that
Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.

Holy Gospel**John 2:13-25**

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

C Glory to You, O Lord.

The Passover of the Jews was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the temple he found those who were selling oxen and sheep and pigeons, and the money-changers sitting there. And making a whip of cords, he drove them all out of the temple, with the sheep and oxen. And he poured out the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables. And he told those who sold the pigeons, "Take these things away; do not make my Father's house a house of trade." His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me."

So the Jews said to him, "What sign do you show us for doing these things?" Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." The Jews then said, "It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will you raise it up in three days?" But he was speaking about the temple of his body. When therefore he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they believed the Scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

Now when he was in Jerusalem at the Passover Feast, many believed in his name when they saw the signs that he was doing. But Jesus on his part did not entrust himself to them, because he knew all people and needed no one to bear witness about man, for he himself knew what was in man.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

G 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,**

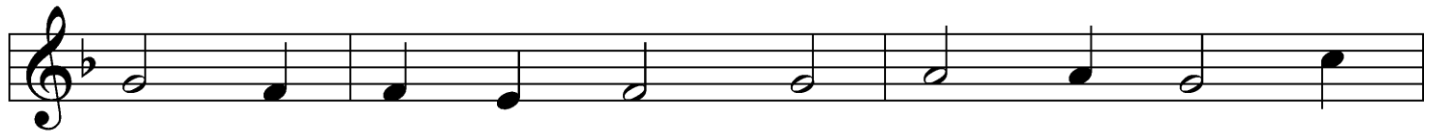
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
 who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
 who spoke by the prophets.
 And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
 I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
 and I look for the resurrection of the dead
 and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Please be seated.

Hymn of the Day *“The Gospel Shows the Father’s Grace”, #580*



1 The Gos - pel shows the Fa - ther’s grace, Who sent His
 2 It sets the Lamb be - fore our eyes, Who made the a -
 3 It brings the Sav - ior’s righ - teous - ness To robe our
 4 It is the pow’r of God to save From sin and



Son to save our race, Pro - claims how Je - sus
 ton - ing sac - ri - fice, And calls the souls with
 souls in roy - al dress; From all our guilt it
 Sa - tan and the grave; It works the faith which



lived and died That we might thus be jus - ti - fied.
 guilt op - pressed To come and find e - ter - nal rest.
 brings re - lease And gives the trou - bled con - science peace.
 firm - ly clings To all the trea - sures which it brings.

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>5 It bears to all the tidings glad
 And bids their hearts no more be sad;
 The weary, burdened souls it cheers
 And banishes their guilty fears.</p> | <p>6 May we in faith its message learn
 Nor thanklessly its blessings spurn;
 May we in faith its truth confess
 And praise the Lord, our righteousness.</p> |
|---|--|

Text and tune: Public domain. Used by permission: Bethlehem Lutheran Church no. 110003555

Sermon *“Zealous for What?”*

Offering/Offertory

Please rise.

Prayer of the Church

- P** On our hearts imprint Your image,
- C** blessed Jesus, King of grace.

Service of the Sacrament

Communion Liturgypages 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:

Sanctuspage 208

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!

Prayer of Thanksgiving.....page 209

- P** Blessed are You, . . . Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

Lord's Prayer

The Words of Our Lord.....page 209

- P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, . . . in remembrance of Me.

Pax Domini.....page 209

- P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.
- C** Amen.

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 *“Jesus Sinners Doth Receive”, #609*

1 Je - sus sin - ners doth re - ceive; Oh, may all this
 2 We de - serve but grief and shame, Yet His words, rich
 3 Sheep that from the fold did stray No true shep - herd
 4 I, a sin - ner, come to Thee With a pen - i -
 say - ing pon - der Who in sin's de - lu - sions live
 grace re - veal - ing, Par - don, peace, and life pro - claim;
 e'er for - sak - eth; Wea - ry souls that lost their way
 tent con - fes - sion. Sav - ior, mer - cy show to me;



And from God and heav - en wan - der! Here is hope for
 Here our ills have per - fect heal - ing. Firm - ly in these
 Christ, the Shep - herd, gent - ly tak - eth In His arms that
 Grant for all my sins re - mis - sion. Let these words my



all who grieve: Je - sus sin - ners doth re - ceive.
 words be - lieve: Je - sus sin - ners doth re - ceive.
 they may live: Je - sus sin - ners doth re - ceive.
 soul re - lieve: Je - sus sin - ners doth re - ceive.

5 Oh, how blest it is to know:
 Were as scarlet my transgression,
 It shall be as white as snow
 By Thy blood and bitter passion;
 For these words I now believe:
 Jesus sinners doth receive.

6 Now my conscience is at peace;
 From the Law I stand acquitted.
 Christ hath purchased my release
 And my ev'ry sin remitted.
 Naught remains my soul to grieve:
 Jesus sinners doth receive.

7 Jesus sinners doth receive;
 Also I have been forgiven;
 And when I this earth must leave,
 I shall find an open heaven.
 Dying, still to Him I cleave:
 Jesus sinners doth receive.

Text and Tune: Public Domain. Used by permission. Lutheran Service Book License No. 110003555.

Communion 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—



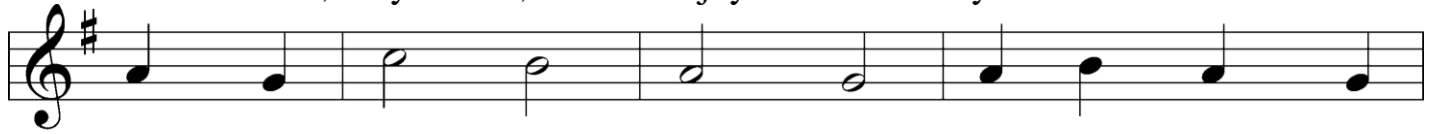
Dare hope to glean that boun - ty which we loathed?
 As tears of joy and wel - come fill Your eyes.
 Here taste a - gain the trea - sures of My grace."

Text: © 1992 Stephen P. Starke, admin. Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110003555
 Tune: © 2003 Jeffrey N. Blerch. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110003555

Communion Hymn *"O Jesus, Blessed Lord, to Thee", #632*



1 O Je - sus, bless - ed Lord, to Thee My heart - felt
 2 Break forth, my soul, for joy and say: What wealth is



thanks for - ev - er be, Who hast so lov - ing -
 come to me this day! My Sav - ior dwells with -



ly be - stowed On me Thy bod - y and Thy blood.
 in my heart: How blessed am I! How good Thou art!

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

Please rise

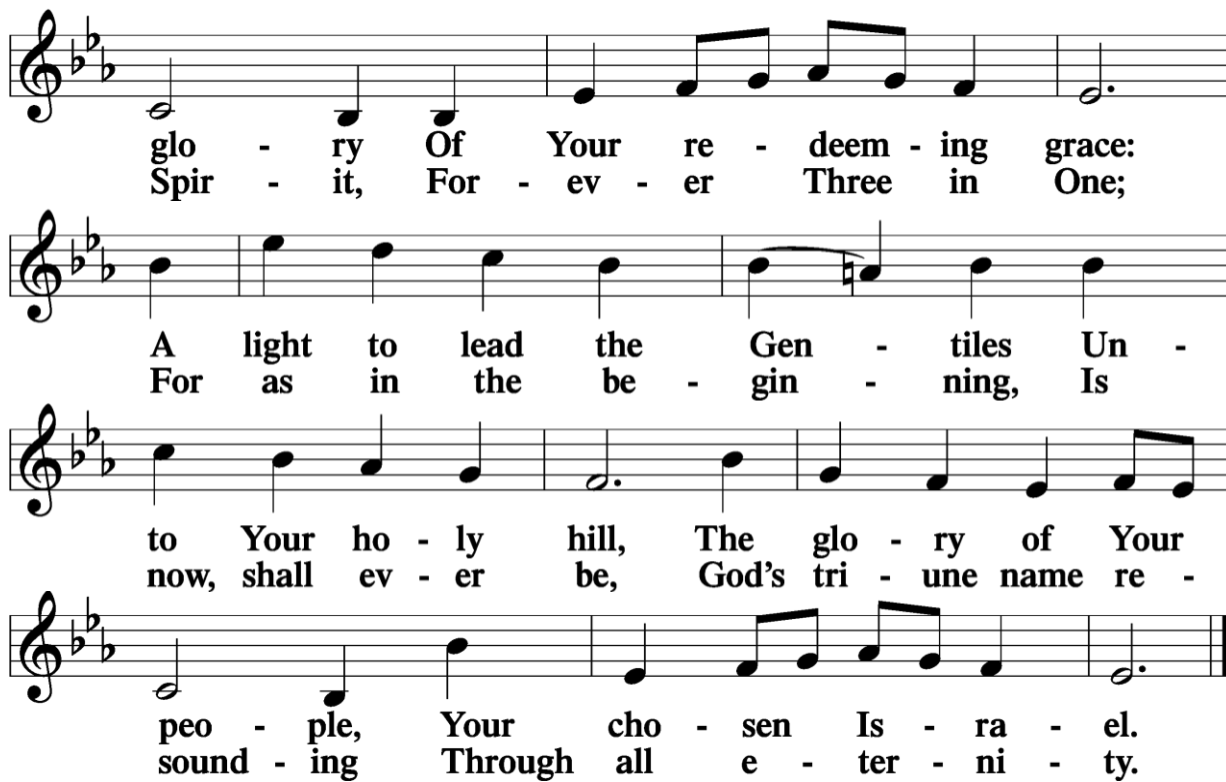
Post Communion Canticle *"Nunc Dimittis" page 211*



1 O Lord, now let Your ser - vant 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 -
peo - ple, Your cho - sen Is - ra - el.
sound - ing Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

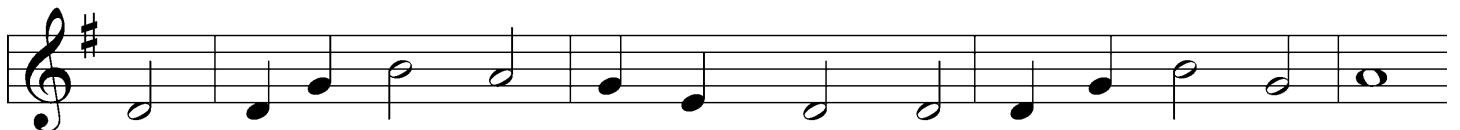
Post-Communion Collect..... *page 212*

P Let us pray. . . . Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

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

Sending Hymn *"Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways", #707*



1 Oh, that the Lord would guide my ways To keep His stat - utes still!
2 Or - der my foot - steps by Thy Word And make my heart sin - cere;
3 As - sist my soul, too apt to stray, A strict - er watch to keep;
4 Make me to walk in Thy com - mands—'Tis a de - light - ful road—



Oh, that my God would grant me grace To know and do His will!
Let sin have no do - min - ion, Lord, But keep my con - science clear.
And should I e'er for - get Thy way, Re - store Thy wan - d'ring sheep.
Nor let my head or heart or hands Of - fend a - gainst my God.

Tune and text: 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 Four 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 © 2024 Concordia Publishing House.

Next week's readings:

OT: Numbers 21:4–9; Epistle: Ephesians 2:1–10; Gospel: John 3:14–21

Attendance Last Saturday: 42

Attendance Last Sunday: 62

Attendance Lenten Midweek: 48

Total Offering: \$4,682.00

Missions: \$0.00

Home Use: \$3,978.00

Benevolences: \$704.00

Serving us today:

EldersJimmy Smithers (Sat), Evan Florida, Alan Miller (Sun)

Musicians Rich Vanderburgh (Sat), Cody Clemons (Sun)

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

Flower CommitteePenny Humphrey (Chair), Lori Sloan

This Week's Schedule

Sunday 1:00 p.m. Youth Catechesis

Monday 9:30 a.m. Exercise Class

Tuesday 11:30 a.m. Braille in Concordia

Wednesday 9:30 a.m. Exercise Class

10:30 a.m. Bible Study

4:00 p.m. KinderLent

5:30 p.m. Lenten Meal/Faith Night

7:00 p.m. Lenten Midweek Service

8:00 p.m. Choir Practice

Thursday 1:00 p.m. Games and Cards Group

7:00 p.m. Galatians Bible Study

Friday 9:30 a.m. Exercise Class

10:00 a.m. Soup and Chili Supper Prep

Saturday 10:00 a.m. Garden Workday

11:00 a.m. Soup and Chili Supper (*till 2pm*)

5:30 p.m. Worship—Mission Festival Weekend

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. Christian Education
10:30 a.m. Worship—Mission Festival Weekend
12:00 p.m. Potluck Meal

Thank You

Beryl Lindley would like to say thank you so much for the gifts, cards, prayers, thoughts and phone calls while I have been sick. I look forward to seeing you all soon. God's Blessings from Beryl.

Prayers

Prayers for Roy and Judy Schache as they faithfully serve their brothers and sisters in Christ in Papua New Guinea highlands 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, 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), Duane Limback, 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 Weekend 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.

Special Services & Faith Formation

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*. We'll still be reflecting on *A Carpenter's Door & A Carpenter's Stone*. Plan to attend, invite others, and take a block of wood to do

something special with yet—since there are plenty left!

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.

Faith Night happens on the first Wednesday of every month (**March 6th this time**) but will this time coincide with our Lenten Meal starting at **5:30**. While we won't have the full faith discussion from **6 to 6:45** (like usual), expect some sharing on *Keeping Every Moment HOLY* as we head through Lent toward Easter.

Bethlehem's Spring Mission Festival will be held the weekend of **March 9-10**. Gary Moreau, the Executive Director of Mobility Worldwide (mobilityworldwide.org)—a relief agency based in Columbia which makes transportation carts for people not able to use legs—will be here as the guest speaker. We will take him to dinner at a restaurant after the Saturday service, and anyone else is welcome to join us. There will also be a potluck dinner with the congregation after the Sunday service. **Please sign up by the mailboxes for what item you will bring to the potluck.**

[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.

The District Junior & Senior High Youth Gathering is planned for **April 5-7** at the Cross Point Retreat Center, Lake Ozark, Missouri. For more information go to (mo.lcms.org/youth-ministry) 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 before the March deadline.

[Sunday School and Christian Education](#)

Sunday School is at 9:15 a.m. on Sunday mornings downstairs for ages Preschool through 12th 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 4th 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 Ephesians. 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.

Saint Paul Singing Saints will have their home concert on **March 17, starting at 7:00 p.m.** at St. Paul’s Lutheran Church, Concordia, Missouri.

Opportunities to Serve

Braille in Concordia—The Braille group is looking for somebody to join the group to go help in Concordia on the 2nd Tuesday of the month. They usually leave around **11:30 a.m.** and return about **3:30 p.m.** Please talk to Beryleen Dodson if you are interested in joining or if you would like to be a substitute.

Shine Event 2024—Plan to attend this year’s **Shine** event on **Saturday, April 13 at 10:00 a.m.** We will be launching our community garden’s season with a lively event filled with giveaways, planting, music and children’s activities. Can you contribute to planning work, setup/cleanup, music or planting guidance that day? Please let Rebecca or Pr. Joel know.

Thrivent Choice Dollars—Members with 2023 Choice Dollars available need to designate these funds before March 31st 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/ThriventChoice) or by calling 800-847-4836 and when prompted say "Thrivent Choice." This past year Thrivent

members provided financial support for VBS food and supplies and the Christmas Store project from the Choice Dollar Account. In addition numerous Thrivent Action Team grants provided Thousands of dollars to support activities and projects at Bethlehem and other area organizations. Please contact Larry Haase if you have questions about any of our Thrivent activities. The April Tidings will indicate our next group meeting date.

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 our outreach event on April 13, we'll be having work mornings on the **2nd Saturdays of March (9th & 23rd)**. Come join in the fun!

[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. Deadline is **March 17. Please make a donation for your lily as pricing hasn't been finalized. Checks need to be made out to Mary Martha Guild.**

[Fellowship](#)

Weekly Meals—To increase intergenerational fellowship, we are having 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 remaining meals will be tacos, pizza & breakfast for dinner, along with some sides and desserts. 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.

Men's Club Spring Soup and Chili Supper will be held on **Saturday, March 9, from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.** We will need help with preparing items ahead of time on Friday the 8th. Please check the sign-up by the mailboxes to help on Friday and/or Saturday. Tickets will be \$6 for adults and \$4 for children ages (5-12). You can get a ticket from any Men's Club member or at the door.

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 signup. **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

Jimmy Smithers (last name begins C-E) 660-864-5370, jimmyds1980@gmail.com

Rich Vanderburgh (last name begins F-H) 660-864-3762, rvburgh@gmail.com

Sean Estanek (last name begins J-L) 440-396-6439, organvoicer@gmail.com

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

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

SPRING SOUP



&



CHILI DAY

MARCH 9, 2024

11:00 A.M.—2:00 P.M.

\$6 Adults, \$4 Children (ages 5-12)

(Tickets available from Men's Club members or at the door)

Chili, Vegetable Beef Soup, Relishes, Pie/Cake, Drinks

SPRING MISSION FESTIVAL

March 9-10



Speaker: Gary Moreau

Executive Director of Mobility Worldwide

Sunday: Potluck after the service (sign up by the mailboxes)

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

Congregation Life Facilitator:

Rebecca Holland-VanWey

Wednesday: 1pm-5pm

Thursday: 1pm-5pm

clf@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.