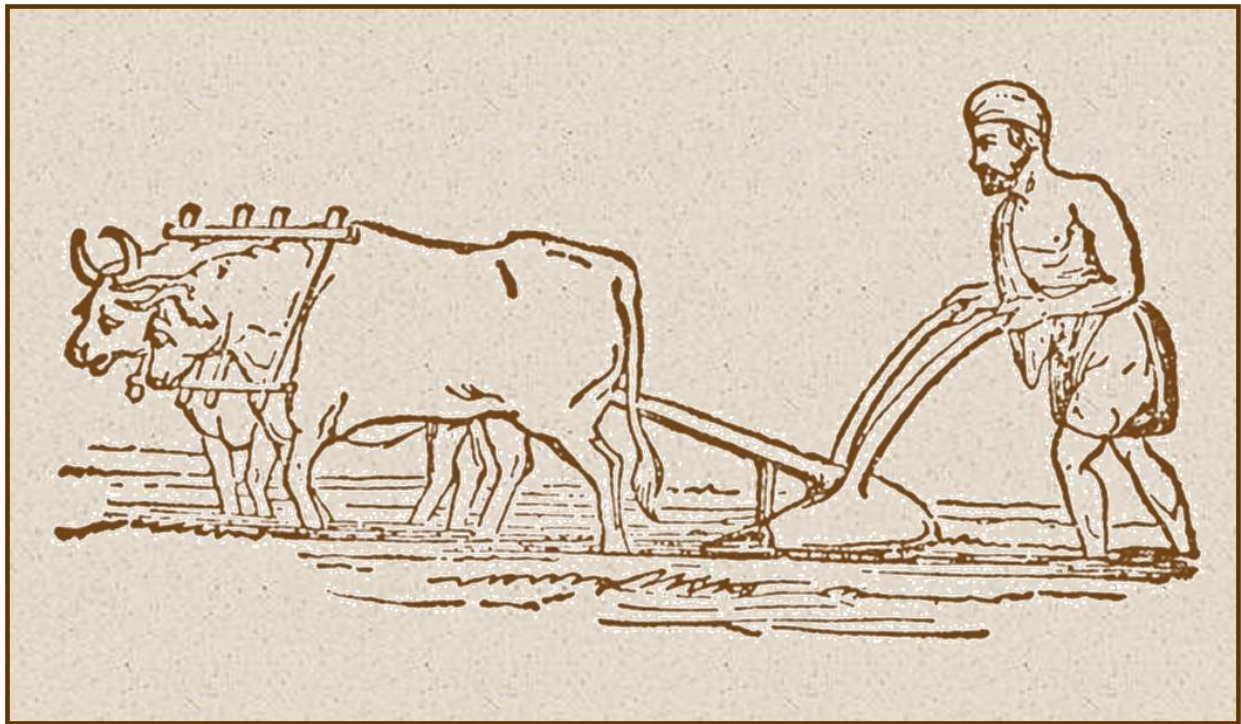


Welcome to Worship!

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 Plow)***



LENT

March 6, 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 "The Tree of Life", #561 (3-4)

3 What mer - cy God showed to our race, A plan of
 4 Now from that tree of Je - sus' shame Flows life e -

res - cue by His grace: In send - ing One from wom - an's
 ter - nal in His name; For all who trust and will be -

seed, The One to fill our great - est need— For on a
 lieve, Sal - va - tion's liv - ing fruit re - ceive. And of this

tree up - lift - ed high His on - ly Son for sin would
 fruit so pure and sweet The Lord in - vites the world to

die, Would drink the cup of scorn and
 eat, To find with - in this cross of

dread To crush the an - cient ser - pent's head!
 wood The tree of life with ev - 'ry good.

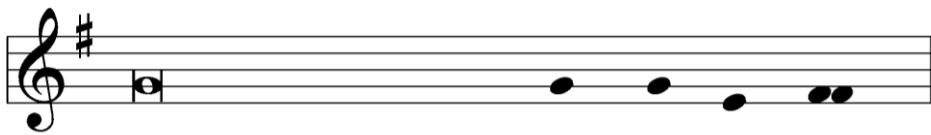
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Compline

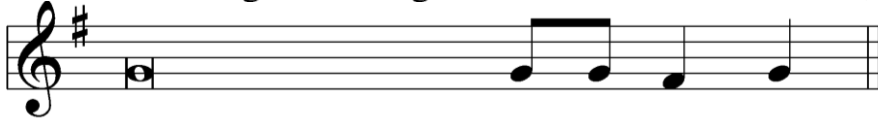
Opening Verses..... page 253

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

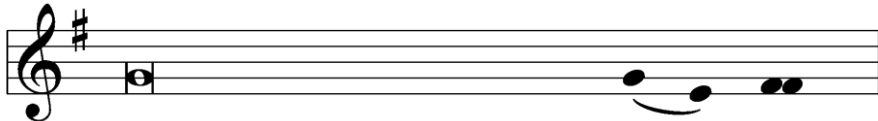
C A - men.



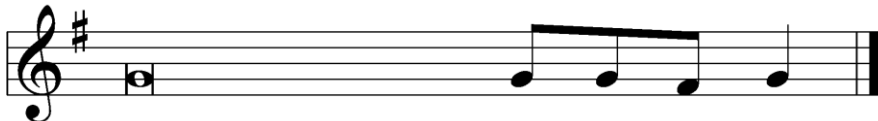
L It is good to give thanks to the Lord,



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 104:1, 10-15 *(spoken in unison)*

Bless the LORD, O my soul!

O LORD my God, you are very great!

You are clothed with splendor and majesty,

**You make springs gush forth in the valleys;
they flow between the hills;**

they give drink to every beast of the field;
the wild donkeys quench their thirst.
Beside them the birds of the heavens dwell;
they sing among the branches.
From your lofty abode you water the mountains;
the earth is satisfied with the fruit of your work.
You cause the grass to grow for the livestock
and plants for man to cultivate,
that he may bring forth food from the earth
and wine to gladden the heart of man,
oil to make his face shine
and bread to strengthen man's heart.
Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Please be seated.

Office Hymn..... *“Lord of All Hopefulness” #738 (2)*

2 Lord of all ea - ger - ness, Lord of all faith,
Whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe:
Be there at our la - bors, and give us, we pray,
Your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.

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Readings

Old Testament Reading..... 1 Kings 19:19-21

So he departed from there and found Elisha the son of Shaphat, who was plowing with twelve yoke of oxen in front of him, and he was with the twelfth. Elijah passed by him and cast his cloak upon him. And he left the oxen and ran after Elijah and said, "Let me kiss my father and my mother, and then I will follow you." And he said to him, "Go back again, for what have I done to you?" And he returned from following him and took the yoke of oxen and sacrificed them and boiled their flesh with the yokes of the oxen and gave it to the people, and they ate. Then he arose and went after Elijah and assisted him.

Please rise.

Holy Gospel Luke 9:57-62

As they were going along the road, someone said to him, "I will follow you wherever you go." And Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head." To another he said, "Follow me." But he said, "Lord, let me first go and bury my father." And Jesus said to him, "Leave the dead to bury their own dead. But as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God." Yet another said, "I will follow you, Lord, but let me first say farewell to those at my home." Jesus said to him, "No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God."

Please be seated.

Sermon..... "A Carpenter's Plow"

Offering

Please rise.

Responsory.....page 255



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



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



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



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



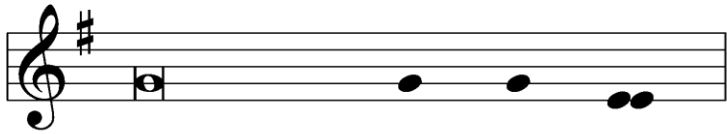
L Glory be to the Fa - ther and to the Son and to the Ho-ly Spir-it.



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

Prayer

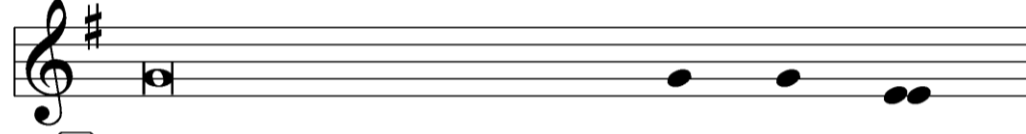
Prayer.....pages 256-257



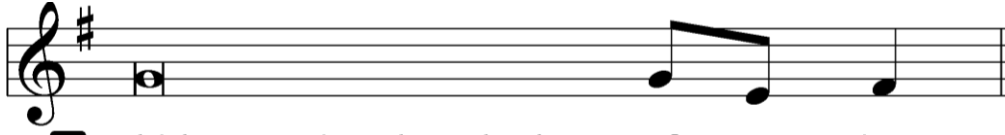
L Hear my prayer, O Lord;



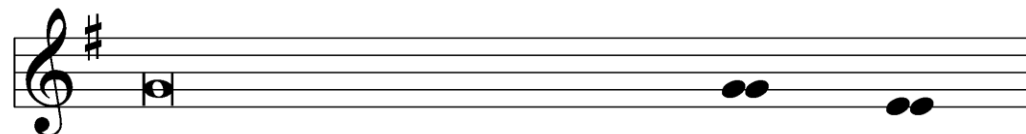
C listen to my cry.



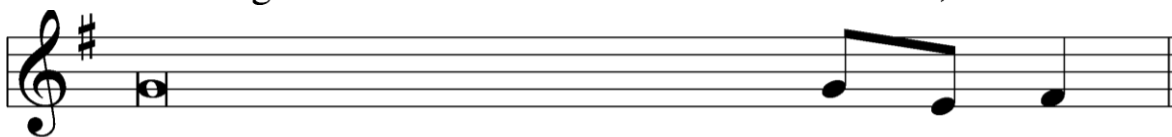
L Keep me as the apple of Your eye;



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 Prayer.....page 257

(Additional Collects of Intercession and Thanksgiving)

Nunc Dimittispage 258



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.

☐ 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 -

ev - er. A - men. *Antiphon* 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

☐ 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..... *“All for Christ I have Forsaken”, #753*



1 All for Christ I have for - sak - en And have
 2 Who is sweet - er than Christ Je - sus? No good
 3 Gone the past, un - known the fu - ture— Grace sup -
 4 When God takes me home to heav - en, Should this
 5 Though the road a - head be thorn - y, Though dark



tak - en up my cross; World - ly joy, its
 thing in Him I lack! Hand to plow, at
 plies my dai - ly breath; Strong in Christ through
 be the day I die, God will keep my
 clouds all light ob - scure, Though my cross - shaped



fame and for - tune, Now I count as worth-less dross.
 peace I fol - low Where He leads me . . . why look back?
 death's dark val - ley, Firm and faith - ful un - to death.
 spouse and chil - dren As the ap - ple of His eye.
 path grows steep - er, With the Lord, I am se - cure.

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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 Rich Vanderburgh
Musician Jerrode Marsh
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 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 Preparation
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

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

**Sign up near the mailboxes to bring a dish
for the Mission Festival potluck on Sunday.**

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

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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.