

Welcome to Worship!

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



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

A decorative banner at the top of the page features a black background with white silhouettes of thorns and crosses. The word "LENT" is centered in white, bold, uppercase letters.

LENT

March 13, 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 "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."

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Compline

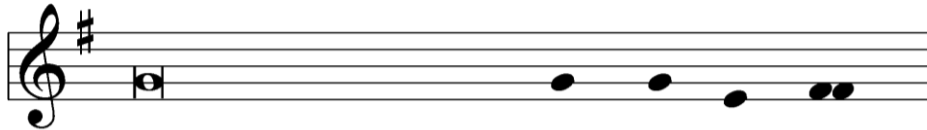
Opening Verses..... page 253



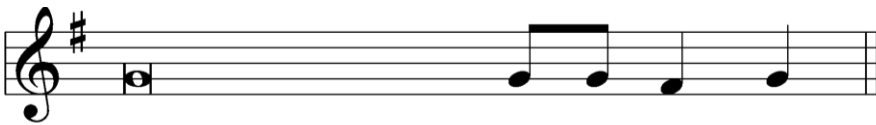
L The Lord Almighty grant us a qui - et night and peace at the last.



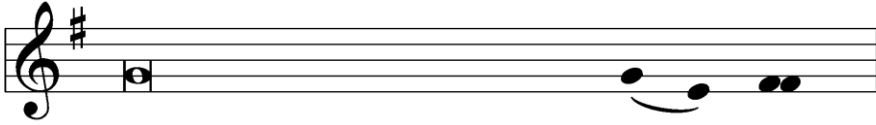
C A - men.



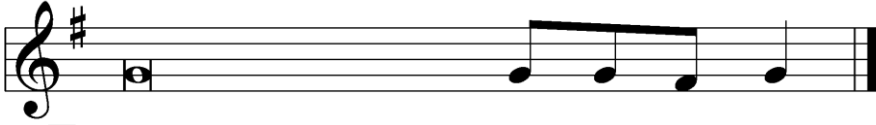
L It is good to give thanks to the Lord,



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 84 (*spoken in unison*)

How lovely is your dwelling place,
 O LORD of hosts!
 My soul longs, yes, faints
 for the courts of the LORD;
 my heart and flesh sing for joy
 to the living God.
 Even the sparrow finds a home,
 and the swallow a nest for herself,
 where she may lay her young,

at your altars, O LORD of hosts,
my King and my God.

Blessèd are those who dwell in your house,
ever singing your praise!

Blessèd are those whose strength is in you,
in whose heart are the highways to Zion.

As they go through the Valley of Baca
they make it a place of springs;
the early rain also covers it with pools.

They go from strength to strength;
each one appears before God in Zion.

O LORD God of hosts, hear my prayer;
give ear, O God of Jacob!

Behold our shield, O God;
look on the face of your anointed!

For a day in your courts is better
than a thousand elsewhere.

I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God
than dwell in the tents of wickedness.

For the LORD God is a sun and shield;
the LORD bestows favor and honor.

No good thing does he withhold
from those who walk uprightly.

O LORD of hosts,
blessèd is the one who trusts in you!

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..... *"Today Your Mercy Calls Us" #915*



1 To - day Your mer - cy calls us To wash a - way our sin.
2 To - day Your gate is o - pen, And all who en - ter in
3 To - day our Fa - ther calls us; His Ho - ly Spir - it waits;
4 O all - em - brac - ing Mer - cy, O ev - er - o - pen Door,



How - ev - er great our tres - pass, What - ev - er we have been,
 Shall find a Fa - ther's wel - come And par - don for their sin.
 His bless - ed an - gels gath - er A - round the heav'n - ly gates.
 What should we do with - out You When heart and eye run o'er?



How - ev - er long from mer - cy Our hearts have turned a - way,
 The past shall be for - got - ten, A pres - ent joy be giv'n,
 No ques - tion will be asked us How of - ten we have come;
 When all things seem a - gainst us, To drive us to de - spair,



Your pre - cious blood can wash us And make us clean to - day.
 A fu - ture grace be prom - ised, A glo - rious crown in heav'n.
 Al - though we oft have wan - dered, It is our Fa - ther's home.
 We know one gate is o - pen, One ear will hear our prayer.

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Readings

Old Testament Reading.....Job 31:29-37

“If I have rejoiced at the ruin of him who hated me,
 or exulted when evil overtook him

(I have not let my mouth sin
 by asking for his life with a curse),

if the men of my tent have not said,

‘Who is there that has not been filled with his meat?’

(the sojourner has not lodged in the street;

I have opened my doors to the traveler),

if I have concealed my transgressions as others do

by hiding my iniquity in my bosom,

because I stood in great fear of the multitude,

and the contempt of families terrified me,

so that I kept silence, and did not go out of doors—

Oh, that I had one to hear me!

(Here is my signature! Let the Almighty answer me!)

Oh, that I had the indictment written by my adversary!

Surely I would carry it on my shoulder;

I would bind it on me as a crown;
I would give him an account of all my steps;
like a prince I would approach him.

Please rise.

Holy GospelJohn 10:1-10

[Jesus said:] “Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door but climbs in by another way, that man is a thief and a robber. But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. To him the gatekeeper opens. The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. A stranger they will not follow, but they will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers.” This figure of speech Jesus used with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

So Jesus again said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.”


Please be seated.

Sermon..... “A Carpenter’s Door”

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.

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.

(Additional Collects of Intercession and Thanksgiving)

Lord's Prayer.....*page 257*

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;

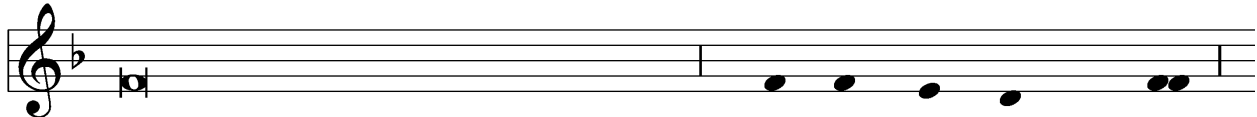
as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and will be for -

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.



L The almighty and merciful Lord, the Fa - ther, the † Son,

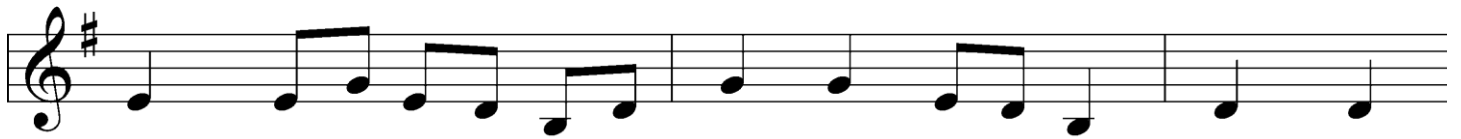


and the Holy Spir - it, bless us and keep us.



C A - men.

Sending Hymn..... *"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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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.

Serving Us Today:

Elder Evan Florida
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	9:30 a.m.	Pastor at WCS
	1:00 p.m.	Cards and Games Group
	4:30 p.m.	Herb Garden Cut-back with Pr. Joel
	7:00 p.m.	Ephesians Bible Study
Friday	9:30 a.m.	Exercise Class
Saturday	11:00 a.m.	Trustees' Meeting
	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 www.blchurch.com , under the Sermons tab)
	9:15 a.m.	Christian Education
	10:30 a.m.	Holy Communion
	1:00 p.m.	Youth Catechesis



Potato Day

Plan (your footwear) to join us in the garden after service on **Sunday, March 17** to celebrate **St. Patrick's Day** with planting our potatoes out in the garden!

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.