

# Welcome to Worship!

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



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



# LENT

**March 20, 2024**

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## 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.**

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*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 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> 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 ..... "Lift Every Voice and Sing", #964 (1-2)



1 Lift ev - 'ry voice and sing Till earth and heav - en ring,  
2 Ston - y the road we trod, Bit - ter the chas - t'ning rod



Ring with the har - mo - nies of lib - er - ty.  
Felt in the days when hope un - born had died;



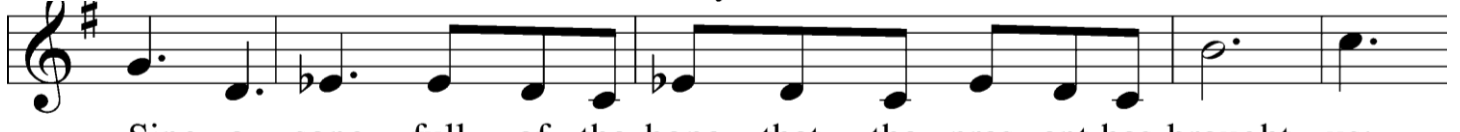
Let our re - joic - ing rise High as the lis - t'ning skies,  
Yet with a stead - y beat, Have not our wea - ry feet



Let it re - sound loud as the roll - ing sea.  
Come to the place for which our par - ents sighed?



Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us;  
We have come o - ver a way that with tears has been wa - tered;



Sing a song full of the hope that the pres - ent has brought us;  
We have come, tread - ing our path through the blood of the slaugh - tered,



Fac - ing the ris - ing sun Of our new day be - gun,  
Out from the gloom - y past, Till now we stand at last



Let us march on till vic - to - ry is won.  
Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.

# Compline

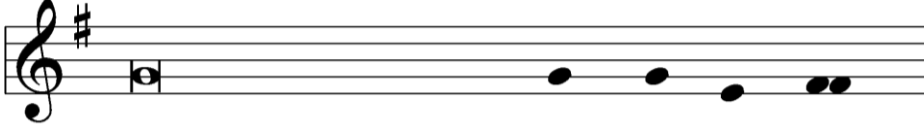
Opening Verses..... page 253



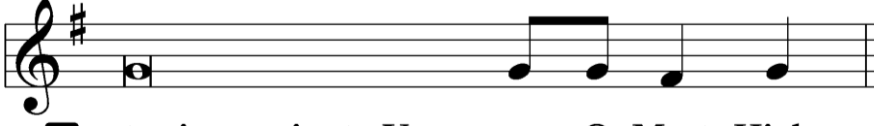
**L** The Lord Almighty grant us a qui - et night and peace at the last.



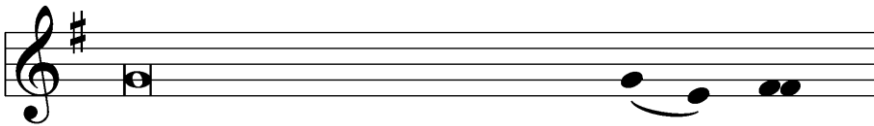
**C** A - men.



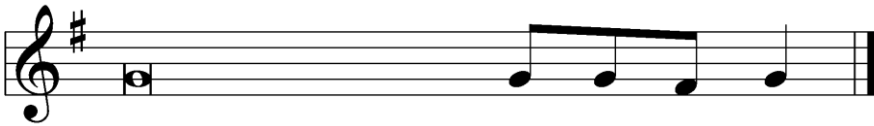
**L** It is good to give thanks to the Lord,



**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 118:19-24** ..... (*spoken in unison*)

Open to me the gates of righteousness,  
that I may enter through them  
and give thanks to the LORD.

This is the gate of the LORD;  
the righteous shall enter through it.

I thank you that you have answered me  
and have become my salvation.

The stone that the builders rejected  
has become the cornerstone.

This is the LORD's doing;  
it is marvelous in our eyes.

This is the day that the LORD has made;  
let us rejoice and be glad in it.

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.

**Office Hymn**..... "*Christ is Our Cornerstone*" #912



1 Christ is our cor - ner - stone, On Him a - lone we build;  
2 Here may we gain from heav'n The grace which we im - plore,  
3 Oh, then, with hymns of praise These hal - lowed courts shall ring;



With His true saints a - lone The courts of heav'n are filled. On His  
And may that grace, once giv'n, Be with us ev - er - more Un - til  
Our voic - es we will raise The Three in One to sing And thus



great love Our hopes we place Of pres - ent grace And joys a - bove.  
that day When all the blest To end - less rest Are called a - way.  
pro - claim In joy - ful song, Both loud and long, That glo - rious name.



*Please be seated.*

# Readings

## Old Testament Reading ..... 1 Peter 2:1-8

So put away all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander. Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up to salvation— if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in Scripture:

“Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone,  
a cornerstone chosen and precious,  
and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.”

So the honor is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe,

“The stone that the builders rejected  
has become the cornerstone,”

and

“A stone of stumbling,  
and a rock of offense.”

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

*Please rise.*

## Holy Gospel ..... Matthew 24:1-2

Jesus left the temple and was going away, when his disciples came to point out to him the buildings of the temple. But he answered them, “You see all these, do you not? Truly, I say to you, there will not be left here one stone upon another that will not be thrown down.”

*Please be seated.*

## Sermon ..... “A Carpenter’s Stone”

### 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.



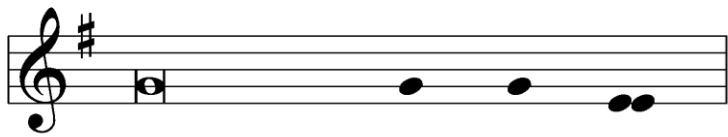
**L** Glory be to the Fa - ther and to the Son and to the Ho-ly Spir-it.



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

## Prayer

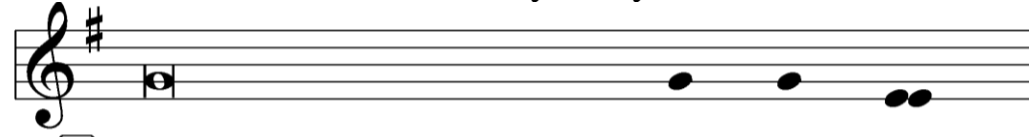
Prayer.....pages 256-257



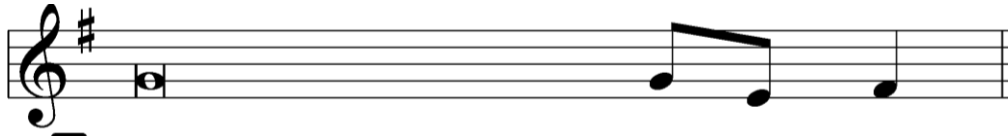
**L** Hear my prayer, O Lord;



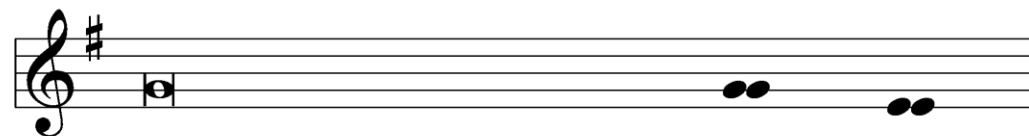
**C** listen to my cry.



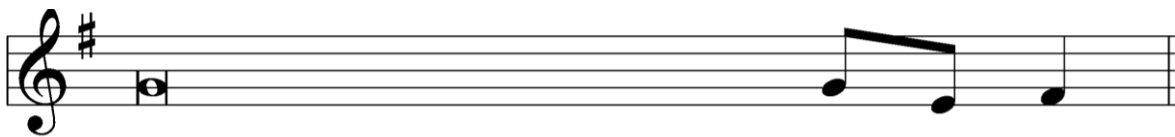
**L** Keep me as the apple of Your eye;



**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.

*(Additional Collects of Intercession and Thanksgiving)*

Lord's Prayer.....page 257

Nunc Dimittis .....page 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.



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



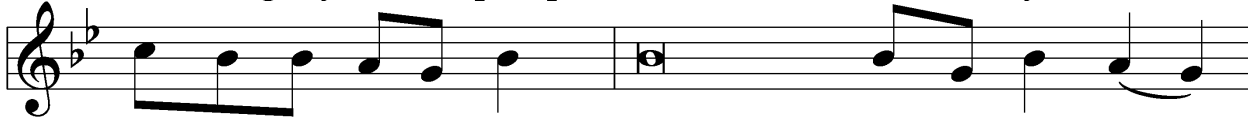
My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which You have prepared



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 -



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  $\text{✠}$  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.

# 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 ..... 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 Warrensburg Christian School
	11:00 a.m.	Lunch Bunch
	1:00 p.m.	Games and Cards Group
	5:30 p.m.	Fellowship Board Meeting
	7:00 p.m.	Galatians Bible Study
Friday	9:30 a.m.	Exercise Class
Saturday	10:00 a.m.	Garden Workday
	5:30 p.m.	Worship
Palm 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.	Worship

## **GARDEN WORKDAY**



**SATURDAY: 10:00 A.M.**

## 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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#### **Office Manager**

Cindy Smith

Monday–Friday: 8am-5pm

660-747-6742

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

#### **Congregation Life Facilitator**

Rebecca Holland-VanWey

Wednesday: 1pm-5pm

Thursday: 1pm-5pm

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

#### **Bookkeeper**

Teresa Hillsman

Tuesday: 9am-11am

Thursday: 9am-11am

[thillsman@blchurch.com](mailto: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.