

Third Sunday in Lent

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

March 12, 2023
Sunday 10:00 a.m.



Welcome to All! We are glad that you are able to worship with us today. **Please fill out a connection card in the pews if you like.** During the service, we will sit or stand in reverence to our Lord. Please do what is physically comfortable and reverent for you. For those who are unable to receive Communion near the altar and wish to have the Pastor administer it at your seat, please obtain a red and white card from one of the ushers and hold it up at Communion time to alert the Pastor. If you or a little one would like to receive a blessing instead of Holy Communion, we invite you to come forward and cross your arms at the time of Communion. Please feel free to introduce yourself to our Pastor and fill out one of the Visitor cards available at our Welcome Table in the Gathering Place.

Evangelical Lutheran Worship – Setting 4, page 147

Bell Ringing/Welcome/Announcements

Prelude

GATHERING

Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who journeys with us these forty days, and sustains us with the gift of grace. **C: Amen.**

P: Let us acknowledge before God and one another our need for repentance and God's mercy.

Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination

P: Holy God,

C: ...we confess to you our faults and failings. Too often we neglect and do not trust your holy word; we take for ourselves instead of giving to others; we spoil rather than steward your creation; we cause hurt though you call us to heal; we choose fear over compassion. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, as we seek to follow in your way of life. Amen.

P: Hear the good news: God so loved the world that God gave the only Son, so that all may receive life. This promise is for you! God embraces you with divine mercy, † forgives you in Christ's name, and revives you in the Spirit's power. **C: Amen**

Greeting

A: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. C: **And also with you.**

Kyrie (lead by Pastor Paul)



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,

let us pray to the Lord. Lord have mer - cy.

Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord. A - men.

Prayer of the Day

A: The Lord be with you. C: And also with you.

A: Let us pray together... C: **Merciful God, the fountain of living water, you quench our thirst and wash away our sin. Give us this water always. Bring us to drink from the well that flows with the beauty of your truth through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

WORD

First Lesson

Exodus 17:1-7

Because the thirsty Israelites quarreled with Moses and put God to the test, Moses cried out in desperation to God. God commanded Moses to strike the rock to provide water for the people. The doubt-filled question—"Is the Lord among us or not?"—received a very positive answer.

1 From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. 2 The people quarreled with Moses, and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the Lord?" 3 But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" 4 So Moses cried out to the Lord, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me." 5 The Lord said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. 6 I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. 7 He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the Lord, saying, "Is the Lord among us or not?"

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

1 Come, let us sing to the Lord; let us shout for joy to the rock of our salvation.

2 Let us come before God's presence with thanksgiving and raise a loud shout to the Lord with psalms.

3 For you, Lord, are a great God, and a great ruler above all gods.

4 In your hand are the caverns of the earth; the heights of the hills are also yours.

5 The sea is yours, for you made it, and your hands have molded the dry land.

6 Come, let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the Lord our maker.

7 For the Lord is our God, and we are the people of God's pasture and the sheep of God's hand. Oh, that today you would hear God's voice!

8 "Harden not your hearts, as at Meribah, as on that day at Massah in the desert.

9 There your ancestors tested me, they put me to the test, though they had seen my works.

10 Forty years I loathed that generation, saying, 'The heart of this people goes astray; they do not know my ways.'

11 Indeed I swore in my anger, "They shall never come to my rest.'"

Second Lesson

Romans 5:1-11

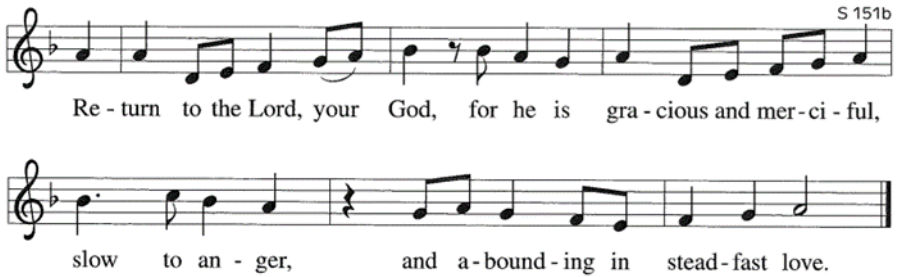
Though we often hear that God helps those who help themselves, here Paul tells us that through Jesus' death God helps utterly helpless sinners. Since we who had been enemies are reconciled to God in the cross, we now live in hope for our final salvation.

1 Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, 2 through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. 3 And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, 4 and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, 5 and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us. 6 For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. 7 Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. 8 But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. 9 Much more surely then, now that we have been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. 10 For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. 11 But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation *Return to the Lord*



The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major, 4/4 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of text, and the second staff contains the melody for the second line. The lyrics are: "Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love." The notation includes a treble clef, a key signature of one flat (B-flat), and a common time signature. The first staff ends with a fermata over the final note, and the second staff ends with a double bar line. The number "S 151b" is written in the upper right corner of the first staff.

Gospel

John 4:5-42

Jesus defies convention to engage a Samaritan woman in conversation. Her testimony, in turn, leads many others to faith.

C: ...Glory to you, O Lord...

5 Jesus came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph.⁶ Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon. ⁷ A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." ⁸ (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) ⁹ The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) ¹⁰ Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." ¹¹ The woman said to him, "Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? ¹² Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?" ¹³ Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, ¹⁴ but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life." ¹⁵ The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water." ¹⁶ Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come back." ¹⁷ The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband'; ¹⁸ for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!" ¹⁹ The woman said to him, "Sir, I see that you are a prophet. ²⁰ Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem." ²¹ Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. ²² You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. ²³ But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. ²⁴ God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." ²⁵ The woman said to him, "I know that

Messiah is coming” (who is called Christ). “When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us.” 26 Jesus said to her, “I am he, the one who is speaking to you.” 27 Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, “What do you want?” or, “Why are you speaking with her?” 28 Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, 29 “Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?” 30 They left the city and were on their way to him. 31 Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, “Rabbi, eat something.” 32 But he said to them, “I have food to eat that you do not know about.” 33 So the disciples said to one another, “Surely no one has brought him something to eat?” 34 Jesus said to them, “My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work. 35 Do you not say, ‘Four months more, then comes the harvest’? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting. 36 The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. 37 For here the saying holds true, ‘One sows and another reaps.’ 38 I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor.” 39 Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman’s testimony, “He told me everything I have ever done.” 40 So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them; and he stayed there two days. 41 And many more believed because of his word. 42 They said to the woman, “It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Savior of the world.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

Pastor Paul Busekist

Hymn of the Day

Just As I Am, without One Plea

ELW #592

Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayers of Intercession: response after each petition: “receive our prayer.”

(Before prayer) A: Sustained by God’s abundant mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.... *(Conclusion)* P: We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your steadfast love and your promise to renew your whole creation; through Jesus Christ our Savior. **C: Amen.**

Sharing of the Peace

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

MEAL

Offering

Offertory

Create in Me a Clean Heart

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 your

pres-ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re -

store un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,

and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

Offering Prayer

A: Let us pray.

C: God of good gifts, receive these and all our offerings as we present them in faithful service for the sake of your gospel. Prepare our hearts to receive you in this meal as you pour out your very presence through Christ Jesus, the wellspring of eternal life. Amen.

Great Thanksgiving

S 152

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

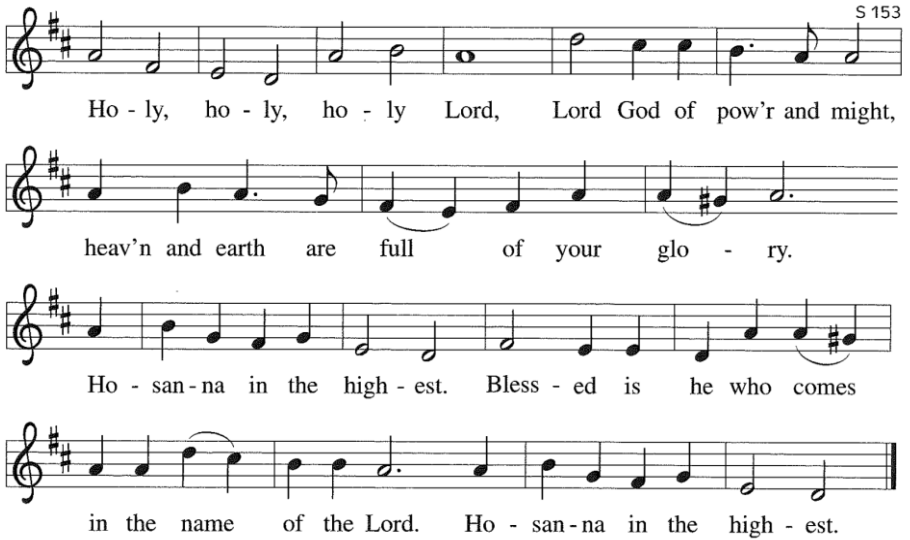
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...we praise your name and join their unending hymn...

Holy, Holy, Holy

S 153



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Words of Institution

The Lord's Prayer

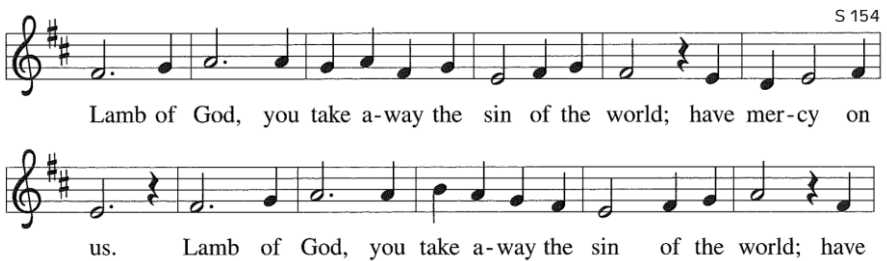
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

P: The gifts of God for the people of God. Taste and see that the Lord is good.

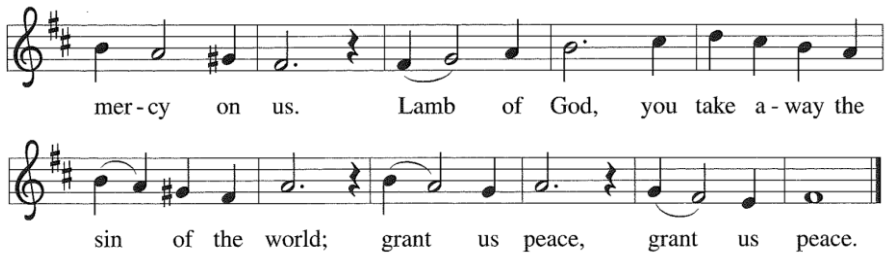
Communion

Lamb of God

S 154



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on
us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the
sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

Communion Hymns

*I Am the Bread of Life
Eat This Bread*

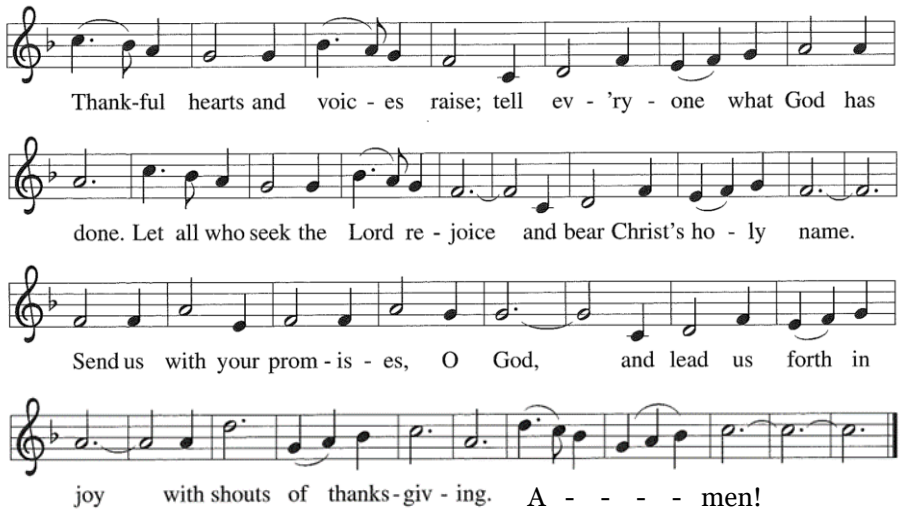
*ELW # 485
ELW # 472*

Post-Communion Blessing

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. C: **Amen.**

Post-Communion Canticle

Thankful Hearts



Thank-ful hearts and voic-es raise; tell ev-'ry-one what God has
done. Let all who seek the Lord re-joice and bear Christ's ho-ly name.
Send us with your prom-is-es, O God, and lead us forth in
joy with shouts of thanks-giv-ing. A - - - - men!

Prayer after Communion

A: Let us pray. Embodied God, at your table, we have tasted the godness of Jesus. With the eyes of our hearts open to your promise, empower us to hear the needs of our neighbors and touch the world with your love.

C: **Amen.**

SENDING

Blessing

P: God, the giver of love, † Christ, the resurrection and the life, and the Holy Spirit of rebirth bless you in this Lenten journey.

C: Amen.

Sending Song *Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer*

ELW #618

Dismissal

A: Go in peace. Serve in love.

C: Thanks be to God.



Bethlehem March 12, 2023
LUTHERAN CHURCH

1050 Peninsula Drive
Traverse City, MI 49686
(231) 947-9880
www.bethlehemtc.org

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

3/12—Tom Christensen 3/15—Jim Boyd 3/16—Edmund Stanley Mende III
3/13—Brenda Denoyer 3/15—Ann Rundhaug 3/17—Ken Soper

This week's Lenten service will be our regular Third Thursday service/Jazz Vespers with Communion at 7:00pm on March 16th It will be livestreamed.

Building and Office Hours are: 9:00am – 2:30pm, Monday – Thursday.

Please Note:

Barbara Oster/Administrative Assistant works 9:00am-2:30pm on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday

Phil Anderson/Bookkeeper works 8:30am-12:30pm on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday

Alanna Steffunick/Ministry Coordinator works 9:00am-2:30pm – in the office on Tuesday and Thursday and from home on Wednesday

IMPORTANT NOTICE: The giving envelopes have arrived! Please pick your box up in the Narthex. Phil Anderson, Bookkeeper

COVID: Please note that masks are required for unvaccinated persons in worship and highly encouraged for those who are vaccinated.

The March issue of the STAR is now available. For current issues of the Star, feel free to check online at www.bethlehemtc.org < About Us > "The Online Bethlehem Star" or type this URL to get these directly: <http://www.bethlehemtc.org/the-bethlehem-star-newsletter>.

Check out the blue insert with today's bulletin on next Saturday's Community Movie Night!

Prayer Requests:

- Prayer Chain: Please contact Jan Stretlien at jstretlien@gmail.com or 231-947-3265
- Prayers read from the altar: Please call Administrative Assistant in the church office 231-947-9880

Picture Directory: We have a chance to make a new directory this year, but with any project like this we need volunteers. Please leave your name in the office if you can help on this project in any way.

Choir announcement: The choir has some cool music planned for the Lent and Easter season. We will be rehearsing Tuesdays at 7:00 to accommodate Lenten mid-week services. Our next two rehearsals will be held on March 14 and April 4. The choir will sing on Palm Sunday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday. If you'd like to know more, talk to Tony Bero at a Thursday mid-week service or contact him at 231-942-1162, email: bero.tony@gmail.com

The season of Lent is here, and the promise of Easter is just around the corner. Lenten Thursdays will have:

6:00pm Meal: two soups, bread/rolls, a salad, dessert and beverages. There still an opening for the meal on March 16, if you would like to make a soup to share, or bring a side dish. There is a signup sheet in the Narthex with more information. Please give it a look. If you'd rather help in the kitchen, you would be most welcome! Please contact Laura Hahn with any questions: dandlhahn@gmail.com, 231-929-1339 (home), 231-499-1948 (cell) Thank you!

7:00pm Services - Only the March 16th Jazz Vespers will be LiveStreamed.

- March 16: Jazz Vespers **with Communion**
- March 23: Taize "A" (No Communion)
- March 30: Holden Evening Prayer (No Communion)

The synod assembly will be back in person this year instead of on-line. It will be held May 7-9 in Mt Pleasant. Immanuel/Bethlehem choir director Tony Bero will be leading the music. Our church is allowed to send one male and one female as voting members in addition to our pastor. Perhaps this is the year that you feel you are being called to do something new and different in your spiritual life? If so, please tell Pastor Paul or leave your name in the office.

2023 Relay for Life: The American Cancer Society will be holding their annual 24-Hour Relay for Life event on Saturday, June 10, 2023 starting at 10 AM with an opening ceremony to Sunday, June 11, 2023 ending at 10 AM at the Grand Traverse Mall. As a long-time volunteer with the organization, I would like to request your support in the form of monetary donations to the American Cancer Society in support of this great cause, which will impact so many wonderful people who need your help. Thank you very much for your generous donations in the past, which helped the American Cancer Society provide more programs and do more research and advocacy for cancer patients and their caregivers. Your kindness and thoughtfulness is really appreciated!