



*Bethlehem Lutheran Church—William Penn
Founded 1860—Lutheran Church Missouri Synod*

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

MARCH 8, 2026

10:15 AM



Pastor

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Ryan Gresham
Stanley Haferkamp

Acolyte

Taylor Nowicki

Greeter

Destry Pohlmeier

Third Sunday in Lent

March 8, 2026 – 10:15 AM

Divine Service: Setting I with Holy Communion

Order of Service: *Lutheran Service Book, pp 151-166*

Pre-Service Music



March Bible Verse

He himself bore our sins in His body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By His wounds you have been healed.

1 Peter 2:24

Our Mission Statement

Representing God's Love to Our Congregation, Community, and the World!



In Light of 1 Cor. 11:23-26, Bethlehem Lutheran Church maintains the historical practice of “closed” communion in the belief that the Sacrament requires faith in Christ’s words that His body and blood are truly present. Furthermore, participation in the Sacrament is a sign of our unity in the faith with all those who join us at the altar. *For that reason,*

we ask that those visitors desiring to commune be members in good standing of a congregation of the LCMS and speak to the pastor or an elder before the beginning of the service. Our denial of admission to those who are members of another confession is not a judgment upon their faith but a recognition that we hold to different confessions concerning God, salvation, and the Sacrament itself. Such individuals are invited to speak with the pastor following the service.

Ringing of the Church Bell

OPENING HYMN

What a Friend We Have in Jesus

LSB 770



1 What a friend we have in Je - sus, All our sins and griefs to bear!
2 Have we tri - als and temp-ta-tions? Is there trou-ble an - y-where?
3 Are we weak and heav - y lad - en, Cum - bered with a load of care?



What a priv - i - lege to car - ry Ev - 'ry-thing to God in prayer!
We should nev - er be dis-cour-aged— Take it to the Lord in prayer.
Pre - cious Sav - ior, still our ref - uge— Take it to the Lord in prayer.



Oh, what peace we of - ten for - feit; Oh, what need-less pain we bear—
Can we find a friend so faith - ful Who will all our sor - rows share?
Do thy friends de - spise, for - sake thee? Take it to the Lord in prayer.



All be - cause we do not car - ry Ev - 'ry-thing to God in prayer!
Je - sus knows our ev - 'ry weak-ness—Take it to the Lord in prayer.
In His arms He'll take and shield thee; Thou wilt find a sol - ace there.

Text: Joseph M. Scriven, 1819–86 Tune: Charles C. Converse, 1832–1918 Text and tune: Public domain

The sign of the cross ✠ may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

Stand

INVOCATION

LSB 151

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

LSB 151

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

SERVICE OF THE WORD

INTROIT

Psalm 84:1-4; antiphon: v. 5

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

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!

**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.**

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

KYRIE

LSB 152

P In peace let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.

P For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.

P 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.



C Lord, have mer - cy.

P For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let
us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.

P Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.



C A - men.

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.



C And al - so with you.

P Let us pray.

C **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.**

C Amen.

Sit

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Exodus 17:1-7

¹All the congregation of the people of Israel moved on from the wilderness of Sin by stages, according to the commandment of the LORD, and camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. ²Therefore the people quarreled with Moses and said, "Give us water to drink." And Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?" ³But the people thirsted there for water, and the people grumbled against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us up out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and our livestock with thirst?" ⁴So Moses cried to the LORD, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me." ⁵And the LORD said to Moses, "Pass on before the people, taking with you some of the elders of Israel, and take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. ⁶Behold, I will stand before you there on the rock at Horeb, and you shall strike the rock, and water shall come out of it, and the people will drink." And Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. ⁷And he called the name of the place Massah and Meribah, because of the quarreling of the people of Israel, and because they tested the LORD by saying, "Is the LORD among us or not?"

P This is the Word of the Lord. **C** Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL

Hebrews 12:2

[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.

EPISTLE

Romans 5:1-8

¹Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. ²Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. ³More than that, we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, ⁴and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, ⁵and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

⁶For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die— ⁸but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

P This is the Word of the Lord. **C** Thanks be to God.

Stand

VERSE FOR LENT

LSB 157

C 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, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

HOLY GOSPEL

John 4:5-30, 39-42

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

C Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

⁵[Jesus] came to a town of Samaria called Sychar, near the field that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. ⁶Jacob's well was there; so Jesus, wearied as he was from his journey, was sitting beside the well. It was about the sixth hour.

⁷There came a woman of Samaria to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." ⁸(For his disciples had gone away into the city to buy food.) ⁹The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask for a drink from me, a woman of Samaria?" (For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.) ¹⁰Jesus 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." ¹¹The woman said to him, "Sir, you have nothing to draw water with, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? ¹²Are you greater than our father Jacob? He gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did his sons and his livestock." ¹³Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, ¹⁴but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty forever. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life." ¹⁵The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I will not be thirsty or have to come here to draw water."

¹⁶Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come here." ¹⁷The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband'; ¹⁸for you have had five husbands, and the one you now have is not your husband. What you have said is true." ¹⁹The woman said to him, "Sir, I perceive that you are a prophet. ²⁰Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, but you say that in Jerusalem is the place where people ought to worship." ²¹Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. ²²You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. ²³But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. ²⁴God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." ²⁵The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming (he who is called Christ). When he comes, he will tell us all things." ²⁶Jesus said to her, "I who speak to you am he."

²⁷Just then his disciples came back. They marveled that he was talking with a woman, but no one said, "What do you seek?" or, "Why are you talking with her?" ²⁸So the woman left her water jar and went away into town and said to the people, ²⁹"Come, see a man who told me all that I ever did. Can this be the Christ?" ³⁰They went out of the town and were coming to him. . . .

³⁹Many Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me all that I ever did." ⁴⁰So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them, and he stayed there two days. ⁴¹And many more

believed because of his word. ⁴²They 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 indeed the Savior of the world.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C Praise to You, O Christ.

NICENE CREED

LSB 158

C 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 \dagger of the world to come. Amen.**

Sit

HYMN OF THE DAY

May God Bestow on Us His Grace

LSB 823



1 May God be-stow on us His grace, With bless-ings rich pro-
2 Thine o-ver all shall be the praise And thanks of ev-'ry
3 O let the peo-ple praise Thy worth, In all good works in-



vide us; And may the bright-ness of His face
na-tion; And all the world with joy shall raise
creas-ing; The land shall plen-teous fruit bring forth,



To life e-ter-nal guide us, That we His
The voice of ex-ul-ta-tion. For Thou shalt
Thy Word is rich in bless-ing. May God the



sav-ing health may know, His gra-cious will and plea-sure,
judge the earth, O Lord, Nor suf-fer sin to flour-ish;
Fa-ther, God the Son, And God the Spir-it bless us!



And al-so to the na-tions show Christ's rich-es with-out
Thy peo-ple's pas-ture is Thy Word Their souls to feed and
Let all the world praise Him a-lone, Let sol-lemn awe pos-



mea-sure And un-to God con-vert them.
nour-ish, In righ-teous paths to keep them.
sess us. Now let our hearts say, "A-men!"

Sermon
Living Water
John 4: 5-30, 39-42

Stand

OFFERTORY

LSB 159

C What shall I ren-der to the Lord for all His ben-e-fits to
me? I will of - fer the sac-ri-fice of thanks-giv - ing and will
call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal-
va - tion and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my
vows to the Lord now in the pres-ence of all His peo-ple, in the
courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Je - ru - sa-lem.

OFFERING PRAYER

Sit

OFFERING

Stand

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

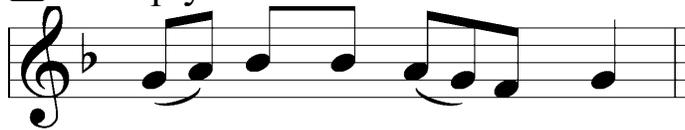
PREFACE

LSB 160

P The Lord be with you.

C And al - so 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 salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; for in the mystery of the Word made flesh You have given us a new revelation of Your glory that, seeing You in the person of Your Son, we may know and love those things which are not seen. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:

SANCTUS

LSB 161



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:



Heav-en and earth are full of Your glo - ry. Ho - san-na. Ho -



san-na. 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.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

LSB 161

P Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **C** Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

LSB 162

P Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

C 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.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

LSB 162

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

PAX DOMINI

LSB 163

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.



C A - men.

AGNUS DEI

LSB 163



C 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.

Sit

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

How Wide the Love of Christ

LSB 535

1 How wide the love of Christ! It knows not class or race But
 2 How long the love of Christ! Its pa - tience will not cease Un -
 3 How high the love of Christ! Be - yond all thought it soars, And
 4 How deep the love of Christ, De - scend - ing to a cross! He
 5 All praise to You, O Christ, For love whose depth and height, Whose

holds our one hu - man - i - ty With - in its broad em - brace.
 til this bro - ken world is bound In ev - er - last - ing peace.
 yet up - on our pass - ing lives Un - mea - sured mer - cy pours.
 bears with - in His wound - ed hands All hu - man pain and loss.
 length and breadth fill time and space With end - less life and light!

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle, Jr., 1923–2007 Tune: Johann M. Spiess, 1715–72 Text: © 1997 GIA Publications, Inc. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110005013 Tune: Public domain

Glorious Things of You Are Spoken

LSB 648



1 Glo - rious things of you are spo - ken, Zi - on, cit - y
2 See, the streams of liv - ing wa - ters, Spring - ing from e -
3 Round each hab - i - ta - tion hov - 'ring, See the cloud and
4 Sav - ior, since of Zi - on's cit - y I through grace a



of our God; He whose word can - not be bro - ken Formed you
ter - nal love, Well sup - ply your sons and daugh - ters And all
fire ap - pear For a glo - ry and a cov - 'ring, Show - ing
mem - ber am, Let the world de - ride or pit - y, I will



for His own a - bode. On the Rock of A - ges found - ed,
fear of want re - move. Who can faint while such a riv - er
that the Lord is near. Thus de - riv - ing from their ban - ner
glo - ry in Your name. Fad - ing are the world's vain plea - sures,



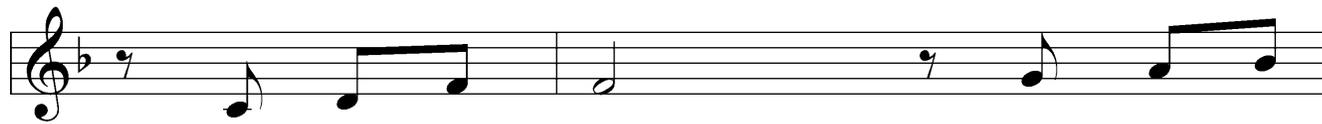
What can shake your sure re - pose? With sal - va - tion's
Ev - er will their thirst as - suage? Grace, which like the
Light by night and shade by day, Safe they feed up -
All their boast - ed pomp and show; Sol - id joys and



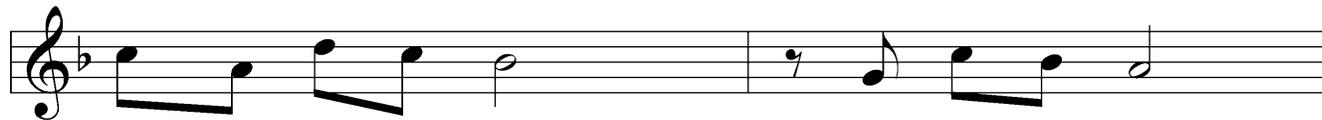
walls sur - round - ed, You may smile at all your foes.
Lord, the giv - er, Nev - er fails from age to age.
on the man - na Which God gives them on their way.
last - ing trea - sures None but Zi - on's chil - dren know.

What Is This Bread

LSB 629



1	What	is	this	bread?	Christ's	bod - y
2	What	is	this	wine?	The	blood of
3	So	who	am	I,	That	I should
4	Yet	is	God	here?	Oh,	yes! By
5	Is	this	for	me?	I	am for -



ris - en	from the	dead:	This	bread	we	break,
Je - sus	shed	for	mine;	The	cup	of
live	and	He	should	die	Un -	der
Word	and	prom -	ise	clear,	In	mouth
giv - en	and	set	free!	I	do	be -
						lieve



This	life	we	take,	Was	crushed	to
Brings	His	em -	brace	Of	life	and
My	God,	my	God,	Why	have	You
He	makes	us	whole—	Christ,	tru -	ly
That	I	re -	ceive	His	ver -	y
						bod -
						y
						and
						His



lease.	O	taste	and	see—	the	Lord	is	peace.
sing!	O	taste	and	see—	the	Lord	is	King.
me?	O	taste	and	see—	the	Lord	is	free.
meal.	O	taste	and	see—	the	Lord	is	real.
blood.	O	taste	and	see—	the	Lord	is	good.

Text: Frederic W. Baue, 1946. Tune: Jean Neuhauser Baue, 1951. Text and tune: © 1991 Fred and Jean Baue. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110005013



1 Je - ru - sa - lem the gold - en, With milk and hon - ey blest—
 2 With-in those walls of Zi - on Sounds forth the joy - ful song,
 3 A - round the throne of Da - vid, The saints, from care re - leased,
 Δ 4 O sweet and bless - ed coun - try, The home of God's e - lect!



The prom - ise of sal - va - tion, The place of peace and rest—
 As saints join with the an - gels And all the mar - tyr throng.
 Raise loud their songs of tri - umph To cel - e - brate the feast.
 O sweet and bless - ed coun - try That faith - ful hearts ex - pect!



We know not, oh, we know not What joys a - wait us there:
 The Prince is ev - er with them; The day - light is se - rene;
 They sing to Christ their lead - er, Who con - quered in the fight,
 In mer - cy, Je - sus, bring us To that e - ter - nal rest



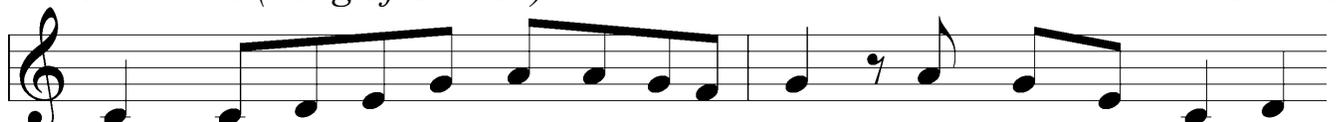
The ra - dian - cy of glo - ry, The bliss be - yond com - pare!
 The cit - y of the bless - ed Shines bright with glo - rious sheen.
 Who won for them for - ev - er Their gleam - ing robes of white.
 With You and God the Fa - ther And Spir - it, ev - er blest.

Text and tune: Public domain Text: Bernard of Cluny, 12th cent.; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, alt. Tune: Alexander C. Ewing, 1830–95, alt.

Stand

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE

Nunc Dimittis (Song of Simeon)



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 pre -



pared in the sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple: A light to re -

veal You to the na-tions and the glo-ry 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.

POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

LSB 166

P Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

BENEDICTION

LSB 166

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

C A - men.

Sit

CLOSING HYMN

Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness

LSB 849



1 Praise the One who breaks the dark - ness With a lib - er -
2 Praise the One who blessed the chil - dren With a strong, yet
3 Let us praise the Word In - car - nate, Christ, who suf - fered



at - ing light; Praise the One who frees the pris - 'ners,
gen - tle, word; Praise the One who drove out de - mons
in our place. Je - sus died and rose vic - to - rious



Turn - ing blind - ness in - to sight. Praise the One who preached the
With the pierc - ing, two - edged sword. Praise the One who brings cool
That we may know God by grace. Let us sing for joy and



Gos - pel, Heal - ing ev - 'ry dread dis - ease, Calm - ing
wa - ter To the des - ert's burn - ing sand; From this
glad - ness, See - ing what our God has done; Let us



storms, and feed - ing thou - sands With the ver - y Bread of peace.
Well comes liv - ing wa - ter, Quench - ing thirst in ev - 'ry land.
praise the true Re - deem - er, Praise the One who makes us one.

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POSTLUDE

Welcome to Bethlehem Lutheran Church, where we worship in the name of the crucified and risen Lamb of God, Jesus Christ our Lord. Blessings to you as you worship with us today.



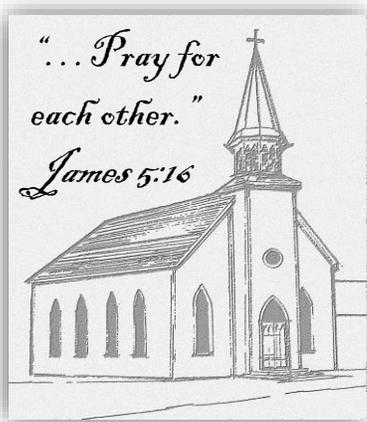
Congregation: Recovery and healing for Sharon Schwartz; healing and recovery for Mark Adams (a family friend of Keith Huber); recovery for Sophia Holle (Ken and Andrea Holle's granddaughter) from a broken wrist; recovery for Mildred Holle from RSV; healing for Terry and Becky Lueckemeyer; healing for

Lillian Hayden from knee surgery; for the family of Edith Erwin as they mourn her loss; for Tom Hayden's recovery after surgery and continued healing; for Adeline Platt's health; for health and healing for Lathel Norris; and Deloris Griffin; for our shut-in members: Renee Brinkmann, Mildred Holle, Lathel Norris, Elvera Schroeder, and others who are unable to come to church.

Community: for Grace Lutheran School, that they may continue to be a place for the children of our community and congregation to learn and grow in their faith and knowledge of God's world; may our Lord continue to deliver to us favorable weather; for Brenham Pregnancy Center and those whose lives they touched; Faith Mission; families and individuals cared for by Child Protective Services.

World: for all those suffering through war, may God watch over and protect His children, and by His Holy Spirit, may they all come to know Christ as their Savior and thus enjoy eternity with Him, for those who have been led astray into false belief; for those facing crisis pregnancies, that they would find the strength to choose life for their unborn child; for the leaders of the nations, that they would make godly decisions for their people and countries.

Bethlehem at Prayer



Prayer is a vital part of our life together in Christ. To that end, *Bethlehem at Prayer* is a means to encourage more intentional prayer for one another. This is an opportunity for us to support one another in faith, lifting up each household by name before our gracious God. While members can always request prayers at any time, this effort ensures that every family at Bethlehem is prayed for regularly. We invite you to join us in encouragement and intercession, praying for our brothers and sisters in Christ each week.

Please remember these families in your prayers this week:

- Boenker – David, Pat
- Boggan – Craig, Tricia, Charlie
- Jaehne – Diane
- Jaehne – Don, Allison, D.J., Allan
- Perez – Jessica
- Pohlmeier - Destry

May the Lord bless and strengthen them in faith and life.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

This Week's Schedule

March 8 - March 15

Today: *Third Sunday in Lent*



9:00 AM Sunday School & Adult Bible Class

10:15 AM Divine Worship: Setting I with Holy Communion

Acolyte: Taylor Nowicki

Greeter: Destry Pohlmeier

Ushers: Kevin Goessler

Connor Gresham

Ryan Gresham

Stanley Haferkamp

Monday:



6:00 PM New Members Class

Wednesday:



8:30 AM Sonshine

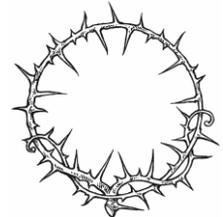
Wednesday:



4:30 PM Confirmation Class 7th/8th Grades

6:00 PM Midweek Lent Meal

7:00 PM Midweek Lent Worship Service: Compline



Acolyte: Michael Hinze

Ushers: Kevin Harrington

David Hodge

Keith Huber

Craig Kankel

6:30 PM Ladies' Bible Study



Next Sunday: *Fourth Sunday in Lent*

9:00 AM Sunday School & Adult Bible Class

10:15 AM Divine Worship: Setting I with Holy Communion



Acolyte: Norman Krieg

Greeter: Dorcas Schroeder

Ushers: Weston Ashorn

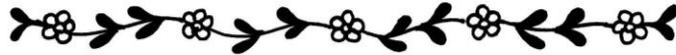
Caleb Kettler

Matt Kettler

JR Kettler

Serving in March: Elder – Chris Smitherman / **Trustee** – Michael Schroeder

If you have a question or thought concerning spiritual care or the church property, please contact the appropriate elder or trustee.



The flowers on the altar are given to the Glory of God by Douglas and Theresa Kettler in honor of their 45th wedding anniversary.



Wednesday Evening Lent Meals & Worship

... continue *this Wednesday* at 6:00 PM and 7:00 PM.

Please join us.



Place Your Order for Easter Lilies!

Please pick up an envelope from the basket in the narthex, fill out the necessary information, **and return it by Sunday, March 22nd.** Each Easter Lily costs **\$13.00.**



Life with God—New Members Class

continues tomorrow night, March 9th

Our adult information class covers the most important teachings of the Bible as they are believed, taught, and confessed here at Bethlehem. It is designed for anyone considering membership, new members, and any member of the congregation who would like a thorough review of basic Biblical doctrine. Mark your

calendar and plan to join us **every Monday night from 6:00 to 7:30 PM.** Classes run weekly for 10-12 sessions.



Don't forget to direct Choice Dollars®.

Grant Funding from Thrivent Financial through its Thrivent Choice Dollar program can help support projects at Bethlehem Lutheran Church. Don't let your designated Thrivent Choice Dollars expire!

Eligible Thrivent Financial members who have designated Thrivent Choice Dollars have until March 31, 2026 to direct any remaining 2025 Choice Dollars.

Go to [Thrivent.com/Thrivent choice](https://www.thrivent.com/Thrivent-choice) or call 800-847- 4836 and say "Thrivent Choice" after the prompt. If you have questions, call an area associate @ 979-836-0693.



March 8 (Lent 3) – The world tells us to avoid suffering at all costs, even justifying murder (abortion, suicide, assisted suicide) on the grounds that death can be used to avoid further suffering. However, St. Paul reminds us that instead of trying to avoid suffering through

death, we “can rejoice in our sufferings” (Romans 5:3), knowing that God uses our suffering to increase our hope in Him and bring us to everlasting glory. Therefore, when suffering comes, “let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker (Psalm 95:6), entrusting ourselves into the hands of the One who “died for us” (Romans 5:8).

Sunday School Corner



In our Winter unit, we continue our study of the New Testament, beginning with the account of Mary and Martha and continuing through Jesus appearing to Thomas. This morning, the kids studied the lesson “Betrayed and Arrested – Jesus in Gethsemane.” Jesus faces a farce of a trial before the high priest and the Council. Despite a parade of accusers, no two witnesses can manage to make their testimonies agree. Frustrated, the high

priest asks, “Are You the Christ?” (v. 61). Jesus’ response, “I am” (v. 62), enrages the high priest, who tears his clothing. Meanwhile, Peter faces his challengers in the courtyard. When bystanders accuse Peter of being a follower of the Nazarene, he denies Jesus three times, just as was foretold. To reinforce this lesson with your kids, as a family, discuss: After Peter denied that he knew Jesus, he cried and felt very sorry for his sin. When was the last time you felt bad about something you did? Just as Jesus forgave Peter, Jesus forgives us for our sins. How does it feel to be forgiven? How do we hear Jesus’ forgiveness when we come to worship? How can we share that same forgiveness with others? Would you put a rooster in a church as a reminder of this true Bible narrative? If so, what would it remind you of? Also, parents, you can join Pastor Krieg in the adult Sunday School class. See you next week!

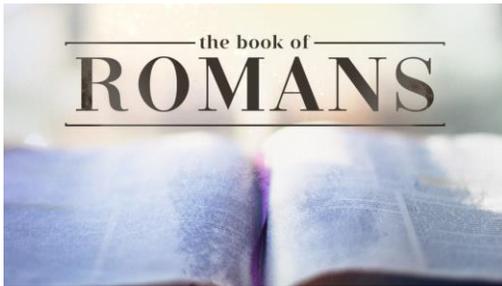
High School Lesson

Our High School Sunday School class is beginning a new study series using Not-So-Nice Bible Stories: Master Criminals. In this engaging and thought-provoking study, students will explore the stories of some of Scripture’s most notorious wrongdoers, and discover how God’s mercy and grace still shine through even the darkest human deeds. Each lesson points us to Christ, who took the punishment for all sin upon Himself and gives us forgiveness, life, and salvation. Join us as we dig into God’s Word, wrestle with tough questions, and see how even “master criminals” reveal our need for the one true Savior, Jesus Christ.

Lesson 11 – I Could Eat Your Up (2 Kings 6:24-31)

In this week’s lesson, our High School class studied the harrowing account of the siege of Samaria in 2 Kings. Students wrestled with how fear, desperation, and the consequences of sin led to unimaginable suffering among God’s people. Yet even in this darkest moment, we saw that the Lord had not abandoned His promise of deliverance. The account drove us to consider how human brokenness reaches its deepest point apart from God’s mercy, and how Christ enters into our suffering world to bring true rescue. In Him, we find not despair about tomorrow, but the sure hope of God’s provision, redemption, and life.

Adult Sunday School Lesson



St. Paul’s letter to the Romans is often called the “chief part of the New Testament.” Romans clearly lays out the heart of the Christian faith: we are justified by grace alone through faith alone on account of Christ alone. In this rich epistle, Paul teaches on sin and righteousness, law and Gospel, baptism, the struggle against the old Adam, and life lived in the

freedom of the Gospel. Whether you’ve been attending or have yet to join us, this is a wonderful time to dig into God’s Word together and grow in our understanding of His mercy in Christ. Come and be strengthened in the faith that saves and learn how the Gospel shapes our daily lives. We look forward to studying this treasure of Scripture with you! If you could not attend today, please join us next Sunday during the Adult Bible Study hour before church, starting at 9 a.m. Now is the time to commit yourself to a deeper and more meaningful understanding of God’s Word and your relationship with Him. I hope to see you all next Sunday as we continue our studies.



Online Giving

You may give tithes and offerings online by clicking the “Give” tab on our website (<https://www.bethlehemwmpenn.org/>), or just scan the QR code to the left.

Last Week at Bethlehem

DATE	SERVICE	ATTENDANCE	GIFTS IN RESPONSE TO THE GOSPEL
Feb. 25	Midweek Lent Worship Service	71	\$1,335.00
Mar. 1	Sunday School Youth Bible Class Adult Bible Class	12 2 20	\$39.93
Mar. 1	Worship Service	107	\$5,582.86 Men’s Club \$200.00
Mar. 4	Midweek Lent Worship Service	66	\$216.76

2026 Lent, Holy Week, and Easter Schedule



DATE	TIME	SERVICE
<i>Sunday, March 8</i>	<i>10:15 AM</i>	<i>Third Sunday in Lent</i>
<i>Wednesday, March 11</i>	<i>7:00 PM</i>	<i>Wednesday Lent Worship</i>
<i>Sunday, March 15</i>	<i>10:15 AM</i>	<i>Fourth Sunday in Lent</i>
<i>Wednesday, March 18</i>	<i>7:00 PM</i>	<i>Wednesday Lent Worship</i>
<i>Sunday, March 22</i>	<i>10:15 AM</i>	<i>Fifth Sunday in Lent</i>
<i>Wednesday, March 25</i>	<i>7:00 PM</i>	<i>Wednesday Lent Worship</i>
<i>Sunday, March 29</i>	<i>10:15 AM</i>	<i>Palm Sunday with Confirmation</i>
<i>Thursday, April 2</i>	<i>7:00 PM</i>	<i>Holy (Maundy) Thursday</i>
<i>Friday, April 3</i>	<i>7:30 PM</i>	<i>Good Friday Tenebrae</i>
<i>Sunday, April 5</i>	<i>7:00 AM</i>	<i>Easter Sunrise Service (Amphitheater)</i>
	<i>8:00 AM</i>	<i>Easter Breakfast</i>
	<i>9:00 AM</i>	<i>Sunday School, Adult Bible Class</i>
	<i>9:30 AM</i>	<i>Easter Egg Hunt</i>
	<i>10:15 AM</i>	<i>Easter Celebration Service</i>