

✠ **The Second Sunday in Lent** ✠  
**Bethlehem Lutheran Church**  
**February 28 & March 1, 2026**

**WELCOME IN JESUS' NAME**

WELCOME to our guests and members as we gather for worship today! **Please place your names in our red “Record of Fellowship” books.** Also, please give attention to the written “News and Notes”.

**PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP**

Almighty God, You gave Your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon Himself. Grant that we, Your adopted children by grace, may daily be renewed by Your Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

**WORSHIP NOTES**

The Lord called Abram (Abraham) to leave his home and go to a land that God would show him. He also promised to make of Abram *“a great nation,”* to bless him and make his name great as a blessing to *“all the families of the earth”* (Gen. 12:2–3). *“Abram went, as the Lord had told him”* (Gen. 12:4), and in Canaan *“he built an altar to the Lord and called upon the name of the Lord”* (Gen. 12:8). He *“believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness”* (Rom. 4:3). Here the grace of God is manifested, that He *“justifies the ungodly”* (Rom. 4:5), not by works of the Law, but through faith in His promises. He removes all of our sins and lawless deeds through Jesus Christ, the offspring of Abraham in whom all the Lord’s promises are realized. This forgiveness of sins is the Word of the Gospel, the voice of the Holy Spirit, which *“gives life to the dead”* (Rom. 4:17). It opens the eyes of faith to behold Christ Jesus, the Son of Man lifted up on the cross, *“that whoever believes in him may have eternal life”* (John 3:14–15).

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**RINGING OF THE BELL**

**571 God Loved the World So That He Gave**

- 1 God loved the world so that He gave  
His only Son the lost to save,  
That all who would in Him believe  
Should everlasting life receive.
  
- 2 Christ Jesus is the ground of faith,  
Who was made flesh and suffered death;

All then who trust in Him alone  
Are built on this chief cornerstone.

- 3 God would not have the sinner die;  
His Son with saving grace is nigh;  
His Spirit in the Word declares  
How we in Christ are heaven's heirs.
- 4 Be of good cheer, for God's own Son  
Forgives all sins which you have done;  
And, justified by Jesus' blood,  
Your Baptism grants the highest good.
- 5 If you are sick, if death is near,  
This truth your troubled heart can cheer:  
Christ Jesus saves your soul from death;  
That is the firmest ground of faith.

Stand

- 6 Glory to God the Father, Son,  
And Holy Spirit, Three in One!  
To You, O blessèd Trinity,  
Be praise now and eternally!

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*Stand*

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

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

**C Amen.**

P Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and  
confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in  
the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

**C who made heaven and earth.**

P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

**C and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

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

P O almighty God, merciful Father,  
C **I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**

P Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I 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 105:4-7; antiphon: v.8*

P He remembers his covenant forever,  
the word that he commanded, for a thousand generations.

C **Seek the LORD and his strength;  
seek his presence continually!**

P Remember the wondrous works that he has done,  
his miracles, and the judgments he uttered,  
O offspring of Abraham, his servant,  
children of Jacob, his chosen ones!

C **He is the LORD our God;  
his judgments are in all the earth.**

ALL **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.**

ALL **He remembers his covenant forever, the word that he  
commanded, for a thousand generations.**

**Kyrie**

*LSB 186*

C **Lord, have mercy upon us.  
Christ, have mercy upon us.**

**Lord, have mercy upon us.**

**Salutation and Collect of the Day**

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** **And with thy spirit.**

**P** Let us pray.

O God, You see that of ourselves we have no strength. By Your mighty power defend us from all adversities that may happen to the body and from all evil thoughts that may assault and hurt the soul; 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**

*Genesis 12:1–9*

<sup>1</sup>The LORD said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. <sup>2</sup>And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. <sup>3</sup>I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

<sup>4</sup>So Abram went, as the LORD had told him, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. <sup>5</sup>And Abram took Sarai his wife, and Lot his brother’s son, and all their possessions that they had gathered, and the people that they had acquired in Haran, and they set out to go to the land of Canaan. When they came to the land of Canaan, <sup>6</sup>Abram passed through the land to the place at Shechem, to the oak of Moreh. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. <sup>7</sup>Then the LORD appeared to Abram and said, “To your offspring I will give this land.” So he built there an altar to the LORD, who had appeared to him. <sup>8</sup>From there he moved to the hill country on the east of Bethel and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east. And there he built an altar to the LORD and called upon the name of the LORD. <sup>9</sup>And Abram journeyed on, still going toward the Negeb.

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

**Anthem – Adult Choir (5:30)**

## Epistle

*Romans 4:1–8, 13–17*

<sup>1</sup>What then shall we say was gained by Abraham, our forefather according to the flesh? <sup>2</sup>For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. <sup>3</sup>For what does the Scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness.” <sup>4</sup>Now to the one who works, his wages are not counted as a gift but as his due. <sup>5</sup>And to the one who does not work but trusts him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness, <sup>6</sup>just as David also speaks of the blessing of the one to whom God counts righteousness apart from works:

<sup>7</sup>“Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven,  
and whose sins are covered;

<sup>8</sup>blessed is the man against whom the Lord will not count his sin.” . . .

<sup>13</sup>For the promise to Abraham and his offspring that he would be heir of the world did not come through the law but through the righteousness of faith. <sup>14</sup>For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. <sup>15</sup>For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law there is no transgression.

<sup>16</sup>That is why it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his offspring—not only to the adherent of the law but also to the one who shares the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all, <sup>17</sup>as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

*Stand*

## Holy Gospel

*John 3:1–17*

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

**C** **Glory be to Thee, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. <sup>2</sup>This man came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with him.” <sup>3</sup>Jesus answered him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.” <sup>4</sup>Nicodemus said to him, “How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a

second time into his mother's womb and be born?" <sup>5</sup>Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. <sup>6</sup>That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. <sup>7</sup>Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.' <sup>8</sup>The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit."

<sup>9</sup>Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" <sup>10</sup>Jesus answered him, "Are you the teacher of Israel and yet you do not understand these things? <sup>11</sup>Truly, truly, I say to you, we speak of what we know, and bear witness to what we have seen, but you do not receive our testimony. <sup>12</sup>If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you heavenly things? <sup>13</sup>No one has ascended into heaven except he who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. <sup>14</sup>And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, <sup>15</sup>that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

<sup>16</sup>"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. <sup>17</sup>For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him."

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C** **Praise be to Thee, O Christ.**

### **Apostles' Creed**

**C** **I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died and was buried.  
He descended into hell.**

**The third day He rose again from the dead.  
He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of  
God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to  
judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church,  
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body, and the life ☩ everlasting.  
Amen.**

## Offering (10:30)

*Sit*

### 708 Lord, Thee I Love with All My Heart

- 1 Lord, Thee I love with all my heart;  
I pray Thee, ne'er from me depart,  
With tender mercy cheer me.  
Earth has no pleasure I would share.  
Yea, heav'n itself were void and bare  
If Thou, Lord, wert not near me.  
And should my heart for sorrow break,  
My trust in Thee can nothing shake.  
Thou art the portion I have sought;  
Thy precious blood my soul has bought.  
Lord Jesus Christ, my God and Lord, my God and Lord,  
Forsake me not! I trust Thy Word.
  
- 2 Yea, Lord, 'twas Thy rich bounty gave  
My body, soul, and all I have  
In this poor life of labor.  
Lord, grant that I in ev'ry place  
May glorify Thy lavish grace  
And help and serve my neighbor.  
Let no false doctrine me beguile;  
Let Satan not my soul defile.  
Give strength and patience unto me  
To bear my cross and follow Thee.  
Lord Jesus Christ, my God and Lord, my God and Lord,  
In death Thy comfort still afford.
  
- 3 Lord, let at last Thine angels come,  
To Abr'ham's bosom bear me home,  
That I may die unfearing;  
And in its narrow chamber keep  
My body safe in peaceful sleep  
Until Thy reappearing.  
And then from death awaken me,  
That these mine eyes with joy may see,  
O Son of God, Thy glorious face,  
My Savior and my fount of grace.  
Lord Jesus Christ, my prayer attend, my prayer attend,  
And I will praise Thee without end.

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## Sermon

Offering (5:30 and 8:00)

*Stand*

## Offertory

*LSB 192*

**C** Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.  
Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.  
Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen.

## Prayer of the Church

✠ Service of the Sacrament ✠

## Preface

*LSB 194*

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** **And with thy spirit.**

**P** Lift up your hearts.

**C** **We lift them up unto the Lord.**

**P** Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God.

**C** **It is meet and right so to do.**

**P** It is truly meet, 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, who overcame the assaults of the devil and gave His life as a ransom for many that with cleansed hearts we might be prepared joyfully to celebrate the paschal feast in sincerity and truth. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

## Sanctus

*LSB 195*

**C** **Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth;  
heav'n and earth are full of Thy glory.  
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is He, blessed is He, blessed is He that cometh  
in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.**

## Lord's Prayer

LSB 196

**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 197

**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 197

**P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
**C** Amen.

## Agnus Dei

LSB 198

**C** O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of  
the world, have mercy upon us.  
O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of  
the world, have mercy upon us.  
O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of  
the world, grant us Thy peace. Amen.

*Sit*

## Distribution

*If you desire to commune, please speak to one of the pastors before the service.  
Our altar is open to those who confess oneness with us in doctrine, are members  
of our congregation or sister congregations of the Lutheran Church – Missouri  
Synod, and are not under church discipline in another congregation.*

*Please note that "gluten free" communion wafers are available for those who  
need them. Please tell the Communion Assistant "gluten free" when he*

*approaches you at the Communion Rail. Also, for those who desire, highly diluted wine is available in individual cups (one drop of wine in the cup of water). Please tell the Communion Assistant "clear" when he approaches you at the Communion Rail.*

**Distribution Hymns** (please refer to the hymnal)

**629 - What Is This Bread**

**611 - Chief of Sinners Though I Be**

**606 - I Lay My Sins on Jesus**

*Stand*

**Nunc Dimittis**

*LSB 199*

**C Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace according to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast prepared before the face of all people, a light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of Thy people Israel. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.**

**Thanksgiving**

*LSB 200*

**P** O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,  
**C** **and His mercy endureth forever.**

**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.**

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** **And with thy spirit.**

**Benedicamus**

*LSB 202*

**P** Bless we the Lord.  
**C** **Thanks be to God.**

## Benediction

LSB 202

- P** The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious  
unto you.  
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give you  
peace.
- C** **Amen, amen, amen.**

## 718 Jesus, Lead Thou On

- 1 Jesus, lead Thou on  
Till our rest is won;  
And although the way be cheerless,  
We will follow calm and fearless.  
Guide us by Thy hand  
To our fatherland.
- 2 If the way be drear,  
If the foe be near,  
Let not faithless fears o’ertake us;  
Let not faith and hope forsake us;  
For through many\_a woe  
To our home we go.
- 3 When we seek relief  
From a long-felt grief,  
When temptations come alluring,  
Make us patient and enduring.  
Show us that bright shore  
Where we weep no more.
- 4 Jesus, lead Thou on  
Till our rest is won.  
Heav’nly leader, still direct us,  
Still support, console, protect us,  
Till we safely stand  
In our fatherland.

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## Acknowledgments

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## **ASSISTING AT WORSHIP**

**Preacher**                      **Rev. Patrick Niles**  
**Presiding Minister**        **Rev. Jeremy Hanson**

**Organists**                    **Sandy Kasten**  
                                      **Susan Wachter**

**Lay Readers**                **Jim Schmidt (5:30)**  
                                      **Luke Timm (8:00)**  
                                      **Paula Siech (10:30)**

### **Communion Assistants**

**Jim Schmidt & Mark Cyr (5:30)**  
**Jon Krueger (8:00)**  
**Randy Holler (10:30)**

### **Student Assistants**

**(A) Jaxon Freyberg & Carter Anderson (5:30)**  
**(U) Julia Detlaff & Brady Stelter (5:30)**  
**(A) Adalyn Ursprung & Austin Gries (8:00)**  
**(U) Jacob Krautkramer & Lauren Markevitch (8:00)**  
**(A) Annabelle White & Vincent Lemus (10:30)**  
**(U) Athena Stopar & Mason Bell (10:30)**

**The faculty at Bethlehem Lutheran School faithfully prays for the students entrusted to their care, along with their families.**

**As Bethlehem congregation members, please add these students and their families to your prayer list.**

**February Prayers**

Maggie Mendez  
Paisley Cornelius  
Gianna Cervantes  
Oliver Horn

Addie and Emilie Rouse  
Sebastian Taylor  
Megan and Patrick Stroede  
Hunter and Levi Hartmann

Athena Stopar  
Brady Stelter  
Madelyn and Zac Sines  
Jacee Hughley

Prince and Legend Garrison, and Willow Smith  
Logan Steinbrucker  
Hayley Haas



# **UPCOMING WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES** **AT BETHLEHEM**

<u>Wednesday, Mar. 4<sup>th</sup></u>	Lent Midweek	8:30am & 6:00pm (no communion)
<u>Wednesday, Mar. 11<sup>th</sup></u>	Lent Midweek	8:30am & 6:00pm (no communion)
<u>Wednesday, Mar. 18<sup>th</sup></u>	Lent Midweek	8:30am & 6:00pm (no communion)
<u>Wednesday, Mar. 25<sup>th</sup></u>	Lent Midweek	8:30am & 6:00pm (no communion)
<u>Saturday, Mar. 28<sup>th</sup></u>	Palm Sunday,	5:30pm (communion)
<u>Sunday, Mar. 29<sup>th</sup></u>	Palm Sunday,	8:00am & 10:30am (communion)
<u>Wednesday, Apr. 1<sup>st</sup></u>	NO WORSHIP	
<u>Thursday, Apr. 2<sup>nd</sup></u>	Maundy Thurs.,	6:00pm (communion)
<u>Friday, Apr. 3<sup>rd</sup></u>	Good Friday,	1:00pm & 7:00pm (communion)
<u>Saturday, Apr. 4<sup>th</sup></u>	Easter Vigil,	5:30pm (communion)
<u>Sunday, Apr. 5<sup>th</sup></u>	Easter,	6:00am, 8:00am & 10:30am (communion)

Soup Supper will take place at 5:00pm prior to each evening  
Lent Midweek service (3/4, 3/11, 3/18 & 3/25).