

# THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT



March 23, 2025

## WELCOME, GUESTS

Welcome to all who worship with us today. We are thankful for your presence and invite you to share in “the food which endures for eternal life.”

Please sign the visitor’s book at our Welcome Center in the narthex. If you’d like to know more about us or are considering becoming a member, please complete the form found in each pew, return it to an usher or simply put it in the collection plate. There is a cry room down the stairs off the narthex where the service can still be heard. Busy-bags, children’s bulletins and magazines and are also provided in the narthex.

We’d like for you to learn more about us!

A Reconciling in Christ Congregation: We welcome people of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions; and we are committed to work for racial equity.



A Green Congregation: for being stewards of the earth.

In Covenant with Lutheran Campus Ministry (LuMin St. Louis), [lcmstl.org](http://lcmstl.org)

### LAND AND PEOPLES ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Bethel Lutheran Church acknowledges and honors the Tribal peoples, including the Osage Nation, Quapaw, Miami, Otoe-Missouria, Kickapoo, and Illinois Confederacy among others, who were unjustly removed from their ancestral homelands on which we gather.

Bethel Lutheran Church honors the Native peoples who have cared for, and continue to care for, the lands which they first inhabited, named, and tended.

Bethel Lutheran Church recognizes that the cultural and spiritual life of our Indigenous siblings offers wisdom about living in relationship with creation and with our neighbors.

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In support of our goal of being a caring, inclusive, Christ-centered community, we

- ❖ care for God’s creation
- ❖ promote the non-violence of Christ and care for those who suffer
- ❖ participate in the Spirit toward a global religious community

March 23, 2025

+ Third Sunday in Lent +

Setting Four

10 AM

*The responses of the assembly appear in **bold** type.*

*“ELW” refers to Evangelical Lutheran Worship, the cranberry-colored book in the pew racks.*

*Standing and sitting are corporate acts of the assembly.*

*When the assembly stands, those who are able stand on behalf of those who cannot.*

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*The warnings are plentiful and blunt on the third Sunday in Lent. Lent is a season of repentance. Cut it out or get cut down! The warnings are accompanied by God’s invitation to attentiveness: “Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live.” The landowner’s ultimatum is forestalled by the gardener’s readiness to till the ground one more year. That is good news for all of us. Thanks be to God!*

## GATHERING

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God*

### WELCOME

*The assembly stands for Confession and Forgiveness, which begins at the bottom of page 94 near the front of the cranberry book.*

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*ELW page 94*

### KYRIE AND LITANY

*Kyrie! God Father in Heaven*

*ELW # 409*

*KYRIE, GOTT VATER*

*Kyrie fons bonitatis (ca. 800), adapted.*

### GREETING

*The presiding minister and the assembly greet each other.*

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

Eternal God, your kingdom has broken into our troubled world through the life, death, and resurrection of your Son. Help us to hear your word and obey it, and bring your saving love to fruition in our lives, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

*The assembly is seated.*

# WORD

*God speaks to us in Scripture reading, preaching, and song*

## FIRST READING

Isaiah 55:1–9

*Everyone who thirsts, come to the water; seek the LORD*

*To those who have experienced long years in exile, the return to their homeland is a celebration of abundant life. God calls them into an everlasting covenant of love. Those who return to the Lord will enjoy new life and forgiveness, because God's ways are not our ways.*

A reading from the Book of Isaiah.

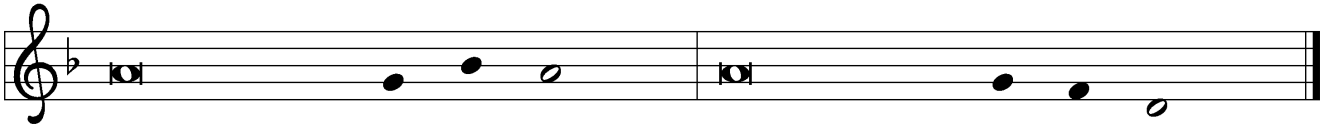
Hear, everyone who thirsts; come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread and your earnings for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food.

Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live. I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David. See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. Now you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, for the LORD has glorified you.

Seek the LORD while the LORD may be found; call upon God while God is near; let the wicked forsake their way and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the LORD, who will have mercy on them, and to our God, who will abundantly pardon. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**



*Choir* O God, you are my God; eager- | ly I seek you;  
my soul thirsts for you, my flesh faints for you,  
as in a barren and dry land where there | is no water.

*Assembly* **Therefore I have gazed upon you in your | holy place,  
that I might behold your power | and your glory.**

*Choir* For your loving kindness is better than | life itself;  
my lips shall | give you praise.

*Assembly* **So I will bless you as long | as I live  
and lift up my hands | in your name.**

*Choir* My soul is content, as with mar- | row and fatness,  
and my mouth praises you with | joyful lips,

*Assembly* **When I remember you up- | on my bed,  
and meditate on you in | the night watches.**

*Choir* For you have | been my helper,  
and under the shadow of your wings I | will rejoice.

*Assembly* **My soul | clings to you;  
your right hand | holds me fast.**

## SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 10:1–13

*Israel, baptized in cloud and seas, ate the same spiritual food as Christians*

*Paul uses images from Hebrew story and prophecy to speak the truth of Jesus Christ: He is our rock, our water, our food, and our drink. Christ is the living sign of God's faithfulness.*

A reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

I do not want you to be ignorant, dear family, that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, and all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ. Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness.

Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did. Do not become idolaters as some of them did, as it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink, and they rose up to play." We must not indulge in sexual immorality, as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents. And do not complain, as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. These things happened to them to serve as an example, and they were written down to instruct us, on whom the ends of the ages have come. So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall. No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing God will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Silence for preparation precedes the gospel acclamation.*

*The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *Return to the Lord*

Re- turn to the Lord, your — God! The Lord is gra- cious and mer- ci- ful,  
slow to an- ger, and a- bound- ing in stead- fast love.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one flat). The first staff contains the melody for the first line of text, and the second staff contains the melody for the second line. The music is written in a simple, accessible style with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat.

## HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 13:1–9

*Unless you repent, you will perish: parable of the fig tree*

*Asked about current tragic events, Jesus turns a lesson about whether suffering is deserved into a hard call to obedience. He then tells a parable that holds out hope that the timeline for ultimate judgment will be tempered by patience.*

*As the gospel is announced, a small cross may be traced with the thumb on the forehead, then on the lips, then on the breast, as a prayer that the gospel may dwell in our minds, on our lips, and in our hearts.*

The ☩ holy gospel according to Luke.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

At that very time there were some present who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. Jesus asked them, “Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? No, I tell you, but unless you repent you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the other people living in Jerusalem? No, I tell you, but unless you repent you will all perish just as they did.”

Then Jesus told this parable: “A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. So he said to the gardener, ‘See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?’ The gardener replied, ‘Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. If it bears fruit next year, well and good, but if not, you can cut it down.’”

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*The assembly is seated.*

## SERMON

Pastor Scott Benolkin

*Silence for reflection follows the sermon.*

*The assembly stands for the Hymn of the Day to proclaim the word of God in song.*

## HYMN OF THE DAY *As the Deer Runs to the River*

*ELW # 331*

*JULION*

*Our hymns today take their Baptismal imagery from our Scripture readings:*

*“Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters...”*

1. All    2. High voices    3. Low voices    4. All

High voices = soprano/alto    Low voices = tenor/bass

## CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

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

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

*The assisting minister invites the assembly into prayer.*

Led by the Spirit, let us turn to God in prayer for the church, the world, and all those in need.

*There is no response after each petition.*

We pray for all who suffer in body, mind, or spirit, especially Jane, Tom, Jay, Stephen, Stephen, Joseph, Annie, Marilyn, Kathy, Katrina, Joe, Bill, JoAnn, Daniel, Angie, Will, Tom, Charlene, Richard, Steve, Jack, Rudolph, Brittany, Mary, David, Julie, Nick, Meredith, Joe, Michael, Marcie, and Anne-Marie. We rejoice for the marriage of Mike and Jim.

*The presiding minister concludes the prayers:*

Receive the prayers of your people and draw all things together in your love,  
in the name of Jesus, who leads us from death to life.

**Amen.**

**THE PEACE**     *The presiding minister and the assembly greet each other in the peace of the risen Christ.*

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace. After greeting one another, the assembly is seated.*

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**     *Please see the schedule and written announcements on the last inside pages.*



# MEAL

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ*

## OFFERING

*An offering is gathered, and the table is set.*

## OFFERING ANTHEM *I Would See Jesus* from “The Sacred Harp”

*I WOULD SEE JESUS*

setting by Martha Shaffer [1999]

*This setting from The Sacred Harp recalls the imagery of living water that is the theme of our Old Testament reading and Psalmody.*

The first verse of this hymn was written by L.P. Breedlove, a *Sacred Harp* composer who also wrote the hymn tune. The remaining two verses are by Horatius Bonar, and appear set to several tunes in different editions of Lutheran hymnals. *Sacred Harp* hymns always have the melody in the tenor voice, and I followed that practice for two of the verses. I find both the tune and the words comforting – reminds me of old-fashioned stained glass portrayals of Jesus as the Good Shepherd.

*Martha Shaffer*

1. I would see Jesus when the flow’rs  
Of joy adorn my way;  
When sunshine and when hope surrounds  
My path from day to day.  
When friends I cherish most are near,  
And hearts encircle mine,  
Then, Father, would I turn from all  
To lean alone on Thine.
2. I heard the voice of Jesus say,  
“Behold, I freely give  
The living water, thirsty one;  
Stoop down and drink and live!”  
I came to Jesus and I drank  
Of that life-giving stream;  
My thirst was quenched, my soul revived,  
And now I live in Him.
3. I heard the voice of Jesus say,  
“I am this dark world’s light,  
Look unto me, thy morn shall rise,  
And all thy day shall be bright!”  
I looked to Jesus and I found  
In Him my star, my sun;  
And in that light of life I’ll walk,  
Till trav’ling days are done.

*Example of shape-note notation:*

3. I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "I am this dark world's light,"

*The assembly stands.*

## OFFERING CANTICLE

*Create in Me a Clean Heart*

*ELW # 188*

[Psalm 51:10–12]

*Our weekly Lenten offering canticle hearkens back to the great penitential Psalm 51, which we sang on Ash Wednesday, at the very opening of our Forty Days of repentance.*

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

*Believing in the real presence of Christ in the holy meal, this church practices Eucharistic hospitality.  
All are welcome at God's table.*

*The presiding minister greets the assembly and invites all present to give thanks.*

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

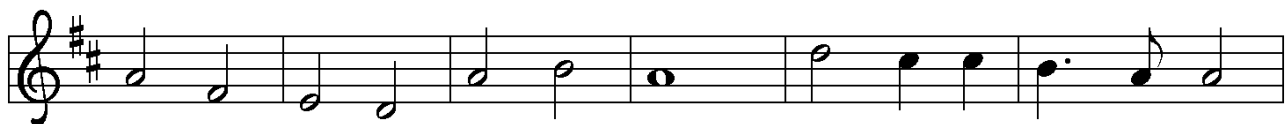
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

*The presiding minister continues:*

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

### HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (SANCTUS)



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.

## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

O God most mighty, O God most merciful, O God our rock and our salvation, hear us as we praise, call us to your table, grant us your life.

When the earth was a formless void, you formed order and beauty. When Abraham and Sarah were barren, you sent them a child; When the Israelites were enslaved, you led them to freedom. Ruth faced starvation, David fought Goliath, and the psalmists cried out for healing, and full of compassion, you granted the people your life.

You entered our sorrows in Jesus our brother. He was born among the poor, he lived under oppression, he wept over the city. With infinite love, he granted the people your life.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering his death, we cry out Amen. **Amen.**

Celebrating his resurrection, we shout Amen. **Amen.**

Trusting his presence in every time and place, we plead Amen. **Amen.**

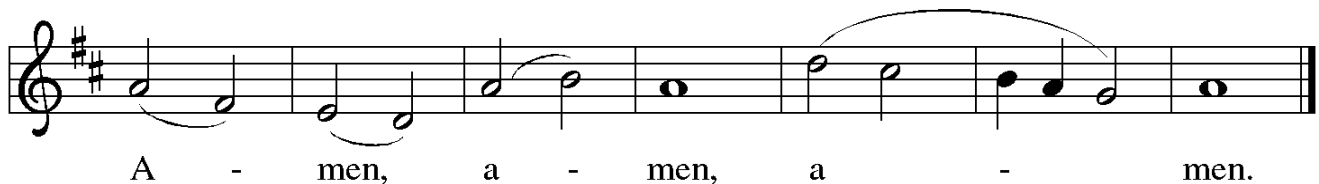
O God, you are Breath: send your Spirit on this meal.

O God, you are Bread: feed us with yourself.

O God, you are Wine: warm our hearts and make us one.

O God, you are Fire: transform us with hope.

O God most majestic, O God most motherly, O God our strength and our song, you show us a vision of a tree of life with fruits for all and leaves that heal the nations. Grant us such life, the life of the Father to the Son, the life of the Spirit of our risen Savior, life in you, now and forever.



*The Great Thanksgiving concludes with the Lord's Prayer.*

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those  
who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours,  
now and forever.**

**Amen.**

## **PRAYER BEFORE COMMUNION AND INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

*The assembly prays together:*

Merciful God,  
we do not presume to come to your table trusting in our own righteousness,  
but in your abundant mercy.

**Grant us, therefore, gracious Lord,  
so to eat and drink the body and blood of your dear Son, Jesus Christ,  
that we may live in him and he in us, now and forever.**

**Amen.**

*The presiding minister invites the assembly to Christ's table, where all are welcome.*

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

*The assembly is seated.*

*We invite all persons to share in Holy Communion. Those who do not commune are invited to come forward for a blessing. The silver chalices contain wine. In the individual cups, wine is clear; grape juice is a rose color. For sanitary reasons, we do not practice self-intinction: please do not dip the bread into the chalice. Gluten-free wafers are available. If any need to commune under one element (only the bread or only the wine/juice), know that the fullness of the sacrament is present in the one element.*

## LAMB OF GOD (AGNUS DEI)

*O Christ, Thou Lamb of God*

*CHRISTE, DU LAMM GOTTES*

The Baptizer's acclamation of the Messiah, the Lamb of God.



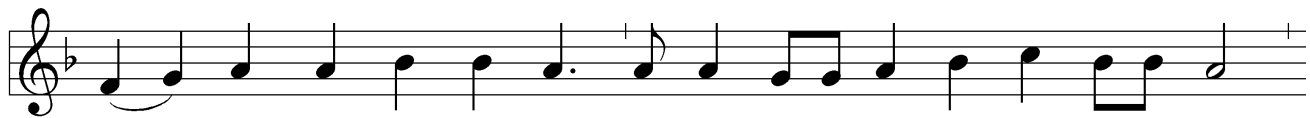
O Christ, thou Lamb of God that tak - est a-way the sin of the world,



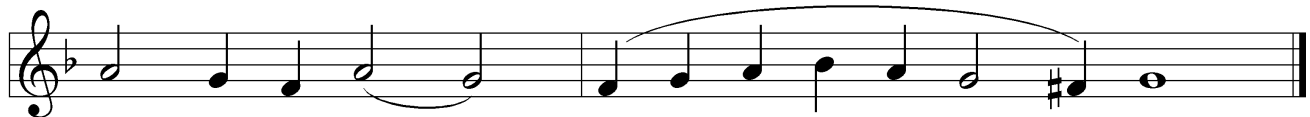
have mer - cy up - on us! O Christ, thou Lamb of God that tak -



est a - way the sin of the world, have mer - cy up - on us!



O Christ, thou Lamb of God that tak - est a-way the sin of the world,



grant us thy peace! A - men

## COMMUNION MEDITATION

*By Water-brooks of Babylon*

*AN WASSERFLÜSSEN BABYLON*

Chorale setting by Johann Gottfried Walther (1684–1648)

## COMMUNION HYMN

*Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer*

*ELW # 618*

*CWM RHONDDA*

*The assembly stands.*

## POSTCOMMUNION

*On My Heart Imprint Your Image*

*ELW # 811*

*DER AM KREUZ*

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Generous Host, you have shared your feast with us and made us new. Send us now to set tables of love and grace in our communities, that your liberating love might nourish the world into freedom, in the name of the crucified one, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

# SENDING

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world*

## LENTEN PRAYER OVER THE PEOPLE

*Assisting minister*     Let us bow before God.

*Members of the assembly are invited to bow their heads or bodies. A brief silence is observed.*

*Presiding minister*     Look mercifully on this your family, Almighty God,  
   that by your great goodness they may be preserved evermore;  
   through Christ our Lord.

*Assembly*                     **Amen.**

**SENDING HYMN**             *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*  
   NETTLETON

*ELW # 807*

1. All                     2 and 3. All, **in harmony**

## DISMISSAL

*The assisting minister sends the assembly into mission.*

Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you.

**Thanks be to God.**

*In observance of the penitential character of this Lenten Season, the prelude and postlude music is omitted.*

**Our Lenten organ chorale:** The **communion meditation music** is a setting of a chorale whose tune has become strongly associated with not one but two very distinct hymn texts. Much as the tune for our patriotic “My country, ’tis of thee” means something quite different to people from the British Commonwealth, so too, this chorale melody has become equally identifiable as *An Wasserflüssen Babylon*, or *Ein Lämmlein geht und trägt die Schuld*: “A Lamb Goes Uncomplaining Forth” (cf. *ELW* #340). We can find in this textual duality some striking and inspiring contrasts: Old Testament and New; humanity and divinity; powerlessness and redemption; sadness and triumphant joy. Today in the midst of our Lenten observances (our own “Babylonian exile”), we are admonished to look ahead to Christ’s ascent to Jerusalem, and to Calvary. He is the “Uncomplaining Lamb” by whose sacrifice we are freed from our captivity.

**Our choral anthem** is another in the series of settings of melodies from *The Sacred Harp*. We are grateful to Saint Louis composer **Martha Shaffer** for these lively and varied settings, which were premiered by the St. Louis Chamber Chorus in 1999. *The Sacred Harp*, first published in 1844, is one of the best known American shape-note hymnals. Its hymn tunes show the influence of a Scotch-Irish folk style, harmonized in a rustic, “homespun” manner whose spiritual fervor is direct and authentic. Ms. Shaffer has renewed these old tunes with a fresh, resonant choral idiom that preserves their spirit of frontier American Christianity.



The image displays two systems of musical notation for an organ chorale. Each system consists of a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The music is written in a style characteristic of shape-note hymnals, with a focus on clear harmonic and melodic lines. The first system begins with a treble clef staff containing a series of chords and a melodic line, followed by a bass clef staff with a similar structure. The second system continues this pattern, showing a progression of chords and melodic phrases. The notation includes various note values, rests, and dynamic markings, all presented in a clear and legible format.

**‘Show and Tell’:** Would you like to take a closer look at a *shape-note* hymnal? We have on hand some recent editions of *The Sacred Harp*. Please see Dr. Mager following today’s service to have a look. The hymnal is still in print, and published with much the same content and formatting as its historical antecedents.

## IN OUR PRAYER CONTINUALLY

We rejoice at the marriage of **Jim Glaenzer** and **Mike Rickher**, who got married yesterday.

We pray for **Jane Gilchrist**, who has been in the hospital.

We pray for **Tom Eggers** (cousin of Sylvia Titgemeyer), who is being treated for cancer.

We pray for **Jay Coakley** (friend of the Lights), who is being treated for multiple myeloma.

We pray for **Stephen Phelps**, who has been diagnosed with cancer.

We pray for healing for **Stephen Slattery**, who is recovering from a broken hip.

We pray for **Joseph McCormack**, as he contends with a serious illness. Joe is a friend of Dr. Mager and Bruce Kleiner of the Chancel Choir.

We pray for **Annie Tucker** (daughter of Ashley and DJ Tucker and granddaughter of Pete Hayes), who is recovering from foot surgery.

We pray for **Marilyn Dichsen** (friend of Laura Roth), who is undergoing cancer treatment.

We pray for **Kathy Fangmann** (cousin of Deb Grupe), who has mantle cell lymphoma.

We pray for **Katrina Wong** (friend of the Kennedys), for strength in body and mind in her cancer recovery.

We pray for **Joe Collman** (friend of Roy Ledbetter and Tom Dewey), who is in hospice care.

We pray for **Bill Vaughan**, who is recovering from a broken neck.

We pray for **JoAnn Foote** (mother of Cindy Gross), who is in hospice care.

We pray for the continued recovery of **Daniel Cierpiot**, friend of Dr. Stephen Mager, following brain surgery. Danny's condition is much improved, and we continue to pray for his health and well-being, and that of his family.

We pray for **Angie Brlas** (cousin of Sylvia Titgemeyer), who is going through rehab.

We pray for God's guidance and peace for the **Grenda family** during a difficult time for their son **Will**. Heidi and Dave Grenda are dear friends and former members of Bethel.

We ask for continued prayers for **Tom Dewey** as he's undergoing immunotherapy treatments for a recurring health condition.

We pray for **Charlene Reimann** in her time of need.

We pray for **Richard Jones**, help in seeking renewed living arrangements and employment.

We pray for **Steve Bristol** (father of Christian, Heather, and Zachary), who has been diagnosed with Alzheimer's. We pray for comfort, strength and support for him and his family.

We pray for **Jack Williamson** (father of Jennifer Williamson), who has dementia.

We pray for God's comfort and peace for **Rudolph Mueller**, who is now under hospice care.

We pray for **Brittany** (niece of Ann and Bob Mottl) for her continued healing.

We pray for God's comfort and strength to be with **Mary Baker Findley** (sister of Vicki Baker Lottes) with stage 4 cancer and her husband **David Findley**, who has Alzheimer's.

We pray for **Julie Murthy** (cousin of Emily Pelcak) as she starts her battle with cancer.

We pray for strength and wisdom for **Nick Peppes** (colleague of Gail Heyne Hafer), who is facing personal challenges.

We pray for **Meredith Sallee** (sister of Katy Koontz) during her treatment for cancer.

We pray for **Joe Whelan** (stepson to Tim Gutknecht), who is dealing with a genetic condition.

We pray for **Michael Moentmann**, who lives with chronic illness.

We continue our prayers for **Marcie Dowell** as she lives with a heart condition.

We pray for **Anne-Marie Bogdan** (sister of Nathan Schroeder) as she lives with long-standing health conditions. May God's comfort and strength be with her and her family.



## READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY

March 30, 2025

### Fourth Sunday in Lent

The psalm sets the tone this day: “Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, and whose sin is put away!” Happy are those who have “become the righteousness of God” in the merits of Christ Jesus. Happy are those for whom the forgiveness of God has “rolled away . . . the disgrace” of former times. Happy is the father at the return of his prodigal son. Happy are we that our sins are forgiven for Jesus’ sake. Rejoice!

|                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| Joshua 5:9–12         | Israel eats bread and grain, the produce of the land     |
| Psalms 32             | <i>Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the Lord.</i>  |
| 2 Corinthians 5:16–21 | The mystery and ministry of reconciliation               |
| Luke 15:1–3, 11b–32   | The parable of the prodigal father and the repentant son |

## SCHEDULE

[bethelstl.org/events](http://bethelstl.org/events)

|     |          |   |
|-----|----------|---|
| SUN | 3/23     | <b>Third Sunday in Lent</b>                     |
|     | 8:45 AM  | Faith Formation; Adult Forum                    |
|     | 10 AM    | Holy Communion                                  |
| TUE | 3/25     |   |
|     | 7:00 AM  | Bible Study ( <i>offsite</i> )                  |
|     | 10:30 AM | Bible Study                                     |
| WED | 3/26     |   |
|     | 6 PM     | Mid-week Lenten Dinner                          |
|     | 7 PM     | Lenten Vespers—Holden Evening Prayer            |
| SUN | 3/30     | <b>Fourth Sunday in Lent</b> ( <i>Laetare</i> ) |
|     | 8:45 AM  | Faith Formation; Adult Forum                    |
|     | 10 AM    | Holy Communion                                  |
| TUE | 4/1      |   |
|     | 10:30 AM | Bible Study                                     |
| WED | 4/2      |   |
|     | 6 PM     | Mid-week Lenten Dinner                          |
|     | 7 PM     | Lenten Vespers—Holden Evening Prayer            |
| SAT | 4/5      |   |
|     | 9:30 AM  | EcoFaith Summit                                 |
| SUN | 4/6      | <b>Fifth Sunday in Lent</b>                     |
|     | 8:45 AM  | Mission Conversation with Pastor Scott          |
|     | 10 AM    | Holy Communion                                  |

# Announcements

## **Mid-Week Lenten Dinners**

If you can volunteer to provide a Lenten dinner for Wednesday, April 2 or 9, please contact Cora Musial at [coramusial@gmail.com](mailto:coramusial@gmail.com) or call the church office at 314-863-3112. Dinner is planned at 6 p.m. preceding Vespers at 7 p.m. on the next three Wednesdays (March 26; April 2 and 9). There will be no sign-up sheet to attend. All are welcome to just come for dinner prior to the worship service.

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To make an offering electronically, go to [bethelstl.org/give](https://bethelstl.org/give)



## **Building a Moral Economy – EcoFaith Summit**

### **Earth's Cries, Earth's Call: Becoming Midwives of Hope for the Healing of Creation**

April 5, 2025, 9:30 a.m.–5:00 p.m. at Bethel Lutheran Church

We will stream the EcoFaith Summit (from Duluth, MN) in the Fellowship Hall, bringing people in the St. Louis area together to:

- HEAR God's call through the cries of Creation.
- NAME the powers destroying Creation and holding us captive.
- STAND WITH Creation through bold community action.
- HELP GIVE BIRTH to creative resistance for the healing of Creation.

If you plan to attend—even for just part of the Summit—please indicate your intention by emailing [office@bethelstl.org](mailto:office@bethelstl.org) **before March 28** so we can plan for your lunch. For more information contact Brenda Light at [brendalight3@gmail.com](mailto:brendalight3@gmail.com)

Lead Speaker Dr. Cynthia Moe-Lobeda will lead us on Pathways for People of Courage toward Building a Moral Economy. Lead Presenter Dr. Kelly Sherman-Conroy will invite us to share our stories, creation's stories, God's stories to inspire, equip, and empower one another in our labor. The day also includes action-oriented engagement sessions, vibrant worship, and inspiring art to equip us to respond to God's call in the cries of Creation. Join us to be part of the movement to care for God's creation with concrete action and birthing hope for the world in a time of climate crisis.

*Have Something for the Bethel Connection, Bulletin, Website, Narthex Information Board, or Facebook?  
Email it to [submissions@bethelstl.org](mailto:submissions@bethelstl.org) by 9 AM Monday morning.*

**SERVING TODAY**

|                                  |  |
|----------------------------------|--|
| Celebrant & Preacher             | Pastor Scott Benolkin  |
| Assisting Minister               | KJ Monahan   |
| Steward                          | Silas Johnson  |
| Lectors and Communion Assistants | Evelyn Meyer<br>Rosario Kelley<br>Keith Womer                      |
| Musicians                        | Stephen Mager, organist and music director<br>Bethel Chancel Choir |
| Altar Guild                      | Gail Heyne Hafer   |
| Ushers                           | Anne Kuhlmann<br>Matt Kuhlmann                                     |
| Audio-Visual Engineers           | Claire Benolkin<br>Brittany Upchurch                               |



7001 Forsyth Boulevard, Saint Louis, MO 63105

Office Hours Mon–Fri 10 AM–2 PM

Office: (314) 863–3112

Pastoral Emergencies: (614) 446–9693

LuMin Pastor: (314) 636–3202

The Rev. Scott K. Benolkin (he/him), Pastor, [pastor.scott@bethelstl.org](mailto:pastor.scott@bethelstl.org)

Stephen Mager, DM, Organist and Music Director

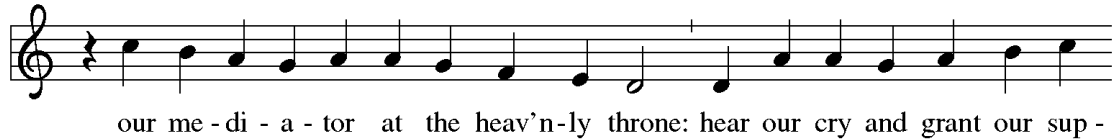
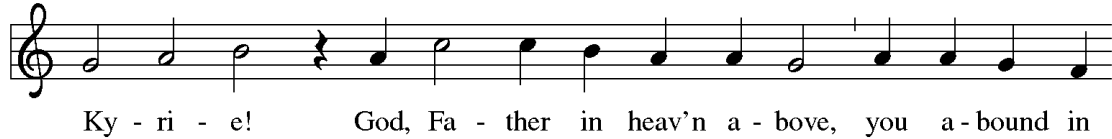
The Rev. Tina Reyes (she/her/ella), Campus Pastor, LuMin St. Louis, [pastor.luminstl@gmail.com](mailto:pastor.luminstl@gmail.com)

Anna Burkemper, Church Administrator, [office@bethelstl.org](mailto:office@bethelstl.org)

*Have a prayer request? Email it to [prayers@bethelstl.org](mailto:prayers@bethelstl.org) anytime.*

*Note that the information you send to this address will get shared with a number of people who will be praying for you as well as the Sunday Holy Communion bulletin.*

# Kyrie! God, Father



# As the Deer Runs to the River



- 1 As the deer runs to the riv - er, parched and wea - ry from the chase,
- 2 When your Is - rael crossed the des - ert where no stream or spring was seen,
- 3 "Come and drink," I - sa - iah sum-moned, "all who for God's mer - cy plead!
- 4 Christ, we come from des - ert plac - es, deep - est thirst un - sat - is - fied.



we have come from hurt and hur - ry, thirst - ing for your heal - ing grace.  
Mo - ses struck the rock, and wa - ter flowed for them, re - fresh - ing, clean.  
God's for - give - ness, like a foun-tain, flows to sat - is - fy your need."  
Lead us to the wa - ters flow - ing from the cross on which you died.



Je - sus, source of liv - ing wa - ter, may we drink of you and live!

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr., b. 1923

Music: JULION, David Hurd, b. 1950

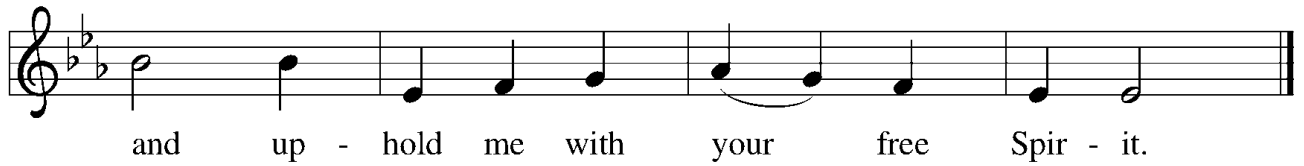
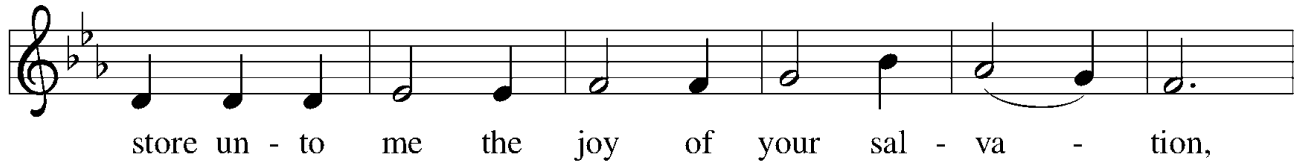
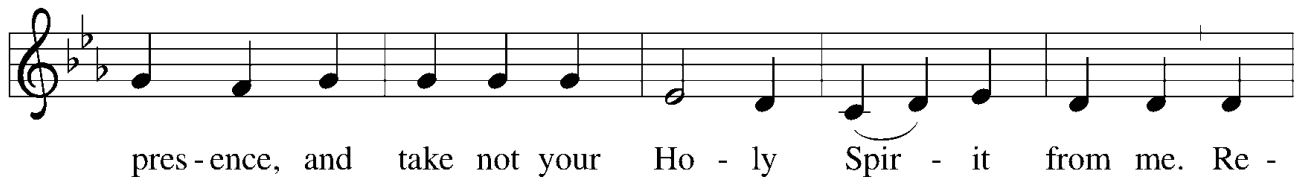
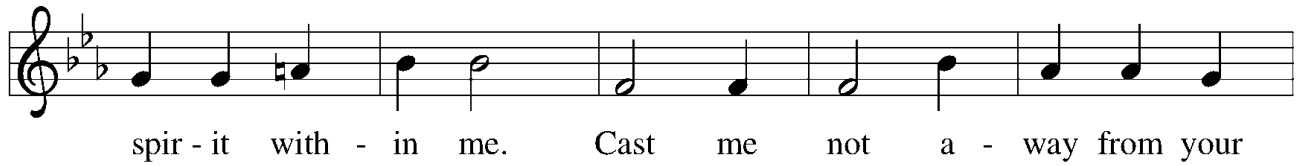
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## Create in Me a Clean Heart



Music: J. A. Freylinghausen, 1670–1739

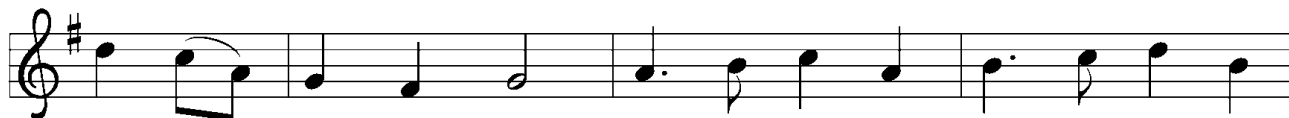
## Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer



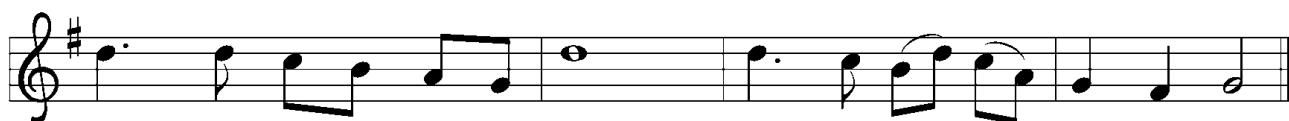
1 Guide me ev - er, great Re - deem - er, pil - grim through this  
2 O - pen now the crys - tal foun - tain where the heal - ing  
3 When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, bid my anx - ious



bar - ren land. I am weak, but you are might - y; hold me  
wa - ters flow; let the fire and cloud - y pil - lar lead me  
fears sub - side; death of death and hell's de - struc - tion, land me



with your pow'r - ful hand. Bread of heav - en, bread of heav - en,  
all my jour - ney through. Strong de - liv - 'rer, strong de - liv - 'rer,  
safe on Ca - naan's side. Songs and prais - es, songs and prais - es



feed me now and ev - er - more, feed me now and ev - er - more.  
shield me with your might - y arm, shield me with your might - y arm.  
I will raise for - ev - er - more, I will raise for - ev - er - more.

Text: William Williams, 1717–1791; tr. William Williams and Peter Williams, 1722–1796, alt.  
Music: CWM RHONDDA, John Hughes, 1873–1932



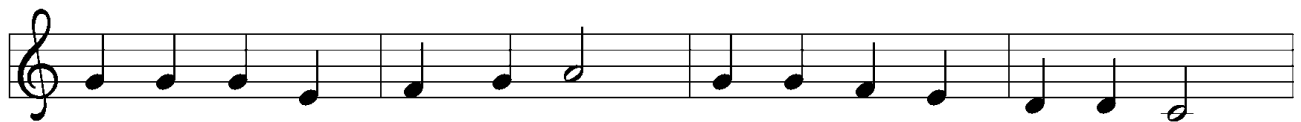
## On My Heart Imprint Your Image



On my heart im - print your im - age, bless - ed Je - sus, king of grace,



that life's trou - bles nor its plea - sures ev - er may your work e - rase.



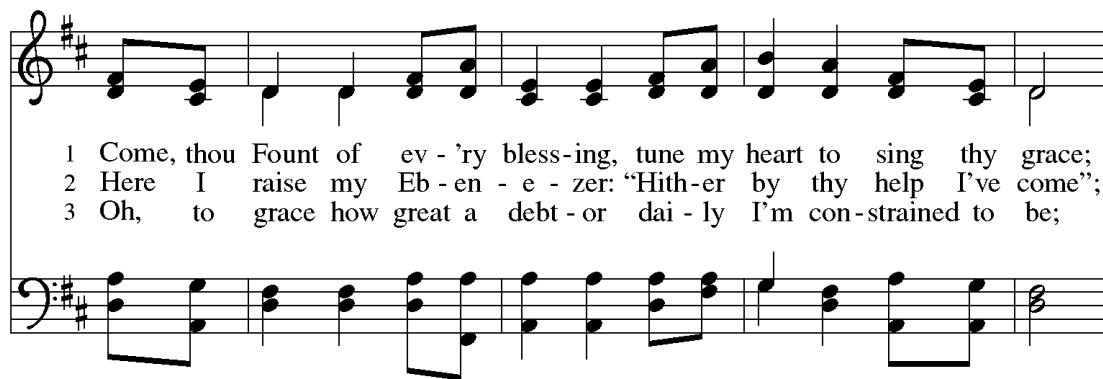
Let the clear in - scrip - tion be: Je - sus, cru - ci - fied for me,



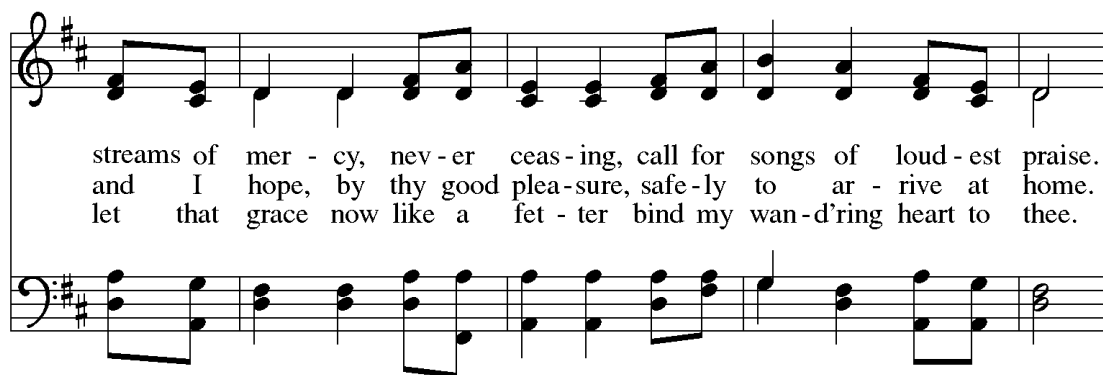
is my life, my hope's foun - da - tion, all my glo - ry and sal - va - tion!

Text: Thomas H. Kingo, 1634–1703; tr. Peer O. Strömme, 1856–1921, alt.  
Music: DER AM KREUZ, Johann B. König, 1691–1758

# Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing



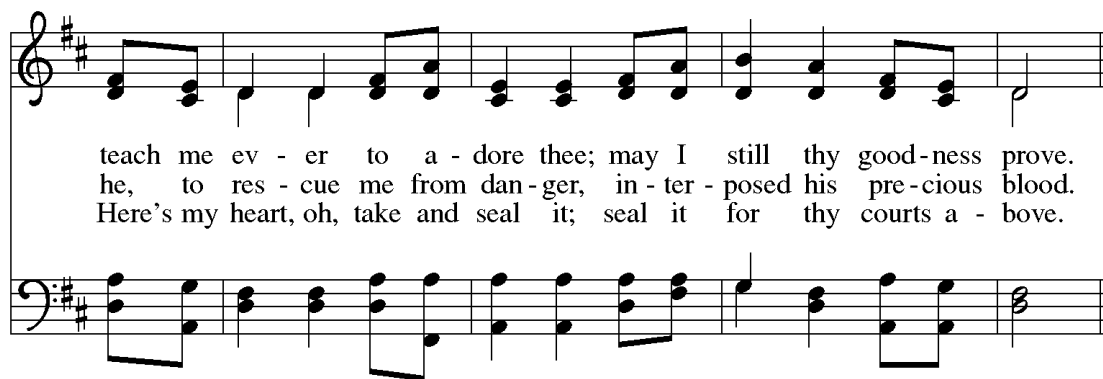
1 Come, thou Fount of ev - 'ry bless-ing, tune my heart to sing thy grace;  
2 Here I raise my Eb - en - e - zer: "Hith-er by thy help I've come";  
3 Oh, to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I'm con-strained to be;



streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas-ing, call for songs of loud - est praise.  
and I hope, by thy good plea-sure, safe-ly to ar - rive at home.  
let that grace now like a fet - ter bind my wan-d'ring heart to thee.



While the hope of end-less glo - ry fills my heart with joy and love,  
Je - sus sought me when a strang - er, wan-d'ring from the fold of God;  
Prone to wan - der, Lord, I feel it; prone to leave the God I love.



teach me ev - er to a - dore thee; may I still thy good-ness prove.  
he, to res - cue me from dan-ger, in - ter - posed his pre-cious blood.  
Here's my heart, oh, take and seal it; seal it for thy courts a - bove.

Text: Robert Robinson, 1735-1790, alt.

Music: NETTLETON, J. Wyeth, *Repository of Sacred Music*, Part II, 1813