

**Jesus was
led up by
the Spirit
into the
wilderness**

MATTHEW 4:1

**February 26, 2023
First Sunday in Lent
Bethany Lutheran Church (ELCA)**

**PRELUDE AND LIGHTING OF CANDLES
RINGING OF BELL
WELCOME**

The people of God stand.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God,
who forgives all our sin,
whose mercy endures forever.

Amen.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Gracious God,

have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

HYMN *Jesus, Still Lead On* (ELW 624)



1 Je - sus, still lead on, till our rest be won; and, al - though the
2 If the way be drear, if the foe be near, let no faith - less
3 When we seek re - lief from a long - felt grief, when temp - ta - tions
4 Je - sus, still lead on, till our rest be won; heav'n - ly lead - er,



way be cheer - less, we will fol - low, calm and fear - less;
fears o'er - take us, let not faith and hope for - sake us;
come al - lur - ing make us pa - tient and en - dur - ing;
still di - rect us, still sup - port, con - sole, pro - tect us,

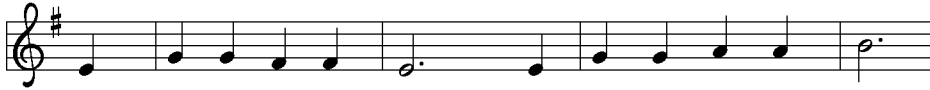


guide us by your hand to the prom - ised land.
safe - ly past the foe to our home we go.
show us that bright shore where we weep no more.
till we safe - ly stand in the prom - ised land.

GREETING

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.



1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.
2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.
3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.



We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.
Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Lord God, our strength, the struggle between good and evil rages within and around us, and the devil and all the forces that defy you tempt us with empty promises. Keep us steadfast in your word, and when we fall, raise us again and restore us through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

The people of God are seated.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING: Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7

Human beings were formed with great care, to be in relationship with the creator, creation, and one another. The serpent's promise to the first couple that their eyes would be opened led, ironically, to the discovery only that they were naked.

A reading from Genesis.

¹⁵The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. ¹⁶And the LORD God commanded the man, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; ¹⁷but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die."

^{3:1}Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat from any tree in the garden?'" ²The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; ³but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.'" ⁴But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die; ⁵for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." ⁶So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. ⁷Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 32

Psalm 32 is a song of thanksgiving.

¹Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven,
and whose sin is put away!

²**Happy are they to whom the LORD imputes no guilt,
and in whose spirit there is no guile!**

³While I held my tongue, my bones withered away,
because of my groaning all day long.

⁴**For your hand was heavy upon me day and night;
my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.**

⁵Then I acknowledged my sin to you and did not conceal my guilt.

I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD." Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.

⁶**Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of trouble;
when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them.**

⁷You are my hiding-place; you preserve me from trouble;
you surround me with shouts of deliverance.

⁸**"I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go;
I will guide you with my eye.**

⁹Do not be like horse or mule, which have no understanding;
who must be fitted with bit and bridle, or else they will not stay near you."

¹⁰**Great are the tribulations of the wicked;
but mercy embraces those who trust in the LORD.**

¹¹Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the LORD;
shout for joy, all who are true of heart.

SECOND READING: Romans 5:12-19

Through Adam's disobedience, humanity came under bondage to sin and death, from which we cannot free ourselves. In Christ's obedient death, God graciously showers on us the free gift of liberation and life.

A reading from Romans.

¹²Just as sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, and so death spread to all because all have sinned—¹³sin was indeed in the world before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law. ¹⁴Yet death exercised dominion from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sins were not like the transgression of Adam, who is a type of the one who was to come.

¹⁵But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died through the one man's trespass, much more surely have the grace of God and the free gift in the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for the many. ¹⁶And the free gift is not like the effect of the one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brings justification. ¹⁷If, because of the one man's trespass, death exercised dominion through that one, much more surely will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness exercise dominion in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.

¹⁸Therefore just as one man's trespass led to condemnation for all, so one man's act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all. ¹⁹For just as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The people of God stand.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (ELW p.205)



We are turn - ing, Lord, to hear you; you are mer - ci - ful and kind -



slow to an - ger, rich in bless - ing, and with love to us in - clined.

GOSPEL READING: Matthew 4:1-11

Jesus experiences anew the temptations that Israel faced in the wilderness. As the Son of God, he endures the testing of the evil one.

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. ²He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. ³The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." ⁴But he answered, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

⁵Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, ⁶saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written, 'He will command his angels concerning you,' and 'On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'" ⁷Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"

⁸Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor; ⁹and he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." ¹⁰Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! for it is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.'" ¹¹Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

The people of God are seated.

SERMON

The people of God stand.

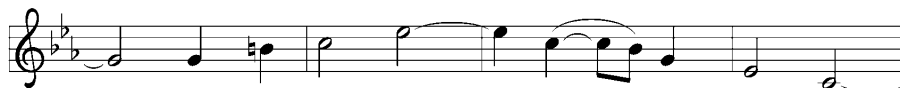
HYMN *I Want Jesus to Walk with Me (ELW 325)*



1 I want Je - sus to walk with me;
2 In my tri - als, Lord, walk with me;
3 When I'm in trou - ble, Lord, walk with me;



I want Je - sus to walk with me;
in my tri - als, Lord, walk with me;
when I'm in trou - ble, Lord, walk with me;



all a - long my pil - grim jour - ney,
when my heart is al - most break - ing,
when my head is bowed in sor - row,



Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.
Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.
Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.

APOSTLES' CREED (ELW P. 105)

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

With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

Each petition ends with, "Lord, in your mercy." The people of God will then sing "O Lord, Hear My Prayer" (ELW 751) below.

O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer: when I call, an - swer me.
OR The Lord is my song, the Lord is my praise: all my hope comes from God.

O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer: come and lis - ten to me.
The Lord is my song, the Lord is my praise: God, the well-spring of life.

The image shows two systems of musical notation for the prayer. Each system consists of a vocal line in treble clef and a piano accompaniment line in bass clef. The key signature is one sharp (F#). The first system includes an alternative line of lyrics: "OR The Lord is my song, the Lord is my praise: all my hope comes from God." The second system ends with a double bar line.

Text: Psalm 102:1-2; Taizé Community, adapt.
Music: HEAR MY PRAYER, Jacques Berthier, 1923-1994
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Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

The people of God are seated.

OFFERING

We are grateful for your gifts, and they are needed to continue the work of the church. For those worshipping online please visit our website (www.wbbethany.org) and click on the blue "Give Now" button on the home page. Thank you! The people of God stand as the offering is brought forward.

HYMN *Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil (ELW 512)*



Lord, let my heart be good soil, o-pen to the seed of your word.



Lord, let my heart be good soil, where love can grow and peace is un-der-stood.



When my heart is hard, break the stone a - way. When my heart is cold,



warm it with the day. When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.



Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart be good soil.

Text: Handt Hanson, b. 1950
Music: GOOD SOIL, Handt Hanson
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OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

God of mercy and grace, the eyes of all wait upon you, and you open your hand in blessing. Fill us with good things at your table, that we may come to the help of all in need, through Jesus Christ, our redeemer and Lord. Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

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.

SENDING

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

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✝ give you peace.

Amen.

HYMN Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer (ELW 618)



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.

SENDING

Go in peace! Share the good news!

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

*Thank you for worshipping with us.
 Please join us for fellowship and refreshments in the Great Hall.*

OUR WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Ministers of:	Today	March 5
Music	Jill Barnhart	Jill Barnhart
Proclamation (Lector)	Wayne Frauenholtz	Dave Bahnsen
Minister of Technology	Cole Crosthwaite & Tate Frantz	Alex Poppen
Worship (Altar Care)	Paula Casper & Patsy Ernst	Worship Committee



Fourth Sunday Community Meal
 Sunday February 26 -- 5:00 to 6:00 PM
 Please join us for a wonderful meal and great fellowship!



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
 God's work. Our hands.



sunday school
with Bethany Lutheran Church

Preschool - Grade 3

March 5, 19, 26

8:30 - 9:15 AM
WORSHIP AT 9:30 AM

Ministry Opportunities This Week

Wednesday, March 1

- 7:00 AM — Men's Bible Study with Breakfast
- 6:15 PM — Choir Practice
- 6:15 PM — Lent Meal
- 7:00 PM — Prayer Around the Cross Worship

Thursday, March 2

- 6:00 AM — Women's Bible Study

Sunday, March 5

- 8:30 AM — Sunday School (PreK-Grade 3)
- 9:30 AM — Worship
- 10:30 AM — Fellowship



LENT

Midweek Worship



God loves you!!!

Wednesday Lent Ministry Opportunities

March 1

Dinner @ 6:15 PM
Prayer Around the Cross
Worship @ 7:00 PM
A Heart of Flesh
Prayer for renewal & mercy

March 8

Dinner @ 6:15 PM
Prayer Around the Cross
Worship @ 7:00 PM
Prayer for the healing of the nations

March 22

Dinner @ 6:15 PM
Prayer Around the Cross
Worship @ 7:00 PM
Prayer for the healing of creation

March 29

Dinner @ 6:15 PM
Prayer Around the Cross
Worship @ 7:00 PM
Beside Still Waters
A prayer of healing

We invite everyone to join us!
Bethany Lutheran Church, 235 S 2nd St.



**UNITED IN
Prayer**

Visit our virtual
prayer wall



<https://bit.ly/bethanyprays>

Bethany Lutheran Church

Thank you for worshipping with us today. Just as Jesus welcomed the stranger, we believe all are welcome here. Please join us again next week. For more information about our life together in Christ, visit:
www.wbbethany.org

Did you know...



How your weekly offering makes an impact?

It helps us invest in technology to expand our reach beyond the church doors



Average Online attendance = 112 viewers

Thank you for your gifts,
which support these and many more great ministries at Bethany Lutheran Church

Did you know...

How your weekly offering makes an impact?

It supports... youth ministries

30 children were able to attend Vacation Bible School
12 Children were given Bibles in the spring + 15 more this fall
Wednesday Faith Formation - Starts September 7
Sunday School resumes - September 11



It supports... small group Bible Studies

Wednesday Mornings - Men's Study Group - 7:00am
Thursday Mornings - Woman's Study Group - 6:00am
Monthly Women's Bible Study - 2nd Wednesday at 9:00am

It supports... community outreach programs

Like the Hope Chest & the Food Pantry which provide clothing and food to those in need



It supports... meals and fellowship

Free dinner on the 4th Sunday of the month
the annual community tailgate
Angel Meals
annual Spaghetti Dinner

Thank you for your gifts,
which support these and many more great ministries at Bethany Lutheran Church

Many people donate countless hours in various ministries utilizing their unique skills and abilities. Hence, it is important for planning purposes to know who is volunteering for which ministries. Help us plan and manage this generosity by completing the online Time and Talent form, which can be accessed at the following link (<https://tinyurl.com/yd9mxdcx>) or by scanning the QR Code to the left.

- There is a section at the end of this form where you can leave any comments.
- Please submit a new form for each person who would like to volunteer.
- Please let a member of the Stewardship Team (Dave Poppen, Kent Kaufman, Stacy Beyer) know if you have any questions.

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