

March 3, 2024 Third Sunday in Lent Bethany Lutheran Church (ELCA)

## PRELUDE & LIGHTING OF CANDLES RINGING OF BELL

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 You are My All in All



## **GREETING** (ELW p.203)

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

### Let us pray.

Holy God, through your Son you have called us to live faithfully and act courageously. Keep us steadfast in your covenant of grace and teach us the wisdom that comes only through 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: Exodus 20:1-17

After escaping from slavery, the Israelites come to Mount Sinai, where God teaches them how to live in community. The Ten Commandments proclaim that God alone is worthy of worship. Flowing from God, the life of the community flourishes when based on honesty, trust, fidelity, and respect for life, family, and property.

A reading from Exodus.

<sup>1</sup>God spoke all these words: <sup>2</sup>I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; <sup>3</sup>you shall have no other gods before me.

<sup>4</sup>You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. <sup>5</sup>You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me, <sup>6</sup>but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments.

<sup>7</sup>You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not acquit anyone who misuses his name.

<sup>8</sup>Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. <sup>9</sup>Six days you shall labor and do all your work. <sup>10</sup>But the seventh day is a sabbath to the LORD your God; you shall not do any work—you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. <sup>11</sup>For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it.

<sup>12</sup>Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.

<sup>13</sup>You shall not murder.

<sup>14</sup>You shall not commit adultery.

<sup>15</sup>You shall not steal.

<sup>16</sup>You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

<sup>17</sup>You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.** 

### PSALM 19

<sup>1</sup>The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky proclaims its maker's handiwork. <sup>2</sup>One day tells its tale to another, and one night imparts knowledge to another. <sup>3</sup>Although they have no words or language,

and their voices are not heard,

<sup>4</sup>their sound has gone out into all lands, and their message to the ends of the world, where God has pitched a tent for the sun.

<sup>5</sup>It comes forth like a bridegroom out of his chamber;

it rejoices like a champion to run its course.

<sup>6</sup>It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens and runs about to the end of it again; nothing is hidden from its burning heat.

<sup>7</sup>The teaching of the LORD is perfect and revives the soul;

the testimony of the LORD is sure and gives wisdom to the simple.

<sup>8</sup>The statutes of the LORD are just and rejoice the heart;

the commandment of the LORD is clear and gives light to the eyes.

<sup>9</sup>The fear of the LORD is clean and endures forever;

the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.

<sup>10</sup>More to be desired are they than gold, more than much fine gold,

sweeter far than honey, than honey in the comb.

<sup>11</sup>By them also is your servant enlightened,

and in keeping them there is great reward.

<sup>12</sup>Who can detect one's own offenses?

## Cleanse me from my secret faults.

<sup>13</sup>Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins; let them not get dominion over me; then shall I be whole and sound, and innocent of a great offense.

<sup>14</sup>Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O LORD, my strength and my redeemer.

## SECOND READING: First Corinthians 1:18-25

The word of the cross is pure foolishness and nonsense to the world because it claims that God is mostly revealed in weakness, humiliation, and death. But through such divine foolishness and weakness, God is working to save us. The center of Paul's preaching is Christ crucified.

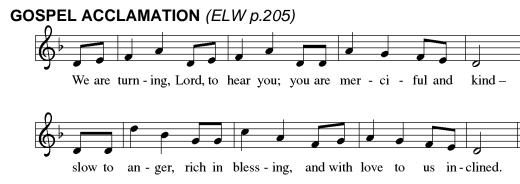
A reading from First Corinthians.

<sup>18</sup>The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. <sup>19</sup>For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart."

<sup>20</sup>Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? <sup>21</sup>For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. <sup>22</sup>For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, <sup>23</sup>but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, <sup>24</sup>but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. <sup>25</sup>For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.** 

The people of God stand.



### GOSPEL READING: John 2:13-22

Jesus attacks the commercialization of religion by driving merchants out of the temple. When challenged, he responds mysteriously, with the first prediction of his own death and resurrection. In the midst of a seemingly stable religious center, Jesus suggests that the center itself has changed.

The holy gospel according to John. Glory to you, O Lord.

<sup>13</sup>The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. <sup>14</sup>In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables. <sup>15</sup>Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. <sup>16</sup>He told those who were selling the doves, "Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a marketplace!" <sup>17</sup>His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me." <sup>18</sup>The Jews then said to him, "What sign can you show us for doing this?" <sup>19</sup>Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." <sup>20</sup>The Jews then said, "This temple has been under construction for fortysix years, and will you raise it up in three days?" <sup>21</sup>But he was speaking of the temple of his body. <sup>22</sup>After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.** 

The people of God are seated.

### SERMON

The people of God stand.



## **APOSTLES' 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

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." Those worshipping respond with the hymn below "O Lord, Hear My Prayer" (ELW 751).



Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

## Amen.

## PEACE

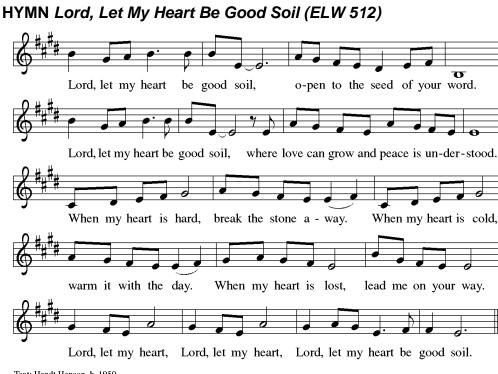
The peace of Christ be with you always. And also with you.

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, options on ways to give are found on our website (<u>www.wbbethany.org</u>). Thank you! After the offering is gathered, we sing the hymn below as the gifts are brought forward.

The people of God stand.



Text: Handt Hanson, b. 1950 Music: GOOD SOIL, Handt Hanson Text and music © 1985 Prince of Peace Publishing, Changing Church, Inc., admin. Augsburg Fortress.

## **OFFERING PRAYER**

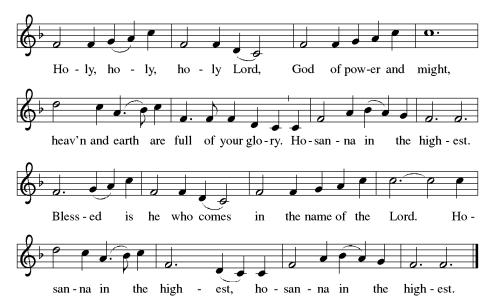
## Let us prav.

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.



**GREAT THANKSGIVING** (ELW p.206) 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.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace. And so, with the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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.

### LORD'S PRAYER (ELW p.208)

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

forever and ever. Amen.

The people of God are seated.

### COMMUNION

Communion today will be distributed around the altar. The cups in the center of the tray contain white grape juice. All other cups are wine. Gluten-free wafers are available upon request.

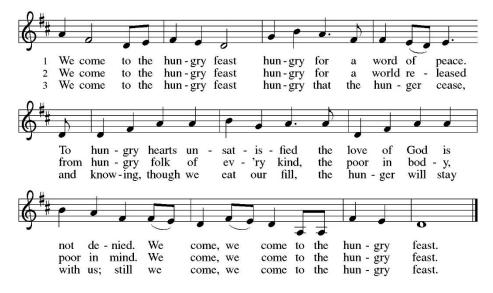
All gathered who believe Jesus Christ is their Lord and Savior are invited to come to Holy Communion with repentant hearts believing that Christ forgives our sins and guides our lives. Strengthened, forgiven, and nourished through this meal the Spirit sends us forth in service and to proclaim the good news of Christ's love. Children and adults who do not take communion may come forward for a blessing.

HYMNS DURING COMMUNION Lamb of God (ELW p.208)



Text: Carl G. Boberg, 1859–1940; tr. and adapt. Stuart K. Hine, 1899–1989 Music: O STORE GUD, Swedish folk tune: adapt. Stuart K. Hine Text and music © 1953 S. K. Hine, assigned to Manna Music, Inc., 35255 Brooten Road, Pacific City OR 97135 (ASCAP). Renewed 1981. All rights reserved.

### We Come to the Hungry Feast (ELW 479)



Text: Ray Makeever, b. 1943 Music: HUNGRY FEAST, Ray Makeever Text and music © 1982 Ray Makeever, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

The people of God stand.

#### PRAYER

Let us pray.

O God, we give you thanks that you have set before us this feast, the body and blood of your Son. By your Spirit strengthen us to serve all in need and to give ourselves away as bread for the hungry, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

### Amen.

#### SENDING

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

### BLESSING

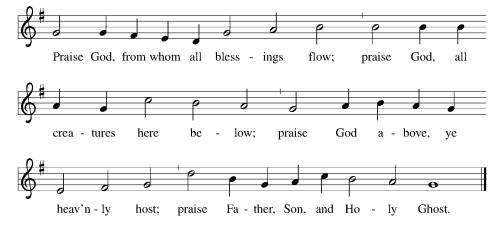
The Lord bless you and keep you.

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

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

### Amen.

#### HYMN Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow



Text: Thomas Ken, 1637–1711, alt. Music: OLD HUNDREDTH, Louis Bourgeois, 1510–1561

### SENDING

Go in peace. Share the good news. Thanks be to God.

### POSTLUDE

## Please join us in the fellowship hall refreshments.

OUR WORSHIP ASSISTANTS		
Ministers of:	Today	March 10
Music	Jill Barnhart	Jill Barnhart
<b>Proclamation</b> (Lector)	Kami Poppen	Patsy Ernst
Minister of Technology	Dave Poppen	Jill Taylor
Ministers of Hospitality	Dave & Kami Poppen	Kent & Beth Kaufman
Worship (Altar Care)	Patsy Ernst & Paula Casper	Patsy Ernst & Paula Casper

This worship is being streamed live via Facebook and will be posted to our Website and X (formerly Twitter). The camera captures anyone in the first few pews of our worship space and beyond extending to the altar.



Please join us this Wednesday! We gather for a meal at 6:15 PM followed by prayer around the cross at 7:00 PM.



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: <u>www.wbbethany.org</u>





To grow so deep in Christ through worship, education, and fellowship that we celebrate by reaching out to others.





## Southeastern Iowa Synod

**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America** God's work. Our hands. Stay up to date with happenings from around the Southeastern Iowa Synod by signing up for the weekly E-News. Visit: <u>https://seiasynod.org/follow-us/</u>

# PAW PANTRY SUPPLIES NEEDED

.

•

•

.

.

.

.

•

.

.

.

.

.

•

.

Land Acknowledgement

Bethany Lutheran is located in the original and ancestral homelands of the lowa, Sauk, Fox, Kickapoo and Oceti Sakowin peoples, and we give thanks for their presence here since time immemorial. We also wish to recognize and honor all our Indigenous siblings who have and continue to call this land their home.

. During the Lenten season, the confirmation class is asking for your help in providing needed supplies for the Paw • Pantry located at the old middle school. This pantry is open • to all students and families in the West Branch Community • • School District. Currently, 30 families use the pantry. • Needed supplies include: laundry detergent, paper towels, • toilet paper, deodorant, body wash, shampoo, shaving cream • and disposable razors. We ask donations be returned by • March 20th, They can be placed in our classroom (3rd room) • on left in Great Hall). Thank you so much for your support • and generosity! • • • Arik Marsh, Addy Langley, Eli Fetzer, • Hallie Fitzgerald and Pastor Chad

Liturgy from sundaysandseasons.com. Copyright © 2020 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Used by permission of Augsburg Fortress under license # SB135727.

How Great Thou Art (ELW 856) Text and arr. © 1953 S.K. Hine, assigned to Manna Music, Inc; 35255 Brooklyn Road, Pacific City, OR97135 (ASCAP) Renewed 1981. All rights reserved. Used by permission under OneLicense.net A-726405 streaming license. Text and music © 1982 Ray Makeever, admin. Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Used by permission under OneLicense.net A-726405 streaming license. All rights streaming license.

O Lord, Hear My Prayer (ELW 751); Text and music © 1982, 1991 Les Presses de Taize, GIA Publications, Inc., agent. Used by permission under OneLicense.net A-726405 streaming license.

Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil (ELW 512); Text and music © 1985 Prince of Peace Publishing, Changing Church, Inc. admin. Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission under OneLicense.net A-726405 streaming license.

You Are My All In All; Words and music by Dennis Jernigan © 1991 Shepherd's Heart Music, Inc. Used by Permission. CCLI License #21117856 and Streaming License #21117849.

Scripture from New Revised Standard Version Bible, Copyright © 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.