

Third Sunday In Lent

March 3, 2024

Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Hermiston, Oregon

The Lord be with you! The Lord's Supper is celebrated this morning in the confidence that, as He says, Jesus gives us not only bread and wine, but also His very body and blood to eat and drink (Matthew 26:26-28). This meal is given to us for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with Christ and our love for one another.

Because the Scriptures tell us that those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood in an unworthy manner are doing themselves great harm (1 Corinthians 11:27-29); and because Holy Communion is a sharing in the faith confessed at this altar, the following are asked to consult with the pastor before taking communion:

- any who are not yet instructed in the Christian faith;
- those who hold a confession differing from that of Bethlehem and the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod.

If you are visiting us this morning and would like to receive a blessing at the altar we invite you to come forward. To let those serving communion know you would like to receive a blessing, please cross your arms across your chest and bow your head – see image to the right.



Hymn of the Month #431 "Not All the Blood of Beasts"

Not all the blood of beasts
On Jewish altars slain
Could give the guilty conscience peace
Or wash away the stain.

But Christ, the heav'nly Lamb,
Takes all our sins away;
A sacrifice of nobler name
And richer blood than they.

My faith would lay its hand
On that dear head of Thine,
While as a penitent I stand,
And there confess my sin.

My soul looks back to see
The burden Thou didst bear
When hanging on the cursèd tree;
I know my guilt was there.

Believing, we rejoice
To see the curse remove;
We bless the Lamb with cheerful voice
And sing His bleeding love.

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Confession and Absolution

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. 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: Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto You that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against You by thought, word, and deed. Wherefore we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C: O most merciful God, Who has given Your only-begotten Son to die for us, have mercy upon us and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by Your Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of You and of Your will and true obedience to Your Word, to the end that by Your grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

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.

During the season of Lent we will be using the Penitential Psalms as prayers expressing our sorrow for our sins, our desire to turn away from these sins, and our trust in the mercy of the Lord to forgive us these sins.

The Penitential Psalms are numbers 6, 32, 38, 51, 102, 130 & 143

Psalm

Psalm 38

P: O LORD, rebuke me not in Your anger,

C: nor discipline me in Your wrath!

P: For Your arrows have sunk into me,

C: and Your hand has come down on me.

P: There is no soundness in my flesh because of Your indignation;

C: there is no health in my bones because of my sin.

P: For my iniquities have gone over my head;

C: like a heavy burden, they are too heavy for me.

P: My wounds stink and fester because of my foolishness,

**C: I am utterly bowed down and prostrate;
all the day I go about mourning.**

P: For my sides are filled with burning,

C: and there is no soundness in my flesh.

P: I am feeble and crushed;

C: I groan because of the tumult of my heart.

P: O Lord, all my longing is before You;

C: my sighing is not hidden from You.

P: My heart throbs; my strength fails me,

C: and the light of my eyes — it also has gone from me.

P: My friends and companions stand aloof from my plague,

C: and my nearest kin stand far off.

P: Those who seek my life lay their snares;

**C: those who seek my hurt speak of ruin
and meditate treachery all day long.**

P: But I am like a deaf man; I do not hear,

C: like a mute man who does not open his mouth.

P: I have become like a man who does not hear,

C: and in whose mouth are no rebukes.

P: But for You, O LORD, do I wait;

C: it is You, O Lord my God, who will answer.

P: For I said, "Only let them not rejoice over me, who boast against me when my foot slips!"

**C: For I am ready to fall,
and my pain is ever before me.**

P: I confess my iniquity;

C: I am sorry for my sin.

P: But my foes are vigorous, they are mighty,

C: and many are those who hate me wrongfully.

P: Those who render me evil for good accuse me because I follow after good.

C: Do not forsake me, O LORD!

O my God, be not far from me!

P: Make haste to help me,

C: O Lord, my salvation!

Kyrie *spoken*

Mark 10:47

Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P: The Lord be with you.

2 Timothy 4:22

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray.

O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy, be gracious to all who have gone astray from Your ways and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of Your Word; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Old Testament Reading

Exodus 20:1-17

And God spoke all these words, saying,

²"I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.

³"You shall have no other gods before me.

⁴"You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. ⁵You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate me, ⁶but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments.

⁷"You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes his name in vain.

⁸"Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. ⁹Six days you shall labor, and do all your work, ¹⁰but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates. ¹¹For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.

¹²"Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.

¹³"You shall not murder.

¹⁴"You shall not commit adultery.

¹⁵"You shall not steal.

¹⁶"You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

¹⁷“You shall not covet your neighbor’s house; you shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, or his male servant, or his female servant, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor’s.”

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Gradual

recited by all

Hebrews 12:2

**[O come, let us fix our eyes on] Jesus,
the Founder and Perfecter of our faith,
Who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame,
and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.**

Epistle

1 Corinthians 1:18-31

The word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹For it is written,

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

²⁰Where 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? ²¹For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe. ²²For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, ²³but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, ²⁴but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

²⁶For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. ²⁷But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; ²⁸God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, ²⁹so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. ³⁰He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, whom God made our wisdom and our righteousness and sanctification and redemption. ³¹Therefore, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Holy Gospel

John 2:13-22

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

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

The Passover of the Jews was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. ¹⁴In the temple he found those who were selling oxen and sheep and pigeons, and the money-changers sitting there. ¹⁵And making a whip of cords, he drove them all out of the temple, with the sheep and oxen. And he poured out the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables. ¹⁶And he told those who sold the pigeons, “Take these things away; do not make my Father’s house a house of trade.” ¹⁷His disciples remembered that it was written, “Zeal for your house will consume me.”

¹⁸So the Jews said to him, “What sign do you show us for doing these things?” ¹⁹Jesus answered them, “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.” ²⁰The Jews then said, “It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will you raise it up in three days?” ²¹But he was speaking about the temple of his body. ²²When therefore 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.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

The Nicene Creed

**I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by Whom all things were made;
Who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,
Whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
Who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
Who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
Who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life † of the world to come. Amen.**

Hymn #427 "In The Cross of Christ I Glory"

In the cross of Christ I glory,
Tow'ring o'er the wrecks of time.
All the light of sacred story
Gathers round its head sublime.

When the woes of life o'ertake me,
Hopes deceive, and fears annoy,
Never shall the cross forsake me;
Lo, it glows with peace and joy.

When the sun of bliss is beaming
Light and love upon my way,
From the cross the radiance streaming
Adds more luster to the day.

Bane and blessing, pain and pleasure
By the cross are sanctified;
Peace is there that knows no measure,
Joys that through all time abide.

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Sermon

Offering

Hymn during the Offering #744 "Amazing Grace"

Amazing grace—how sweet the sound—
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost but now am found,
Was blind but now I see!

The Lord has promised good to me,
His Word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be
As long as life endures.

Through many dangers, toils, and snares
I have already come;
His grace has brought me safe thus far,
His grace will lead me home.

Yes, when this flesh and heart shall fail
And mortal life shall cease,
Amazing grace shall then prevail
In heaven's joy and peace.

When we've been there ten thousand years,
Bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise
Than when we'd first begun.

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Prayer of the Church

Preface

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, out of love for His fallen creation, humbled Himself by taking on the form of a servant, becoming obedient unto death, even death upon a cross. Risen from the dead, He has freed us from eternal death and given us life everlasting. 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

**Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth adored;
Heav'n and earth with full acclaim shout the glory of Your name.
Sing hosanna in the highest, sing hosanna to the Lord;
Truly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!**

Lord's Prayer

Matthew 6:9-13

**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

Agnus Dei

**O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,
You take the sin of the world away;
O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,
Have mercy on us, Lord, we pray.**

**O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,
You take the sin of the world away;
Have mercy on us, Jesus Christ,
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.**

Distribution Hymn #637 "Draw Near and Take the Body of the Lord"

Draw near and take the body of the Lord,
And drink the holy blood for you outpoured;
Offered was He for greatest and for least,
Himself the victim and Himself the priest.

He who His saints in this world rules and shields,
To all believers life eternal yields;
With heav'nly bread He makes the hungry whole,
Gives living waters to the thirsting soul.

Come forward then with faithful hearts sincere,
And take the pledges of salvation here.
O Lord, our hearts with grateful thanks endow
As in this feast of love You bless us now.

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Nunc Dimittis

Luke 2:29-32

**P: "Lord, now You are letting Your servant depart in peace, according to your word;
C: for my eyes have seen Your salvation
that You have prepared in the presence of all peoples,**

P: a light for revelation to the Gentiles,
C: and for glory to Your people Israel.”

Thanksgiving

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.

Salutation and Benedicamus

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And with thy spirit.

P: Bless we the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Benediction

Numbers 6:24-26

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.

Hymn #524 “How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds”

How sweet the name of Jesus sounds In a believer’s ear!
It soothes our sorrows, heals our wounds,
And drives away our fear.
It makes the wounded spirit whole And calms the heart’s unrest;
’Tis manna to the hungry soul
And to the weary, rest.
Dear name! The rock on which I build, My shield and hiding place;
My never-failing treasury filled
With boundless stores of grace.
O Jesus, shepherd, guardian, friend, My Prophet, Priest, and King,
My Lord, my life, my way, my end,
Accept the praise I bring.
How weak the effort of my heart, How cold my warmest thought!
But when I see Thee as Thou art,
I’ll praise Thee as I ought.
Till then I would Thy love proclaim With ev’ry fleeting breath;
And may the music of Thy name
Refresh my soul in death!

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