

Welcome to
Bethania Lutheran Kirke

SECOND SUNDAY IN
LENT

A purple cross graphic is overlaid on the word 'LENT'. The cross is composed of a vertical bar and a horizontal bar, both with a textured, slightly distressed appearance. The vertical bar is positioned over the 'E' and 'N' of 'LENT', and the horizontal bar is positioned over the 'L' and 'E'.

March 5, 2023

10:30 a.m.

BULLETINS ARE AVAILABLE ONLINE AT:

<http://www.bethanialutheran.org/bulletins/>

Thank you for worshipping with us today, in an effort to keep everyone safe:

1. Masks are Optional

2. The offering plate will be at the door of the sanctuary.

3. Worshippers are to take bulletins home with them or deposit in recycle bin near the narthex doors.

4. Communion will be by intinction. Dipping the wafer into the wine filled chalice. Grape juice and Covid cups will be available for those who request them.

5. Use of Hand sanitizer is required when entering and leaving the sanctuary.

6. Contact Tracing -

A digital image of the congregants will be taken during the service to act as a reference should an individual become COVID positive within 5 days of church service.

Prayer List

Dan Cruz, Ann Marie, Pat & Pete
Nelson, Jeff & Sue O.,

Austin Imhoff, Forest, Kyle, Kevin Dahlen, Ryan
Nelson, Carl & Mickey Monefeldt, Anita Nielsen.

Tom Neilsen



TODAYS WORSHIP LEADERS:

Pastor: Open

Communion Assistant: OPEN

Lector: Anne Woodward

Acolyte: Eli Imhoff

Coffee Hour: Open

Altar Flowers: OPEN

Building Host: Brad Larsen

	March 12	March 19	March 26	April 2 Palm Sunday
Worship Leader	Pastor Paul Ihlenfeld	Pastor Chad Kline	Pastor Kara Baylor	Pastor Kara Baylor
Communion Assistant				
Lector	Anne Woodward			Anne Woodward
Acolyte	Brooke McIntosh	(Open)	Dominic Shawhan	Eli Imhoff
Coffee Hour	Altar Guild			
Altar Flowers				
Building Host	Aldersons	John Barnes	Ed Young	Kelly Imhoff

**Order of Worship
for
Sunday, March 5, 2023**

During Lent we journey with all those around the world who will be baptized at the Easter Vigil. In today's gospel Jesus tells Nicodemus that he must be born of water and Spirit. At the font we are given a new birth as children of God. As God made a covenant with Abraham, in baptism God promises to raise us up with Christ to new life. From worship we are sent forth to proclaim God's love for all the world.

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SHARING JOYS & CONCERNS

GATHERING

(Please rise)

CALL TO WORSHIP

P: Great is the Lord!

C: God's greatness is beyond our understanding.

P: Yet God has revealed God's self in Jesus Christ.

C: Through Jesus we have come to know the absolute love of God.

P: Lift up your hearts and praise the Lord!

C: May God continue to bless God's people with peace.

AMEN

PROCESSIONAL & GATHERING HYMN

"Wash O God, Our Sons And Daughters "

#697

With One Voice—Blue Hymnal

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God,
who journeys with us these forty days,
and sustains us with the gift of grace.

C: Amen.

P: Let us acknowledge before God and one another
our need for repentance and God's mercy.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Holy God,

C: we confess to you our faults and failings.

Too often we neglect and do not trust your holy word;

we take for ourselves instead of giving to others;

we spoil rather than steward your creation;

we cause hurt though you call us to heal;

we choose fear over compassion.

Forgive us, renew us, and lead us,

as we seek to follow in your way of life.

Amen.

P: Hear the good news:

God so loved the world that God gave the only Son,
so that all may receive life.

This promise is for you!

God embraces you with divine mercy,

✝ forgives you in Christ's name,

and revives you in the Spirit's power.

C: Amen.

SALUTATION

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

C: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray,

O God, our leader and guide, in the waters of baptism you
bring us to new birth to live as your children. Strengthen our
faith in your promises, that by your Spirit we may lift up your
life to all the world through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior
and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

(Please be seated)

WORD

OUR FIRST LESSON is from the book of Genesis, chapter 12, verses 1 through 4a.

God's call of Abram and Sarai has a clear purpose—that through them all the families of the earth would gain a blessing. As they set out on their journey, they are accompanied by promises of land, nation, and a great reputation.

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

^{4a}So Abram went, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

PLEASE READ RESPONSIVELY - PSALM 121

¹I lift up my eyes to the hills; from where is my help to come?

²**My help comes from the LORD, the maker of heaven and earth.**

³The LORD will not let your foot be moved nor will the one who watches over you fall asleep.

⁴**Behold, the keeper of Israel will neither slumber nor sleep;**

⁵the LORD watches over you; the LORD is your shade at your right hand;

⁶**the sun will not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.**

⁷The LORD will preserve you from all evil and will keep your life.

⁸**The LORD will watch over your going out and your coming in, from this time forth forevermore.**

OUR SECOND LESSON is from the book of Romans; chapter 4, verses 1 through 5 and 13 through 17.

In the person and example of Abraham we discover that a right relationship with God does not involve earning a reward from God but entails trusting God's promises. Abraham is the forebear and model for both Jews and Gentiles, because we too trust that ours is a God who gives life to the dead.

¹What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? ²For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. ³For what does the scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness." ⁴Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. ⁵But to one who without works trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

¹³For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. ¹⁴If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. ¹⁵For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

¹⁶For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, ¹⁷as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations")—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

L: This is the Spirit speaking to the church.

C: Thanks be to God!

(Please rise)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

(ACS #994)

Listen to the Word That God Has Spoken



Lis-ten to the word that God has spo-ken; lis-ten to the One who is



close at hand; lis-ten to the voice that be - gan cre - a - tion;



lis - ten e - ven if you don't un - der - stand.

Text: Anonymous, Canada

Music: LISTEN TO THE WORD, Anonymous, Canada; adapt. *Church Hymnary*, 4th Edition, 2005

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John the 3rd chapter.

C: Glory to you O Lord.

GOSPEL: John 3:1-17

A curious Pharisee visits Jesus by night to learn from the teacher his friends reject. Jesus speaks to him about life in the Spirit and the kingdom of God.

¹Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. ²He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God." ³Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." ⁴Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" ⁵Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. ⁶What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' ⁸The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." ⁹Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" ¹⁰Jesus answered him, "Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?"

¹¹"Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. ¹²If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? ¹³No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

¹⁷“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you O Christ.

(Please be seated)

MESSAGE

(Please rise)

HYMN OF THE DAY -

“We Are Baptized In Christ Jesus ” #698

With One Voice—Blue Hymnal

UNISON LENTEN PRAYER

P: Let us pray,

**C: You were a man of suffering acquainted with grief,
loved and despised in equal measure.**

**You understand humanity, know our failings,
love us despite the people that we are.**

**When we, like Peter, deny you by word or action,
forgive us.**

**When we, like Judas, are tempted to follow a different path,
forgive us.**

**When we, like those in the crowd allow you to be crucified,
forgive us.**

**Bring us to the foot of the Cross to stand next to the one who,
looking into your eyes declared 'Surely this is the Son of God'**

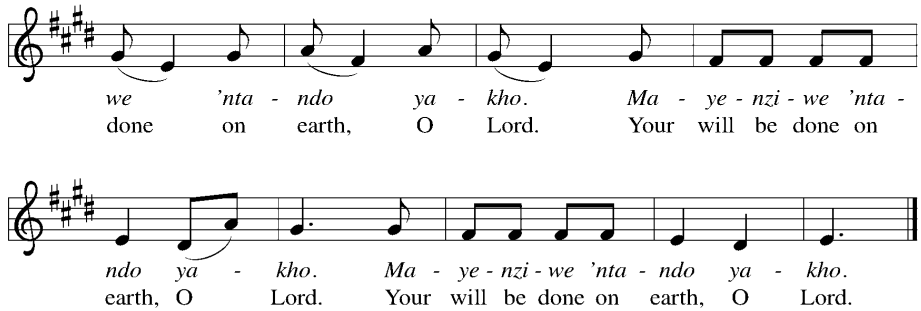
PRAYER SONG

(ELW #741)

Your Will Be Done *Mayenziwe*

Ma - ye - nzi - we 'nta - ndo ya - kho. Ma -
Your will be done on earth, O Lord. Your

ye - nzi - we 'nta - ndo ya - kho. Ma - ye - nzi -
will be done on earth, O Lord. Your will be



we 'nta - ndo ya - kho. Ma - ye - nzi - we 'nta -
done on earth, O Lord. Your will be done on

ndo ya - kho. Ma - ye - nzi - we 'nta - ndo ya - kho.
earth, O Lord. Your will be done on earth, O Lord.

Text: South African, based on the Lord's Prayer

Music: MAYENZIWE, South African traditional, as taught by Gobingca George Mxadana

PRAYERS

P: Sustained by God's abundant mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

P: O God, you so love your church. Raise up leaders who care for your people. Bless lay theologians, seminary and college professors, and all who are called to the ministry of teaching, that they form and inspire us for the work of the gospel. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

P: O God, you so love your creation. Breathe new life into our planetary home. Guide the work of researchers, scientists, and activists who love your earth and who inspire us to care for the natural world. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

P: O God, you so love the world. Uphold leaders who resist tyranny and oppression. Strengthen organizations that promote peace and harmony. Direct their work to alleviate human suffering and to address its root causes. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

P: O God, you so love your people. Draw near to all who live with mental illness, depression, or addiction, and accompany them in healing and recovery. Hear the cries of those who look to you in their distress *especially* Dan, Ann Marie, Pat & Pete, Jeff & Sue O., Austin, Forest, Kyle, Kevin , Ryan , Carl & Mickey, Anita, Tom and all those we name in our hearts, Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

P: O God, you so love your children. Bless the young in our midst, and delight us with their joy, wonder, and curiosity. Revive our ministries with children and youth and equip us all for faithful discipleship. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

P: O God, you so love your saints. As our ancestors in the faith have been a blessing to us, so inspire us by their example of holy living to be a blessing to those who come after us. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

P: We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your steadfast love and your promise to renew your whole creation; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

C: Amen.

PRAYER SONG (repeated)

(ELW #741)

Your Will Be Done *Mayenziwe*

Ma - ye - nzi - we 'nta - ndo ya - kho. Ma -
Your will be done on earth, O Lord. Your

ye - nzi - we 'nta - ndo ya - kho. Ma - ye - nzi -
will be done on earth, O Lord. Your will be

we 'nta - ndo ya - kho. Ma - ye - nzi - we 'nta -
done on earth, O Lord. Your will be done on

ndo ya - kho. Ma - ye - nzi - we 'nta - ndo ya - kho.
earth, O Lord. Your will be done on earth, O Lord.

Text: South African, based on the Lord's Prayer

Music: MAYENZIWE, South African traditional, as taught by Gobingca George Mxadana

Because of Covid the offering is collected at the center door before worship and will be brought down the center aisle during the repeated prayer song.

OFFERING PRAYER

P: Let us pray,

God of good gifts,

receive these and all our offerings
as we present them in faithful service
for the sake of your gospel.

Prepare our hearts to receive you in this meal
as you pour out your very presence
through Christ Jesus, the wellspring of eternal life.

C: Amen

INTRODUCTION TO THE MEAL

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give our thanks to the Holy One.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER AND WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P: Holy one, great God of judgment and mercy, we give thanks to you through your beloved son, Jesus Christ.

From earliest days, you turned toward your creation, bringing light from darkness, firm ground from the deep, life from the dust.

Adam and Eve turned from the garden to toil and struggle. Abraham and Sarah turned from a life of wandering to the land that you showed them. Your people Israel turned from captivity to cry unto you, and you delivered them from captivity. And in the wilderness Jesus turned away from the tempter and toward his proclamation of the heavenly kingdom.

You ordained for everything a season, a time to break down, and a time to build up, a time to keep, and a time to put aside. Let this now be a time of healing, a time of justice, a time of reconciliation and peace.

On the night in which he turned to his friends, our Lord Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples and said, "Take; eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way he also took the cup after the supper, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them saying, "Drink of it, all of you. This cup is the New Covenant in my blood, shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

Remembering, therefore, Christ's turn toward the world, his journey to the cross, and his resurrection from the dead, we turn toward you in the gifts of bread and wine, signs of your mercy and balm for our souls.

C: Amen. Come Lord Jesus.

Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit, that these gifts may be healing and redemption for us and for your world, the turning toward a new day of righteousness.

C: Amen. Come Holy Spirit.

And now, may all creation turn toward you, seeking your mercy and trusting in your word, that we may share in your glory with all the saints in light.

P: Let us join together in the prayer that our Lord taught us to pray:

**C: Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: Come and receive Jesus, our strength in the wilderness.

(Please be seated)

SHARING THE MEAL

For in person, come up the center aisle, receive your communion wafer, carefully dip your wafer into the wine. If grape juice/ covid safe is preferred let the assistant know.

For at home using plain bread/crackers and wine/grape juice.

COMMUNION HYMN -

(ACS # 943)

As the Wind Song

1 As the wind song through the trees, as the stir - ring of the
2 As the rain - bow af - ter rain, as the hope that's born a -

breeze, so it is with the Spir - it of God,
gain, so it is with the Spir - it of God,

as the heart made strange-ly warm, as the voice with - in the
as the green in the . . . spring, as a kite on a . . .

storm, so it is with the Spir - it of God.
string, so it is with the Spir - it of God,

Nev - er seen, ev - er known where this wind has
mak - ing worlds that are new, mak - ing peace come

blown bring-ing life, bring-ing pow'r to the world,
true, bring-ing gifts, bring-ing love to the world,

as the danc - ing tongues of fire, as the soul's most deep de -
as the ris - ing of the yeast, as the wine at the . . .

sire, so it is with the Spir - it of God.
feast, so it is with the Spir - it of God.

Text: Shirley Erena Murray, 1931-2020

Music: WAIRUA TAPU, Lim Swee Hong, b. 1963

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(Please rise)

COMMUNION BLESSING

P: May the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: Amen

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P: Let us Pray,
Embodied God,

at your table, we have tasted the goodness of Jesus.

With the eyes of our hearts open to your promise,
empower us to hear the needs of our neighbors
and touch the world with your love.

C: Amen.

BLESSING

P: Be with us, Lord, as we go from this place. Give us confidence in your loving presence, and help us witness to that love as we encounter others.

C: AMEN!

SENDING HYMN -

“Lift High The Cross” #377
Lutheran Book of Worship –Green Hymnal

RECESSIONAL

A: We follow the cross of Christ into the world.

(Congregation turns as the cross passes them—so they are facing the back of the church)

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Serve with Love!

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

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THIS WEEK AT BETHANIA....

Sunday, March 5, 2023

9:30 a.m. – COFFEE HOUR

10:30 a.m. -Worship In Person & on Facebook Live

Monday, March 6, 2023

7:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.—Office Open

Tuesday, March 7, 2023

7:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.—Office Open

Wednesday, March 8, 2023

7:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.—Office Open

7:00 p.m. Lenten Service, Hearth room

Thursday, March 9, 2023

7:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.—Office Open

Friday, March 10, 2023

7:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.—Office Open

5:00 p.m.—Vow Renewal, Sanctuary

Sunday, March 12, 2023

9:30 a.m. – COFFEE HOUR

10:30 a.m. -Worship In Person & on Facebook Live