

Bethany Lutheran Church

2nd SUNDAY IN LENT

March 5, 2023

8:00 & 9:30 AM

WELCOME TO BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH

We are so glad you are here in God's house for worship. Here are some things to remember as we are gathered together today:

Before worship, talk to God! (see inside cover of hymnal for pre-service prayer prompts)

During worship, let God talk to you!

After worship, talk to one another; and if you're a visitor, please stop by the Connections table before you leave today and capture the QR codes for more information.

Parents of Young Children: *We love to have children in worship.* God put the wiggle in children; don't feel you have to completely suppress it in God's house. We know the presence of children in worship is a gift to the church! It is in the Lord's house that we learn how to listen and speak to our God with our brothers and sisters in faith. Feel free to quietly explain the parts of the service and the actions of those leading worship. Children learn how to worship by copying you. If you have a need, we have "worship bags" in the Narthex filled with items to help children and families during worship. There is a **Cry Room** across the courtyard in the office complex, where you as a parent may take your little one needing a break. You will still be able to hear the worship service; and thus be able to continue your worship of the Lord.

Please place cell phones and electronic devices on mute as you join us in worship this morning. Thank you.

PRESERVICE MUSIC: "If You But Trust in God to Guide You"

Organ

~ Paul Manz
and

"Wer nur den lieben Gott lässt walten, BWV 647"

~ J. S. Bach

PRELUDE:

“He Leadeth Me”
~ arr. Arnold B. Sherman

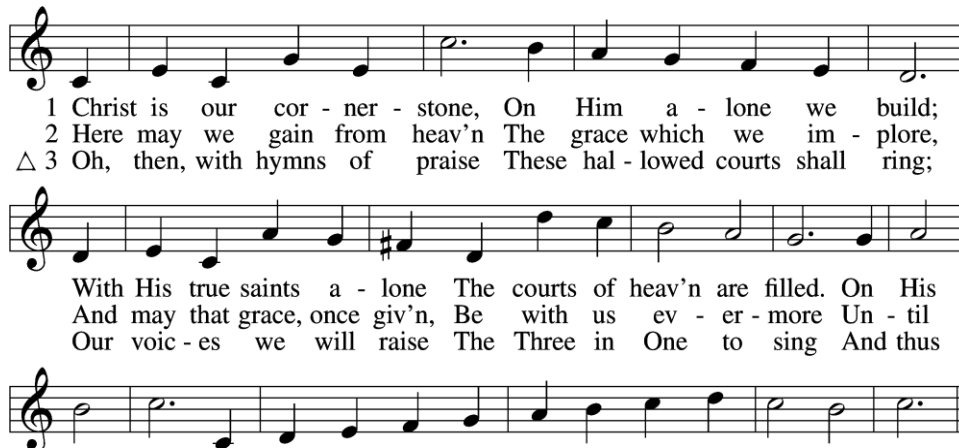
Advanced Adult Handbells

WELCOME

OPENING HYMN:

“Christ Is Our Cornerstone”

LSB 912



1 Christ is our cor - ner - stone, On Him a - lone we build;
2 Here may we gain from heav'n The grace which we im - plore,
△ 3 Oh, then, with hymns of praise These hal - lowed courts shall ring;

With His true saints a - lone The courts of heav'n are filled. On His
And may that grace, once giv'n, Be with us ev - er - more Un - til
Our voic - es we will raise The Three in One to sing And thus

great love Our hopes we place Of pres - ent grace And joys a - bove.
that day When all the blest To end - less rest Are called a - way.
pro - claim In joy - ful song, Both loud and long, That glo - rious name.

CALL TO WORSHIP: *(Based on Colossians 2:6-7)*

Leader: Christ Jesus is Lord, live in Him;
by the Spirit's work rooted and built up in Him,
strengthened in the faith, and overflowing with thankfulness.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS:

Leader: Our help is in the name of the Lord.

People: He made heaven and earth.

Leader: If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins,
O Lord, who could stand before You?

People: But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.

Leader: Since we are gathered to hear God's Word,
call upon Him in prayer and praise,
and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ
in the fellowship of this altar let us first consider our unworthiness
and confess before God and one another
that we have sinned in thought, word and deed,
and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition.
Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God,
our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying:
God be merciful to me a sinner.

**People: Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins,
and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.**

Leader: In Holy Baptism God declared you to be His own child
and gathered you into His family, the Church,
in which He daily and richly forgives our sins
and grants us new life through His Spirit.

**People: We Pray that You would be in our midst Lord,
root Yourself deep in our hearts, enliven our faith by Your Spirit
and graciously receive our lives, our service, our prayers
and our praises through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord. Amen.**

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING: *Genesis 12:1-9*

The LORD said to Abram,

“Leave your land, your relatives, and your father's home.

Go to the land that I will show you.

I will make you a great nation, I will bless you.

I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing.

I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you, I will curse.

Through you every family on earth will be blessed.”

So Abram left, as the LORD had told him, and Lot went with him. Abram was 75 years old when he left Haran. Abram set out for Canaan. He took along his wife Sarai, his nephew Lot, and all the possessions they had accumulated and the servants they had acquired in Haran.

They arrived in Canaan, and Abram traveled through the land to the oak tree belonging to Moreh at Shechem. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. Then the LORD appeared to Abram and said, “I’m going to give this land to your descendants.” So he built an altar there to the LORD, who had appeared to him.

He moved on to the hills east of Bethel, and he put up his tent—with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east. He also built an altar to the LORD there and worshiped the LORD. Abram kept moving toward the Negev. – GW ®

PRAYER OF THE DAY: *(from Luther’s Small Catechism)*

Leader: Eternal God, Alpha and Omega, Beginning and End,

People: **You invite us to call You Father,
to trust that we are Your own dear children,
who with boldness and confidence can come to You in prayer.
Help us, we pray, to know You in all Your power and might,
in all Your goodness and grace,
in all Your truth and liberty
as revealed to us in Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.**

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING: *Romans 4:1-8*

What can we say that we have discovered about our ancestor Abraham? If Abraham had God’s approval because of something he did, he would have had a reason to brag. But he could not brag to God about it. What does Scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and that faith was regarded as the basis of Abraham’s approval by God.”

When people work, their pay is not regarded as a gift but something they have earned. However, when people don’t work but believe God, the one who approves ungodly people, their faith is regarded as the basis of God’s approval. David says the same thing about those who are blessed: God approves of people without their earning it. David said,

“Blessed are those whose disobedience is forgiven
and whose sins are pardoned.

Blessed is the person whom the Lord no longer considers sinful.” – GW ®

MINISTRY OF MUSIC:

8:00

“Jesus Strong and Kind”

~ arr. Colin Buchanan

Trinity Choir

MINISTRY OF MUSIC:

9:30

“Benedictus”
~ arr. Brian Lewis

Troubadour Choir

CHILDREN’S SERMON

THE HOLY GOSPEL: *John 3:1-17*

Nicodemus was a Pharisee and a member of the Jewish council. He came to Jesus one night and said to Him, “Rabbi, we know that God has sent You as a teacher. No one can perform the miracles You perform unless God is with him.”

Jesus replied to Nicodemus, “I can guarantee this truth: No one can see God’s kingdom without being born from above.”

Nicodemus asked Him, “How can anyone be born when he’s an old man? He can’t go back inside his mother a second time to be born, can he?”

Jesus answered Nicodemus, “I can guarantee this truth: No one can enter God’s kingdom without being born of water and the Spirit. Flesh and blood give birth to flesh and blood, but the Spirit gives birth to things that are spiritual. Don’t be surprised when I tell you that all of you must be born from above. The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you don’t know where the wind comes from or where it’s going. That’s the way it is with everyone born of the Spirit.”

Nicodemus replied, “How can that be?”

Jesus told Nicodemus, “You’re a well-known teacher of Israel. Can’t you understand this? I can guarantee this truth: We know what we’re talking about, and we confirm what we’ve seen. Yet, you don’t accept our message. If you don’t believe me when I tell you about things on earth, how will you believe me when I tell you about things in heaven? No one has gone to heaven except the Son of Man, who came from heaven.

“As Moses lifted up the snake on a pole in the desert, so the Son of Man must be lifted up. Then everyone who believes in Him will have eternal life.”

God loved the world this way: He gave His only Son so that everyone who believes in Him will not die but will have eternal life. God sent His Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but to save the world. – GW ®

SERMON HYMN: ***“Christ, the Sure and Steady Anchor”***

Verse 1: Choir and Band Only

Verse 2, 3 & 4: Congregation

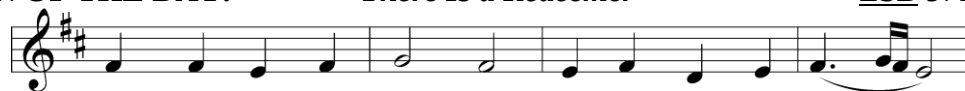
SERMON: "The God Who Is!"

Text: John 3:1-17

HYMN OF THE DAY:

"There Is a Redeemer"

LSB 971



1 There is a Re - deem - er— Je - sus, God's own Son;
2 Je - sus, my Re - deem - er, Name a - bove all names;
3 When I stand in glo - ry, I will see His face;



Pre - cious Lamb of God, Mes-si - ah, Ho - ly One.
Pre - cious Lamb of God, Mes-si - ah, Hope for sin - ners slain.
There I'll serve my King for-ev - er In that ho - ly place.



Thank You, O my Fa - ther, For giv-ing us Your Son,



And leav - ing Your Spir-it Till the work on earth is done.

APOSTLES' CREED: (* catholic means the universal Christian Church)

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord.

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.**

He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell. On the third day He rose again.

He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again 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.

OFFERING: The Offering Box is located in the center aisle. If you so desire, Text Giving is now available by texting GIVE to 562-210-0463. For On-line Giving information, contact Maraley at mshaeffer@bethanylutheran.org or call 562-421-4711, ext. 21. Thank you!

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

LORD'S PRAYER:

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.

+ *Holy Communion* +

The Lord's Supper is celebrated at Bethany in the joyful confession that our Lord gives us His very Body and Blood for the forgiveness of sins in this sacrament. God intends this gift for His children who recognize their sin, trust in Christ as their Savior, desire to live for Him alone and join in this joyful confession.

To help you prepare for communion we invite you to take a few moments of quiet prayer. For aid there are prayers on the front page of the hymnal for both before and after the reception of communion. Or simply pray, *Dear Lord Jesus, at Your gracious invitation You invite me to come to You, to eat and drink Your holy body and blood as You Yourself have promised to give in this sacrament of Your altar. Forgive me of my sin, through this Your meal of Forgiveness. Let me experience the fullness of Your love, through this Your meal of love. Strengthen my faith, through this meal of Yours that calls for and bestows faith. Empower me to live for You, through this Your meal that promises life everlasting and equips me for daily living as one who has received You and Your gifts.*

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

*For those communing, who so desire, the center cups in each tray are alcohol free.
The wafers next to the Christ candle side are gluten free;
for those with dietary restrictions, please take a gluten free wafer.
For those wishing to use a self-contained communion chalice, let an usher know.*

In our 9:30 a.m. service we will practice the Easter tradition of continuous communion. We will not kneel at the altar, rather we will join the procession of saints and come forward and remain standing as we receive the bread and wine. After receiving the elements, you are invited to return to your seat and continue in meditation, prayer and song.

DISTRIBUTION AND HYMNS:

“Chief of Sinners”

1. Chief of sinners though I be Je - sus shed His blood for me.
2. Oh the height of Je - sus' love High - er than the heav'ns a - bove.

Died that I might live on high. Lives that I might ne - ver die.
Deep - er than the depths of sea, last - ing as e - ter - ni - ty.

As the branch is to the vine. I am His and He is
Love that found me woun - rous thought found me when I sought Him

mine.
not.

3. On - ly Je - sus can im - part balm to heal the wound - ed heart.
4. Oh my sav - ior help af - ford by Your Spir - it and Your Word.

Peace that flows from sin for - giv'n, joy that lifts the soul to heav'n.
When my way - ward heart would stray, keep me in the nar - row way,

Faith and hope to walk with God in the way that E - noch
grace in time o fneed sup - ply while I live and when I

trod.
die.

"Your Table I Approach"

LSB 628



1 Your ta - ble I ap - proach; Dear Sav - ior, hear my prayer.
2 Lord, I con - fess my sins And mourn their wretch - ed bands;
3 Your bod - y and Your blood, Once slain and shed for me,
4 Search not how this takes place, This won - drous mys - ter - y;



Let not an un - re - pen - tant heart Prove hurt - ful to me there.
A con - trite heart is sure to find For - give - ness at Your hands.
Are tak - en at Your ta - ble, Lord, In blest re - al - i - ty.
God can ac - com - plish vast - ly more Than what we think could be.

- 5 O grant, most blessèd Lord,
That earth and hell combined
May not about this sacrament
Raise doubt within my mind.
- 6 Oh, may I never fail
To thank You day and night
For Your true body and true blood,
O God, my peace and light.

“Lamb of God”

LSB 550

1 Your on - ly Son, no sin to hide, But You have
 2 Your Gift of love they cru - ci - fied, They laughed and
 3 I was so lost, I should have died, But You have

sent Him from Your side To walk up - on this guilt - y
 scorned Him as He died: The hum - ble King they named a
 brought me to Your side To be led by Your staff and

sod, And to be - come the Lamb of God.
 fraud, And sac - ri - ficed the Lamb of God.
 rod, And to be called a lamb of God.

Refrain
 O Lamb of God, sweet Lamb of God, I love the ho - ly Lamb of God!

O wash me in His pre - cious blood, My Je - sus Christ, the Lamb of God.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION:

Leader: If the root is holy,

**People: so are the branches.
 He is the root,**

Leader: we are the branches.
 So ever keep in the mind the kindness of God
 who grafted You into Himself through Christ.

People: Oh, the depth of His riches and wisdom and knowledge.
For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things!

Leader: To Him be the glory forever! Amen!

CLOSING HYMN: “God Loved the World So That He Gave” LSB 571



1 God loved the world so that He gave His on - ly
2 Christ Je - sus is the ground of faith, Who was made
3 God would not have the sin - ner die; His Son with
4 Be of good cheer, for God's own Son, For - gives all
Δ 6 Glo - ry to God the Fa - ther, Son, And Ho - ly

Son the lost to save, That all who would in
flesh and suf - fered death; All then who trust in
sav - ing grace is nigh; His Spir - it in the
sins which you have done; And, jus - ti - fied by
Spir - it, Three in One! To You, O bless - ed

Him be - lieve Should ev - er - last - ing life re - ceive.
Him a - lone Are built on this chief cor - ner - stone.
Word de - clares How we in Christ are heav - en's heirs.
Je - sus' blood, Your Bap - tism grants the high - est good.
Trin - i - ty, Be praise now and e - ter - nal - ly!

POSTLUDE: “O Lamm Gottes unschuldig” Organ
~ Johann Pachelbel

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“Christ is our Cornerstone” LSB 912

Text: Latin, c. 8th cent.; tr. John Chandler, 1806-76, alt. Tune: John Darwall, 1731-89.

Text and music: Public domain.

“Jesus Strong and Kind” Trinity Choir

CCLI Song # 7139992. Colin Buchanan | Jonny Robinson | Michael Farren | Rich Thompson

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“Benedictus” Troubadour Choir

Brian Lewis

“Christ, the Sure and Steady Anchor”

CCLI Song # 7045331. Matt Boswell and Matt Papa . © 2015 Getty Music Hymns and Songs | Getty

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“There Is a Redeemer” LSB 971

CCLI Song No. 11483. Melody Green-Sievrigh. © 1982 Birdwing Music

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“Chief of Sinners Though I Be” LSB 611

Text: William McComb, 1793-1873, alt. Tune: Richard Redhead, 1820-1901.

Arr. CCLI Song # 7064074. Blake Flattley |William McComb |Richard Redhead

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“Your Table I Approach” LSB 628

Text: Gerhard Wolter Molanus, 1633-1722; tr. Matthias Loy, 1828-1915, alt.

Tune: *Trente quatre Pseaumes de David*, Geneva, 1551, ed. Louis Bourgeois;

Setting: *The Lutheran Hymnal*, 1941. Text and tune: Public domain.

“Lamb of God” LSB 550

CCLI Song No. 16787. Twila Paris. © 1985 Straightway Music | Mountain Spring Music

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“Spread the Reign of God the Lord” LSB 830

Text: Jonathan Friedrich Bahnmaier, 1774-1841; tr. Composite.

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Tune: *Geist-reiches Gesang-Buch*, Halle, 1704, ed. Johann A. Freylinghausen, alt.;

Setting: The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941. Tune: Public domain.

ARE YOU RECEIVING THE BETHANY BULLET?

The ***Bethany Bullet*** is a weekly capsule of worship highlights, and important information about events taking place at Bethany Lutheran Church. If you would like to receive the ***Bethany Bullet*** please email Aimee Coleman at acoleman@bethanylutheran.org with your name and email address. Tell a friend about the ***Bethany Bullet***!

THE NEXT VOTER’S MEETING IS MARCH 19, 2023 AT 11:00 AM

Please join us in the sanctuary at 11:00 AM on Sunday, March 19 for a very important Voter’s meeting. We will be voting to select a candidate to extend a Call to for our music minister position and voting to merge with Holy Cross Lutheran Church. We hope to see you there.

The Motions: (1) The Church Council moves to approve the formal merger of Bethany Lutheran Church of Lakewood, Ca and Holy Cross Lutheran Church of Cypress, Ca into one single Church under the name of Bethany Lutheran Church operating on three campuses - the Bethany campus, the Holy Cross campus, and The Gathering campus.

(2) We will also have a vote to select a candidate to extend a Call to for our Music Minister (Director of Worship Arts) position.