



THE STRUGGLE SEEMS UNFAIR

The Second Sunday in Lent

Bethel Evangelical Lutheran Church | York, NE

February 28, 2021

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

We are pleased that you have chosen to worship the Lord with us today. Large print hymnals and hearing assisted devices are available upon request. Restrooms are located on the north side of the main level and in the lower level. If you have any questions or need assistance with anything, please ask one of our ushers.

Connection cards: Visitors, or members with contact information changes, please fill out our online connection card at bethelyork.com, member connect tab, or scan this code.



SERVICE NOTES FOR THIS SUNDAY

Communion

We are celebrating the Lord's Supper today. Scripture tells us that we need to examine ourselves before we receive the Lord's Supper so that we do not take it in a harmful manner. (1 Cor. 11:27-29) For help in preparation see page 156 in the front of the hymnal.

Visitors: Because we do not want you to receive the Lord's Supper in a harmful manner we ask that you do not come forward for the Lord's Supper today if you are not members of a WELS or ELS church. The pastor will be happy to share with you the Biblical basis for this practice.

Worship Leader
Organist

Pastor Mark A. Haefner

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THE COMMON SERVICE

"The Common Service" is a version of the historic liturgy of the Christian church. It became the service commonly used by English-speaking Lutherans in America. It is also in CW pg. 15.

OPENING HYMN

The Man Is Ever Blest | 475

- 1 The man is ever blest Who shuns the sinners' ways,
Among their counsels never stands, Nor takes the scorners' place,
- 2 But makes the law of God His study and delight
Amid the labors of the day And watches of the night.
- 3 He like a tree shall thrive With waters near the root.
Fresh as the leaf his name shall live; His works are heav'nly fruit.
- 4 Not so the wicked man! He no such blessing finds.
His hopes shall flee like empty chaff Before the driving winds.
- 5 How will he bear to stand Before that judgment seat
Where all the saints at Christ's right hand In full assembly meet?
- 6 God knows and he approves The way the righteous go,
But sinners and their works shall meet A dreadful overthrow.

INVOCATION¹

please stand, if able

[M] In the name of the Father and of the ✝ Son and of the Holy Spirit.



¹ These words, which Jesus spoke when he instituted Holy Baptism (Matthew 28:19), remind us that we approach God as his adopted children. The sign of the cross, which the pastor makes also when pronouncing the absolution, is made over people when they are baptized to signify that they have been redeemed by Christ, the crucified and risen Lord.

CONFESSION

M Beloved in the Lord: let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

C **Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

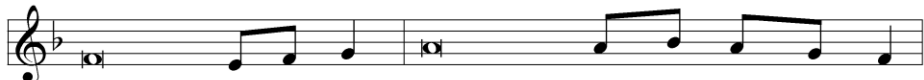
C: Lord, have mer - cy on us. Christ, have mer - cy
on us. Lord, have mer - cy on us.

ABSOLUTION


M God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son (+) and of the Holy Spirit.

C: A - men.


M In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.



C: Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, good will toward men.



We praise you, we bless you, we worship you, we glorify you,



we give thanks to you, for your great glory, O Lord God, heav'n-ly King,



God the Fa-ther al - mighty. O Lord, the only begotten Son, Je-sus Christ;



O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the



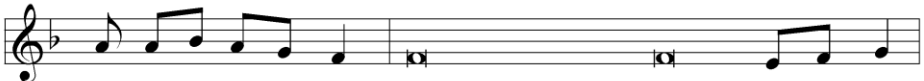
sin of the world; have mercy on us. You take away the



sin of the world; re - ceive our prayer. You sit at the right hand of



God the Father; have mercy on us. For you on-ly are holy;



you on - ly are the Lord. You only, O Christ, with the Ho - ly Spirit,



are most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M The Lord be with you.



C: And al - so with you.

M Let us pray.

Almighty God, you see that we have no power to defend ourselves. Guard and keep us both outwardly and inwardly from all adversities that may happen to the body and from all evil thoughts that may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C: A - men.

The Word

FIRST LESSON

Genesis 28:10-17

¹⁰Jacob set out from Beersheba and traveled toward Haran. ¹¹He came to a certain place and decided to spend the night there, because the sun had set. He took one of the stones from that place, put it under his head, and lay down to sleep in that place. ¹²He had a dream in which he saw a stairway set up on the earth with its top reaching to heaven. There were angels of God ascending and descending on it. ¹³There at the top stood the LORD, who said, "I am the LORD, the God of your father Abraham and the God of Isaac. The land on which you are lying, I give to you and to your descendants. ¹⁴Your descendants will be like the dust of the earth, and you will spread abroad to the west, and to the east, and to the north, and to the south. In you and in your seed all the families of the earth will be blessed. ¹⁵Now, I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go, and I will bring you back again into this land. Indeed, I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised to you."

¹⁶Jacob woke up from his sleep, and he said, "Certainly the LORD is in this place, and I was not aware of it." ¹⁷He was afraid and he said, "How awe-inspiring is this place! This is nothing other than the house of God, and this is the gate to heaven." (EHV)

M The Word of the Lord

C **Thanks be to God!**

SECOND LESSON

Romans 5:1-11

Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. ²Through him we also have obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand. And we rejoice confidently on the basis of our hope for the glory of God.

³Not only this, but we also rejoice confidently in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces patient endurance, ⁴and patient endurance produces tested character, and tested character produces hope. ⁵And hope will not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, who was given to us.

⁶For at the appointed time, while we were still helpless, Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷It is rare indeed that someone will die for a righteous person. Perhaps someone might actually go so far as to die for a person who has been good to him. ⁸But God shows his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

⁹Therefore, since we have now been justified by his blood, it is even more certain that we will be saved from God's wrath through him. ¹⁰For if, while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, it is even more certain that, since we have been reconciled, we will be saved by his life. ¹¹And not only is this so, but we also go on rejoicing confidently in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received this reconciliation. (EHV)

M The Word of the Lord

C **Thanks be to God!**

VERSE OF THE DAY

M Jesus humbled himself and became obedient to death, even death on a cross.

CW 111

**♪ Oh, that, near the cross abiding, We may to the Savior cleave,
Naught with him our hearts dividing, All for him content to leave!**

GOSPEL

Mark 8:31-38

please stand

M The Gospel according to Mark chapter 8.



C: Glo - ry be to you, O Lord!

³¹Jesus began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things; be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the experts in the law; be killed; and after three days rise again. ³²He was speaking plainly to them. Then Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. ³³But after turning around and looking at his disciples, Jesus rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! You do not have your mind set on the things of God, but the things of men."

³⁴He called the crowd and his disciples together and said to them, "If anyone wants to follow me, let him deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me. ³⁵For whoever wants to save his life will lose it. But whoever loses his life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. ³⁶After all, what good is it for a man to gain the whole world and yet forfeit his soul? ³⁷Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul? ³⁸In fact, whoever is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will also be ashamed of him when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels." (EHV)

M This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

NICENE CREED

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is,
seen and unseen.**

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,

**eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary,
and became fully human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

be seated

HYMN OF THE DAY

Lord, You I Love with All My Heart | **434**

1 Lord, you I love with all my heart; I pray you ne'er from me depart;
With tender mercies cheer me.
Earth has no pleasure I would share; Heaven itself were void and bare
If you, Lord, were not near me.
And should my heart for sorrow break, My trust in you no one could shake.
You are the treasure I have sought; Your precious blood my soul has bought.
Lord Jesus Christ, My God and Lord, my God and Lord,
Forsake me not! I trust your Word.

2 Lord God, 'twas your rich bounty gave My body, soul, and all I have
In this poor life of labor.

Lord, grant that I in ev'ry place May glorify your lavish grace
And serve and help my neighbor.

Let no false doctrine me beguile; Let Satan not my soul defile.
Give strength and patience unto me To bear my crosses willingly.

Lord Jesus Christ, My God and Lord, my God and Lord,
Forsake me not! I trust your Word.

3 Lord, let at last your angels come; To Abram's bosom bear me home
That I may die unfearing.

And in its narrow chamber keep My body safe in peaceful sleep
Until your reappearing.

And then from death awaken me That my own eyes with joy may see,
O Son of God, your glorious face, My Savior and my Fount of grace.

Lord Jesus Christ, My prayer attend, my prayer attend,
And I will praise you without end.

SERMON

Psalm 73

¹Surely God is good to Israel, to the pure in heart.

²But as for me, my feet almost slipped out from under me.
I almost lost my footing.

³I even envied the arrogant when I observed the peace of the wicked.

⁴For there are no struggles at their death.

Their bodies are sturdy.

⁵They do not have the trouble common to people.

They are not plagued along with the rest of mankind.

⁶Therefore pride is their necklace.

They wear violence like clothing.

⁷Their eyes bulge out of their fat.

The schemes of their hearts step over boundaries.

⁸They mock. They speak maliciously.

From a high perch they threaten oppression.

⁹They set their mouths against the heavens.

Their tongues strut around on earth.

¹⁰Therefore God's people turn to them,
and they drink it all in.

¹¹They say, "How can God know?
Does the Most High have knowledge?"

¹²See, this is what the wicked are like—
secure forever, they increase in strength.

¹³Have I really kept my heart pure for nothing?
Have I kept my hands clean in vain?

¹⁴I have been plagued all day.
My punishment comes every morning.

¹⁵If I had said, "I will speak like this,"
I would certainly have betrayed the circle of your children.

¹⁶When I tried to understand this, it was very troubling to me,
¹⁷until I went to the sanctuary of God.
Then I understood their end.

¹⁸Surely you place them on slippery places.
You cause them to fall into destruction.

¹⁹How quickly they come to ruin,
completely destroyed by terrors!
²⁰They are like a dream when someone wakes up.
So when you arise, O Lord,
you will despise them like an illusion.

²¹Yes, my heart was bitter,
and I was torn up inside.
²²I was unthinking and ignorant.
I was a dumb animal before you.

²³Yet I am always with you.
You hold me by my right hand.
²⁴With your guidance you lead me,
and afterward, you will take me to glory.

²⁵Who else is there for me in heaven?
And besides you, I desire no one else on earth.

²⁶My flesh and my heart fail,
but God is the rock of my heart and my portion forever.

²⁷No doubt about it!

Those who are far from you will perish.

You destroy all who commit adultery against you.

²⁸As for me, God's nearness is good for me.

I have made the LORD God my refuge,

so that I can tell about all your works.

CREATE IN ME

please stand, if able

C: Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -
way from your pres - ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of your sal - va -
tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it. A - men.

be seated

OFFERING: *Please place your offering in the plate in the entry.*

1 Corinthians 16:2 (NIV) On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with his income.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

[M] Lord God most holy, without whom there is no help, and with whom there is no reason to fear, be the guardian and defender of all who lift their souls to you, and who in their desolation and affliction seek your mercy.

[C] **Lord, hear our prayer**

[M] We thank you for the love of Jesus, that he freely gave himself as the sacrifice for our sins, yielding up his perfect life as a fragrant offering for our salvation.

[C] **Help us in faith to imitate the example of Christ and walk in his love.**

[M] Grant that as children of the heavenly light we may earnestly repent of our sins, forsake the ways of darkness and error, and follow in the paths of goodness, righteousness and truth. With your finger cast out all demons of sin and wickedness that assault us.

[C] **Fill our souls with holiness, love for your Word, and every pure grace and virtue.**

[M] Lord, we pray for all who are in any want of body or soul, for all of our loved ones who are in distant places, for all who have strayed from your truth, for all who are in temptation, for all who are suffering sickness and pain, for all who mourn.

[C] **Pour down your blessings upon them according to their need. Hear their prayers. Comfort them with your presence.**

Special prayers of thanksgiving or intercession may be spoken here

[M] Finally, Lord, let not your Spirit forsake us, but grant your Church to see days of peace and unity. Hear us, O Father, in the name of your Son Jesus, in whose name we join in praying:

LORD'S PRAYER

[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.**

The Sacrament

A man ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without recognizing the body of the Lord eats and drinks judgment on himself. 1Co 11:28-29 (NIV1984)

Children who come forward with their parents will receive a blessing

[M] The Lord be with you.



[M] Lift up your hearts.



[M] Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



[M] It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who brought the gift of salvation to all people by his death on the tree of the cross, so that



the devil, who overcame us by a tree would in turn by a tree be overcome. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

C: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of heav - en - ly hosts:
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san -
na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is he, bless - ed is he, bless - ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san -
na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

The musical score is written on six staves in a single system. It begins with a treble clef, a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and a common time signature (C). The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The lyrics are: "C: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of heav - en - ly hosts: heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he, bless - ed is he, bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est." The score ends with a double bar line.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

- [M]** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying: "Take and eat. This is my \dagger body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it all of you; this is my \dagger blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.



LAMB OF GOD

C: O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;
have mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God,
you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.
O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;
grant us your peace. A - men.

DISTRIBUTION

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

I Come, O Savior, to Your Table | 310

1 I come, O Savior, to your table, For weak and weary is my soul;
O Jesus, you alone are able To satisfy and make me whole.

Refrain:

Lord, may your body and your blood Be for my soul the highest good!

2 Oh, grant that I in manner worthy May now trust solely in your Word,
And, conscious of the sins before me, Look only unto you, O Lord.

Refrain

3 Unworthy though I am, O Savior, Because I have a sinful heart,
Yet you your lamb will banish never, Nor will your faithfulness depart.

Refrain

4 Oh, let me loathe all sin forever As death and poison to my soul,
That I through willful sinning never May see your judgment take its toll!

Refrain

5 Your heart is filled with fervent yearning That sinners may salvation see
Who, Lord, to you in faith are turning; So let me, too, come trustingly.

Refrain

6 Weary am I and heavy laden; With sin my soul is sore oppressed.
Receive me graciously and gladden My heart, for I am now your guest.

Refrain

7 You here will find a heart most lowly That feels unworthy in your sight,
That duly weeps o'er sin, yet solely Your merit pleads, as it is right.

Refrain

8 By faith I call your holy table The testament of your deep love,
For by your gift I now am able To know the heart of God above.

Refrain

9 What higher gift can we inherit? It is faith's bond and solid base;
It is the strength of heart and spirit, The covenant of hope and grace.

Refrain

10 This feast is manna, wealth abounding Unto the poor, to weak ones pow'r,
To angels joy, to hell confounding, And life for me in death's dark hour.

Refrain

11 Your body, giv'n for me, O Savior, Your blood, which you for me have shed—
These are my life and strength forever; By them my hungry soul is fed.

Refrain

12 With you, Lord, I am now united; I live in you and you in me.
No sorrow fills my soul; delighted, It finds its peace on Calvary.

Refrain

13 Who can condemn me now? For surely The Lord is near, who justifies.
No hell I fear, and thus securely With Jesus I to heaven rise.

Refrain

14 Though death may threaten with disaster, It cannot rob me of my cheer,
For he who is of death the master With help and strength is always near.

Refrain

15 My heart has now become your dwelling, O blessed, holy Trinity.
With angels I, your praises telling, Shall live in joy eternally.

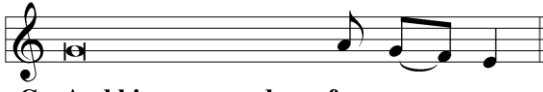
Refrain

SONG OF SIMEON

please stand, if able

C: Lord, now you let your servant de - part in peace ac-cord-ing
to your word. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have pre-
pared be - fore the face of all people, a light to light - en the
Gen-tiles and the glo - ry of your peo-ple Is - ra - el.

M O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.



C: And his mercy endures for - ev - er.

M We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this holy supper. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C: A - men.

BLESSING

M The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and ☩ give you peace.



C: A - men. A - men. A - men.

CLOSING HYMN

Rejoice, My Heart, Be Glad and Sing | **443**

1 Rejoice, my heart, be glad and sing; A cheerful trust maintain,
For God, the source of ev'rything, Your treasure shall remain.

2 Why spend the day in blank despair, In restless thought the night?
On your Creator cast your care; He makes your burdens light.

3 Did not his love and truth and pow'r Guard ev'ry childhood day?
And did he not in threat'ning hour Turn dreaded ills away?

4 He always will with patience chide; His rod falls gently down,
And all your sins he casts aside In ocean depths to drown.

5 His wisdom never plans in vain Nor falters nor mistakes;
All that his counsels did ordain A happy ending makes.

6 Upon your lips, then, lay your hand, And trust his guiding love;
Then like a rock your peace shall stand Here and in heav'n above.

