



**THE STRUGGLE –
EMPOWERED BY GOD’S WORD**

The Third Sunday in Lent

BETHEL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH | York, Nebraska

March 7, 2021

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

We are pleased that you have chosen to worship the Lord with us today. Large print hymnals and hearing assist 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

Worship Materials

The order of service and the hymns for today are printed for you in this folder. "Christian Worship: A Lutheran Hymnal" which is normally in the hymnal rack on the back of each pew has been temporarily removed to help protect against passing the Corona Virus. Watching the theme and passage on the screen may help you prepare for worship.

SERVING IN WORSHIP

Worship Leader
Pianist/Organist

Pastor Mark A. Haefner
Mr. Quinton Corwin

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SERVICE OF THE WORD

This service offers the congregation a form of worship that focuses on the proclamation of God's Word. Believers respond to this divine gift with prayer, praise, and thanksgiving.

OPENING HYMN

Lord, Open Now My Heart to Hear | 282

1 Lord, open now my heart to hear,
And through your Word to me draw near.
Let me your Word e'er pure retain;
Let me your child and heir remain.

2 Your Word inspires my heart within;
Your Word grants healing from my sin.
Your Word has pow'r to guide and bless;
Your Word brings peace and happiness.

3 To God the Father, God the Son,
And God the Spirit, Three in One,
Shall glory, praise, and honor be
Now and throughout eternity.

INVOCATION

please stand

M The grace of our Lord (+) Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

C **And also with you.**

CONFESSION

M We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

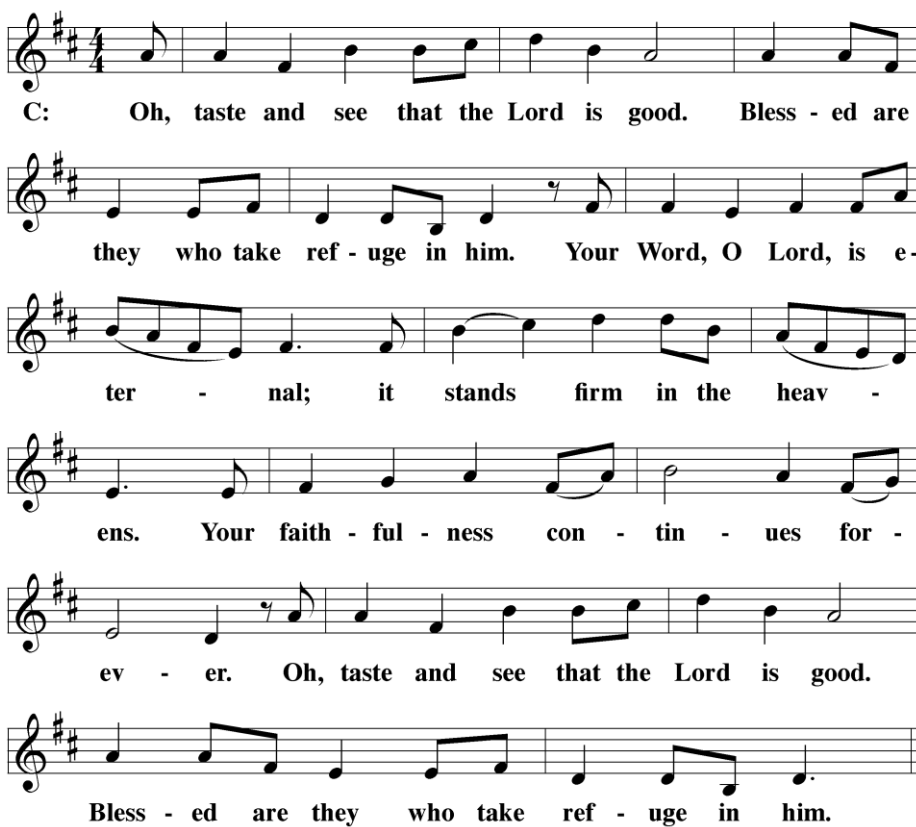
- C **Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.**

ABSOLUTION

- M God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

- C **Amen.**

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



C: Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good. Bless - ed are they who take ref - uge in him. Your Word, O Lord, is e - ter - nal; it stands firm in the heav - ens. Your faith - ful - ness con - tin - ues for - ev - er. Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good. Bless - ed are they who take ref - uge in him.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

M Let us pray.

Almighty God, look with favor on your humble servants and stretch out the right hand of your power to defend us against all our enemies; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



The Word

FIRST LESSON

Exodus 20:1-17

Then God spoke all these words:

²I am the LORD your God, who brought you out from the land of Egypt, where you were slaves.

³You shall have no other gods beside me. ⁴You shall not make any carved image for yourself or a likeness of anything in heaven above, or on the earth below, or in the waters under the earth. ⁵Do not bow down to them or be subservient to them, for I the LORD your God am a jealous God. I follow up on the guilt of the fathers with their children, their grandchildren, and their great-grandchildren, if they also hate me. ⁶But I show mercy to thousands who love me and keep my commandments.

⁷You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not permit anyone who misuses his name to escape unpunished.

⁸Remember the Sabbath day by setting it apart as holy. ⁹Six days you are to serve and do all your regular work, ¹⁰but the seventh day shall be a sabbath rest to the LORD your God. Do not do any regular work, neither you, nor your sons or daughters, nor your male or female servants, nor your cattle, nor the alien who is residing inside your gates, ¹¹for in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and everything that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day. In this way the LORD blessed the seventh day and made it holy.

¹²Honor your father and your mother so that you may spend many days on the land that the LORD your God is giving to you.

¹³You shall not commit murder.

¹⁴You shall not commit adultery.

¹⁵You shall not steal.

¹⁶You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.

¹⁷You shall not covet your neighbor's house. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, his male servant, his female servant, his ox, his donkey, or anything else that belongs to your neighbor. (EHV)

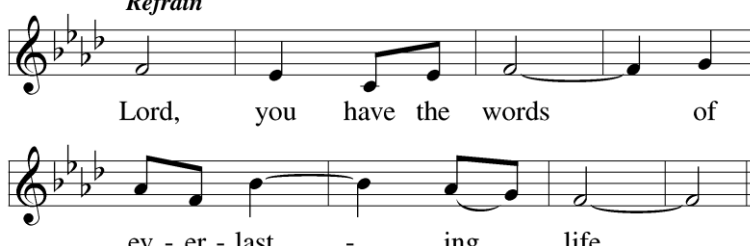
M The Word of the Lord

C Thanks be to God!

PSALM

19

Refrain



Lord, you have the words of
ev - er - last - ing life.

Psalm tone

*
The heavens declare the glory of God;*

The heavens declare the glory of God;*
the skies proclaim the work of his hands.

Their voice goes out into all the earth,*
their words to the ends of the world.

Refrain

The law of the LORD is perfect,*
giving joy to the heart.

The commands of the LORD are radiant,*
giving light to the eyes.

They are more precious than gold;*
they are sweeter than honey.

By them is your servant taught;*
in keeping them there is great reward.

Refrain

May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart*
be pleasing in your sight, O LORD, my Redeemer.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son*
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,*
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Refrain

SECOND LESSON

1 Corinthians 1:22-25

²²Yes, Jews ask for signs, Greeks desire wisdom, ²³but we preach Christ crucified—which is offensive to Jews and foolishness to Greeks, ²⁴but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ is the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵We preach Christ crucified, because the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men. (EHV)

M The Word of the Lord

C **Thanks be to God!**

VERSE OF THE DAY

M Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the desert, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life.

**♪ Drawn to the cross, which you have blessed
With healing gifts for souls distressed,
To find in you my life, my rest,
Christ crucified, I come**

CW 387

please stand

M The Gospel according to John chapter 2.

¹³The Jewish Passover was near, so Jesus went up to Jerusalem.

¹⁴In the temple courts he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and money changers sitting at tables. ¹⁵He made a whip of cords and drove everyone out of the temple courts, along with the sheep and oxen. He scattered the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. ¹⁶To those selling doves he said, "Get these things out of here! Stop turning my Father's house into a place of business!"

¹⁷His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me."

¹⁸So the Jews responded, "What sign are you going to show us to prove you can do these things?"

¹⁹Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up again."

²⁰The Jews said, "It took forty-six years to build this temple! And you are going to raise it in three days?" ²¹But Jesus was speaking about the temple of his body. ²²When Jesus was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this. Then they believed the Scripture and what Jesus had said. (EHV)

M This is the Gospel of the Lord.



be seated

HYMN OF THE DAY

Speak, O Savior; I Am Listening | 283

1 Speak, O Savior; I am list'ning, As a servant to his lord.
 Let me show respect and honor To your holy, precious Word,
 That each day, my whole life through, I may serve and follow you.
 Let your Word e'er be my pleasure And my heart's most precious treasure.

2 Oh, what blessing to be near you And to listen to your voice!
 Let me ever love and fear you; Let your Word still be my choice.
 Many hardened sinners, Lord, Flee in terror at your Word,
 But to all who feel sin's burden You give peace and words of pardon.

3 Lord, your words are waters living Where I quench my thirsty needs.
Lord, your words are bread life-giving; On your words my spirit feeds.
Lord, your words will be my light Through death's cold and dreary night;
Yes, they are my sword prevailing And my cup of joy unfailing.

4 As I pray, dear Jesus, hear me; Let your words in me take root.
May your Spirit e'er be near me That I bear abundant fruit.
May I daily sing your praise, From my heart glad anthems raise,
Till my highest praise is given In the endless joy of heaven.

SERMON

⁷The law^d of the LORD is perfect.

It revives the soul.

The testimony of the LORD is trustworthy.

It gives wisdom to the inexperienced.

⁸The precepts of the LORD are right.

They give joy to the heart.

The commandment of the LORD is bright.

It gives light to the eyes.

⁹The fear of the LORD is pure.

It stands forever.

The just decrees of the LORD are truth.

They are altogether righteous.

¹⁰They are more desirable than gold,
even better than much pure gold.

They are sweeter than honey,
even honey dripping from the honeycomb.

¹¹Yes, by them your servant is warned.

In keeping them there is great reward.

¹²Who can recognize his own errors?

Declare me innocent of hidden sins.

¹³Restrain your servant also from deliberate sins.

Do not let them rule over me.

Then I will be blameless.

Then I will be innocent of great rebellion.

^d The Hebrew term *torah*, traditionally translated *law*, includes other forms of instruction besides laws. Here it refers to God's whole word, including the gospel.

¹⁴May the speech from my mouth
and the thoughts in my heart be pleasing to you,
O LORD, my Rock and my Redeemer.

please stand

APOSTLES' CREED

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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 into hell.

The third day he rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.

From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

OFFERING ***Please leave your offering in the plate provided in the entry or make
use of one of the available online options on our website.***

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

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

M Blessed are you, O Lord, and blessed is your name forever and ever.

C **Blessed are you, O Lord, and blessed is your Word forever and ever.**

M O God, we praise you for your mercies. You have redeemed our life from destruction and crowned us with loving-kindness.

C **You have not dealt with us as our sins deserved, nor rewarded us according to our iniquities.**

M Out of your unspeakable grace and mercy, you gave your only Son to be made sin for us that we might have eternal life.

C **We bless and praise you that through faith in Christ we are delivered from the bondage of sin into the glorious liberty of your children.**

M Cause your gospel to be preached in all lands and in every language. Maintain your Church in the true faith as one body under Christ.

C **Deliver us from the works of the wicked and preserve us in all dangers through which we must pass.**

M To all who suffer sickness, pain, disease, affliction or adversity of body, mind or spirit, give the strength that will enable them to bear their cross.

C **Grant them the spirit of him who taught us to pray, "Your will be done."**

Special prayers of thanksgiving or intercession may be spoken here.

M O Father, we ask these things in the glorious name of your Son, and in his 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.**

be seated

HYMN

God Has Spoken by His Prophets | 281

1 God has spoken by his prophets, Spoken his unchanging Word,
Each from age to age proclaiming God the one, the righteous Lord.
In the world's despair and turmoil One firm anchor holds us fast:
God is king, his throne eternal, God the first and God the last.

2 God has spoken by Christ Jesus, Christ, the everlasting Son,
Brightness of the Father's glory, With the Father ever one,
Spoken by the Word incarnate, God from God, before time was,
Light from Light, to earth descending—He reveals our God to us.

3 God is speaking by his Spirit, Speaking to the hearts of all,
In the ageless Word expounding His own message for us all.
Through the rise and fall of nations One sure faith is standing fast.
God abides, his Word unchanging, God the first and God the last.

PRAYER

M O Lord God, our heavenly Father, pour out the Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep us strong in your grace and truth, protect and comfort us in all temptation, and bestow on us your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



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.



CLOSING HYMN

O Word of God Incarnate | 279

- 1 O Word of God incarnate, O Wisdom from on high,
O Truth unchanged, unchanging, O Light of our dark sky,
We praise you for the radiance That from the hallowed page,
A lantern to our footsteps, Shines on from age to age.
- 2 The Church from you, dear Master, Received the gift divine,
And still that light is lifted O'er all the earth to shine.
It is the chart and compass That, all life's journey through,
Mid mists and rocks and quicksands Still guides, O Christ, to you.
- 3 Oh, make your Church, dear Savior, A lamp of burnished gold
To bear before the nations Your true light, as of old.
Oh, teach your wand'ring pilgrims By this their path to trace
Till, clouds and darkness ended, They see you face to face.

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today: 10:30 AM Worship
4:00 PM NELHS Association Meeting

Monday: 6:30 PM Catechism Online

Wednesday: 6:30 PM Lenten Worship

Saturday: Turn your clocks ahead when you go to bed. Daylight Savings Time Begins.
10:30 AM Bible Information Class

Sunday: 10:30 AM Worship with Communion

Easter Breakfast: We are planning to offer an Easter Breakfast that is in line with whatever guidelines exist at the time. The Bethel Ladies Guild will provide the food. The breakfast will begin at 9:30 AM.

Easter Postcard: An Easter invitation postcard will be in your boxes soon. Please consider using the card to invite a friend, neighbor or relative to worship on Easter. If you need more let us know. The "My Personal Mission Field" document in your boxes can help give you ideas.

Door Hangers: We would like to do a door hanger canvass the week before Easter in two new areas of York. We need to know if you would be willing and able to walk a neighborhood or apartment building and hang Easter invitations on the doors. We need to hear from volunteers soon so that we don't print material but have no one to put it out.

Youth Involvement Fair: So far we have two volunteers to man the table at the York Youth Involvement Fair on March 25. If you are able to help anytime between 4:30 PM and 7 PM let Pastor Haefner know. This is a easy way to get our name out in the community. The planned location is the Auditorium, but the location is subject to change if the work on the Auditorium is not finished by then. The even will be held at another location if necessary.

Hymnals: We are planning to have the hymnals back in the pews for Easter. This can be done anytime after the Good Friday service. If you want to help, speak with James Corwin.

Easter Flowers: If you want to provide flowers for the altar for Easter please bring them to church on Good Friday.

NELHS issues two calls:

On February 28, 2021 the NELHS Board of Directors issued two Calls. Rev. Benjy Pederson has been called to serve as Campus Pastor/Dean of Students. Pastor Pederson currently lives in Coon Rapids, Minnesota, with his wife Emily. They have five children ranging in age from 20 to 10 years old. We are asking Pastor Pederson to also teach four classes (Religion 9, Religion 10, Religion 11, and Religion 12), serve as chapel coordinator, spiritual counselor, and dorm staff supervisor. Occasionally he would represent NELHS at churches (preaching, Bible class on Christian education, etc.).

Our second call was issued to Miss Kelly Presser. We are asking her to serve as our girl's dorm supervisor, teach part-time, and assist with coaching. Kelly is currently serving at Rocky Mountain Lutheran High School in Colorado. Kelly is also a 2000 graduate of NELHS. Miss Presser would be serving as our only female dorm supervisor - not new for NELHS, but new for next year. We will be enlisting help from others to watch the girls one weekend a month and a couple of evenings a month.

Please keep these two in your prayers. If you'd like to email them to let them know you are praying for them, their email addresses are: Rev. Benjy Pederson benpederson@crossofchrist.us and Miss Kelly Presser ad@rmlhs.org.

In our prayers:



Find us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/bethelyork



Personal assisted listening devices are available.

Given to the Lord: Attendance: Worship 53 in person, Facebook Live 6, Engagements 21, Audio/Slide service 14. Offerings: For operating expenses, Given 1,459.80, Needed 2,856.06, Trinity 45.00. Lent: Attendance: 43, Facebook Live 5. Offerings: Operating: 3,505.00 **To God be the glory!**



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