

## **CRUSHED – FALSE SECURITY**

The Third Sunday in Lent

# **BETHEL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH | York, Nebraska**

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*March 20, 2022*

## **Worship Series: CRUSHED**

When someone is devastated or defeated or despondent we speak of him being "crushed." It could be due to some agonizing loss or unrealized dreams. It could be due to carrying a crushingly heavy load of guilt over some past mistake. In a broken world, it is simply a matter of time before we feel crushed. This is why we need Lent. The word Lent comes from an Old English word for Spring: "lengten," when the days grow longer. For 1400 years the Church has set aside the 40 days between Ash Wednesday and Easter as a time of repentance and renewal. Believers humbly acknowledge that sin is the ultimate source of all the crushing moments in life. Our sin even crushed Christ. Yet, on Easter Sunday, Jesus took up his life again. Our Savior crushed both death and the serpent's head. Yes, Lent is a solemn season. But it is also a season of great hope. With the psalmist we say, "The Lord saves those who are crushed in spirit."

## **THEME FOR THIS SUNDAY**

Where is God? This is one of human beings' most frequently-asked and incorrectly-answered questions. We are tempted to believe that evidence of God's presence is found in outward circumstances. We equate good fortune with God's favor and bad fortune with his judgment. So, as long as nothing terrible is happening, God must not be too angry with us, right? We are free to go on sinning. Such foolish assumptions must be crushed. Therefore, God must constantly remind us where he intends to be found—in the gospel. He makes himself present in Word and sacraments. Because he is always present, we realize the urgent need to turn away from the sin he despises. Because his presence is graciously hidden, we are drawn to him for forgiveness rather than driven away from him in fear.

## **SERVING IN WORSHIP**

**Worship Leader**  
**Organist**

Pastor Mark A. Haefner  
Mrs. Megan Richert

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## Hymn: 712 Delay Not! Delay Not

- 1 Delay not! Delay not! O sinner, draw near!  
The waters of life are now flowing for you.  
No price is demanded, the Savior is here;  
redemption is purchased, God's promise is true.
- 2 Delay not! Delay not, O sinner, to come,  
for mercy still lingers and calls you today.  
Its voice is not heard in the vale of the tomb;  
its message, unheeded, will soon pass away.
- 3 Delay not! Delay not! The Spirit of grace,  
long grieved and resisted, may take his sad flight  
and leave you in darkness to finish your race,  
to sink in the gloom of eternity's night.
- 4 Delay not! Delay not! Why longer abuse  
the love and compassion of Jesus, your God?  
A fountain is opened—how can you refuse?  
Come, wash and be cleansed in his pardoning blood.

Text: Thomas Hastings, 1784–1872, alt., Text: Public domain

*Stand*

### Invocation

In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

### Confession

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

**If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just  
and will forgive us our sins  
and purify us from all unrighteousness.**

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

**Holy God, gracious Father,  
I am sinful by nature  
and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions.  
I have not loved you with my whole heart;  
I have not loved others as I should.  
I deserve your punishment both now and forever.  
But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins  
with his innocent suffering and death.  
Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

*Silence for meditation and reflection*

### **Absolution**

Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. 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.

**Amen.**

### **Lord, Have Mercy**

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

**Amen.**

## Glory to God in the Highest

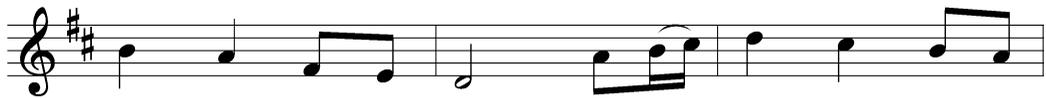
Tune: NETTLETON



1 Glo - ry be to God in heav - en, peace to those he loves so  
2 On - ly Son of God the Fa - ther, Lamb who takes our sin a -



well. On the earth let all his peo - ple speak his  
way, now with him in tri - umph seat - ed— for your



grace, his won - ders tell: Lord, we praise you for your  
mer - cy, Lord, we pray: Je - sus Christ, most high and



glo - ry, might - y Fa - ther, heav - en's King; hear our  
ho - ly, Sav - ior, you are God a - lone in the



joy - ful ad - o - ra - tion and ac - cept the thanks we bring.  
glo - ry of the Fa - ther with the Spir - it, Three in One!

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## THE WORD

### Salutation

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

## Prayer of the Day

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 your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

*Be seated*

### First Reading

*Exodus 3:1–15*

Now Moses was shepherding the flock of Jethro, his father-in-law, a priest of Midian, and he led the flock to the far side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. <sup>2</sup>The Angel of the Lord appeared to him in blazing fire from within a bush. Moses saw that the bush was on fire, but the bush was not burning up. <sup>3</sup>So he said, "I will go over and look at this amazing sight—to find out why the bush is not burning up."

<sup>4</sup>When the Lord saw that Moses had gone over to take a look, God called to him from the middle of the bush and said, "Moses! Moses!"

Moses said, "I am here."

<sup>5</sup>The Lord said, "Do not come any closer. Take your sandals off your feet, for the place where you are standing is holy ground." <sup>6</sup>He then said, "I am the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob."

Moses hid his face, because he was afraid to look at God.

<sup>7</sup>The Lord said, "I have certainly seen the misery of my people in Egypt, and I have heard their cry for help because of their slave drivers. Yes, I am aware of their suffering. <sup>8</sup>So I have come down to deliver them from the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land to a good and spacious land, to a land flowing with milk and honey, to the place of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. <sup>9</sup>Now indeed, the Israelites' cry for help has come to me. Yes, I have seen how the Egyptians are oppressing them. <sup>10</sup>Come now, I will send you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt."

<sup>11</sup>But Moses said to God, "Who am I, that I should go to Pharaoh, and that I should bring the Israelites out of Egypt?"

<sup>12</sup>So he said, "I will certainly be with you. This will be the sign to you that I have sent you: When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you will serve God on this mountain."

<sup>13</sup>But Moses said to God, "If I go to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' what should I say to them?"

<sup>14</sup>So God replied to Moses, "I am who I am." He also said, "You will say this to the Israelites: I am has sent me to you."

<sup>15</sup>God also told Moses, "Say this to the Israelites: 'The Lord, the God of your fathers—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob—has sent me to you. This is my name forever, and this is how I am to be remembered from generation to generation.'

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **Psalm of the Day: 85A LORD, in Your Mercy, Hear My Prayer**

*Refrain*



LORD, in your mer - cy hear my prayer; your good-ness nev - er fails.

*Tone*



You, LORD, forgave the iniquity of your / people  
and covered / all their sins.

You set aside / all your wrath  
and turned from your fierce / anger.

Show us your unfailing / love, LORD,  
and grant us your sal- / vation.

*Refrain*

I will listen to what God the / LORD says;  
he promises peace to his / people.  
Surely his salvation is near those who / fear him,  
that his glory may dwell / in our land.  
Love and faithfulness meet to- / gether;  
righteousness and peace kiss each / other.  
**Glory be to the Father and / to the Son  
and to the Holy / Spirit,  
as it was in the be- / ginning,  
is now, and will be forever. / Amen. Refrain**

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## Second Reading

*1 Corinthians 10:1–13*

For I do not want you to be unaware, brothers, that our fathers were all under the cloud and all passed through the sea, <sup>2</sup>and they were all baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea. <sup>3</sup>They all ate the same spiritual food <sup>4</sup>and all drank the same spiritual drink, for they drank from the spiritual rock that accompanied them—and that rock was Christ! <sup>5</sup>Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them. He had them die in the wilderness.

<sup>6</sup>Now these things took place as examples to warn us not to desire evil things the way they did. <sup>7</sup>Do not become idolaters like some of them—as it is written, “The people sat down to eat and drink, and got up to celebrate wildly.” <sup>8</sup>And let us not commit sexual immorality, as some of them did, and in one day twenty-three thousand fell. <sup>9</sup>Let us not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and so were being destroyed by the serpents. <sup>10</sup>And do not grumble, as some of them grumbled, and were destroyed by the destroyer. <sup>11</sup>All these things that were happening to them had meaning as examples, and they were written down to warn us, to whom the end of the ages has come.

<sup>12</sup>So let him who thinks he stands be careful that he does not fall. <sup>13</sup>No testing has overtaken you except ordinary testing. But God is faithful. He will not allow you to be tested beyond your ability, but when he tests you, he will also bring about the outcome that you are able to bear it.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

Stand

## Gospel Acclamation

2 Peter 3:9

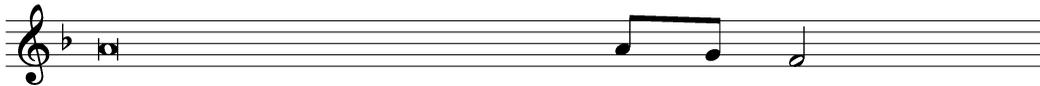


Refrain



Glo - ry to you, Lord Je - sus Christ, Son of the liv - ing God.

Tone



He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to per - ish,



but everyone to come to re - pent - ance.

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## Gospel

Luke 13:1–9

At that time there were some present who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mixed with their sacrifices. <sup>2</sup>He answered them, "Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans because they suffered these things? <sup>3</sup>I tell you, no. But unless you repent, you will all perish too. <sup>4</sup>Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower in Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse sinners than all the people living in Jerusalem? <sup>5</sup>I tell you, no. But unless you repent, you will all perish too."

<sup>6</sup>He told them this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard. He came looking for fruit on it, but he did not find any. <sup>7</sup>So he said to the gardener, 'Look, for three years now I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and I have found none. Cut it down. Why even let it use up the soil?' <sup>8</sup>But the gardener replied to him, 'Sir, leave it alone this year also, until I dig around it and put fertilizer on it. <sup>9</sup>If it produces fruit next year, fine. But if not, then cut it down.' "

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise be to you, O Christ!**

*Be seated*

**Hymn of the Day: 867 Afflicted Saint, to Christ Draw Near**

**Sermon**

*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.**

*Be seated*

**Prayer of the Church**

*Brief intercessory prayers may be added in a fitting place.*

Heavenly Father, you loved the world and gave your Son to free us from sin and death by his obedient death on the cross.

**We confess that without your love we are lost.**

Lord of the Church, we thank you for the treasure of the gospel. By your Spirit, keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith.

**Strengthen our determination to do what pleases you, no matter what the danger or the cost.**

Guard and guide those who carry a cross in the name of Christ and face ridicule and persecution for the sake of the kingdom: missionaries and chaplains, young people who stand up for what is right in the face of pressure to do what is wrong, and all who pay a high price for their faith and values as Christians.

**By your Spirit, O Lord, grant them patience and endurance.**

Keep in your care those who carry heavy burdens in life: the sick and the chronically ill, the depressed and the lonely, those torn by conflict in personal relationships, and those victimized by war and injustice. Comfort all who face the terrors of life with a heavy heart.

**Grant them peace, O Lord, and in your mercy, be their guardian and friend, their comfort and hope.**

Watch over those who care for others: pastors and counselors; physicians and nurses; social workers and caring friends; all who feed the hungry, comfort the hurting, and stand beside the dying.

**Strengthen them in their work, O Lord, and do not let them become weary in doing good.**

*Special Intercessions*

Help us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Keep us faithful even to the point of death, that we may receive the crown of life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**Amen.**

**Offering**

## Hymn: 404 Jesus, Grant That Balm and Healing

- 1 Jesus, grant that balm and healing  
in your holy wounds I find,  
ev'ry hour that I am feeling  
pains of body and of mind.  
Should some evil thought within  
tempt my treach'rous heart to sin,  
show the peril, and from sinning  
keep me ere its first beginning.
- 2 Should some lust or sharp temptation  
fascinate my sinful mind,  
let me think about your passion,  
and new courage I shall find.  
Or should Satan press me hard,  
let me then be on my guard,  
saying, "Christ for me was wounded,"  
that the tempter flee confounded.
- 3 If the world my heart entices  
with the broad and easy road,  
with seductive, sinful vices,  
let me weigh the awful load  
you were willing to endure.  
Help me flee all thoughts impure,  
mastering each wild temptation,  
calm in prayer and meditation.
- 4 Ev'ry wound that pains or grieves me  
by your wounds, Lord, is made whole;  
when I'm weak, your cross revives me,  
granting new life to my soul.  
Yes, your comfort renders sweet  
ev'ry bitter cup I meet;  
for your all-atoning passion  
has procured my soul's salvation.

5 O my God, my rock and tower,  
grant that in your death I trust,  
knowing death has lost its power  
since you crushed it in the dust.  
Savior, let your agony  
ever help and comfort me;  
when I die be my protection,  
light and life and resurrection.

Text: tr. composite; Johann Heermann, 1585–1647, abr., Text: Public domain

## **Children’s Lesson**

### **Prayer**

Blessed Lord, you have given us your Holy Scriptures for our learning. May we so hear them, read, learn, and take them to heart, that being strengthened and comforted by your holy Word, we may cling to the blessed hope of everlasting life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

### **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.**

## Blessing

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.

Amen.

## Hymn: 833 I Run to Christ



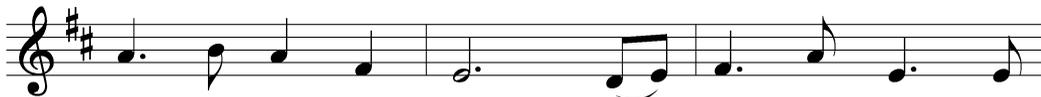
1 I run to Christ when chased by fear and find a ref - uge  
2 I run to Christ when worn by life and find my soul re -  
3 I run to Christ when stalked by sin and find a sure es -



sure. "Be - lieve in me," his voice I hear; his words and  
freshed. "Come un - to me," he calls thro' strife; fa - tigue gives  
cape. "De - liv - er me," I cry to him; temp - ta - tion



wounds se - cure. I run to Christ when torn by grief and  
way to rest. I run to Christ when vexed by hell and  
yields to grace. I run to Christ when plagued by shame and



find a - bun - dant peace. "I too had tears," he  
find a might - y arm. "The dev - il flees," the  
find my one de - fense. "I bore God's wrath," he



gent - ly speaks; thus joy and sor - row meet.  
Scrip - tures tell; he roars but can - not harm.  
pleads my case— my ad - vo - cate and friend.

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# NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Today:** 9:30 AM Sunday School and Bible Class, 10:30 AM Worship, 11:30 Coffee Fellowship, choir practice

**Wednesday:** 6:30 PM Lenten Worship and Fellowship

**Thursday:** 5-7 PM York Youth Involvement Fair Booth

**Sunday:** 9:30 AM Sunday School and Bible Class, 10:30 AM Worship with Communion, Coffee Fellowship, Choir  
Elders Meet

**Lenten Snacks.** All are encouraged to bring snacks for fellowship after church. We will also need people to help set up and clean up. If you have any questions about snacks or helping set up or clean up you may speak with Judy Remmers.

**Youth Involvement Fair Booth:** If you are able to help at our booth anytime between 5 and 7 PM let Rodney Bergmeier know. Any help is appreciated.

## Holy Week Worship:

6:30 PM Maundy Thursday Joint Worship at Grace Seward

6:3 PM Good Friday Joint Worship at Bethel York



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Personal assisted listening devices are available.

**Given to the Lord:** Attendance: Worship 72, Sunday School , Bible Class 15, Facebook live 5, clicks 32. Audio/YouTube 6. Offerings: Operating: Needed 2,583.54, Given 1,700.00, NELHS 200.00. Lent: Attendance: 85, FB live 3, clicks 12. Offerings Operating 8,634.61. **To God be the glory!**



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