

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: O Lord, support us all the day long of this troubled life, until the shadows lengthen and the evening comes and the busy world is hushed, the fever of life is over, and our work is done. Then, Lord, in Your mercy grant us a safe lodging and a holy rest and peace at the last.
“LORD, You promise You will fight for us”

People: **“Teach us to stay calm.”**

Pastor: Abide with us, Lord, for it is toward evening, and the day is far spent. Abide with us and with Your whole church. Abide with us at the end of the day, at the end of our life, at the end of the world. Abide with us with Your grace and goodness, with Your holy Word and Sacrament, with Your strength and blessing. Abide with us when the night of affliction and temptation comes upon us, the night of fear and despair, the night when death draws near. Abide with us and with all the faithful, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

THE LORD’S PRAYER

BENEDICTION

Pastor: May the Almighty God—Father, Son and Holy Spirit—who brought His people out of Egypt, loaded with silver and gold, bring you safely through your trial and test.

People: **Not one among the tribes of Israel stumbled!**

All: **Amen and Amen!**

HYMN

Screen

“In Christ Alone (My Hope Is Found)”

Silent Prayer: Jesus, teach me again and again to stop trying and start trusting you ... with everything. Amen.

BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

3705 South Anthony Boulevard

Fort Wayne, Indiana 46806-4329

www.bethlehemlcms.org

Church Office, (260) 744-3228 Fax Number, (260) 744-3229

Office Hours: 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. (Monday – Friday)

Our Worship Schedule:

Saturday Worship Service at 4:00pm - Sunday Morning Worship Service at 9:00am

MIDWEEK LENT 2

Wednesday, February 28, 2024



Bethlehem

LUTHERAN CHURCH

Gathering – Welcoming – Serving – Restoring

WHO WE ARE

*As forgiven children of God, Bethlehem Lutheran Church
shows Christ’s love through acts of service
so that we can share the hope of the Gospel with others.*

✠ WE PREPARE OUR HEARTS ✠

Theme of the Day

Stop trying and start trusting. That's the truth God teaches His people in Exodus 14. And that's the Gospel truth God teaches us as well—**today!**

HYMN

LSB #435 (stanzas 1–3)

“Come to Calvary’s Holy Mountain”

INVOCATION AND CALL TO WORSHIP

(During the sermon series on Exodus we are using psalms that celebrate Israel’s deliverance from Egypt. Today we use selected verses from Psalm 105.)

Pastor: In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

Pastor: Israel arrived in Egypt; Jacob lived as a foreigner in the land of Ham.

People: **The LORD multiplied the people of Israel.**

Pastor: The LORD sent his servant Moses, along with Aaron, whom he had chosen.

People: **The LORD blanketed Egypt in darkness.**

Pastor: They had defied his commands to let his people go.

People: **He turned their water into blood, poisoning all the fish.**

Pastor: Then frogs overran the land and even invaded the king’s bedrooms.

People: **When the LORD spoke, flies descended on the Egyptians.**

Pastor: He sent them hail instead of rain, and lightning flashed over the land.

People: **He spoke, and hordes of locusts came.**

Pastor: The LORD brought his people out of Egypt, loaded with silver and gold.

All: **Not one among the tribes of Israel stumbled!**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Hear me, merciful and mighty Father, as I confess my bondage to sin and death.

People: **I know that nothing good lives in me.**

Pastor: That is, in my sinful nature.

People: **I have the desire to do good.**

Pastor: But I cannot carry it out.

People: **What I do is not the good I want to do.**

Pastor: No, the evil I do not want to do, this I keep on doing.

People: **I find this law at work**

Pastor: When I want to do good, evil is right there with me.

People: **In my inner being I delight in God’s law.**

Pastor: But I see another law at work in the members of my body, waging war and making me a prisoner of the law of sin and death.

All: **Who will rescue me from this body of death?**

(You are invited silently reflect on the fact that though our sin is great, Christ’s love is greater.)

Pastor: Hear the good news! The same God who delivered Israel from Egyptian bondage also delivers you from your body of sin and death! Jesus Christ, the Passover Lamb, has been sacrificed and His blood forgives you and sets you free! The LORD brought His people out of Egypt, loaded with silver and gold.

All: **And not one among the tribes of Israel stumbled!**

HYMN

LSB #435 (stanza 4)

“Come to Calvary’s Holy Mountain”

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Let us pray. Father in heaven, although You graciously and daily provide for all that we need, we frequently fail to trust Your love and mercy. Awaken our faith so that, all the more, we trust You in every test and temptation; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

All: **Amen.**

(Today’s scripture lessons are about trusting God.)

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Exodus 14:1-29

GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 11:25-30

HYMN

LSB #728

“How Firm a Foundation”

SERMON

“Stop Trying and Start Trusting”

OFFERING/FRIENDSHIP REGISTER