

# **THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT**

Saturday, March 14 and Sunday, March 15, 2026



# **Bethlehem**

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LUTHERAN CHURCH

**100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**  
**1926 - 2026**

*Proclaiming Christ. Nurturing Faith. Restoring Hope.*

## ***Welcome to Worship***

*We're so glad you're here. For a century, Bethlehem has gathered God's people around His gifts. Rooted in the historic liturgy and the teachings of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, worship here has always centered on what God does for us. We gather around His Word and His Sacraments, where Jesus Himself is present—speaking forgiveness, sustaining life, and giving hope. Worship is not first about what we bring, but about how God serves us, and how we respond with praise, prayer, and thanksgiving.*

*For one hundred years, this has been our shared calling: Proclaiming Christ. Nurturing Faith. Restoring Hope. Generation after generation, God has been at work here—gathering His people, forming them through His Word and gifts, and sending them into the world. And He is not finished yet. As a Gospel presence in our neighborhood, we trust that the same faithful God who carried us through the past is shaping what is to come. Whether this is your first visit or your spiritual home, you belong here. May this time of worship nurture your faith, fill you with Christ's hope, and send you out ready to proclaim His love in word and deed.*

## **REGARDING THE LORD'S SUPPER**

At Bethlehem, we believe that in the Lord's Supper, Jesus gives us more than a symbol—He gives us Himself. In, with, and under the bread and wine, we receive His true body and blood for the forgiveness of sins, the strengthening of faith, and the unity of His people. This is how Christ continues to proclaim His saving work and nurture our faith today.

As we prepare to receive this gift, we follow the Scriptures and the Small Catechism in examining ourselves: Do I believe I am a sinner in need of God's grace? Do I trust in Jesus as my Savior? Do I believe that Christ is truly present in this meal? Do I desire to turn from sin and live in faith and love? Whoever answers yes to these is truly worthy and well prepared.

Bethlehem is a congregation of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, and we ask that all who commune share our confession of faith. If you are not yet instructed in this teaching or have questions, we warmly invite you to come forward for a blessing—simply cross your arms over your chest—or speak with our pastor after the service. We are glad you're here, and we would love to walk with you as we grow in Christ together.

***(Children's Activity bags are available in the Narthex.  
Please remember to return them to the rack after the service.)***

# + PREPARATION +

## PRESERVICE MUSIC

## WELCOME

## RINGING OF THE BELLS

## HYMN

LSB #440

### JESUS, I WILL PONDER NOW



1 Je - sus, I will pon - der now On Your ho - ly pas - sion;  
2 Make me see Your great dis - tress, An - guish, and af - flic - tion,  
3 Yet, O Lord, not thus a - lone Make me see Your pas - sion,  
4 Grant that I Your pas - sion view With re - pen - tant griev - ing.



With Your Spir - it me en - dow For such med - i - ta - tion.  
Bonds and stripes and wretch - ed - ness And Your cru - ci - fix - ion;  
But its cause to me make known And its ter - mi - na - tion.  
Let me not bring shame to You By un - ho - ly liv - ing.



Grant that I in love and faith May the im - age cher - ish  
Make me see how scourge and rod, Spear and nails did wound You,  
Ah! I al - so and my sin Wrought Your deep af - flic - tion;  
How could I re - fuse to shun Ev - 'ry sin - ful plea - sure



Of Your suf - f'ring, pain, and death That I may not per - ish.  
How for them You died, O God, Who with thorns had crowned You.  
This in - deed the cause has been Of Your cru - ci - fix - ion.  
Since for me God's on - ly Son Suf - fered with - out mea - sure?

5

If my sins give me alarm And my conscience grieve me,  
Let Your cross my fear disarm; Peace of conscience give me.  
Help me see forgiveness won By Your holy passion.  
If for me He slays His Son, God must have compassion!

Graciously my faith renew; Help me bear my crosses,  
 Learning humbleness from You, Peace mid pain and losses.  
 May I give You love for love! Hear me, O my Savior,  
 That I may in heav'n above Sing Your praise forever.

Text: Sigismund von Birken, 1626–81; tr. August Crull, 1845–1923, alt.  
 Tune: Melchior Vulpus, c. 1570–1615      Text and tune: Public domain

*(Stand)*

## INVOCATION

Pastor                    In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
 Congregation        **Amen.**

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor                    With my voice I cry out to the LORD;  
 Congregation        **with my voice I plead for mercy to the LORD.**

*(Silent reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.)*

Pastor                    Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.  
 Congregation        **Most merciful God, we confess that we were born in utter sin. To this day and by nature, we have eyes that do not see and ears that do not hear. We have trusted in the things we have made rather than You. Our thoughts, words, and actions have been unfruitful and dark. We have been blind to our sin, but You have seen it. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, open our eyes. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

Pastor                    Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. Jesus is the light of the world and your salvation. He has enlightened you with His gifts and given you ears to hear Jesus' words. It is He who is speaking to you. As a called and ordained 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.

Congregation        **Amen.**

# + SERVICE OF THE WORD +

HYMN OF PRAISE

TFBF #275 (vs. 1,3,4)

## GOD IS SO GOOD

The musical score is written for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and piano accompaniment. It is in the key of B-flat major (two flats) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like. The lyrics are printed below the vocal staves.

1 God is so good, God is so good.  
3 He saved my soul, he saved my soul.  
4 I praise his name, I praise his name,

God is so good, he's so good to me.  
he saved my soul, he's so good to me.  
I praise his name, he's so good to me.

Text: traditional  
Music: God Is So Good, traditional

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor The Lord be with you.

**Congregation And with thy spirit.**

Pastor Let us pray. Almighty God, our heavenly Father, Your mercies are new every morning; and though we deserve only punishment, You receive us as Your children and provide for all our needs of body and soul. Grant that we may heartily acknowledge Your merciful goodness, give thanks for all Your benefits, and serve You in willing obedience; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Congregation Amen.**

*(Sit)*

**OLD TESTAMENT**

Isaiah 42:14–21

<sup>14</sup>For a long time I have held my peace; I have kept still and restrained myself; now I will cry out like a woman in labor; I will gasp and pant. <sup>15</sup>I will lay waste mountains and hills, and dry up all their vegetation; I will turn the rivers into islands, and dry up the pools.

<sup>16</sup>And I will lead the blind in a way that they do not know, in paths that they have not known I will guide them. I will turn the darkness before them into light, the rough places into level ground. These are the things I do, and I do not forsake them. <sup>17</sup>They are turned back and utterly put to shame, who trust in carved idols, who say to metal images, “You are our gods.” <sup>18</sup>Hear, you deaf, and look, you blind, that you may see! <sup>19</sup>Who is blind but my servant, or deaf as my messenger whom I send? Who is blind as my dedicated one, or blind as the servant of the LORD? <sup>20</sup>He sees many things, but does not observe them; his ears are open, but he does not hear. <sup>21</sup>The LORD was pleased, for his righteousness’ sake, to magnify his law and make it glorious.

Leader                      This is the Word of the Lord.

**Congregation            Thanks be to God.**

**EPISTLE**

Ephesians 5:8–14

<sup>8</sup>For at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light <sup>9</sup>(for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), <sup>10</sup>and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. <sup>11</sup>Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. <sup>12</sup>For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. <sup>13</sup>But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, <sup>14</sup>for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,

“Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.”

Leader                      This is the Word of the Lord.

**Congregation            Thanks be to God.**

*(Stand)*

**HOLY GOSPEL**

John 9:1-7, 13-17, 34-39

<sup>1</sup>As [Jesus] passed by, he saw a man blind from birth. <sup>2</sup>And his disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” <sup>3</sup>Jesus answered, “It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him. <sup>4</sup>We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. <sup>5</sup>As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” <sup>6</sup>Having said these things, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva. Then he anointed the man’s eyes with the mud <sup>7</sup>and said to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). So he went and washed and came back seeing.

<sup>13</sup>They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. <sup>14</sup>Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. <sup>15</sup>So the Pharisees again asked him how he had received his sight. And he said to them, “He put mud on my eyes, and I washed, and I see.” <sup>16</sup>Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath.” But others said, “How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?” And there was a division among them. <sup>17</sup>So they said again to the blind man, “What do you say about him, since he has opened your eyes?” He said, “He is a prophet.”

<sup>34</sup>They answered him, “You were born in utter sin, and would you teach us?” And they cast him out.

<sup>35</sup>Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” <sup>36</sup>He answered, “And who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?” <sup>37</sup>Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and it is he who is speaking to you.” <sup>38</sup>He said, “Lord, I believe,” and he worshiped him. <sup>39</sup>Jesus said, “For judgment I came into this world, that those who do not see may see, and those who see may become blind.”

Pastor                      This is the Gospel of the Lord.  
Congregation            Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

(Sit)

HYMN OF THE DAY

LSB #542

WHEN I BEHOLD JESUS CHRIST



1 When I be - hold Je - sus Christ, True God who died for me,  
2 For me You gave all Your love, For me You suf-fered pain;  
3 You had no sin, ho - ly Lord, But You were tor-tured, tried;  
4 What love is this? Great - er love No one has ev - er known.



I won-der much at His love As He hung on the tree.  
I find no words, noth - ing can Your self - less - ness ex - plain.  
On Gol - go - tha there for all My sins You bled and died.  
My life with God— this I owe To You, and You a - lone.



What kind of love is this? What kind of love is this?



You showed Your love, Je - sus, there To me on Cal - va - ry.



What kind of love is this? What kind of love is this?



You showed Your love, Je - sus, there To me on Cal - va - ry.

Text (sts. 1, ref, 2-3): tr. Hartmut Schoenherr, with Jim and Aurelia Keefer; (st. 4): Joseph Herl, 1959

Text (sts. 1, ref, 2-3) and tune: Almaz Belhu

Text (st. 4): © 1998 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110001608

Text (sts. 1, ref, 2-3) and tune: © 1970 Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110001608

SERMON

“Glimpses of Jesus: The Light”

(Stand)

APOSTLES' CREED

LSB pg.192

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.  
And 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 sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.  
From thence 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  $\dagger$  everlasting.  
Amen.

(Sit)

OFFERING

(Stand)

OFFERTORY

LSB pg. 192

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 Thy pres - ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it  
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -  
tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir - it. A - men.

(Sit)

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

## + SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT +

*(If you are visiting today or have questions about Holy Communion, please see our statement on the first page of the bulletin.)*

*(Stand)*

### PREFACE

LSB pg. 194

Pastor The Lord be with you.

Congregation **And with thy spirit.**

Pastor Lift up your hearts.

Congregation **We lift them up unto the Lord.**

Pastor Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God.

Congregation **It is meet and right so to do.**

### PROPER PREFACE

#### SANCTUS

LSB pg. 195



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth;



heav'n and earth are full of Thy 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 that com - eth in the name of the Lord.



Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

## LORD'S PRAYER

LSB pg. 196

**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 WORDS OF OUR LORD

LSB pg. 197

## PAX DOMINI

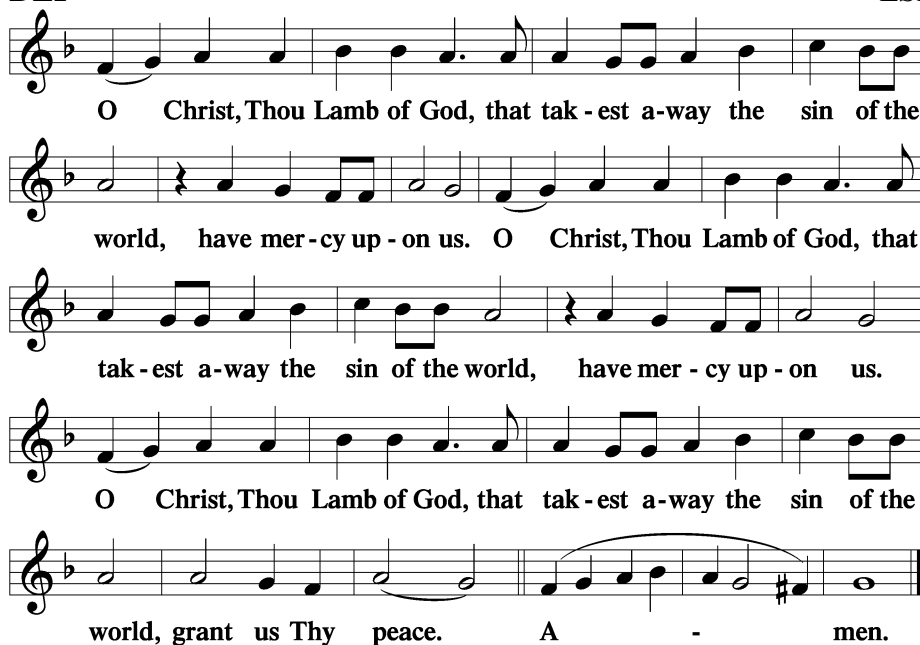
LSB pg. 197

Pastor                   The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Congregation       Amen.

## AGNUS DEI

LSB pg. 198



O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the  
world, have mer-cy up-on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that  
tak-est a-way the sin of the world, have mer-cy up-on us.  
O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the  
world, grant us Thy peace. A - men.

*(Sit)*

## DISTRIBUTION

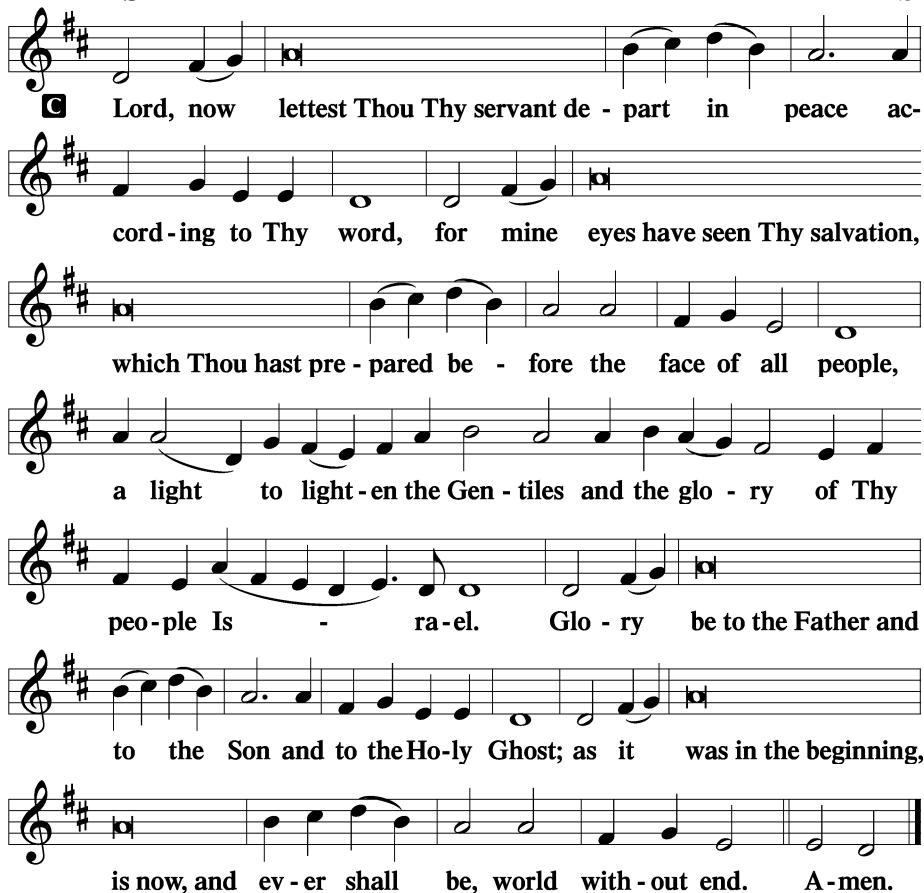
*Prayerful Meditation*

*(Non-alcoholic options are available in the center ring of the communion tray.)*

(Stand)

## NUNC DIMITTIS

LSB pg. 199



Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant de - part in peace ac -  
cord - ing to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,  
which Thou hast pre - pared be - fore the face of all people,  
a light to light - en the Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of Thy  
peo - ple Is - ra - el. Glo - ry be to the Father and  
to the Son and to the Ho - ly Ghost; as it was in the beginning,  
is now, and ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A - men.

## THANKSGIVING

Pastor O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,  
Congregation and His mercy endureth forever.

## POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

### BENEDICTION

Pastor The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.  
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give you peace.  
Congregation Amen.

### CHRIST, THE WORD OF GOD INCARNATE



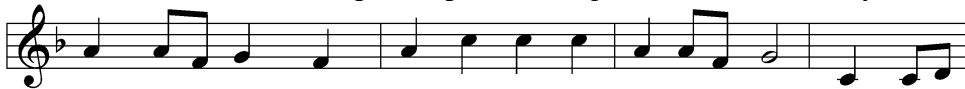
1 Christ, the Word of God in - car - nate, Lord and Son of  
2 Christ, the liv - ing bread from heav - en, Food for bod - y,  
3 Christ, the shoot that springs tri - um - phant From the stump of  
4 Christ, our good and faith - ful shep - herd, Watch - ing all Your



A - bra - ham; Christ, the ra - diance of the Fa - ther,  
food for soul; Christ, the man - na dai - ly giv - en,  
Jes - se's tree; Christ, true vine, You nur - ture branch - es  
lambs and sheep; Christ, the gate that guards the sheep - fold,



Per - fect God, the great I AM; Christ, the light, You  
Nour - ish, strength - en, make us whole. Feed us with the  
To bear fruit a - bun - dant - ly. Graft us in - to  
Nev - er - fail - ing vig - il keep. When we stray, Good



shine un - van - quished, Light and life You bring to all; Light our  
food of heav - en, Fore - taste of the feast to be; Quench our  
You, O Sav - ior; Prune our hearts so we re - main Fruit - ful  
Shep - herd, seek us, Find us, lift us, bear us home; Lamb of



path with Your own pres - ence, Grant us grace to heed Your call.  
thirst with liv - ing wa - ter Spring - ing up e - ter - nal - ly.  
branch - es in Your vine - yard Till e - ter - nal life we gain.  
God, our shep - herd, keep us; Let us hear Your voice a - lone.

Christ, the way that leads unfailing To the Father's home on high,  
Christ, the truth that frees the captive, Christ, the life that cannot die.  
Mediator to the Father, Sacrifice and great High Priest:  
Lead us to Your heav'nly mansions, There to share Your wedding feast.

Christ, the Alpha and Omega, Christ, the firstborn from the dead,  
Christ, the life and resurrection, Christ, the Church's glorious head:  
Praise and thanks and adoration And unending worship be  
To the Father and the Spirit And to You eternally.

Text: Steven P. Mueller, 1964

Tune: Columbian Harmony, 1825, Cincinnati

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Tune: Public domain



## MINISTRY TEAM

### The Reverend Ben Ahlersmeyer

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### Janelle Deal, Organist

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## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**President – Greg Shediack**

**Vice President – John Stafford**

**Secretary – Blake Sebring**

**Treasurer – Brian Bates**

## At Large Members:

**Dan Bates**

**John Bates**

**Rachelle Dance**

**David Schult**

## SCHOOLS

**Lutheran South Unity School.....[lsusfw.org](http://lsusfw.org).....744-0459**

**Concordia Lutheran High School....[clhscadets.com](http://clhscadets.com).....483-1102**

## COUNSELING NEEDS

*Please talk to Pastor Ben Ahlersmeyer for a referral for counseling to Cross Connections.*

## BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

3705 South Anthony Boulevard, Fort Wayne, Indiana 46806-4329

[www.bethlehemlcms.org](http://www.bethlehemlcms.org)

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

Office Hours: 10:00am – 4:00pm (Monday – Friday)

### ***Our Worship Schedule:***

*Saturday Afternoon Worship Service at 4:00pm*

*Sunday Morning Worship Service at 9:00am*

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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