

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Be our light in the darkness, O Lord, and in Your great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night; for the love of Your only Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. “As the deer thirsts for streams of water,”

People: “So we thirst for you, O God.”

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 made streams pour from the Rock.

People: Make the waters flow like a river!

All: Amen and Amen!

HYMN

“As the Deer”

Silent Prayer:

Thank you, Jesus, that Your life-renewing water quenches my thirst now. Amen.

(The offerings will be collected at the doors as you leave this evening.)

BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

3705 South Anthony Boulevard

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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 3

Wednesday, March 6, 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

“Strike the rock, and water will come out of it for the people to drink.” (Exodus 17:6) When they were dying from thirst, this worked for Moses and the Israelites. It works for us, too, today!

HYMN

LSB #423 (stanzas 1–2)

“Jesus, Refuge of the Weary”

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 78.)

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

People: Amen.

Pastor: God did miracles for our ancestors on the plain of Zoan in the land of Egypt.

People: He divided the sea and led them through.

Pastor: Making the water stand up like walls!

People: He led them by a cloud, and all night by a pillar of fire.

Pastor: He split open the rocks in the wilderness to give them water, as from a gushing spring.

People: He made streams pour from the rock.

Pastor: Making the waters flow like a river!

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! He made streams pour from the rock.

All: Making the waters flow like a river!

HYMN

LSB #423 (stanza 3)

“Jesus, Refuge of the Weary”

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray. Almighty and merciful Father, through Moses You provided water for the people to drink. Quench our spiritual thirst through the One who is greater than Moses, Jesus Christ our Rock and our Redeemer. In His name we pray,

All: Amen.

(Today’s scripture lessons are about quenching our thirst.)

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Exodus 17:1-7

EPISTLE LESSON

1 Corinthians 10:1-4

GOSPEL LESSON

John 4:3-10

HYMN

LSB #803

“Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee”

SERMON

“Strike the Rock”