

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Eternal God, the hours both of day and night are Yours, and to You the darkness is no threat. Be present, we pray, with those who labor in these hours of the night, especially those who watch and work on behalf of others. Grant them diligence in their watching, faithfulness in their service, courage in danger, and competence in emergencies. Help them to meet the needs of others with confidence and compassion. Lord in Your mercy

People: **“Hear our prayer**

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—gather us from among the nations.

People: **That we may give thanks to His holy name and glory in His praise!**

All: **Amen and Amen!**

HYMN *“Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing”* LSB #924

Silent Prayer: Jesus, when I’m stuck in a hole, empower me to claim your covenant—your covenant of blood! Amen.

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

BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

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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 5

Wednesday, March 20, 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

It's easy to get stuck in a hole. Look at Aaron and the Israelites. Better yet, look at us. Best of all, look to Jesus who alone gets us out of our huge hole!

HYMN "My Song Is Love Unknown" LSB #430 (stanzas 1–5)

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 106.)

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

People: Amen.

Pastor: The LORD commanded the Red Sea to dry up. He led Israel across the sea as if it were a desert.

People: He rescued them from their enemies and redeemed them from their foes.

Pastor: The water returned and covered their enemies; not one of them survived.

People: Then His people believed His promises. Then they sang his praise.

Pastor: Yet how quickly they forgot what He had done! They wouldn't wait for His counsel!

People: The people made a calf at Mount Sinai; they bowed before an image made of gold.

Pastor: They forgot God, their Savior, who had done such great things in Egypt.

People: So He declared He would destroy them.

Pastor: But Moses, His chosen one, stepped between the LORD and the people.

People: He begged Him to turn from his anger and not destroy them.

All: Save us, O Lord our God, and gather us from among the nations, that we may give thanks to Your holy name and glory in Your praise.

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! Save us, O Lord our God, and gather us from among the nations.

All: That we may give thanks to Your holy name and glory in Your praise!

HYMN "My Song Is Love Unknown" LSB #430 (stanza 7)

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray. Lord God, merciful Father, You are the God who made heaven and earth. Forgive us when we clamor for a different god and set our feet on the path that trusts You above all things; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

All: Amen.

(The readings are about surviving in a sex-crazed society.)

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Exodus 32:1-14

EPISTLE LESSON 1 Corinthians 10:5–8

GOSPEL LESSON Matthew 5:27–30

HYMN "O Church Arise" Screen

SERMON "Digging Ourselves into a Hole"