

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT  
BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH  
*Nurture with Love, Serve with Hope*  
MARCH 23, 2025 PASTOR ELAINA SALMON

**Prelude**

**Welcome and Announcements**

THE GATHERING

*(Please stand.)*

**Confession & Forgiveness**

P Blessed be the holy Trinity,  
Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer.

C **Amen.**

P Let us return to God, confessing our sin in the assurance of our Creator's abiding love.

*(a moment of silence)*

P Merciful God,

C **we confess to you that we have forgotten  
our connection to the earth  
and our kinship with other living things.**

**We treat the earth as a boundless warehouse.  
We have disrupted creation  
and have ignored the earth's groaning.  
We have not loved creation  
as you have loved us.**

**Restore in us, O God,  
wonder and gratitude for earth's gifts.  
Restore in us, O God,  
an awareness of our kinship  
to all living things.  
Help us to hear your call to serve the earth  
as you served us.  
We confess and pray for transformation,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.**

P In the name of God, maker of heaven and earth,  
and Jesus, the one through whom all things were made,  
and by the Holy Spirit, the giver of life,  
you are forgiven.  
You are a new creation.

C **Amen**

**Gathering Song** “*Come to the Water of Life*”

*All who are thirsty for mercy,  
all who are thirsty for love;  
all who are thirsty for love, for mercy, come:  
come to the Water of life.*

*All who are thirsty for healing,  
all who are thirsty for touch;  
all who are thirsty for touch, for healing, come:  
come to the Water of life.*

*All who are thirsty for beauty,  
all who are thirsty for truth;  
all who are thirsty for truth, for beauty, come:  
come to the Water of life.*

*All who are thirsty for justice,  
all who are thirsty for peace;  
all who are thirsty for peace, for justice, come:  
come to the Water of life.*

**Greeting**

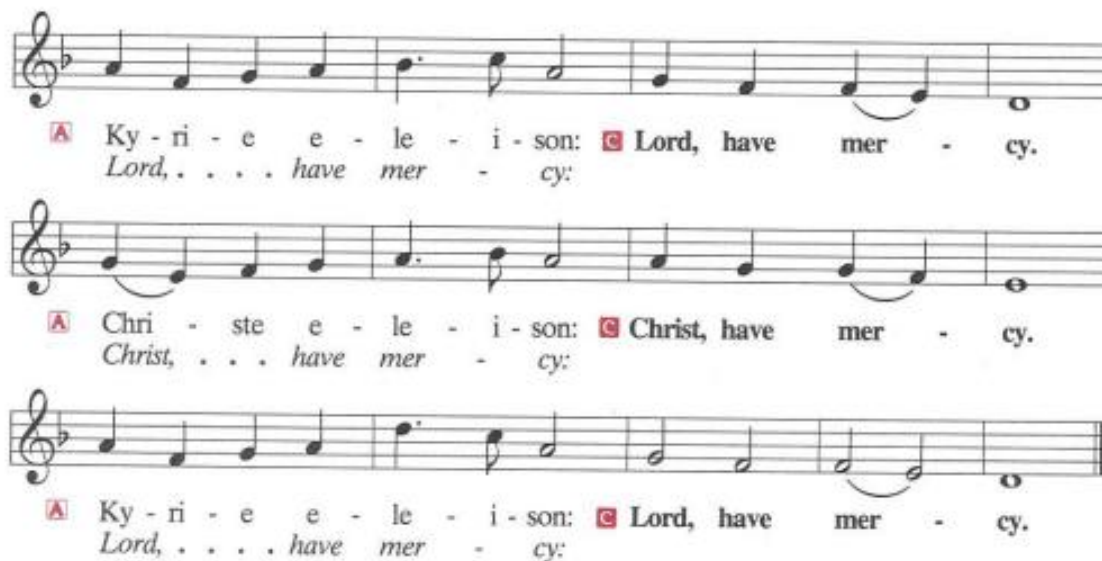
P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C **And also with you.**

## Kyrie

### KYRIE

*The Kyrie may follow.*



**A** Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son: **C** Lord, have mer - cy.  
Lord, . . . . have mer - cy:

**A** Chri - ste e - le - i - son: **C** Christ, have mer - cy.  
Christ, . . . . have mer - cy:

**A** Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son: **C** Lord, have mer - cy.  
Lord, . . . . have mer - cy:

## Hymn of Praise “Before the Waters Nourished Earth”

*Before the waters nourished earth  
or night imagined morning,  
a Love conceived the universe  
and reveled in its forming.*

*This Love remained as time revealed  
the loss of Eden's glory  
and, grieving, holds in memory  
each tragic human story.*

*Despair, so deep it bears no name,  
or sorrows paralyzing  
cannot revoke Love's faithful claim  
to dwell within our dying.*

*The Love that called creation good  
all goodness still is bringing.  
This Love turns death again to life  
and silence into singing.*

## Prayer of the Day

P Eternal God, your kingdom has broken into our troubled world through the life, death, and resurrection of your Son. Help us to hear your word and obey it, and bring your

saving love to fruition in our lives, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C Amen.**

*(Please be seated.)*

## THE WORD

### **Children's Sermon**

#### **The First Reading** Isaiah 55:1-9

Ho, everyone who thirsts,  
come to the waters;  
and you that have no money,  
come, buy and eat!  
Come, buy wine and milk  
without money and without price.  
Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,  
and your labor for that which does not satisfy?  
Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good,  
and delight yourselves in rich food.  
Incline your ear, and come to me;  
listen, so that you may live.  
I will make with you an everlasting covenant,  
my steadfast, sure love for David.  
See, I made him a witness to the peoples,  
a leader and commander for the peoples.  
See, you shall call nations that you do not know,  
and nations that do not know you shall run to you,  
because of the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel,  
for he has glorified you.

Seek the Lord while he may be found,  
call upon him while he is near;  
let the wicked forsake their way,  
and the unrighteous their thoughts;  
let them return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on them,  
and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.  
For my thoughts are not your thoughts,  
nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord.  
For as the heavens are higher than the earth,  
so are my ways higher than your ways  
and my thoughts than your thoughts.

**A** The Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm 63

A O God, you are my God; eagerly I seek you;  
my soul thirsts for you, my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is  
no water.

C **Therefore I have gazed upon you in your holy place,  
that I might behold your power and your glory.**

A For your steadfast love is better than life itself;  
my lips shall give you praise.

C **So will I bless you as long as I live  
and lift up my hands in your name.**

A My spirit is content, as with the richest of foods,  
and my mouth praises you with joyful lips,

C **when I remember you upon my bed,  
and meditate on you in the night watches.**

A For you have been my helper,  
and under the shadow of your wings I will rejoice.

C **My whole being clings to you;  
your right hand holds me fast.**

## Second Reading 1 Corinthians 10:1-13

I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, and all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ. Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness.

Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did. Do not become idolaters as some of them did; as it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink, and they rose up to play." We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents. And do not complain as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. These things happened to them to serve as an example, and they were written down to instruct us, on whom the ends of the ages have come. So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall. No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.

A The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

*(Please stand.)*

**Gospel Acclamation** *“Lord, Let My Heart”*

*Lord, let my heart be good soil,  
open to the seed of your word.  
Lord, let my heart be good soil,  
where love can grow and peace is understood.  
When my heart is hard, break the stone away.  
When my heart is cold, warm it with the day.  
When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.  
Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart,  
Lord, let my heart be good soil.*

**Gospel** Luke 13:1-9

At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. Jesus asked them, “Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did.”

Then he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. So he said to the gardener, ‘See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?’ He replied, ‘Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.’”

**P** The Gospel of the Lord.  
**C** **Praise to you, O Christ.**

*(Please be seated.)*

**Sermon** **Rev. Elaina Salmon**

*(Please stand.)*

**Hymn of the Day** *“May This Church Be Like a Tree”*

*May this church be like a tree,  
behind your house, there in your garden,  
meeting-place for joy, and feast,  
and simple prayer beneath its branches.  
With its roots in earth so fertile,  
and its arms raised high to heaven,  
may this church bear fruits of justice,  
acts of loving and compassion.*

*Refrain*

*Tree ever growing by living water,  
running eternal, flowing from God.  
Tree ever growing by living water,  
running eternal, flowing from God.*

*May this church be like a tree  
there in the street or in the plaza,  
for the birds a nesting-branch,  
for passersby a welcome shelter.  
May it stand as if it's watching,  
near my house, just round the corner,  
waiting for this weary pilgrim  
with its arms wide to embrace me. Refrain*

*May this church be like a tree,  
O God, that thrives where you have planted;  
may it stand to show the way,  
your way of loving and self-giving,  
off'ring shade, and fruit for sharing,  
giving up its wood for burning.  
May this living church that names you  
be a tree of life eternal. Refrain*

**Prayers of the People**

A Led by the Spirit, let us turn to God in prayer for the church, the world, and all those in need.

*(a moment of silence)*

A We pray for the church, called to be a witness to all peoples. Grant humility and wisdom to bishops, pastors, deacons, elders, councils, and congregations, that they may call upon you in making decisions. God, in your mercy,

**C receive our prayer.**

A We pray for the earth, called to provide abundantly. Teach your people the goodness of your generosity, that in sharing what we have been given, all life may flourish on the planet that is our shared home. God, in your mercy,

**C receive our prayer.**

A We pray for the nations, called to protect their inhabitants and collaborate in the work of justice and peace. Forge bonds of compassion and mutual care across human borders and boundaries, that all the world may have enough to live. God, in your mercy,

**C receive our prayer.**

A We pray for those in need, called to receive your compassion. Comfort those whose lives have been disrupted through natural disasters and human conflict. Aid communities in coming together to mourn, heal, and rebuild. God, in your mercy,

**C** receive our prayer.

A We pray for this assembly, called to welcome its neighbors to the table of your grace. Bless food pantries, community gardens and kitchens, clean water projects, and all ministries that address human hunger and thirst. God, in your mercy,

**C** receive our prayer.

A We give thanks for the faithful lives of those who proclaimed your gospel in times of challenge and strife, and for all those whose lives of love and service have ended. May their witness inspire our own. God, in your mercy,

**C** receive our prayer.

A Receive the prayers of your people and draw all things together in your love, in the name of Jesus, who leads us from death to life.

**C** Amen.

### **Sharing of Christ's Peace**

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

**C** And also with you.

*(Please be seated.)*

## THE MEAL

### **Invitation to the Offering**

P For all we receive from God's bounty, let us give thanks and offer our first fruit gifts as an act of love for God and our neighbor.

### **Offering**

*(Please stand.)*

### **Offertory Song**      *"For the Beauty of the Earth"*

*For the beauty of the earth,  
for the beauty of the skies,  
for the love which from our birth  
over and around us lies:*

### *Refrain*

*Christ, our God, to thee we raise  
this our sacrifice of praise.*



*For the wonder of each hour  
of the day and of the night,  
hill and vale and tree and flow'r,  
sun and moon and stars of light: Refrain*

### **Offertory Prayer**

- A Creator of the universe and bearer of love, we give thanks for the beauty of the earth and for all the gifts you provide from her bounty. As we prepare to feast on grain made into bread and fruit of the vine made into wine, deepen our commitment to love one another and care for creation, through our Savior, Jesus Christ.
- C **Amen.**

### **Eucharistic Prayer**

- P The Lord be with you.  
C **And also with you.**  
P Lift up your hearts.  
C **We lift them to the Lord.**  
P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
C **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**
- P Holy God, mighty and merciful,  
your people praise you, saying:  
Your mercy endures forever.  
C **Your mercy endures forever.**
- P By your promise  
you bound yourself to earth and all its creatures,  
granting them life and calling them to flourish,  
setting the sign of your bow in the clouds,  
the colors of your love and faithfulness.  
Your mercy endures forever.  
C **Your mercy endures forever.**
- P By your promise  
you bound yourself to your people of old,  
blessing them with family outnumbering the stars  
and calling them to be a blessing to others,  
showing them steadfast love in every generation  
and calling them to be a light to the nations.  
Your mercy endures forever.  
C **Your mercy endures forever.**
- P By your promise  
you joined us to Jesus, your Beloved,  
grafting us into your living Vine,

and calling us to bear the fruit of your self-giving love.

In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

With this bread and cup  
we remember his life laid down and lifted up  
as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

**C Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

**P** Send your Holy Spirit upon us  
and these gifts of bread and wine.  
Bless us to be a blessing.  
Make us a sign of your faithfulness.  
Send us to tend and cherish the earth  
and to serve the world with mercy and love.

With all the saints in light,  
with the earth and all its creatures,  
with sun and moon and stars,  
we praise you, O God, through Christ Jesus,  
in your Spirit, now and forever.

**C Amen.**

### **Lord's Prayer**

**P** Remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray,  
**C** **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, the power and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

### **Invitation to Communion**

**P** All who are hungry, come!  
The feast of grace is spread.

*(Please be seated.)*

## **Communion Distribution**

### **Communion Songs**

*“Lamb of God”*

*Jesus, Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:  
have mercy on us.*

*Jesus, grain of wheat, you take away the sins of the world:  
have mercy on us.*

*Jesus, sinner’s friend, you take away the sins of the world:  
grant us your peace.*

*“When We are Living”*

*When we are living, it is in Christ Jesus,  
and when we’re dying, it is in the Lord.  
Both in our living and in our dying,  
we belong to God, we belong to God.*

*’Mid times of sorrow and in times of pain,  
when sensing beauty or in love’s embrace,  
whether we suffer, or sing rejoicing,  
we belong to God, we belong to God.*

*Across this wide world, we shall always find  
those who are crying with no peace of mind;  
and when we help them, or when we feed them,  
we belong to God, we belong to God.*

*(Please stand.)*

### **Communion Blessing**

- P     May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his  
      grace.  
C     **Amen.**

### **Prayer After Communion**

- A     Generous Host,  
      you have shared your feast with us and made us new.

Send us now to set tables of love and grace in our communities,  
that your liberating love might nourish the world into freedom,  
in the name of the crucified one, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C Amen.**

## SENDING

### **Blessing**

P God our tender parent,  
God the crucified one,  
God the reconciling Spirit,  
bless you now and forever.

**C Amen.**

### **Sending Song** “*May the God of Hope Go with Us*”

*May the God of hope go with us ev'ry day,  
to a world in need with news of joy and peace.  
May the God of justice speed us on our way,  
bringing light and hope to ev'ry land and race.  
Praying, let us work for peace;  
singing, share our joy with all;  
working for a world that's new,  
faithful when we hear Christ's call.*

### **Dismissal**

P Go in peace to nurture with love and serve with hope.

**C Thanks be to God!**

## *PRAYERS FOR THE COMMUNITY*

MariLynn Bergmark	Monica Johnson	Misty Pounder
Sharon Bolerjack	Pat Johnson	Brilee Robbins
Hazel Brant	Caty K	Ken Rose
Scott Browne	Zepplyn Killmer	Frank Roy
Anthony Campagna	Lenny Kobilca	Ben Sabourin
Gary Cobbett	Carrie Koon	George Scheel
Sidney Colburn	Rev. John Lang	Bernie Schroeder
Jim Connelly	Nancy Lang	Tim Schroeder
Beau Dowling	Sue Luchon	Virginia Schroeder
Maggie Driscoll	Scott Lundgren	Josh Shaw
Finley Engnell	Dede Machowski	Sharon Skopec
Elwood Faulhaber	Hanna Mau	Gene Sobba
Judy Faulhaber	Jim McKeever	Gary Sperka
Abby Galvin	Ruth Ann Miller	Burt Swartz
David Gilchrist	Omni Rook Myers	Dom Thielmann
Chriss Hassel	Linda Nelson	Kayley Koter Taddeo
Marie Heeren	Jane Nilles	Chuck Vlcek
Mike Hoffman	Dave Nommenson	Cindy Vorel
Bob Hoster	Charlotte Pohlman	Kyle Williams

For Sean Acosta, Dustin Johnson, Steve Kleinfelder, Damen McDermott, Chad Peters, Mitch Pohlman and all others serving our country and their families.

For those we name in our hearts, and for those who have not yet found Jesus.

### Acknowledgements

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*Lamb of God* from Lent Communion Rite: Take, O Take Me as I am Music by John Bell. Adapted/arranged by Tony Alonso. Published by GIA Publications  
*When We Are Living* Text: st. 1, based on Romans 14:8; tr. Elise S. Eslinger, b. 1942 st. 2-3, Roberto Escamilla, b. 1931; tr. George Lockwood, b. 1946  
*May the God of Hope Go with Us* Text: Alvin Schutmaat, 1921–1988, alt.  
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## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**SERVING TODAY** — Bill McAdam

**ACOLYTES** — AJ Guglielmucci and Lakin Guglielmucci

**MUSICIANS** — Sandy Doebert and Sue Gray

**TECH CREW** — Gary Gray, Sue Gray and Zach Howell

### **SPRING BREAK**

There will be no Sunday School on March 30 for spring break.

### **TERRA DIVINA**

Our Prayer Group will head outside for "terra divina" on Wednesday April 2 at 6:30pm. We'll gather in the pavilion near the entrance to the Heritage Quarries Recreation Area. We'll engage in a new way of praying with creation. For those unsure of location, please meet at Bethany at 6:15pm to carpool or caravan to the location.

### **EASTER FLOWERS AND MEMORIALS**

Forms are available. Please return the form along with payment by April 6<sup>th</sup> to the church office.

### **KITCHEN ITEMS AVAILABLE**

After some kitchen organization, there are crystal serving dishes and platters looking for a new home. Items are on the table in the kitchen.

**A DONATION TO THE OPEN PANTRY** was given in memory of Nancy Iwan by Don Garling.

**DONATIONS TO THE OPEN PANTRY** were given by Sue and Gary Gray, June Dawson, Cathy Karpiesiuk, Theodore & Sharon Mochel, Christine Zielke and Lois Miller.

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