

SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT
BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH
Nurture with Love, Serve with Hope
MARCH 1, 2026 PASTOR ELAINA SALMON

Prelude *“Seek Ye First”*

Welcome and Announcements

THE GATHERING

(Please stand.)

Confession and Forgiveness

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God,
 who forgives all our sin,
 whose mercy endures forever.

C Amen.

P Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt
 and blots out all offenses.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P Gracious God,

C have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you:
 Gracious God,

C have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word:
 Gracious God,

C have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P For failing to recognize your coming reign,
 and for hindering the work of the Spirit: Gracious God,

C have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition,
 and for disdain the living water Christ offers: Gracious God,

C have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P For disregarding voices from the margin,
 and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world:
 Gracious God,

C have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent,
 and for disregarding Christ’s call to come forth to life:
 Gracious God,

C have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound.
Through faith, the free gift of God,
you have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ.
In the name of Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.
The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead
dwells in you,
pours God's love into your hearts,
and gives you life and peace.

C **Amen.**

Gathering Song "*Blessed Assurance*"

*Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!
Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.*

Refrain

*This is my story, this is my song,
praising my Savior, all the day long:
this is my story, this is my song,
praising my Savior all the day long.*

*Perfect submission, perfect delight,
visions of rapture now burst on my sight;
angels descending bring from above
echoes of mercy, whispers of love. Refrain*

*Perfect submission, all is at rest;
I in my Savior am happy and blest,
watching and waiting, looking above,
filled with his goodness, lost in his love. Refrain*

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 "*For the Troubles and the Sufferings*"

*For the troubles and the sufferings of the world,
God, we call upon your mercy:
the whole creation's laboring in pain!
Lend an ear to the rising cry for help
from oppressed and hopeless people:
Come! Hasten your salvation, healing love!
We pray for peace, the blessed peace that comes from making justice,*

*to cover and embrace us. Have mercy, Lord!
We pray for pow'r, the pow'r that will sustain your people's witness:
until your kingdom comes. Kyrie eleison!*

Prayer of the Day

- P O God, our leader and guide, in the waters of baptism you bring us to new birth to live as your children. Strengthen our faith in your promises, that by your Spirit we may lift up your life to all the world through your Son, 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 Genesis 12:1-4a

The Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

So Abram went, as the Lord had told him, and Lot went with him.

- A The Word of the Lord.
- C **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 121

- A I lift up my eyes to the hills;
from where is my help to come?
- C **My help comes from the Lord,
the maker of heaven and earth.**
- A The Lord will not let your foot be moved
nor will the one who watches over you fall asleep.
- C **Behold, the keeper of Israel
will neither slumber nor sleep;**
- A the Lord watches over you;
the Lord is your shade at your right hand;

- C** **the sun will not strike you by day,
nor the moon by night.**
- A The Lord will preserve you from all evil
and will keep your life.
- C** **The Lord will watch over your going out and your coming in,
from this time forth forevermore.**

Second Reading Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. For what does the scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness.” Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. But to one who does not work but trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

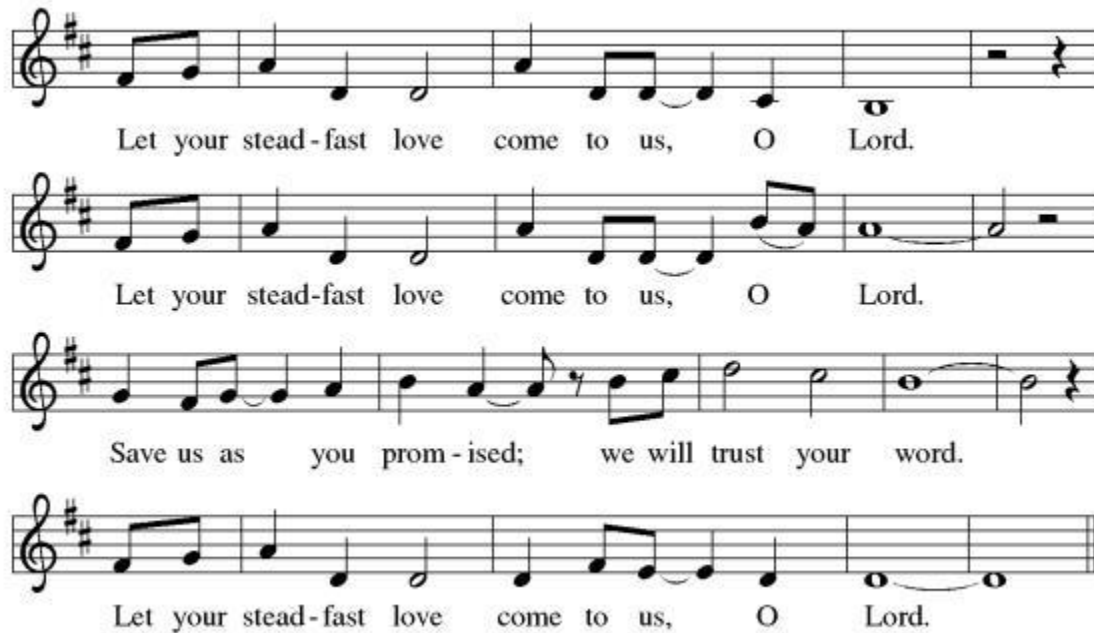
For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law, neither is there transgression.

For this reason the promise depends on faith, in order that it may rest on grace, so that it may be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (who is the father of all of us, as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”), in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

- A The Word of the Lord.
- C** **Thanks be to God.**

(Please stand.)

Gospel Acclamation *“Let Your Steadfast Love Come to Us”*



Let your stead-fast love come to us, O Lord.

Let your stead-fast love come to us, O Lord.

Save us as you prom-ised; we will trust your word.

Let your stead-fast love come to us, O Lord.

The musical score consists of four staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are written below each staff. The melody is simple and repetitive, with a final cadence on the last staff.

Gospel John 3:1-17

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with that person.” Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.” Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?” Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’ The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” Jesus answered him, “Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?”

“Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen, yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

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

(Please be seated.)

Sermon “Nicodemus”

(Please stand.)

Hymn of the Day “When I Survey the Wonderful Cross”

*When I survey the wondrous cross
on which the prince of glory died,
my richest gain I count but loss
and pour contempt on all my pride.*

*Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast
save in the death of Christ, my God;
all the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them to his blood.*

*See, from his head, his hands, his feet,
sorrow and love flow mingled down.
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,
or thorns compose so rich a crown?*

*Were the whole realm of nature mine,
that were a present far too small;
love so amazing, so divine,
demands my soul, my life, my all.*

Prayers of the People

A Reconciled by God’s mercy and sustained by God’s presence, let us pray for the world and its needs.

(a moment of silence)

A Faithful One, you renew us by grace. As you have inspired faith through the work of church artists and hymnwriters throughout the ages give your church the means to praise your beauty today. Hear us, O God.

C **Your mercy is great.**

A Living One, you delight in this world. The sun and moon, the wind and the water declare your goodness. Preserve this earth, and protect conservationists, scientists, and all who labor in service to creation. Hear us, O God.

C **Your mercy is great.**

A Ruling One, you bless us to be a blessing. Open the hearts of all leaders to seek the flourishing of every person and lend your help to all who wait for justice, deliverance, and peace. Hear us, O God.

C **Your mercy is great.**

A Compassionate One, you send your Son to save. Declare your word of acceptance to any who feel condemned and lift up any brought low by hatred and exclusion. Tend to all who are struggling with illness or loss. Hear us, O God.

C **Your mercy is great.**

A Guiding One, you watch over our going out and coming in. Bless newcomers and new members in this assembly and accompany those who have recently left this community to journey elsewhere. Hear us, O God.

C **Your mercy is great.**

A Eternal One, you neither slumber nor sleep. Be our keeper in life and in death. Thank you for our beloved who have died, and for your promise which saves this whole world by your love. Hear us, O God.

C **Your mercy is great.**

A Receive our prayers, O God, through Jesus Christ, our strength and salvation.

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 As God so freely offers us the gift of life in Jesus Christ, let us respond with gratitude, offering our lives to God.

Offering

(Please stand.)

Offertory Song *“Your Song of Love”*

*May your grace make me whole again.
May your eyes make me see again.
May your words make me hear again
your song of love.
May your hands touch the poor again.
May your arms hold the sick again.
May your smile fill each heart again
through who I am.*

Refrain

*Your love within my heart, Lord,
holds me, heals me,
brings me to yourself,
like a North Star in the sky
brings me home
into your light, into you love.*

*May your birth make me live again.
May your death make me free again.
May your life make me sing again
your song of love.
May your feet walk the road again.
May your voice raise the dead again.
May your will calm the storm again
through who I am.*

Offertory Prayer

- A O God, maker of heaven and earth,
your steadfast love embraces all creation.
You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth
and bring forth its bounty.
Through these gifts of bread and wine,
draw us into the death and life of your Son,
who calls us to bear witness to his saving work.
We ask this in Jesus’ name.
- 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 O God triune, how majestic
is your name in all the earth.
Over the eons your merciful might
evolved our home, a fragile tree of life.
Here by your wisdom
are both life and death,
growth and decay,
the nest and the hunt,
sunshine and storm,
darkness and light.
Sustained by these wonders,
we creatures of dust join in the ancient song:
The earth is full of your glory.

C The earth is full of your glory.

P O God triune, you took on our flesh in Jesus our healer.
In Christ you bring life from death;
we remember his cross,
we laud his resurrection.
Broken like bread, he enlivens our body.
Outpoured like wine, he fills the earth with goodness.
Receiving this mystery,
we mortals sing our song:
The earth is full of your glory.

C The earth is full of your glory.

P We praise you for the heart of Jesus,
so filled with your love for this earth.

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.

Gathered around this table,
we your children unite in this song:
The earth is full of your glory.

C The earth is full of your glory.

P O God triune, you create the worlds,
you uphold the living,
you embrace the dead.
Send forth your Spirit
and renew the face of the earth.
Strengthen us for our journey with this meal,
the body and blood of Christ.
Give us a future that trusts in you
and cares for your earth.
Empowered by your promises,
we rise from our deaths
to praise you again:
The earth is full of your glory.

C **The earth is full of your glory.**

P Amen, and amen.
C **Amen, and 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 Jesus meets us here in bread and wine and gives us his very life. Come and feast on
mercy and love.

(Please be seated.)

Communion Distribution

Communion Songs

“Lamb of God”

LAMB OF GOD

Mass of Restoration
Josh Blakesley and Leland G. “Grae” McCullough, IV

The musical score is written on two staves in treble clef with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and a 6/8 time signature. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of lyrics: "Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world,". The second staff contains the melody for the second line of lyrics: "have mer - cy on us. grant us peace." Above the second staff, there is a first ending bracket labeled "1, 2" and a final ending bracket labeled "Final".

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“Come, Let Us Eat”

*Come, let us eat, for now the feast is spread,
come, let us eat, for now the feast is spread.
Our Lord's body let us take together,
our Lord's body let us take together.*

*Come, let us drink, for now the wine is poured,
come, let us drink, for now the wine is poured.
Jesus' blood poured let us drink together,
Jesus' blood poured let us drink together.*

*In Jesus' presence now we meet and rest,
in Jesus' presence now we meet and rest.
In the presence of our Lord we gather,
in the presence of our Lord we gather.*

*Rise, then, to spread abroad God's mighty word,
rise, then, to spread abroad God's mighty word.
Jesus risen will bring in the kingdom,
Jesus risen will bring in the kingdom.*

“Holy, Holy, Holy”

*Holy, holy, holy,
my heart, my heart adores you.
My heart is glad to say the words:
You are holy, 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.**

Post Communion Song *“A New Heart for a New World”*

*Create a new heart,
holy Lord,
beckon our lives through your word,
open our eyes to your call,
united as one for your world.
Heighten our minds to your thoughts,
heal us of pride and of hurt,
may we go forth in your name,
we pray our hearts change.*

Prayer after Communion

A God of our salvation, here at this table we have encountered you and your love that endures forever. May these gifts of your grace renew our hearts and strengthen us to share the gifts we have received, through Jesus, the one who leads us to life.

C **Amen.**

SENDING

Blessing

P Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity:
God, who calls all things into existence,
Jesus Christ, who redeems us,
and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation,
bless you now and always.

C **Amen.**

Sending Song *“Lift High the Cross”*

Refrain

*Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
till all the world adore his sacred name.*

Come, Christians, follow where our captain trod,

our king victorious, Christ, the Son of God. Refrain

*All newborn servants of the Crucified
bear on their brows the seal of him who died. Refrain*

*So shall our song of triumph ever be:
praise to the Crucified for victory! Refrain*

Dismissal

P Go in peace to nurture with love and serve with hope.
C **Thanks be to God!**

PRAYERS FOR THE COMMUNITY

| | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| Ed Anderson | Pat Johnson | Misty Pounder |
| MariLynn Bergmark | Jessica Kean | Brilee Robbins |
| Sue Blender | Zeplyn Killmer | Ken Rose |
| Sharon Bolerjack | Lenny Kobilca | Frank Roy |
| Hazel Brant | Carrie Koon | Ben Sabourin |
| Scott Browne | Rev. John Lang | George Scheel |
| Evelyn Cahill | Nancy Lang | Bernie Schroeder |
| Tom Casey | Sue Lucheon | Tim Schroeder |
| Gary Cobbett | Scott Lundgren | Virginia Schroeder |
| Sidney Colburn | Dede Machowski | Josh Shaw |
| Jim Connelly | Ashley Maestre | Sharon Skopec |
| Beau Dowling | Hanna Mau | Gene Sobba |
| Finley Engnell | Jim McKeever | Gary Sperka |
| Elwood Faulhaber | Ruth Ann Miller | Dom Thielmann |
| Abby Galvin | Omni Rook Myers | Rick Vorel |
| David Gilchrist | Linda Nelson | Kyle Williams |
| Terri Hacker | Dave Nommenson | George Woolet |
| Mike Hoffman | Charlotte Pohlman | Al |
| Monica Johnson | | |

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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Seek Ye First by Douglas E Wagner and Karen Lafferty

Blessed Assurance Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820-1915

For the Troubles and the Sufferings Text: Rodolfo Gaede Neto, b. 1951; tr. Simeio Monteiro, b. 1943, and Jorge Lockward, b. 1965 English text © 2004 General Board of Global Ministries, GBGMusik

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748

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Come, Let Us Eat Text: Billema Kwillia, b. c. 1925, sts. 1-3; Gilbert E. Doan Jr., b. 1930, st. 4, alt.; tr. Margaret D. Miller, b. 1927, sts. 1-3, alt.

Text sts. 1-3 © Lutheran World Federation. Text st. 4 © 1972 *Contemporary Worship 4: Hymns for Baptism and Holy Communion*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

Holy, Holy, Holy Text: Argentine traditional

A New Heart for a New World by Trish Watts and Monica O'Brien (c) Willow Connection Pty.Ltd.

Lift High the Cross Text: George W. Kitchin, 1827-1912; rev. Michael R. Newbolt, 1874-1956 Text © 1974 Hope Publishing Company

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

SERVING TODAY — Joe Falese

ACOLYTE — Blaise Kissick

MUSICIAN — Sue Gray

TECH CREW — Gary Gray and Zach Howell

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS

Love it or hate it, you'll still need to "Spring" forward on March 8 so that you make it to church at the right time!

BETHANY GEAR - FINAL DAY!

This is your final day to order Bethany Gear. You can find the link on our website: bethanylemont.org. Order before the clock strikes midnight!

HOLY CONVERSATIONS

We invite you to join us on Wednesday, March 4 for

Pizza Night @ Diggs (12257 Walker Road), 6pm

Gospel Story – John 3:2-9

Questions

- Imagine yourself as Nicodemus, coming in secrecy: What question do you bring to Jesus from the silent night of your own heart?
- Imagine you are Jesus, inviting Nicodemus to faith: How would you describe your faith to someone who was curious but did not understand?
- Imagine you are the Spirit, passing through creation: What new birth do you wish to bring into being?

ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE

Bethany will be walking in the St. Patrick's Day Parade on Saturday, March 7 at 1pm. Come walk with us! We'll have green Bethany shirts for our walkers! See sign-up sheet.

MUSIC AVAILABLE

If a hymn number is listed with a song, you can find the music in the red hymnal in your pew. We have packets available at the back table that include the songs for the day.

A DONATION TO THE OPEN PANTRY was given in memory of Stephanie Kendozra by Lori Olkiewicz.

DONATIONS MADE TO BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH were given in loving memory of Don Garling by

Julie Rhodes
Salmon Family
Kealy Schroeder
Kristina Becker
Sandra Doebert
Chris and Meg Domzalski

Alyssa Jaje
Ruth & John Gerike
Tracy Leffler
David Gray
Carol Rhoades

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