

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT
BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH
Nurture with Love, Serve with Hope
MARCH 8, 2026 PASTOR ELAINA SALMON

Prelude

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 *"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 *"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 Merciful God, the fountain of living water, you quench our thirst and wash away our sin. Give us this water always. Bring us to drink from the well that flows with the beauty of your truth 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 Exodus 17:1-7

From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. The people quarreled with Moses and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the Lord?" But the people thirsted there for water, and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" So Moses cried out to the Lord, "What shall I do for this people? They are almost ready to stone me." The Lord said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile and go. I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the Lord, saying, "Is the Lord among us or not?"

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

Second Reading Romans 5:1-11

Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand, and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our afflictions, knowing that affliction produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. Much more surely, therefore, since we have now been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

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

(Please stand.)

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

The musical score consists of four staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first three staves are for a choir or congregation, and the fourth is for a soloist.

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.

Gospel John 4:5-42

Jesus came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob’s well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon.

A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, “Give me a drink.” (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, “How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?” (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) Jesus answered her, “If you knew the gift of God and who it is that is saying to you,

‘Give me a drink,’ you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water.” The woman said to him, “Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?” Jesus said to her, “Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life.” The woman said to him, “Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water.”

Jesus said to her, “Go, call your husband, and come back.” The woman answered him, “I have no husband.” Jesus said to her, “You are right in saying, ‘I have no husband,’ for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!” The woman said to him, “Sir, I see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem.” Jesus said to her, “Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming and is now here when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.” The woman said to him, “I know that Messiah is coming” (who is called Christ). “When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us.” Jesus said to her, “I am he, the one who is speaking to you.”

Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, “What do you want?” or, “Why are you speaking with her?” Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, “Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?” They left the city and were on their way to him.

Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, “Rabbi, eat something.” But he said to them, “I have food to eat that you do not know about.” So the disciples said to one another, “Surely no one has brought him something to eat?” Jesus said to them, “My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work. Do you not say, ‘Four months more, then comes the harvest’? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting. The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. For here the saying holds true, ‘One sows and another reaps.’ I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor.”

Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman’s testimony, “He told me everything I have ever done.” So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them, and he stayed there two days. And many more believed because of his word. They said to the woman, “It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Savior of the world.”

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 “Come to Me, All Pilgrims Thirsty”

*"Come to me, all pilgrims thirsty;
drink the water I will give.
If you knew what gift I offer,
you would come to me and live."*

Refrain

*Jesus, ever flowing fountain,
give us water from your well.
In the gracious gift you offer
there is joy no tongue can tell.*

*"Come to me, all trav'lers weary;
come that I may give you rest.
Drink the cup of life I offer;
at this table be my guest." Refrain*

*"Come to me, believers burdened;
find refreshment in this place.
Come, receive the gift I offer,
turn to me and seek my face." Refrain*

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 O God, when suffering arises, preserve your church. Give to pastors, deacons, bishops, and all servants of your gospel the endurance that produces character and the hope that will never disappoint. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A When the waters run dry, sustain this earth. Send water to places languishing with drought, and bring relief to places damaged by floods. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A When war rages, we plead that you hasten the day of peace. Look in mercy on those exposed to peril, conflict, sickness and death. Let your protection be upon all those who are in the service of our nation. Guard them from all danger and harm. We wait for your

kingdom come when every weapon of war will be turned into gardening tools. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A When quarrels ensue, soften our hearts. Quell hostilities between nations and peoples, and reconcile all humans across the lines of race, class, nationality, moral conviction, religion, and all else that divides or oppresses. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A When your people thirst, satisfy their needs. Send water and food to all who need nourishment. Grant welcome to all who are excluded. Show your mercy to any in need. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A When we gather to worship, send us your Spirit. Renew our hearts through the joyful noise we make and bless the work of our church musicians and musical ensembles. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A O God, when death draws near, we rejoice in the promise of life with you. We remember all who have entered eternal rest, and we pray that you bring us the hope of sharing in your glory. 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." The second staff includes a first ending bracket labeled "1, 2" and a final ending bracket labeled "Final".

Music © 2012, Joshua Blakesley and Leland G. “Grae” McCullough, IV. Published by OCP. All rights reserved.

“As the Deer”

*As the deer pants for the water, so my soul longs after you;
you alone are my heart's desire and I long to worship you.*

Refrain

*You alone are my strength and shield; to you alone may my spirit yield.
You alone are my heart's desire and I long to worship you.*

*You're my friend and you are my brother, even though you are a King.
I love you more than any other, so much more than anything. Refrain*

*I want you more than gold or silver, only you can satisfy.
You alone are the real joy giver and the apple of my eye. Refrain*

(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 *“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.*

Dismissal

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

PRAYERS FOR THE COMMUNITY

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

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

Prayer of the Day, Prayers of the People, Offertory Prayer, Prayer after Communion, Blessing, Liturgies and Dismissal from Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2025 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #43914

Unless otherwise noted, Scripture quotations are from the New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright © 1989 by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America and used by permission. All rights reserved.

Come to the Water of Life Text: Ray Makeever, b. 1943 Text © 1999 Ray Makeever, admin. Augsburg Fortress

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

Come to Me, All Pilgrims Thirsty Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939 Text © 1992, 1996 Sisters of St. Benedict, 104 Chapel Lane, St. Joseph, MN 56374

Lamb of God from Mass of Restoration Music © 2012, Joshua Blakesley and Leland G. "Grae" McCullough, IV. Published by OCP.

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.

As the Deer by Marty Nystrom © 1984 Universal Music

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

Before the Waters Nourished Earth Text: Jeannette M. Lindholm, b. 1961 Text © 1996 Jeannette M. Lindholm, admin. Augsburg Fortress

Hymns reprinted with permission from OneLicense.net Annual License A-70879 and CCLI License 4049530

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SERVING TODAY — Pam Laasch

ACOLYTE — Mark Murphy

MUSICIANS — Ruth Gerike and Sue Gray

TECH CREW — Gary Gray and Zach Howell

EASTER FLOWERS AND MEMORIALS

Forms are available. Please return the form along with payment by March 22nd to the church office.

HOLY CONVERSATIONS

Join us again this Wednesday at Bethany's Community Room at 6pm for our Lenten Holy Conversations. This gathering is family friendly. Hot dogs and chips will be served. We'll have an Easter craft for the kids.

We'll discuss today's Gospel reading with the following questions:

- Imagine you are the woman, disrupted in her daily round: How do you respond to this bold, even dangerous stranger?
- Imagine you are the woman, now curious: What is your deepest thirst, one that only God can satisfy?
- Imagine you are Jesus, eager to quench her thirst: How are you a source of living water?

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.

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

Rosemarie McAdam
James & Patricia Fischer

Laura & Ken Tingle

DONATIONS MADE TO THE OPEN PANTRY were given in loving memory of Al Albrecht by

Patricia Browne
Sandy Brychel
Arlene Cygan
Thomas Drez

Jenifer Garvey
Sue Pasiennik
Karen Siston
Matthew Rembold

DONATIONS MADE TO THE OPEN PANTRY were given by St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Lemont Township and St. Jurgis Matulaitis Mission.

ELECTRONIC GIVING is available to support Bethany Church. It is fast, easy and secure. You can schedule a weekly or monthly contribution that is automatically debited from your savings or checking account. Make a one-time donation to a special fund; even direct the gift in honor or in memory of someone. Visit our website: bethanylemont.org and click the Donate button on the homepage.