

# Bethlehem Lutheran Church

***Blessed are those who  
hear  
the Word of God and  
keep it.***

***Third Sunday in Lent (Oculi)***

***March 7, 2021***

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## **The Order of Service**

Divine Service Setting Three (LSB 184)

*(Please stand if you are able for portions of the liturgy marked with an \*)*

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**Opening Hymn: Christ, the Life of All the Living**

**LSB 420**

**Confession and Absolution\***

**LSB 184**

**Introit**

(Ps. 25:1-2, 17-18, 20; antiphon: Ps. 25:15-16)

My eyes are ever toward the LORD,  
for he will pluck my feet out of the net.

**Turn to me and be gracious to me,  
for I am lonely and afflicted.**

To you, O LORD,  
I lift up my soul.

**O my God, in you I trust; let me not be put to shame;  
let not my enemies exult over me.**

The troubles of my heart are enlarged;  
bring me out of my distresses.

**Consider my affliction and my trouble,  
and forgive all my sins.**

Oh, guard my soul, and deliver me!

Let me not be put to shame, for I take refuge in you.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning,  
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

My eyes are ever toward the LORD,  
for he will pluck my feet out of the net.

Turn to me and be gracious to me,  
for I am lonely and afflicted.

**Kyrie\***

**LSB 186**

**Gloria in Excelsis is omitted**

**Collect\*:** O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy, be gracious to all who have gone astray from Your ways and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of Your Word; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

**Old Testament Reading: Jeremiah 26:1-15**

<sup>1</sup> In the beginning of the reign of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah, king of Judah, this word came from the LORD: <sup>2</sup>“Thus says the LORD: Stand in the court of the LORD's house, and speak to all the cities of Judah that come to worship in the house of the LORD all the words that I command you to speak to them; do not hold back a word. <sup>3</sup>It may be they will listen, and every one turn from his evil way, that I may relent of the disaster that I intend to do to them because of their evil deeds. <sup>4</sup>You shall say to them, ‘Thus says the LORD: If you will not listen to me, to walk in my law that I have set before you, <sup>5</sup>and to listen to the words of my servants the prophets whom I send to you urgently, though you have not listened, <sup>6</sup>then I will make this house like Shiloh, and I will make this city a curse for all the nations of the earth.’” <sup>7</sup>The priests and the prophets and all the people heard Jeremiah speaking these words in the house of the LORD. <sup>8</sup>And when Jeremiah had finished speaking all that the LORD had commanded him to speak to all the people, then the priests and the prophets and all the people laid hold of him, saying, “You shall die! <sup>9</sup>Why have you prophesied in the name of the LORD, saying, ‘This house shall be like Shiloh, and this city shall be desolate, without inhabitant’?” And all the people gathered around Jeremiah in the house of the LORD. <sup>10</sup>When the officials of Judah heard these things, they came up from the king's house to the house of the LORD and took their seat in the entry of the New Gate of the house of the LORD. <sup>11</sup>Then the priests and the prophets said to the officials and to all the people, “This man deserves the sentence of death, because he has prophesied against this city, as you have heard with your own ears.” <sup>12</sup>Then Jeremiah spoke to all the officials and all the people, saying, “The LORD sent me to prophesy against this house and this city all the words you have heard. <sup>13</sup>Now therefore mend your ways and your deeds, and obey the voice of the LORD your God, and the LORD will relent of the disaster that he has pronounced against you. <sup>14</sup>But as for me, behold, I am in your hands. Do with me as seems good and right to you. <sup>15</sup>Only know for certain that if you put me to death, you will bring innocent blood upon yourselves and upon this city and its inhabitants, for in truth the LORD sent me to you to speak all these words in your ears.”

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**Gradual:** Arise, O LORD! Let not man prevail; let the nations be judged before you!  
When my enemies turn back, they stumble and perish before your presence.

### **Epistle: Ephesians 5:1-9**

<sup>1</sup> Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. <sup>2</sup> And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. <sup>3</sup> But sexual immorality and all impurity or covetousness must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints. <sup>4</sup> Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving. <sup>5</sup> For you may be sure of this, that everyone who is sexually immoral or impure, or who is covetous (that is, an idolater), has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. <sup>6</sup> Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. <sup>7</sup> Therefore do not become partners with them; <sup>8</sup> for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light <sup>9</sup> (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true),

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**Tract:** To you I lift up my eyes, O you who are enthroned in the heavens! Behold, as the eyes of servants look to the hand of their master, so our eyes look to the LORD our God, till he has mercy upon us. Have mercy upon us, O LORD, have mercy upon us.

### **Holy Gospel\*: Luke 11:14-28**

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 11<sup>th</sup> chapter. **Glory be to Thee, O Lord.**

<sup>14</sup> Now he was casting out a demon that was mute. When the demon had gone out, the mute man spoke, and the people marveled. <sup>15</sup> But some of them said, "He casts out demons by Beelzebul, the prince of demons," <sup>16</sup> while others, to test him, kept seeking from him a sign from heaven. <sup>17</sup> But he, knowing their thoughts, said to them, "Every kingdom divided against itself is laid waste, and a divided household falls. <sup>18</sup> And if Satan also is divided against himself, how will his kingdom stand? For you say that I cast out demons by Beelzebul. <sup>19</sup> And if I cast out demons by Beelzebul, by whom do your sons cast them out? Therefore they will be your judges. <sup>20</sup> But if it is by the finger of God that I cast out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you. <sup>21</sup> When a strong man, fully armed, guards his own palace, his goods are safe; <sup>22</sup> but when one stronger than he attacks him and overcomes him, he takes away his armor in which he trusted and divides his spoil. <sup>23</sup> Whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me scatters. <sup>24</sup> "When the unclean spirit

has gone out of a person, it passes through waterless places seeking rest, and finding none it says, 'I will return to my house from which I came.' <sup>25</sup> And when it comes, it finds the house swept and put in order. <sup>26</sup> Then it goes and brings seven other spirits more evil than itself, and they enter and dwell there. And the last state of that person is worse than the first." <sup>27</sup> As he said these things, a woman in the crowd raised her voice and said to him, "Blessed is the womb that bore you, and the breasts at which you nursed!" <sup>28</sup> But he said, "Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and keep it!"

This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise be to Thee, O Christ.**

<b>Apostles' Creed*</b>	<b>LSB 192</b>
<b>Hymn of the Day: Lord of Our Life</b>	<b>LSB 659</b>
<b>Sermon</b>	
<b>Offertory*</b>	<b>LSB 192</b>
<b>Prayer of the Church*</b>	
<b>The Lord's Prayer*</b>	<b>LSB 196</b>
<b>Benediction*</b>	
<b>Closing Hymn: O Little Flock, Fear Not the Foe</b>	<b>LSB 666</b>

### **Announcements**

**Midweek Lenten Vespers:** This Wednesday, March 10<sup>th</sup> at 7pm is the second of five midweek Lenten Vespers services (10th, 17th, 24th). The focus during these midweek services will be on the Sacrament of Holy Baptism. Throughout these five weeks, we will look at Holy Scripture in order to answer the questions, what is baptism? What benefits does it give? How can water do that? What does this really mean for my life?

**Oculi:** The third Sunday in Lent is also known as Oculi, which, in Latin, means: "My eyes". This phrase is found in the opening line of the Introit – "My eyes are ever toward the LORD, for he will pluck my feet out of the net" (Psalm 25:15).

**Church Services:** While it is our desire to gather as one body, the church has decided to offer again a second service on Sundays at 7:30am. This second service will continue until Easter. As the coronavirus vaccine is becoming more available, this will allow

members more time to get the vaccine. If you or someone you know have any concerns, please feel free to contact Pastor Jennings or stop by the church throughout the week to schedule a time to receive God's gifts.

**Daylight Savings Time:** Daylight Savings Time begins next Sunday, March 14, 2021. Don't forget to set your clocks ahead as we "spring" forward.

**Congratulations:** Congratulations to Daisy Brammeier on completing Level 5 of the Catechism Learn-By-Heart Program. Level 5 includes the Apostles' Creed with its meaning. Congratulations and keep up the good work!

**Ladies Aid/LWML:** The Ladies Aid/LWML meeting will be **Monday, March 8, 2021 at 7:00pm**. Ladies don't forget to bring a white elephant gift to exchange. Servers for the evening are Marla Corry and Chris Hanke. See you there.

**Chicken Supper:** St. John's Lutheran Church, New Minden will host a drive through only Chicken Supper today, **Sunday, March 7, 2021 from 4:00pm–7:00pm**. The cost of the meal is \$10.00.

**Huey/Ferrin/Boulder Fire Department Dinner:** The fire department will host their 19<sup>th</sup> annual pork chop dinner on **Sunday, March 14, 2021** from 11:00am-2:00pm. This will be drive through style only. Tickets are \$12.00 each.

**CORLHS Sterling Evening Dinner and Auction 2021 Update:** Plans are underway for the 2021 Sterling Evening Dinner and Auction. While we are not able to gather in March, we are hopeful for a date in late spring or early summer. Much still depends on what we are able to do safely. Watch for future updates and thank you again for your support.

**Private Confession and Absolution:** Our Lutheran Confessions state that private absolution should be retained and not abolished in the churches (Augsburg Confession, XI). With this in mind, if at any time you desire private confession and absolution, please give Pastor Jennings a call to set-up a time to meet privately.

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listening.