

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

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

***Oculi
(Third Sunday in Lent)
March 12, 2023***

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The Order of Worship

Divine Service Setting One (LSB 151)

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

Announcements

Opening Hymn: “As Surely as I Live,” God Said

LSB 614

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.**

Kyrie*

LSB 152

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

¹ In the beginning of the reign of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah, king of Judah, this word came from the LORD: ²“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. ³It 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. ⁴You 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, ⁵and to listen to the words of my servants the prophets whom I send to you urgently, though you have not listened, ⁶then I will make this house like Shiloh, and I will make this city a curse for all the nations of the earth.’” ⁷The priests and the prophets and all the people heard Jeremiah speaking these words in the house of the LORD. ⁸And 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! ⁹Why 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. ¹⁰When 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. ¹¹Then 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.” ¹²Then 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. ¹³Now 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. ¹⁴But as for me, behold, I am in your hands. Do with me as seems good and right to you. ¹⁵Only 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

¹ Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. ² And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. ³ But sexual immorality and all impurity or covetousness must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints. ⁴ Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving. ⁵ 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. ⁶ Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. ⁷ Therefore do not become partners with them; ⁸ for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light ⁹ (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.**

Alleluia is omitted

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 11th chapter. **Glory to You, O Lord.**

¹⁴ Now he was casting out a demon that was mute. When the demon had gone out, the mute man spoke, and the people marveled. ¹⁵ But some of them said, "He casts out demons by Beelzebul, the prince of demons," ¹⁶ while others, to test him, kept seeking from him a sign from heaven. ¹⁷ But he, knowing their thoughts, said to them, "Every kingdom divided against itself is laid waste, and a divided household falls. ¹⁸ And if Satan also is divided against himself, how will his kingdom stand? For you say that I cast out demons by Beelzebul. ¹⁹ And if I cast out demons by Beelzebul, by whom do your sons cast them out? Therefore they will be your judges. ²⁰ But if it is by the

finger of God that I cast out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you. ²¹When a strong man, fully armed, guards his own palace, his goods are safe; ²²but when one stronger than he attacks him and overcomes him, he takes away his armor in which he trusted and divides his spoil. ²³Whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me scatters. ²⁴“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.’” ²⁵And when it comes, it finds the house swept and put in order. ²⁶Then 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.” ²⁷As 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!” ²⁸But he said, “Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and keep it!”

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

Nicene Creed*	LSB 158
Hymn of the Day: Lord of Our Life	LSB 659
Sermon	
Prayer of the Church*	
Offering	
Offertory*	LSB 159
Service of the Sacrament*	LSB 160
Distribution Hymns: 531, 421, 422, 423, 634, 755	
Nunc Dimittis*	LSB 165
Benediction	
Closing Hymn: O Little Flock, Fear Not the Foe	LSB 666

Announcements

What does this mean: The Third Sunday in Lent is called Oculi, which means "My eyes" in Latin. 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).

Congratulations: Congratulations to Eli Kuper for having completed Level Six of the Catechism Learn-by-Heart Program. Level Six includes the Lord's Prayer with its meaning. Congratulations Eli and keep up the great work!

Church Choir: Choir will meet following the Divine Service today.

Midweek Lenten Vespers: Throughout the Season of Lent, you're encouraged to join us Wednesdays at 7:00pm for our Midweek Lenten Vespers. The theme for these services is 'The Passion of Christ and the Catechism.' The ongoing truths that we find in the Catechism are drawn from the death of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Throughout our Midweek Lenten Services, we will reflect upon this connection and its ongoing application for us through the events and teachings of Christ during His blessed passion.

Private Confession and Absolution: The 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.

Lenten Devotional: Whether it's through Confirmation Class or family devotions, many of us are familiar with the words of the Small Catechism. Yet, how many of us have picked up the Large Catechism and read through it? Luther writes that once you've been taught the Small Catechism, we're to take up the Large Catechism, which gives us a richer and fuller knowledge of God's truths. So, for our Lenten Devotional this year, we will be reading through the Large Catechism. If you don't have a copy, please let Jackie Yardley know, and she will be able to get you a copy. Additionally, you should have a daily reading plan in your mailbox. This Lent, let us be students of the catechism, and joyfully read and take to heart this blessed gift that our church boldly confesses!

Glow Bingo and Vendor Fair: This is a fundraiser for education and ministry for all the youth of Bethlehem Lutheran Church of Ferrin. **Save the Date: March 26, 2023** starting at 4:00pm. Entry is \$15.00. If you are interested in participating as a vendor, you must contact Susan Kleiboeker at (618) 322-5768 by **March 12, 2023**. If you are interested in participating as a player, you must contact Jeff Kleiboeker at (618) 791-7471 **by March**

12, 2023. Walk-ins will be available. You are allowed to bring your own snacks and drinks. Concessions will also be sold.

Flowers for Easter: It is time to get your orders in for Easter. This year you have a choice of lilies or hydrangeas. The lilies will be \$15 each and the hydrangeas will be \$30 each. There are order forms in the ushers' room for you to complete and return to Sylvia Kleiboeker by **April 2nd**.

Huey, Ferrin, Boulder Fire Dept. Pork Chop Dinner: The HFB Fire Dept. will be serving their 21st annual pork chop dinner **today, March 12, 2023 from 11:00am-2:00pm**. This will be drive thru only. Tickets are \$12.00.

Trinity Hoffman Pork Chop Dinner: The annual Trinity Hoffman Men's Club and Women's Fellowship Pork Chop Dinner will be held **Sunday, March 19th, 2023 from 10:30-1:00**. This will be a drive thru only. Smoked Pork Chops, Baked Potato, Green beans, Applesauce and Dessert. Cost is \$12.00. Hope you can join us.

Immanuel Lutheran School Okawville: Immanuel Lutheran School will be having a "drive-thru" breakfast **Sunday, March 19, 2023 from 8:00am-Noon**. Tickets are \$9.00 in advance and \$10.00 at the event. Advance tickets are available from ILS students or at the school office. Breakfast includes 3 pancakes, 2 sausages, scrambled eggs and 2 biscuits & gravy.

Christ Our Rock: Christ Our Rock Lutheran High School Foundation will be hosting the Christian Comedian, Jeremy Nunes on **Friday, March 24, at 7:00pm**. Tickets for the Comedy Show are \$10.00 in advance and \$15.00 at the door. To reserve tickets contact the school at (618) 226-3315. The new student BBQ club, "Sizzlin Stallions" will also be selling mouth-watering BBQ prior to the Comedy Show from 5:30pm - 7:00pm. You can come for the food only, or stay for the food and laughter! Join us for a fun evening of entertainment!

Find Bethlehem on Podbean or Facebook: Listen to Pastor Jennings sermons on Podbean or our Facebook page. Download the app 'Podbean' to your smartphone. Search for Bethlehem Lutheran church and begin listening.