

# First Sunday In Lent

February 18, 2024

Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Hermiston, Oregon

**The Lord be with you!** The Lord's Supper is celebrated this morning in the confidence that, as He says, Jesus gives us not only bread and wine, but also His very body and blood to eat and drink (Matthew 26:26-28). This meal is given to us for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with Christ and our love for one another.

Because the Scriptures tell us that those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood in an unworthy manner are doing themselves great harm (1 Corinthians 11:27-29); and because Holy Communion is a sharing in the faith confessed at this altar, the following are asked to consult with the pastor before taking communion:

- any who are not yet instructed in the Christian faith;
- those who hold a confession differing from that of Bethlehem and the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod.

**If you are visiting us this morning and would like to receive a blessing at the altar we invite you to come forward. To let those serving communion know you would like to receive a blessing, please cross your arms across your chest and bow your head – see image to the right.**



## Hymn of the Month #424 "O Christ, You Walked the Road"

O Christ, You walked the road  
Our wand'ring feet must go.  
You faced with us temptation's pow'r  
And fought our ancient foe.

No bread of earth alone  
Can fill our hung'ring hearts.  
Lord, help us seek Your living Word,  
The food Your grace imparts.

No blinding sign we ask,  
No wonder from above.  
Lord, help us place our trust alone  
In Your unswerving love.

When lures of easy gain  
With promise brightly shine,  
Lord, help us seek Your kingdom first;  
Our wills with Yours align.

O Christ, You walked the road  
Our wand'ring feet must go.  
Stay with us through temptation's hour  
To fight our ancient foe.

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## Confession and Absolution

*The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.*

**P:** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

**P:** Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness. Our help is in the name of the Lord,

**C: Who made heaven and earth.**

**P:** I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,  
**C: and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

*Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.*

**P:** Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto You that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against You by thought, word, and deed. Wherefore we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**C: O most merciful God, Who has given Your only-begotten Son to die for us, have mercy upon us and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by Your Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of You and of Your will and true obedience to Your Word, to the end that by Your grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

**P:** Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the  $\text{✠}$  Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

*During the season of Lent we will be using the Penitential Psalms as prayers expressing our sorrow for our sins, our desire to turn away from these sins, and our trust in the mercy of the Lord to forgive us these sins.*

*The Penitential Psalms are numbers 6, 32, 38, 51, 102, 130 & 143*

## Psalm

Psalm 6

**P:** O LORD, rebuke me not in Your anger,

**C: nor discipline me in Your wrath.**

**P:** Be gracious to me, O LORD, for I am languishing;

**C: heal me, O LORD, for my bones are troubled.**

**P:** My soul also is greatly troubled.

**C: But You, O LORD — how long?**

**P:** Turn, O LORD, deliver my life;

**C: save me for the sake of Your steadfast love.**

**P:** For in death there is no remembrance of You;

**C: in Sheol who will give You praise?**

**P:** I am weary with my moaning; every night I flood my bed with tears;

**C: I drench my couch with my weeping.**

**P:** My eye wastes away because of grief;

**C: it grows weak because of all my foes.**

**P:** Depart from me, all you workers of evil,

**C: for the LORD has heard the sound of my weeping.**

**P:** The LORD has heard my plea;

**C: the LORD accepts my prayer.**

**P:** All my enemies shall be ashamed and greatly troubled;

**C: they shall turn back and be put to shame in a moment.**

## Kyrie

Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy

Mark 10:47

## Salutation and Collect of the Day

**P:** The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

2 Timothy 4:22

**P:** Let us pray.

O Lord God, You led Your ancient people through the wilderness and brought them to the promised land. Guide the people of Your Church that following our Savior we may walk through the wilderness of this world toward the glory of the world to come; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

## Old Testament Reading

Genesis 22:1-18

After these things God tested Abraham and said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here am I." <sup>2</sup>He said, "Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you." <sup>3</sup>So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and his son Isaac. And he cut the wood for the burnt offering and arose and went to the place of which God had told him. <sup>4</sup>On the third day Abraham lifted up his eyes and saw the place from afar. <sup>5</sup>Then Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey; I and the boy will go over there and worship and come again to you." <sup>6</sup>And Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son. And he took in his hand the fire and the knife. So they went both of them together. <sup>7</sup>And Isaac said to his father Abraham, "My father!" And he said, "Here am I, my son." He said, "Behold, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?" <sup>8</sup>Abraham said, "God will provide for himself the lamb for a burnt offering, my son." So they went both of them together.

<sup>9</sup>When they came to the place of which God had told him, Abraham built the altar there and laid the wood in order and bound Isaac his son and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. <sup>10</sup>Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to slaughter his son. <sup>11</sup>But the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" And he said, "Here am I." <sup>12</sup>He said, "Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him, for now I know that you fear God, seeing you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me." <sup>13</sup>And Abraham lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, behind him was a ram, caught in a thicket by his horns. And Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son. <sup>14</sup>So Abraham called the name of that place, "The LORD will provide"; as it is said to this day, "On the mount of the LORD it shall be provided."

<sup>15</sup>And the angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven <sup>16</sup>and said, "By myself I have sworn, declares the LORD, because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, <sup>17</sup>I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of his enemies, <sup>18</sup>and in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice."

**L:** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## Gradual

recited by all

Hebrews 12:2

**[O come, let us fix our eyes on] Jesus,  
the Founder and Perfecter of our faith,  
Who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame,  
and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.**

## Epistle

James 1:12-18

Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him. <sup>13</sup>Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God," for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one. <sup>14</sup>But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. <sup>15</sup>Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.

<sup>16</sup>Do not be deceived, my beloved brothers. <sup>17</sup>Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. <sup>18</sup>Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.

**L:** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## Holy Gospel

Mark 1:9-15

**P:** The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the first chapter.

**C: Glory to You, O Lord.**

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. <sup>10</sup>And when he came up out of the water, immediately he saw the heavens opening and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. <sup>11</sup>And a voice came from heaven, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased."

<sup>12</sup>The Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. <sup>13</sup>And he was in the wilderness forty days, being tempted by Satan. And he was with the wild animals, and the angels were ministering to him.

<sup>14</sup>Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, <sup>15</sup>and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel."

**P:** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to You, O Christ.**

## The Nicene Creed

**I believe in one God,  
the Father Almighty,  
Maker of heaven and earth  
and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the only-begotten Son of God,  
begotten of His Father before all worlds,  
God of God, Light of Light,  
very God of very God,  
begotten, not made,  
being of one substance with the Father,  
by Whom all things were made;  
Who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven  
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary  
and was made man;  
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.  
He suffered and was buried.  
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures  
and ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of the Father.  
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,  
Whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord and giver of life,  
Who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
Who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,  
Who spoke by the prophets.  
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,  
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,  
and I look for the resurrection of the dead  
and the life  $\dagger$  of the world to come. Amen.**

## Hymn #571 "God Loved the World So That He Gave"

God loved the world so that He gave  
His only Son the lost to save,  
That all who would in Him believe  
Should everlasting life receive.

Christ Jesus is the ground of faith,  
Who was made flesh and suffered death;  
All then who trust in Him alone  
Are built on this chief cornerstone.

God would not have the sinner die;  
His Son with saving grace is nigh;  
His Spirit in the Word declares  
How we in Christ are heaven's heirs.

Be of good cheer, for God's own Son  
Forgives all sins which you have done;  
And, justified by Jesus' blood,  
Your Baptism grants the highest good.

If you are sick, if death is near,  
This truth your troubled heart can cheer:  
Christ Jesus saves your soul from death;  
That is the firmest ground of faith.

△ Glory to God the Father, Son,  
And Holy Spirit, Three in One!  
To You, O blessed Trinity,  
Be praise now and eternally!

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## Sermon

## Offering

### Hymn during the Offering #744 "Amazing Grace"

Amazing grace—how sweet the sound—  
That saved a wretch like me!  
I once was lost but now am found,  
Was blind but now I see!

The Lord has promised good to me,  
His Word my hope secures;  
He will my shield and portion be  
As long as life endures.

Through many dangers, toils, and snares  
I have already come;  
His grace has brought me safe thus far,  
His grace will lead me home.

Yes, when this flesh and heart shall fail  
And mortal life shall cease,  
Amazing grace shall then prevail  
In heaven's joy and peace.

When we've been there ten thousand years,  
Bright shining as the sun,  
We've no less days to sing God's praise  
Than when we'd first begun.

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## Prayer of the Church

### Preface

**P:** The Lord be with you.

**C: And with thy spirit.**

**P:** Lift up your hearts.

**C: We lift them up unto the Lord.**

**P:** Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God.

**C: It is meet and right so to do.**

**P:** It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, Who, out of love for His fallen creation, humbled Himself by taking on the form of a servant, becoming obedient unto death, even death upon a cross. Risen from the dead, He has freed us from eternal death and given us life everlasting. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

### Hymn #507 vv. 2-3 "Holy, Holy, Holy"

Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore Thee,  
Casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;  
Cherubim and seraphim falling down before Thee,  
Which wert and art and evermore shalt be.

Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide Thee,  
Though the eye of sinful man Thy glory may not see,  
Only Thou art holy; there is none beside Thee,  
Perfect in pow'r, in love, and purity.

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## Lord's Prayer

Matthew 6:9-13

**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  
and the power and the glory  
forever and ever. Amen.**

## The Words of Our Lord

### Agnus Dei – Hymn #547 “The Lamb”

The Lamb, the Lamb,  
O Father, where’s the sacrifice?  
Faith sees, believes  
God will provide the Lamb of price! Refrain

**REFRAIN:**

*Worthy is the Lamb Whose death makes me His own!  
The Lamb is reigning on His throne!*

He sighs, He dies, He takes my sin and wretchedness.

He lives, forgives,  
He gives me His own righteousness. **REFRAIN**

He rose, He rose, My heart with thanks now overflows.

His song prolong  
Till ev’ry heart to Him belong. **REFRAIN**

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### Distribution Hymn #420 “Christ, the Life of All the Living”

Christ, the life of all the living,  
Christ, the death of death, our foe,  
Who, Thyself for me once giving To the darkest depths of woe:  
Through Thy suff’rings, death, and merit I eternal life inherit.  
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be, Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.

Thou, ah! Thou, hast taken on Thee  
Bonds and stripes, a cruel rod;  
Pain and scorn were heaped upon Thee, O Thou sinless Son of God!  
Thus didst Thou my soul deliver From the bonds of sin forever.  
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,  
Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.

Thou hast borne the smiting only  
That my wounds might all be whole;  
Thou hast suffered, sad and lonely,  
Rest to give my weary soul;  
Yea, the curse of God enduring,  
Blessing unto me securing.  
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,  
Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.

Heartless scoffers did surround Thee,  
Treating Thee with shameful scorn  
And with piercing thorns they crowned Thee.  
All disgrace Thou, Lord, hast borne,  
That as Thine Thou mightest own me  
And with heav’nly glory crown me.  
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,  
Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.

Thou hast suffered men to bruise Thee,  
That from pain I might be free;  
Falsely did Thy foes accuse Thee:  
Thence I gain security;  
Comfortless Thy soul did languish  
Me to comfort in my anguish.  
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,  
Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.

Thou hast suffered great affliction  
And hast borne it patiently,  
Even death by crucifixion,  
Fully to atone for me;  
Thou didst choose to be tormented  
That my doom should be prevented.  
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,  
Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.

Then, for all that wrought my pardon,  
For Thy sorrows deep and sore,  
For Thine anguish in the Garden,  
I will thank Thee evermore,  
Thank Thee for Thy groaning, sighing,  
For Thy bleeding and Thy dying,  
For that last triumphant cry,  
And shall praise Thee, Lord, on high.

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## **Nunc Dimittis**

Luke 2:29-32

**P:** "Lord, now You are letting Your servant depart in peace, according to your word;

**C: for my eyes have seen Your salvation  
that You have prepared in the presence of all peoples,**

**P:** a light for revelation to the Gentiles,

**C: and for glory to Your people Israel."**

## **Thanksgiving**

**P:** O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,

**C: and His mercy endureth forever.**

**P:** Let us pray. We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

## **Salutation and Benedicamus**

**P:** The Lord be with you.

**C: And with thy spirit.**

**P:** Bless we the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**



## Benediction

Numbers 6:24-26

**P:** The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.

The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give you peace.

**C: Amen.**

## Hymn #739 "Precious Lord, Take My Hand"

Precious Lord, take my hand,  
Lead me on, let me stand;  
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn.  
Through the storm, through the night,  
Lead me on to the light.  
Take my hand, precious Lord; lead me home.

When my way grows drear,  
Precious Lord, linger near,  
When my life is almost gone,  
Hear my cry, hear my call;  
Hold my hand lest I fall.  
Take my hand, precious Lord; lead me home.

When the darkness appears  
And the night draws near  
And the day is almost gone,  
At the river I stand;  
Guide my feet, hold my hand,  
Take my hand, precious Lord; lead me home.

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