



# Bethlehem Lutheran Church & Early Childhood Center



## Ash Wednesday

March 2, 2022

6:00 PM

# GATHERING

Lent begins with a solemn call to fasting and repentance as we begin our journey toward Easter. This last year has felt, in many ways, like an extended Lent. As we hear in today's readings, now is the acceptable time to depend on the Lord. During Lent the people of God will reflect on the meaning of their baptism into Christ's death and resurrection. The sign of ashes suggests our human mortality and frailty, something we have become all too familiar with. What seems like an ending is really an invitation to make each day a new beginning, in which we are washed in God's mercy and forgiveness. With the cross on our brow, we long for the spiritual renewal that flows from the Easter feast yet to come.

## PRELUDE

## WELCOME

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: Let us pray ... Gracious God

**C: Out of your love and mercy you breathed into dust the breath of life, creating us to serve you and our neighbors. Call forth our prayers and acts of kindness. Create in us new and honest hearts, so that, truly repenting of our sins, we may receive from you, the God of all mercy, full pardon and forgiveness through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**



1 Soft - ly and ten - der - ly Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing for  
 2 Why should we tar - ry when Je - sus is plead - ing, plead - ing for  
 3 Oh, for the won - der - ful love he has prom - ised, prom - ised for



you and for me. See, on the por - tals he's wait - ing and watch - ing,  
 you and for me? Why should we lin - ger and heed not his mer - cies,  
 you and for me! Though we have sinned, he has mer - cy and par - don,

*Refrain*



watch - ing for you and for me.  
 mer - cies for you and for me? "Come home, come home!"  
 par - don for you and for me.



You who are wea - ry, come home." Ear - nest - ly, ten - der - ly,



Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing, "O sin - ner, come home!"

# WORD

## SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 51

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.

**Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.**

For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.

**Against you, you alone, have I sinned, and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are justified in your sentence and blameless when you pass judgment.**

Indeed, I was born guilty, a sinner when my mother conceived me.

**You desire truth in the inward being; therefore, teach me wisdom in my secret heart.**

Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

**Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have crushed rejoice.**

Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.

**Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me.**

Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your holy spirit from me.

**Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit.**

Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will return to you.

**Deliver me from bloodshed, O God, O God of my salvation, and my tongue will sing aloud of your deliverance.**

O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise.

**For you have no delight in sacrifice; if I were to give a burnt offering,  
you would not be pleased.**

The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit;  
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

**Do good to Zion in your good pleasure; rebuild the walls of Jerusalem,**

Then you will delight in right sacrifices, in burnt offerings and whole  
burnt offerings, then bulls will be offered on your altar.

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Re - turn to God with all your heart, the source of grace and



mer - cy; come seek the ten - der faith - ful - ness of God.

### GOSPEL READING

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

[Jesus said to the disciples:] "Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven. "So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. "And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

“And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

R: The Gospel of the Lord C: Praise to you, O Christ

SERMON

Pastor Laura Ziehl

HYMN OF THE NIGHT

I Want Jesus to Walk With Me – ELW 325  
(vs. 1 – all, vs. 2 – solo, vs. 3 – all)



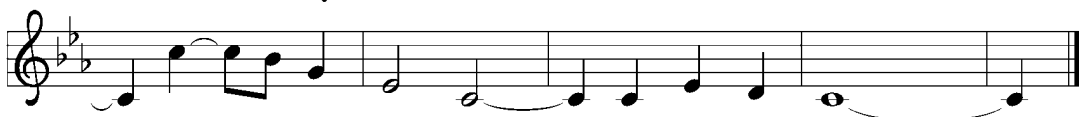
1 I want Je - sus to walk with me;  
2 In my tri - als, Lord, walk with me;  
3 When I'm in trou - ble, Lord, walk with me;



I want Je - sus to walk with me;  
in my tri - als, Lord, walk with me;  
when I'm in trou - ble, Lord, walk with me;



all a - long my pil - grim jour - ney,  
when my heart is al - most break - ing,  
when my head is bowed in sor - row,



Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.  
Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.  
Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.

## INVITATION TO LENT

### CONFESSION OF SIN & IMPOSITION OF ASHES

L: Gracious God, our sins are too heavy to carry, too real to hide, and too deep to undo.

**C: Forgive what our lips tremble to name, what our hearts can no longer bear. Set us free from a past that we cannot change; open us to a future in which we can be changed; and grant us grace to grow more and more in your likeness and image; through Jesus Christ, the light of the world.**

L: As we place now these ashes on our foreheads, remind us that we are dust and to dust we shall return. Remind us that we are loved by you, and to your love we shall return.

*Pause for the imposition of ashes*

L: We call to you, great God of covenant and promise,

**C: Create in us a clean heart, O God. Put a new and right spirit within us. Cast us not away from your presence, and do not take your Holy Spirit from us, restore to us the joy of your salvation and sustain in us a willing spirit.**

L: In the name of Jesus, your sins are forgiven this night. In the shape of the cross, your life is made new. You are freed from all that holds you and free to live in the peaceable realm of God. May you be strengthened in God's love for the journey, comforted by Christ's peace, and accompanied with the power of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen**

HYMN

Jesus, Remember Me – ELW 616  
(Played 3x – sing, piano only, sing)

Je - sus, re - mem - ber me when you come in - to your king - dom.

The first system of musical notation consists of two staves. The top staff is in treble clef with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat) and a 7/8 time signature. The bottom staff is in bass clef with the same key signature and time signature. The lyrics are written below the top staff.

Je - sus, re - mem - ber me when you come in - to your king - dom.

The second system of musical notation consists of two staves, identical in notation to the first system. The lyrics are written below the top staff.

MEAL

GREAT THANKSGIVING

L: The Lord be with you,

C: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts,

C: We lift them to the Lord.

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God,

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION



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.

COMMUNION HYMN

We Come to the Hungry Feast – ELW 479



1 We come to the hun - gry feast hun - gry for a word of peace.  
 2 We come to the hun - gry feast hun - gry for a world re - leased  
 3 We come to the hun - gry feast hun - gry that the hun - ger cease,



To hun - gry hearts un - sat - is - fied the love of God is  
 from hun - gry folk of ev - 'ry kind, the poor in bod - y,  
 and know - ing, though we eat our fill, the hun - ger will stay



not de - nied. We come, we come to the hun - gry feast.  
 poor in mind. We come, we come to the hun - gry feast.  
 with us; still we come, we come to the hun - gry feast.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

L: Blessed Jesus, in this rich meal of grace, you have fed us with your body,  
 the bread of life. Now send us forth to bear your life-giving hope to a world  
 in need.

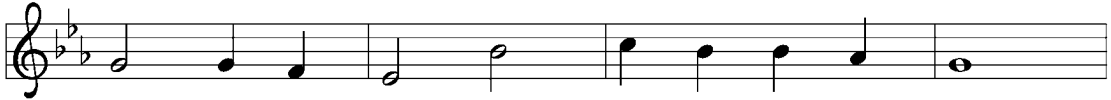
C: Amen.

# SENDING

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### SENDING HYMN

Abide with Me – ELW 629 vs. 1, 3, & 5



1 A - bide with me, fast falls the e - ven - tide.  
2 Swift to its close ebbs out life's lit - tle day;  
3 I need thy pres - ence ev - 'ry pass - ing hour;  
4 I fear no foe, with thee at hand to bless;  
5 Hold thou thy cross be - fore my clos - ing eyes,



The dark - ness deep - ens; Lord, with me a - bide.  
earth's joys grow dim, its glo - ries pass a - way;  
what but thy grace can foil the tempt - er's pow'r?  
ills have no weight, and tears no bit - ter - ness.  
shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies;



When oth - er help - ers fail and com - forts flee,  
change and de - cay in all a - round I see;  
Who like thy - self my guide and stay can be?  
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy vic - to - ry?  
heav'n's morn - ing breaks, and earth's vain shad - ows flee;



help of the help - less, oh, a - bide with me.  
O thou who chang - est not, a - bide with me.  
Through cloud and sun - shine, oh, a - bide with me.  
I tri - umph still, if thou a - bide with me!  
in life, in death, O Lord, a - bide with me.

## DISMISSAL

L: Go forth into the world to serve God with gladness; be of good courage; hold fast to that which is good; render to no one evil for evil; strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honor all people; love and serve God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Thanks be to God!**



**Bethlehem Lutheran Church**  
& Early Childhood Center

## **Electronic Giving Options Update**

- Our Give Plus+ App has been replaced by **Vanco Mobile App!** **Vanco Mobile App** will be your new mobile means of financially supporting Bethlehem. To begin using it:
  - Download the “**Vanco Mobile**” app from your App Store using your smartphone or tablet
  - Search for Bethlehem Lutheran Church **Encinitas** by name
  - If you already have an account, your Username and Password remain the same. And your prior online account information and recurring gifts will automatically carry over
  - If you don’t have an account, follow the app’s “Sign Up” prompts
- BLC Website
  - Go to BLCENC.org and select the “Contribute” tab from the top menu as before
  - Click the “Give Now” button to go to our new and improved Vanco Online page.

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- With either option you can:
  - Use a checking account, or credit & debit cards
  - Choose to cover the credit card transaction fee
  - Make recurring, or one-time donations
  - Give to the general or various special funds
  - All donations appear on your giving statements

**Thank You for Supporting Bethlehem!**

# All Are Welcome!

We live in a diverse world. We are hurting, broken and heavy hearted. We are loving, celebrating, and above all — we are welcoming. Regardless of the color of your skin or the color of your hair, regardless of your gender identity, sexual orientation, relationship status, or political affiliation — you are welcome here.

If you are a believer, a doubter or a seeker after Christ — you have a place here.

If you own, rent, or have nothing at all — you are welcome here.

If you are fully abled, disabled, or a person of differing abilities, if you have regrets, fears, addictions, or afflictions — you have a place here.

All who are wise and all who are confused, all who have found love and all who have lost it, all who celebrate this welcome statement and all who fear it — are welcome here.

For these are all of the things that make you who you are: the person God loves. Come as you are and be celebrated for who you are. The time is now. Your place is here.

Bethlehem Lutheran Church is an all-inclusive church.



Reconciling in Christ



**Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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