Bethlehem Lutheran Church
& Early Childhood Center

Third Sunday in Lent

March 23, 2025

Worship Services

9:00 am | 10:30 am

Welcome to Bethlehem!

We hope you feel a warm welcome here at Bethlehem Lutheran Church. Please visit our website at **www.blcenc.org** for more information about the congregation. If you are visiting with us, please fill out an information card and place it in the offering basket so we can stay connected.

CHILDREN

All children are welcome in the sanctuary for worship at Bethlehem. If you prefer, there is a comfort room at the back of the sanctuary. Busy bags are available in the narthex. After Children's Time at our 10:30 AM service children ages 3 years – 6th grade may either attend our Learning Circle program or remain with you.

COMMUNION

We practice **open communion,** meaning all are welcome to participate. We commune by intinction where the pastor dips the bread into a divided chalice with white wine or red grape juice. There is a gluten-free station on the left side of the sanctuary. We are happy to bring communion to individuals with limited mobility.

PARTICIPATION & ACCESSIBILITY

The different movements that happen during worship (sitting, standing, making the sign of the cross) are all optional; please engage as you are comfortable or able. Hearing assistance devices are located at the back of the sanctuary and large-print bulletins are available in the narthex. If you, or someone you know, identify as neurodivergent and have questions about how to participate in worship or in one of our church ministries, please feel free to ask either the pastors or the church office for help.

PRAYER

In addition to the pastors, our Stephen Ministers are always available to pray with you about whatever is on your heart this day. Please look for the folks wearing a blue name tag with the Stephen Ministry logo. Healing prayer stations are available during communion on the second Sunday of each month.

STEPHEN MINISTRY

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

From **Holy Communion Tree of Life Setting - "Entrance Hymn," "Kyrie,"** and**" Lamb of God"** -Text and Tune: Marty Haugen, ©2000, 2001 GIA Publications, Inc. : From **Now the Feast and Celebration - "Return to God"** - Text and Tune: Marty Haugen, ©1990 GIA Publications, Inc. **"Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil"** - Text and Tune: Handt Hanson, ©1985 Augsburg Fortress Publishers. **"I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say"** - Text: Horatious Bonar, Public Domain; Tune KINGSFOLD: English folk tune, Public Domain. **"Go, My Children, with My Blessing"** - Text: Jaroslav J. Vajida, ©1983 Concordia Publishing House; Tune AR HYD NOS: Welsh traditional, arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams, ©1983 Oxford University Press. For copyrighted selections, all rights reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense.net License No. A-706214. Other hymn selections are in the Public Domain. Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from One License with license #A-706214.
Photo Credit: https://www.facebook.com/MikeMoyersFineArt/posts/love-your-enemiesluke-627-38in-this-sundays-scripture-jesus-continues-to-turn-th/2135044326534381/

GATHERING

WELCOME

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

L: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever. Trusting that God receives our words and the meditations of our hearts, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

L: Merciful God,

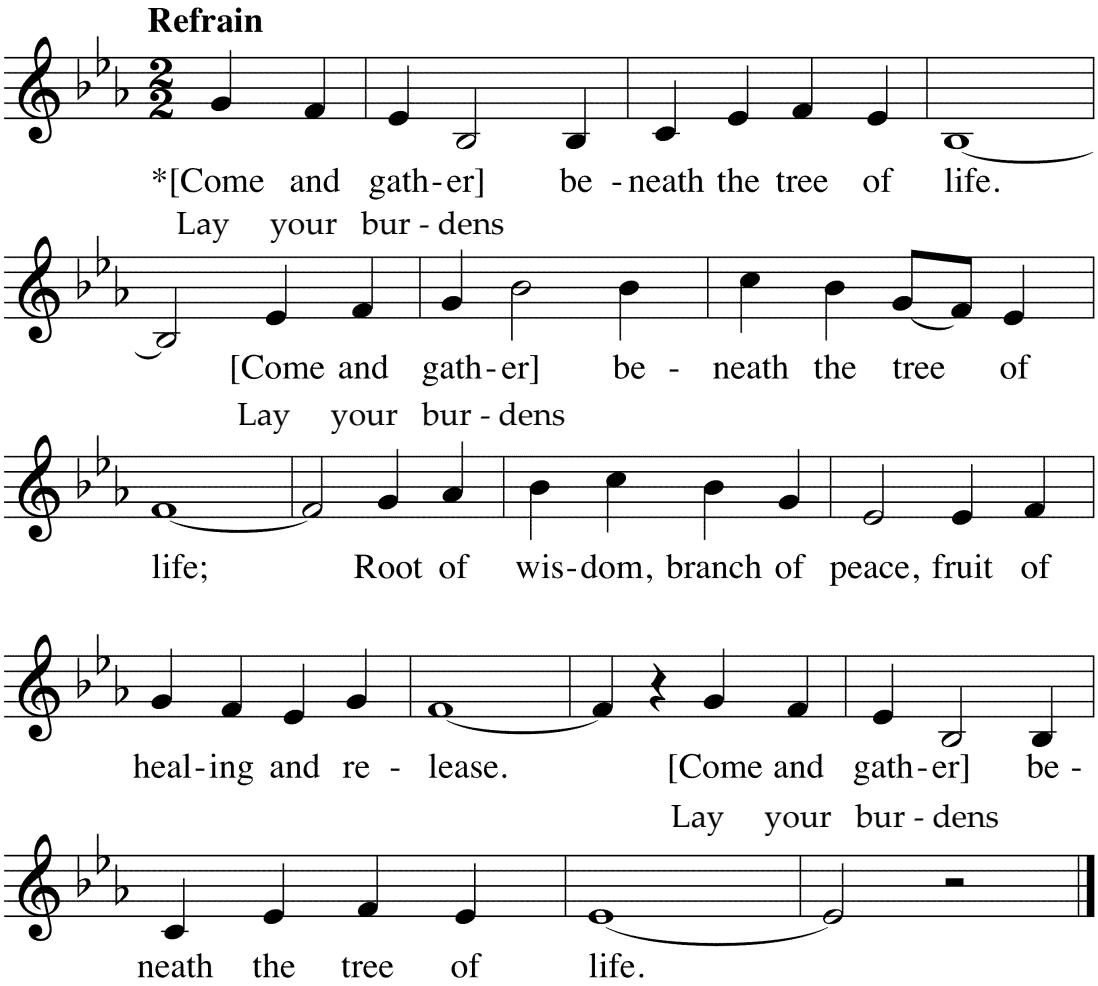
C: You speak blessing and compassion into the world. Forgive us for the ways we act with judgment, cruelty, or indifference. We ignore the needs of our neighbors; we resist your call to oppose injustice; we give in to scarcity and fear; we assume the worst about one another. Cleanse us from our faults and release us from their grasp. Show us your loving-kindness. Restore our hearts and repair your world, that we may live in Christ's way of mercy and love.

L: Hear God's word of assurance: "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you. I have called you by name, and you are mine." In ✠ Christ, you are forgiven. In the Spirit, you are made free. Refreshed by the waters of mercy, live anew as beloved children of God.

C: Amen

GATHERING HYMN Beneath the Tree of Life

(Congregation sings refrain; Cantor sings verses)

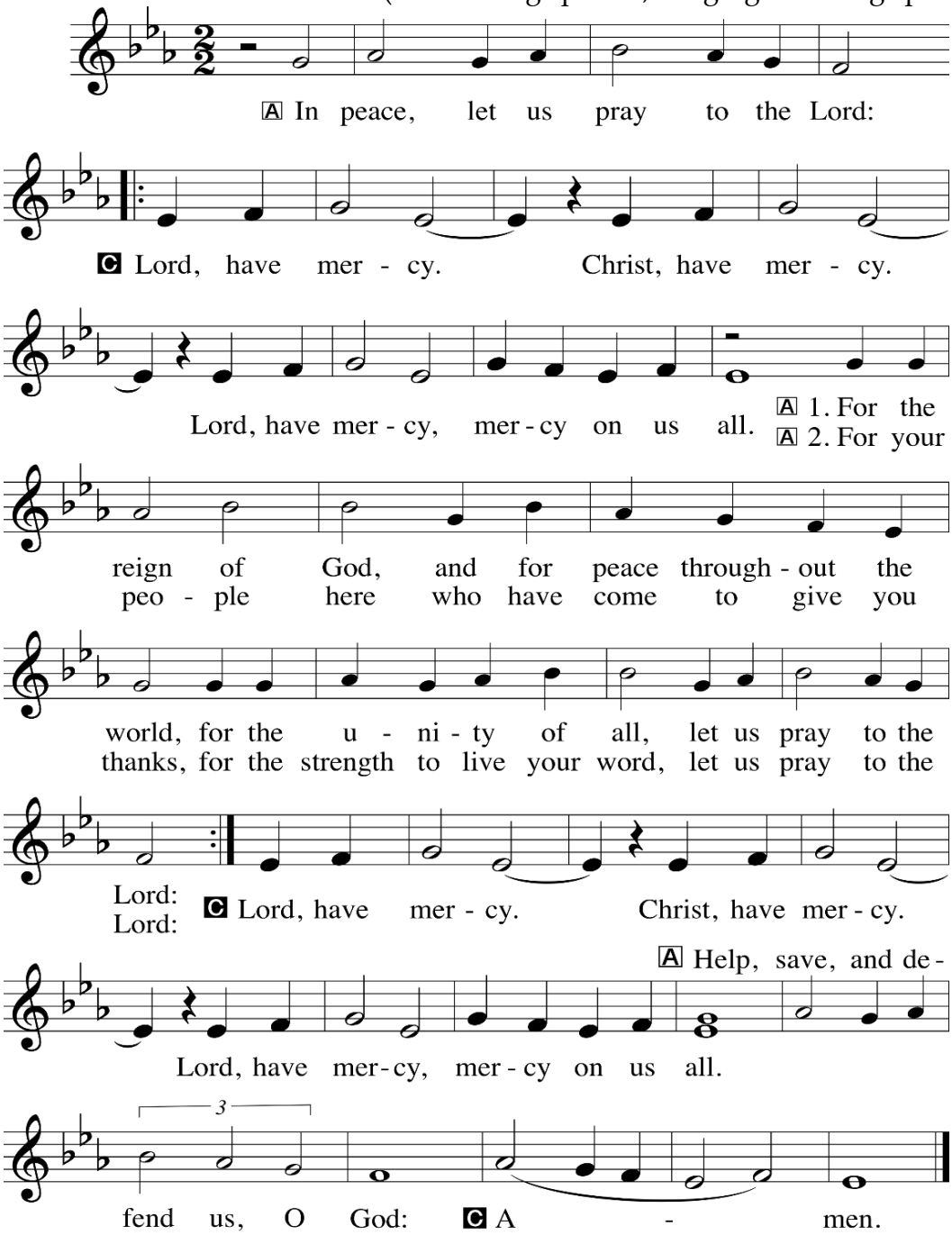


GREETING

L: 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 (Leader sings part A, congregation sings part C)



(Return to Gathering Hymn and sing "lay your burdens")

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: Let us pray … **C: Amen.**

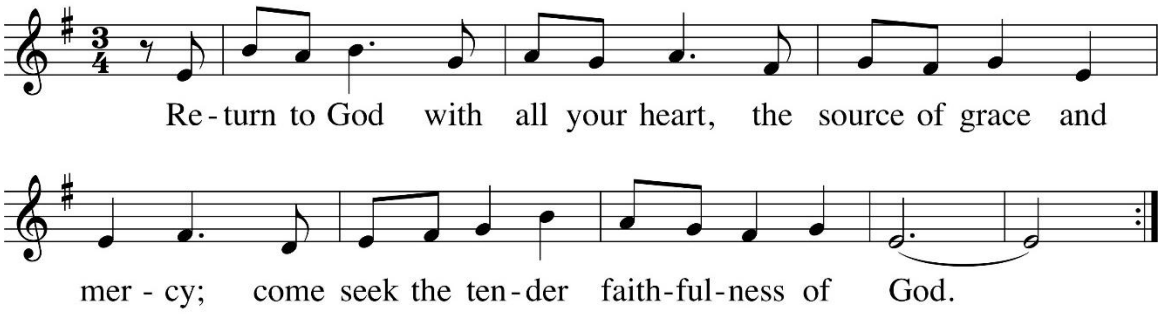
CHILDREN'S TIME (10:30 AM)

WORD

SCRIPTURE READING Psalm 37:1-11

R: The Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

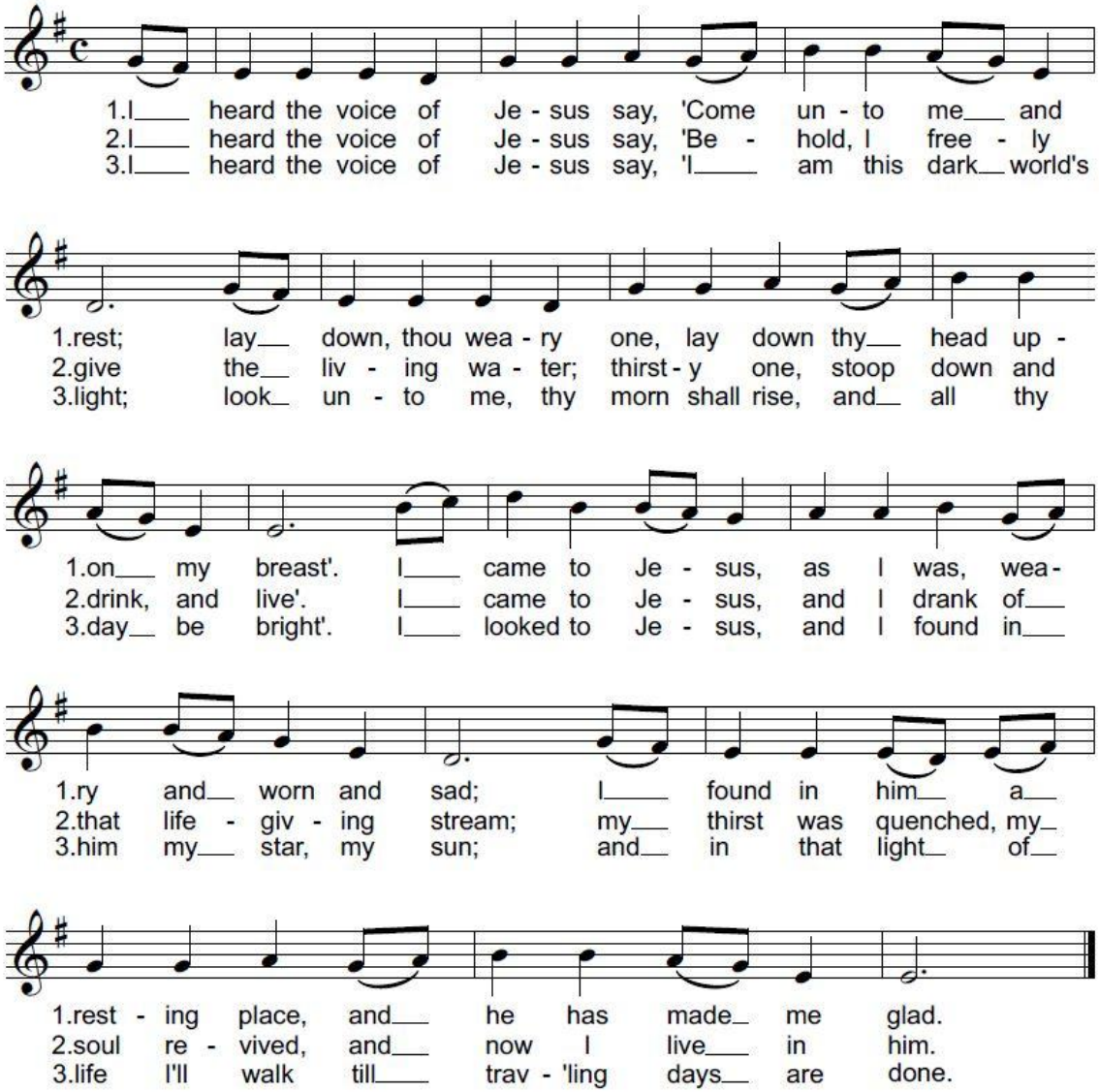


GOSPEL READING Luke 6:27-38

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

SERMON Keegan Chin-Cheleden

HYMN OF THE DAY I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say – ELW 332
to the tune of ELW 412



PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

L: Lord in your mercy, **C: Hear our prayer.**

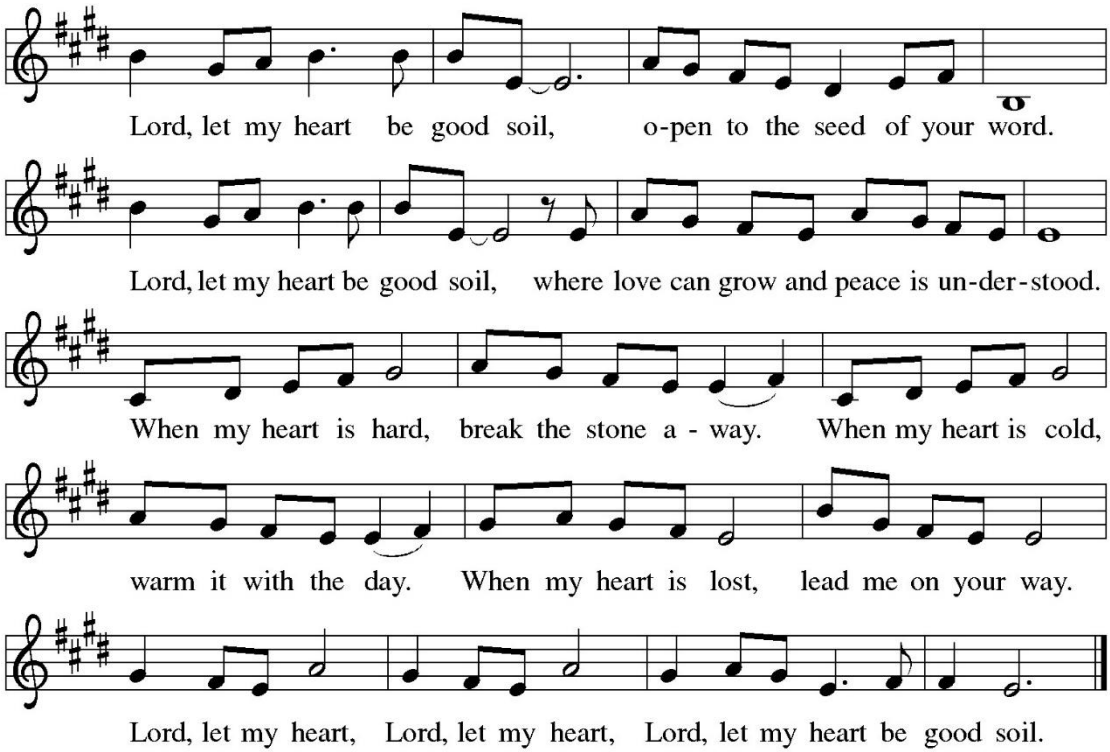
THE SHARING OF THE PEACE

L: The peace of the Lord be with you always, **C: And also with you!**

OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS AND OURSELVES

SPECIAL MUSIC

OFFERTORY RESPONSE Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil – ELW 512



MEAL

GREAT THANKSGIVING & WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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.

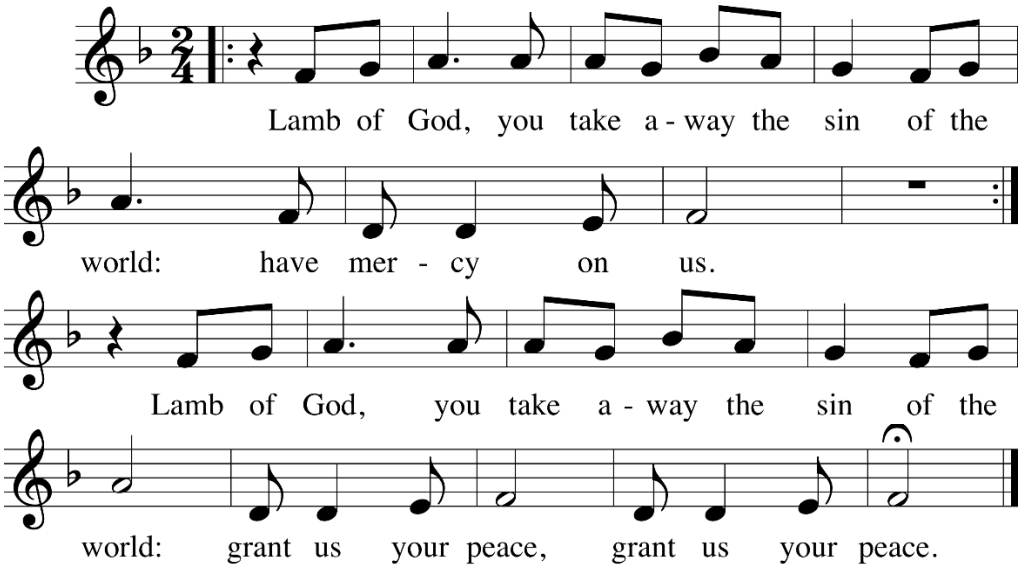
THE LORD'S PRAYER

ELW pg. 112

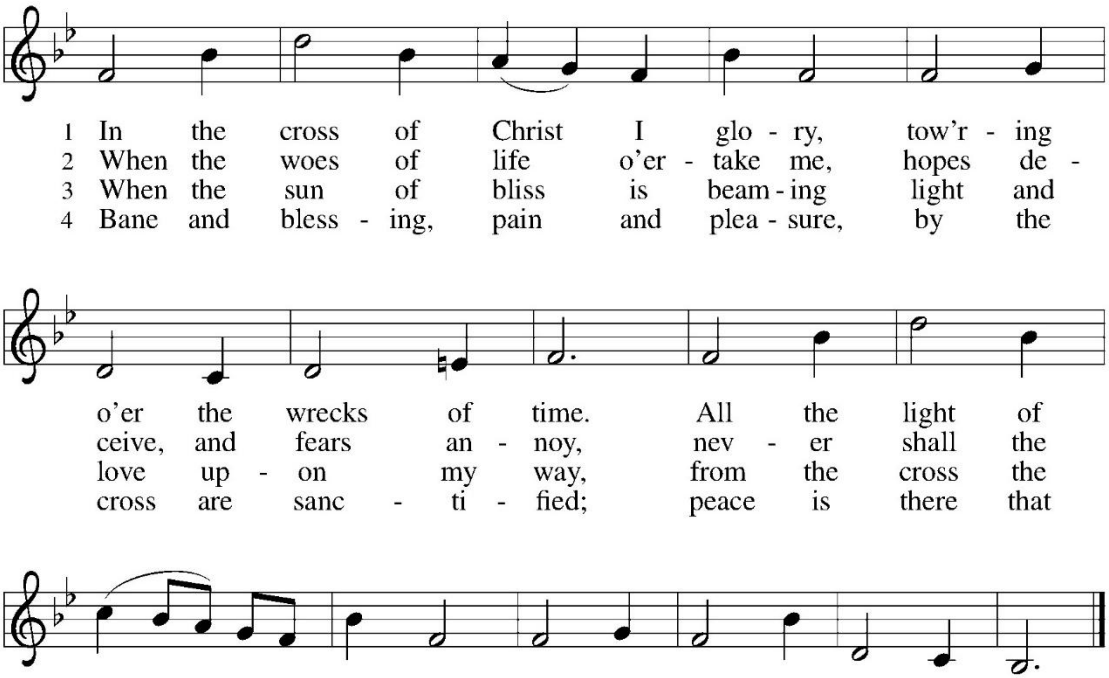
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

Lamb of God from Tree of Life



COMMUNION HYMN In the Cross of Christ I Glory – ELW 324

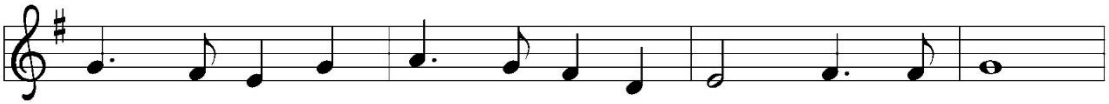


SENDING

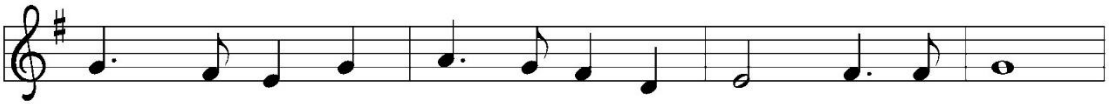
ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

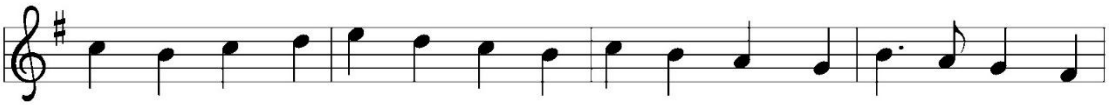
SENDING HYMN Go, My Children, with My Blessing – ELW 543



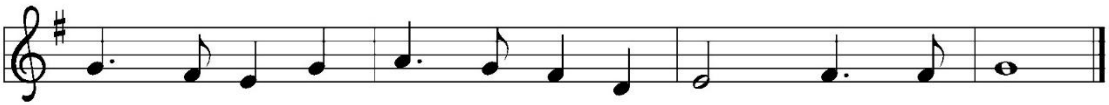
1 "Go, my chil - dren, with my bless-ing, nev - er a - lone.
2 "Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure.
3 "Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour-ished, clos - er to me.



Wak - ing, sleep - ing, I am with you, you are my own.
Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.
Grow in love and love by serv-ing, joy - ful and free.



In my love's bap-tis - mal riv - er I have made you mine for-ev - er.
Here you heard my dear Son's sto - ry, here you touched him, saw his glo - ry.
Here my Spir - it's pow - er filled you, here my ten - der com-fort stilled you.



Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, you are my own."
Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure."
Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished, joy - ful and free."

DISMISSAL

L: Go in peace, return to the Lord! **C: Thanks be to God!**

All Are Welcome!

We live in a diverse world. We are hurting, broken and heavy hearted. We are loving, joyous, and above all, we are welcoming. Regardless of the color of your skin, or the color of your hair; regardless of your gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, relationship status, or political affiliation, you are welcome here. We honor indigenous people and are committed to the work of anti-racism and the stewardship of the creation.

If you are Buddhist, Roman Catholic, agnostic, Muslim, Jewish, seeking, have never set foot in a church, or are a life long Lutheran; you have a place here. If you own, rent, or have nothing at all; you are welcome here. If you are neurodivergent, 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.
Come as you are and be celebrated for who you are. Your place is here. Bethlehem Lutheran is an All are Welcome church.

Reconciling in Christ

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Electronic Giving at Bethlehem

Offering gifts can be made electronically on our website **www.blcenc.org** under the contribute tab, or by scanning this QR code. There are options for one-time donations, recurring gifts, and special offerings. **No account is needed to donate on our website.**

You can also use the **Vanco Mobile App**. Simply download it from your app store, and search "Bethlehem Lutheran Church Encinitas" by name (there is no invite code). If you already have an account from our website, the same login information will work. If not, please sign up with a new account. **Thank You for Supporting Bethlehem!**

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