



Bethel Lutheran Church

Pastors: Jonathan Dahl
Kathy Hartley
Bob Dahl
Deacon: Beverly Baseman

Today at Bethel:
Preacher: Pastor Kathy Hartley
Worship Leader: Pastor Jonathan Dahl
Lector: Sandy Gardner
Musician: Jane Kochis

March 8, 2020

9:15 a.m.

Welcome to Bethel! We are glad you are here!

PRELUDE *On Eagle's Wings* Jane Kochis

CALL TO WORSHIP *If You're Happy and You Know It* Preschoolers

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

LENT TIME

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, who is present, who gives life, who calls into existence the things that do not exist. **Amen.**

If you were to keep watch over sins, O Lord, who could stand? Yet with you is forgiveness, and so we confess.

(Silence is kept for reflection.)

Gracious God, **have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned away from you, knowingly and unknowingly. We have wandered from your resurrection life. We have strayed from your love for all people. Turn us back to you, O God. Give us new hearts and right spirits, that we may find what is pleasing to you and dwell in your house forever. Amen.**

Receive good news: God turns to you in love. "I will put my spirit in you, and you shall live," says our God. All your sin is forgiven in the name of Jesus Christ, who is the free and abounding gift of God's grace for you. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN *Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery* #334
(vs. 1-3, Lent 2)

GREETING

The grace of Jesus Christ our Savior, the reconciling love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

PRAYER FOR MERCY

In peace, in peace, let us pray to the...
(refrain) **Lord, have mercy, Christ, have mercy, Lord, have mercy.**

For the Reign of God, and for peace throughout the world,
for the unity of all, let us pray to the... (refrain)

For your people here, who have come to give you praise,
for the strength to live your Word, let us pray to the... (refrain)

Help, save and defend us, O God.

Amen.

TIME FOR YOUTH

SHARING OF CHRIST'S PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

READING

Genesis 12:1-4a

¹The Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. ²I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

^{4a}So Abram went, as the Lord had told him; and Lot went with him.

Holy wisdom, holy word. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and
mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in
stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

S 142b

GOSPEL

John 3:1-17

¹Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. ²He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God." ³Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." ⁴Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" ⁵Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born

of water and Spirit. ⁶What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' ⁸The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." ⁹Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" ¹⁰Jesus answered him, "Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?"

¹¹"Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. ¹²If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? ¹³No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

¹⁷"Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him."

The Gospel of our Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

Pastor Kathy Hartley

HYMN OF THE DAY

Will You Come and Follow Me

#798

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We believe in God, the source of all life, wholeness, and love. We believe that God is revealed in Jesus Christ. We believe that in his life, Jesus reveals God in grace, mercy, forgiveness, and justice, and that in his death, Jesus reveals God's determined presence in the world even in the face of hatred, violence, and pain. We believe that in his resurrection, Jesus reveals God calling us to abundant life both now and forever; life beyond our fearful and fragile imaginations. We believe that God lives among us, within us, and through us by the power of the Holy Spirit. We believe that God moves us to be together in communities of faith, hope, and love. We believe these things not out of certainty but out of faith; as one who trusts in the reality of God revealed in Jesus Christ through the Holy Spirit. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

OFFERINGS ARE RECEIVED

(In gratitude for what God has given us, we offer something of our lives to God and as part of our joyous service to the world.)

NOISY COIN OFFERING

This Little Light of Mine

#677

(Currently supporting the Kandiyohi County Food Shelf.)

OFFERING

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

JuBellant Ringers

THE TABLE BLESSING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

WORDS OF PROMISE FOR THE MEAL OF HOLY COMMUNION

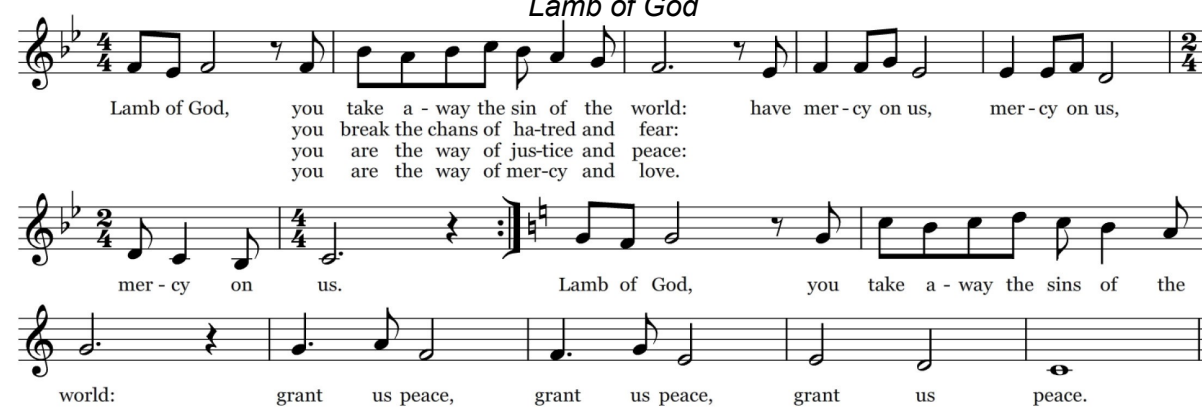
LORD'S PRAYER

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 DISTRIBUTION

(Everyone is invited to the Lord's Table. Children receive a blessing. Please inform the pastor if you need a gluten-free communion wafer. The cups in the middle of the communion tray are grape juice. Upon returning to your seat, enjoy silent prayer or singing.)

Lamb of God



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us, mer - cy on us,
you break the chans of ha-tred and fear:
you are the way of jus-tice and peace:
you are the way of mer-cy and love.

mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the
world: grant us peace, grant us peace, grant us peace.

*Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross
Just As I Am, Without One Plea*

#335
#592

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God's grace.
Amen.

Together we pray: **We thank you, living God, for the body and blood of your Son, which sustains us in the wilderness and the garden alike. As Christ has loved us in this feast, so send us to love Christ in our neighbors. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

BLESSING

Now is the acceptable time. Now is the day of salvation. Holy God, speaking, spoken, and inspiring, bless you, unbind you, and send you in love and in peace. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

Rise Up, O Saints of God!

#669

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Live the good news. **Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE

Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies

Jane Kochis