

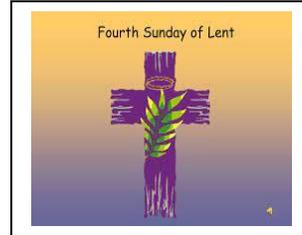
**BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
(507-962-3270)

**Sunday, March 19, 2023**

**Pastor Nita Parker (507-360-7582)**

[nitaalmjeld.parker@gmail.com](mailto:nitaalmjeld.parker@gmail.com)

**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent**



**Music:** Glenda McGaffee

**Lay Reader:** Colton Bass

**Deacon:** Deb Warner

**Ushers:** Al & Bonnie Leenderts,

David & Dawn Leenderts & Dan & Marie LaRock

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who journeys with us these forty days, and sustains us with the gift of grace. **Amen.**

Let us acknowledge before God and one another our need for repentance and God's mercy.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Holy God,

**we confess to you our faults and failings. Too often we neglect and do not trust your holy word; we take for ourselves instead of giving to others; we spoil rather than steward your creation; we cause hurt though you call us to heal; we choose fear over compassion. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, as we seek to follow in your way of life. Amen.**

Hear the good news: God so loved the world that God gave the only Son, so that all may receive life. This promise is for you! God embraces you with divine mercy, † forgives you in Christ's name, and revives you in the Spirit's power.

**Amen.**

**OPENING HYMN #843 "Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness"**

**1.) Praise the one who breaks the darkness with a liberating light.  
praise the one who frees the prisoners, turning blindness into sight.  
Praise the one who preached the gospel, healing every dread disease,  
calming storms and feeding thousands with the very bread of peace.**

2.) Praise the one who blessed the children with a strong yet gentle word.  
praise the one who drove out demons with a piercing two-edged sword.  
Praise the one who brings cool water to the desert's burning sand.  
from this well comes living water, quenching thirst in every land.

3.) Praise the one true love incarnate: Christ who suffered in our place.  
Jesus died and rose for many that we may know God by grace.  
Let us sing for joy and gladness, seeing what our God has done.  
Praise the one redeeming glory, Praise the One who makes us one.

### **GREETING**

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 (sung) pg. 203**

- 1.) Have mercy on us, Lord, and hear our solemn prayer.  
We come to hear your living word; it saves us from despair.
- 2.) Have mercy on us, Christ, and wash away our sin.  
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may begin.
- 3.) Have mercy on us, Lord, make sin and shame depart. Renew us with your  
saving pow'r; create in us new hearts!

### **CANTICLE OF PRAISE (Sung) pg. 204**

- 1.) Glory be to God in heaven; peace, goodwill to all the earth.  
Mighty God of all creation, Father of surpassing worth:  
we exalt you, we adore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.  
Saints and angels bow before you; here on earth our songs we raise.
- 2.) Glory be to Christ forever, Lamb of God and Lord of love.  
Son of God and gracious Savior, you have come from heav'n above;  
on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.  
Hear our prayer; restore, forgive us; in your promise firm we stand.
- 3.) Holy One we now acclaim you; Lord alone, to you we call;  
Holy One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:  
Jesus Christ, with God the Spirit, in the Father's splendor bright.  
For the peace that we inherit, glory be to God on high!

### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray.

**Bend your ear to our prayers, Lord Christ, and come among us. By your gracious life and death for us, bring light into the darkness of our hearts, and anoint us with your Spirit, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. AMEN**

## **WORD**

### **FIRST READING: 1 Samuel 16:1-13**

<sup>1</sup>The LORD said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons." <sup>2</sup>Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me." And the Lord said, "Take a heifer with you, and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the Lord.'" <sup>3</sup>Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you." <sup>4</sup>Samuel did what the Lord commanded and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, "Do you come peaceably?" <sup>5</sup>He said, "Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the Lord; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice." And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

<sup>6</sup>When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely the Lord's anointed is now before the Lord." <sup>7</sup>But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart." <sup>8</sup>Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one." <sup>9</sup>Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one." <sup>10</sup>Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, "The Lord has not chosen any of these." <sup>11</sup>Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here." <sup>12</sup>He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The Lord said, "Rise and anoint him; for this is the one." <sup>13</sup>Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

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

### **PSALM 23 (Responsive Reading)**

**R: The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not be in want.**

**C: The Lord makes me lie down in green pastures and leads me beside still waters.**

**R: You restore my soul, O LORD, and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.**

**C: Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**

**R: You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.**

**C: Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.**

### **SECOND READING: Ephesians 5:8-14**

<sup>8</sup>Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light—

<sup>9</sup>for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. <sup>10</sup>Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. <sup>11</sup>Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but

instead expose them. <sup>12</sup>For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; <sup>13</sup>but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, <sup>14</sup>for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore, it says, "Sleeper, awake! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."

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

### **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

**We are turning, Lord to hear you, you are merciful and kind, slow to anger, rich in blessings, and with love to us inclined.**

### **GOSPEL READING: JOHN 9:1-41**

<sup>1</sup>As [Jesus] walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. <sup>2</sup>His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" <sup>3</sup>Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. <sup>4</sup>We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. <sup>5</sup>As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." <sup>6</sup>When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, <sup>7</sup>saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. <sup>8</sup>The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" <sup>9</sup>Some were saying, "It is he." Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying, "I am the man." <sup>10</sup>But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" <sup>11</sup>He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' Then I went and washed and received my sight." <sup>12</sup>They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know."

<sup>13</sup>They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. <sup>14</sup>Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. <sup>15</sup>Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see." <sup>16</sup>Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And they were divided. <sup>17</sup>So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened." He said, "He is a prophet."

<sup>18</sup>The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight <sup>19</sup>and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" <sup>20</sup>His parents answered, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; <sup>21</sup>but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself." <sup>22</sup>His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. <sup>23</sup>Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

<sup>24</sup>So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, "Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner." <sup>25</sup>He answered, "I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." <sup>26</sup>They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" <sup>27</sup>He

answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?" <sup>28</sup>Then they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. <sup>29</sup>We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." <sup>30</sup>The man answered, "Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. <sup>31</sup>We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. <sup>32</sup>Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. <sup>33</sup>If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." <sup>34</sup>They answered him, "You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?" And they drove him out.

<sup>35</sup>Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" <sup>36</sup>He answered, "And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him." <sup>37</sup>Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he." <sup>38</sup>He said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshiped him. <sup>39</sup>Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind." <sup>40</sup>Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, "Surely we are not blind, are we?" <sup>41</sup>Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, 'We see,' your sin remains."

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

## **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

### **SERMON**

#### **HYMN OF THE DAY #779 "Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound"**

- 1 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.**
- 2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved;  
how precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed!**
- 3 Through many dangers, toils, and snares I have already come;  
'tis grace has brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.**
- 4 The Lord hath promised good to me, his word my hope secures;  
he will my shield and portion be as long as life endures.**
- 5. 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 first begun.**

### **APOSTLES' CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.  
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.\***

**On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.  
Amen.**

### **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

**P:** Merciful God, **C:** receive our prayer. Amen.

### **PEACE**

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

### **OFFERING**

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.  
Cast me not away from your presence and take not your Holy Spirit from me.  
Restore to me the joy of your salvation and uphold me with your free Spirit.  
Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

### **OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray.

God our provider, you have not fed us with bread alone, but with words of grace and life. Bless us and these your gifts, which we receive from your bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### **MEAL**

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

### **GREAT THANKSGIVING**

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.**

### **HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heav'n and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.

### **THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks. broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**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.**

## **INVITATION to COMMUNION**

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

## **COMMUNION**

The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you. **Amen.**

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Holy One,

we thank you for the healing that springs forth abundantly from this table.

Renew our strength to do justice, love kindness, and journey humbly with you. **Amen.**

## **BLESSING**

God, the giver of love, † Christ, the resurrection and the life, and the Holy Spirit of rebirth bless you in this Lenten journey. **Amen.**

## **SENDING HYMN #793 "Be Thou My Vision"**

- 1.) Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart  
naught be all else to me, save that Thou art  
thou my best thought, by day or by night  
waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.
  
- 2.) Be Thou my wisdom, and Thou my true word  
I ever with Thee and thou with me, Lord  
Thou my soul's shelter, and thou my high tow'r  
raise thou me heavenward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.
  
- 3.) Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise  
thou mine inheritance, now and always;  
thou and Thou only first in my heart,  
great God of heaven, my treasure thou art.
  
- 4.) Light of my soul, after victory won,  
may I reach heaven's joys, now and always;  
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall.  
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

## **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Serve in love. **Thanks be to God.**

## **PRAYERS NEEDED** Please keep these people in your prayers:

*Larry Parker & Marcia Brandt*

Waiting to be baptized, *Myles Jeffrey Bass (Baptism date – March 26, 2023)*

*Marley Ruth Steensma & Keeley Elizabeth Goossens (Baptism dates – April 2, 2023)*

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**LENT:** This year I want to invite you to join us on Wednesday nights, 5:30-6:30 will be our mealtime, at 6:30 we will come together in the sanctuary for a short worship, and then we invite you to stick around and join us for a Bible Study that will go back to the basics of Lutheranism. We will be working on the book, **“Roots of Our Faith”** by James Nestingen.

He was a professor at Luther Seminary and recently passed away. The book was specifically written in 6 sessions with some study group discussion in mind.

**March 22** “Baptism”

**March 29** “Confession/Lord’s Supper”

## **MEAL SCHEDULE – Meals will be served in the Chapel.**

**Wed., March 22**

5:30-6:30 pm. Lent Meal

Servers: Youth/Confirmation Class

**Wed., March 29**

5:30-6:30 pm. Lent Meal

Servers: Trustees

## **NEEDED**

Looking for a person(‘s) to mow Flowerfield Cemetery.  
If interested please contact Wanda Hoyme @962-3464 or  
Dawn Sandager @605-212-5667.



**Still in need for Youth Director – Music Accompanist – Technology Specialist  
Contact Pastor Nita or Church Office if interested.**

## **Bethlehem-Flowerfield Cemetery Maintenance Fundraiser**

Fundraiser for 2023 mowing and upkeep of cemeteries. Memorial Day Flag and Christmas Wreath décor (deadline May 15<sup>th</sup>) will be placed at the site, maintained through the holiday and removed by the Cemetery Board. Contact Wanda Hoyme.  
**Forms are available in the narthex.**

## HOLY WEEK & EASTER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

### **Sunday, April 2 - Palm Sunday**

- 9:00 am. - Tuff Chapel Service/Communion
- 9:15 am. – Sunday school
- 10:00 am. - Worship/Communion Bethlehem
- Baptism's – Marley Steensma & Keeley Goossens

### **Thursday, April 6 - Maundy Thursday**

- 2:00 pm. - Tuff Chapel/Communion
- 7:00 pm. - Worship/Communion Bethlehem

### **Friday, April 7- Good Friday**

- 2:00 pm.. - Tuff Chapel
- 7:00 pm. - Worship at Bethlehem

### **Sunday, April 9 - *EASTER SUNDAY***

- 7:00 am. - Easter Sunrise Service/Communion Bethlehem  
(Breakfast served by Youth Group)
- 9:00 am. - Easter Service at Tuff Chapel
- NO Sunday school

**April Ushers: Tom & Sandy Bush; Gary & Maureen Helgeson; Coleen Martens**

