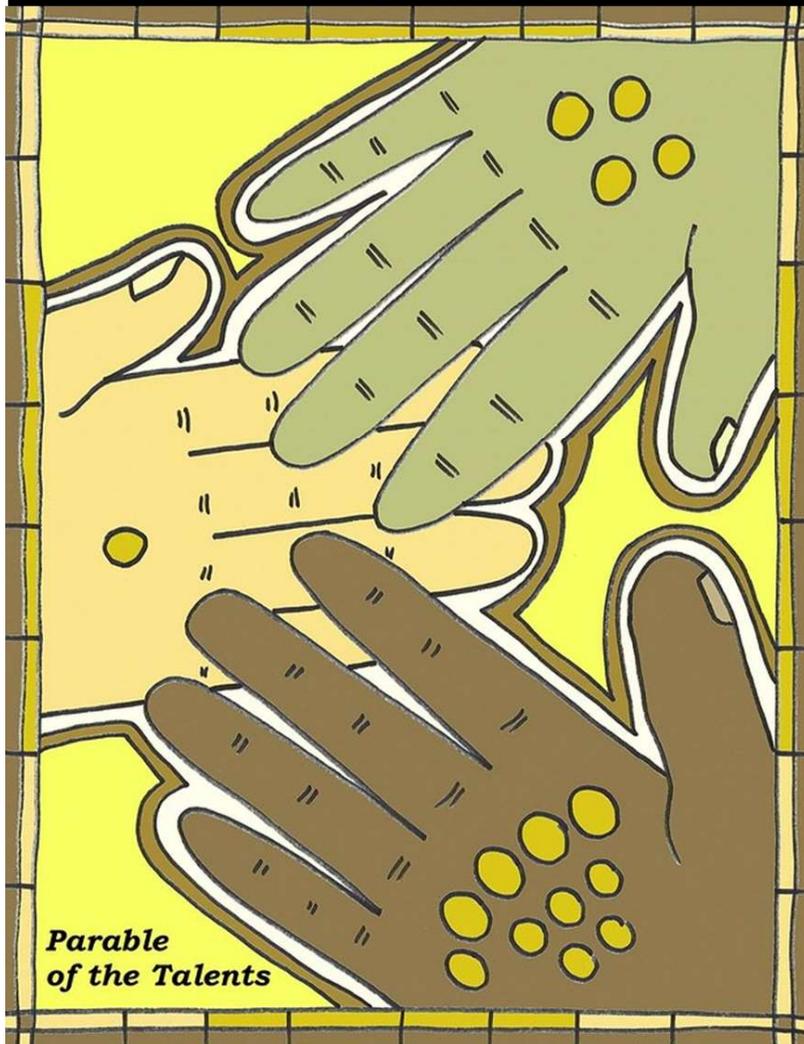


**NARRATIVE LECTIONARY—YEAR 1—WEEK 26
4TH SUNDAY IN LENT**



**MATTHEW 25:14-30
PARABLE OF THE
TALENTS**

**GUEST PASTOR:
KRIS WHITBY
NORTHERN
ILLINOIS
DISTRICT**

SUNDAY, MARCH 19, 2023

BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH & PRESCHOOL

5110 Grand Avenue, Gurnee, Illinois 60031 – (847) 244-9647

Pastor Ben Squires

Cell phone: 224-419-5519 or email: pastor@bethelgurnee.org

Cindy Daluga, Disciple Care Coordinator

Cindy.daluga@bethelgurnee.org

Ben Sanders, Mission Facilitator

office@bethelgurnee.org

Website: www.BethelGurnee.org



ALTAR FLOWERS ARE PROVIDED BY:
TO THE GLORY OF GOD



If you have prayer requests you'd like included in our worship prayers, please go to the one of the Prayer List stands and write them down. They will be given to Pastor Whitby before the worship prayers.

Today's Guest Pastor
Rev. Kris Whitby

Assistant to the President
-Mission & Ministry
Northern Illinois District

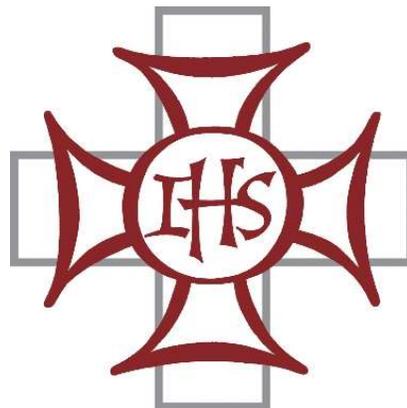
of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod



Prior to 2021, the Rev. Kris Whitby served 16 years as pastor at Saint Paul, Mt. Prospect, and during that time he also was honored to serve as our District's North region's Vice President. In February 2021, Pastor Kris was installed as Assistant to the President – Mission and Ministry for the NID where he works with President Allan Buss and our district's congregations to promote our district's threefold ministry focus of Word, Wellness, and Witness. He and his wife, Marguerita live in Palatine. They have a son and daughter, and now are enjoying being grandparents.

1 CORINTHIANS SERVICE

Worship in a traditional order that uses portions of 1 Corinthians.



Opening Hymn

Saints, See the Cloud of Witnesses

LSB 667 sts. 1-2, 4-6



1 Saints, see the cloud of wit - ness - es sur - round us;
 2 These saints of old re - ceived God's com - men - da - tion;
 4 Come, let us fix our sight on Christ who suf - fered,
 5 Lord, give us faith to walk where You are send - ing,
 6 You, Je - sus, You a - lone de - serve all glo - ry!



Their lives of faith en - cour - age and as - tound us.
 They lived as pil - grim - heirs of His sal - va - tion.
 He faced the cross, His sin - less life He of - fered;
 On paths un - marked, eyes blind as to their end - ing;
 Our lives un - fold, em - braced with - in Your sto - ry;



Hear how the Mas - ter praised their faith so
 Through faith they con - quered flame and sword and
 He scorned the shame, He died, our death en -
 Not know - ing where we go, but that You
 Past, pres - ent, fu - ture— You, the same for -



fer - vent: "Well done, My ser - vant!"
 gal - lows, God's name to hal - low.
 dur - ing, Our hope se - cur - ing.
 lead us— With grace pre - cede us.
 ev - er— You fail us nev - er!

Invocation (Based on 1 Corinthians 1:2-3)

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

C: **Amen.**

P: To the church of God, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus and called to be holy,

C: **Together with all those everywhere who call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,**

P: Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

C: **Amen.**

Confession and Absolution (Based on 1 Corinthians 10:6-13, 15:56-57, 5:7a)

P: Paul warns the Corinthians from Israel’s history: “Do not be idolaters,” “we should not test the Lord,” and “do not grumble.” “So if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don’t fall! No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; He will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, He will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it.” Do you recognize that you are tempted in many ways?

C: Yes.

P: “The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law.”

All: **“But thanks be to God!**

He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.”

P: “For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed” for our sins.

C: Amen!

Hymn of Praise

Thanks to Thee, O Christ, Victorious

LSB # 548, st. 1

(based on 1 Corinthians 15:56-57)

1 Thanks to Thee, O Christ, vic - to - rious! Thanks to Thee, O
Lord of Life! Death hath now no pow - er o'er us,
Thou hast con- quered in the strife. Thanks be - cause Thou didst a -
rise And hast o - pened par - a - dise! None can ful - ly
sing the glo - ry Of the res - ur - rec - tion sto - ry.

Narrative Lectionary Reading

Matthew 25:14-30 (VOICE)

Jesus: ¹⁴ *This is how [the kingdom of heaven] will be.* It will be like a landowner who is going on a trip. He instructed his slaves about caring for his property. ¹⁵ He gave five talents to one slave, two to the next, and then one talent to the last slave—each according to his ability. Then the man left.

¹⁶ Promptly the man who had been given five talents went out and bartered and sold and turned his five talents into ten. ¹⁷ And the one who had received two talents *went to the market and* turned his two into four. ¹⁸ And the slave who had received just one talent? He dug a hole in the ground and buried his master's money there.

¹⁹ Eventually the master came back from his travels, *found his slaves,* and settled up with them. ²⁰ The slave who had been given five talents came forward and told his master how he'd turned five into ten; *then he handed the whole lot over to his master.*

Master: ²¹ Excellent. *You've proved yourself not only clever but loyal.* You've executed a rather small task masterfully, so now I am going to put you in charge of something larger. *But before you go back to work,* come join my great feast and celebration.

Jesus (narrating His parable): ²² Then the slave who had been given two talents came forward and told his master how he'd turned two into four, *and he handed all four talents to his master.*

Master: ²³ Excellent. *You've proved yourself not only clever but loyal.* You've executed a rather small task masterfully, so now I am going to put you in charge of something larger. *But before you go back to work,* come join my great feast and celebration.

Jesus (narrating His parable):

²⁴ Finally the man who had been given one talent came forward.

Servant: Master, I know you are a hard man, *difficult in every way.* You can make a *healthy sum when others would fail.* You profit when other people are doing the work. You grow rich on the backs of others. ²⁵ So I was afraid, *dug a hole,* and hid the talent in the ground. Here it is. You can have it.

Jesus (narrating His parable):

²⁶ *The master was furious.*

Master: You are a pathetic excuse for a servant! You have disproved my trust in you and squandered my generosity. You know I always make a profit! ²⁷ You could have at least put this talent in the bank; then I could have earned a little interest on it! ²⁸ Take that one talent away, and give it to the servant who doubled my money from five to ten.

Jesus (narrating His parable): ²⁹ You see, everything was taken away from the man who had nothing, but the man who had something got even more. ³⁰ And as for the slave who made no profit *but buried his talent in the ground*? His master ordered his slaves to tie him up and throw him outside into the utter darkness where there is miserable mourning and great fear.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

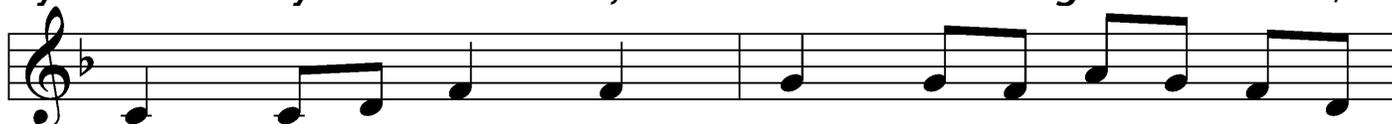
Collect (Prayer of the Day)

P: Let us pray. Almighty and ever-living God, You have given exceedingly great and precious promises to those who trust in You. Dispel from us the works of darkness and grant us to live in the light of Your Son, Jesus Christ, that our faith may never be found wanting; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

Hymn of the Day Gracious God, You Send Great Blessings

LSB 782



1 Gra - cious God, You send great bless - ings
 2 By Your Word You formed cre - a - tion
 3 In His earth - ly life, our Sav - ior
 Δ 4 Heav'n - ly Fa - ther, may our car - ing



New each morn - ing all our days. For Your mer - cies
 Filled with crea - tures large and small; As we tend that
 Knew the care of faith - ful friends; May our deeds of
 Bear the im - print of Your grace; With the Son and



nev - er end - ing, For Your love we of - fer praise.
 end - less trea - sure May our care en - cir - cle all.
 ded - i - ca - tion Of - fer love that nev - er ends.
 Ho - ly Spir - it, Praise be Yours in ev - 'ry place!

Refrain



Lord, we pray that we, Your peo - ple Who Your gifts un - num - bered claim,



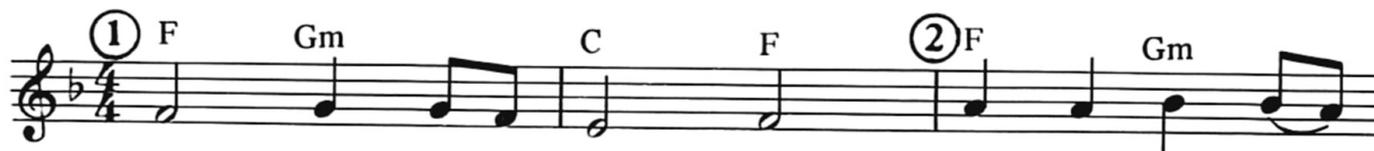
Through the shar - ing of Your bless - ings May bring glo - ry to Your name.

Text: Gregory J. Wismar, 1946, Tune: Columbian Harmony, 1825, Cincinnati
 Text: © 2004 Gregory J. Wismar. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110001267

Sermon

Song of Praise

Father, I Adore You



Fa - ther, }
 Je - sus, } I a - dore you, Lay my life be -
 Spir - it, }



fore you. How I love you!

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Confession of Faith

1 Corinthians 15:1-6a,20-22,58

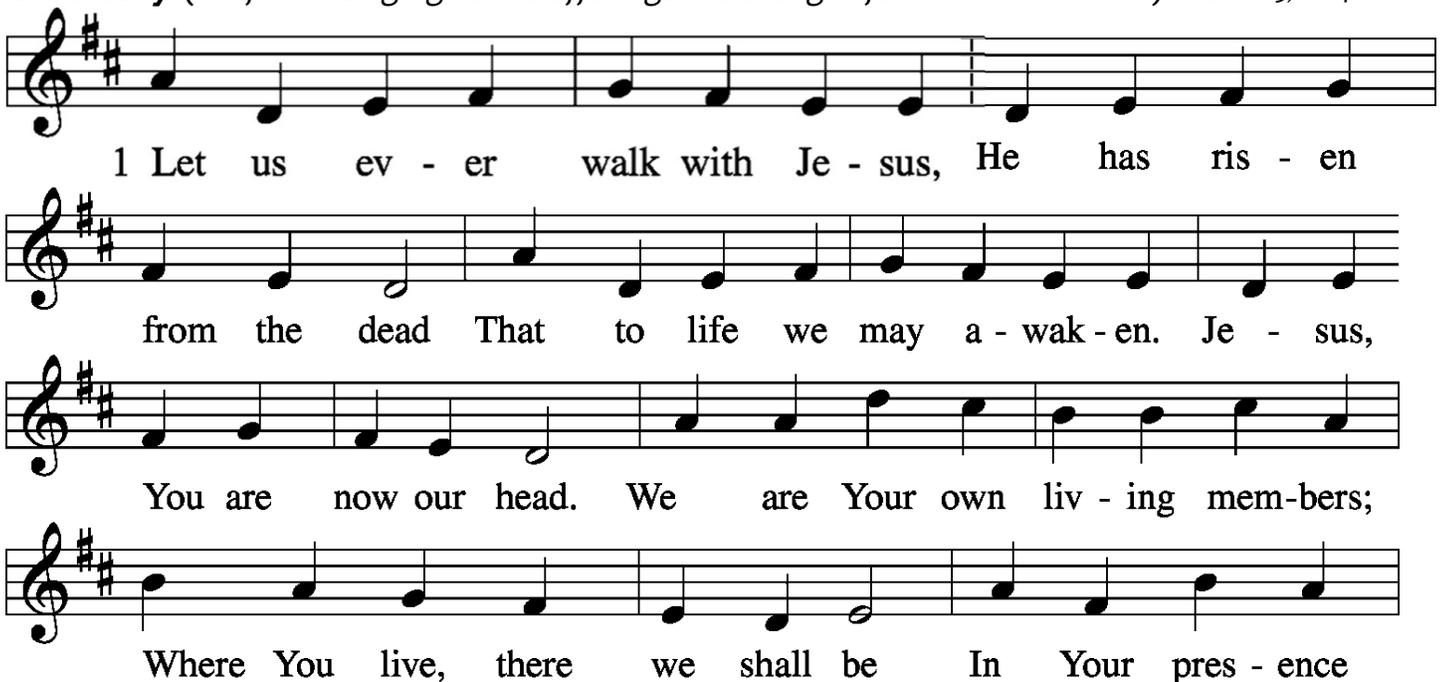
P: Now, brothers and sisters, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain. For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance:

C: *that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Peter, and then to the Twelve. After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers at the same time. Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive. Amen.*

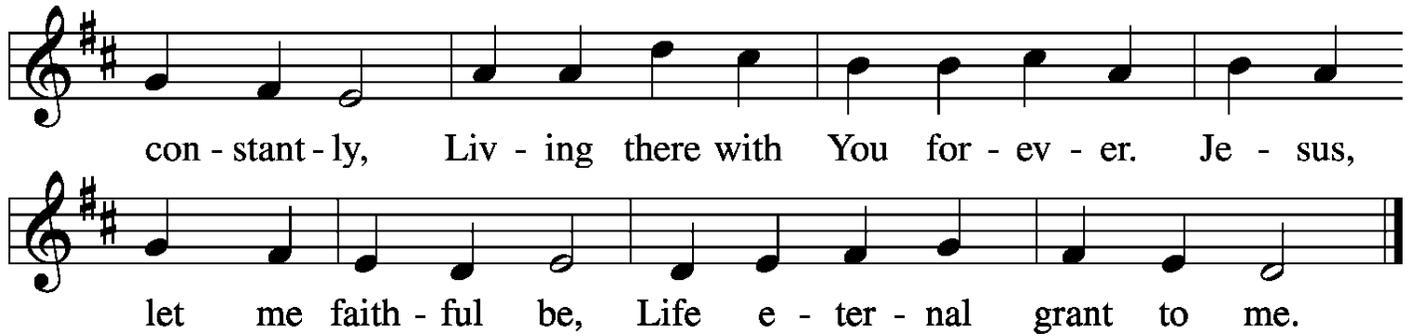
P: Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain. Amen.

Offering

Offertory (we join in singing as the offerings are brought forward to the altar) LSB 685, st. 4 alt.



1 Let us ev - er walk with Je - sus, He has ris - en
from the dead That to life we may a - wak - en. Je - sus,
You are now our head. We are Your own liv - ing mem - bers;
Where You live, there we shall be In Your pres - ence



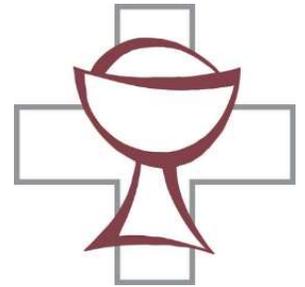
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Prayers

The Lord's Supper: What We Believe

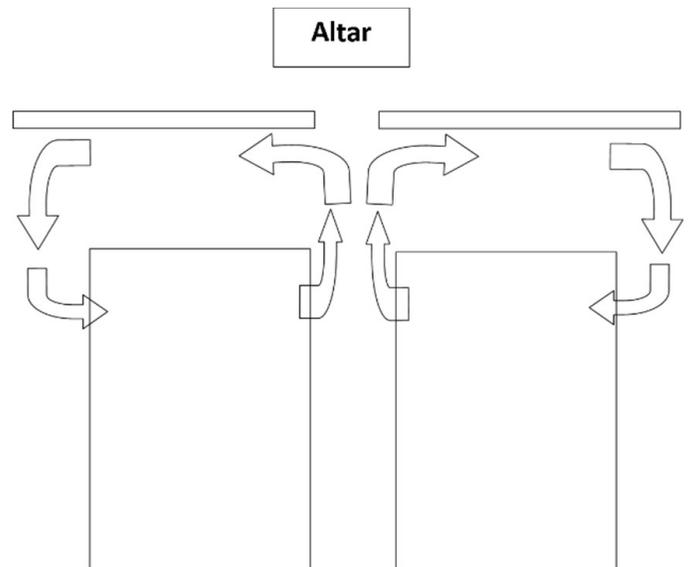
All Christians who are baptized and have been instructed are invited to receive Communion with us if you believe as we do—that the bread is the body of Christ, and the wine is the blood of Christ, truly present for us for the forgiveness of our sins.

If this is a new teaching to you, or if this is different than you believe, we ask that you wait to commune until we've had a further chance to talk. We invite those who are not communing to come to the rail, cross your arms, and receive a blessing from the Lord.



Communion Distribution

- Pastor distributes the bread, and the Elders distribute the wine—with individual cups or common cup. The individual trays also contain alcohol-removed wine in the center of each tray in the purple cups.
- Each side will be ushered from the center aisle to the communion rail, row by row, starting with the front.
- Go to the rail on your side of the sanctuary, filling in starting with the outside wall towards the center.
- Once you have received the elements, you may remain at the rail for prayer and leave at your own pace.
- Return to your seat using the outside aisle.



Preparation for the Lord's Supper

Liturgy based on 1 Corinthians 10:16-17, 11:26-28, 15:22-23

P: Test your hearts. Recognize that you are sinners in need of God's mercy and forgiveness. And when you have recognized your sin, then eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body of Christ in the meal, eats and drinks judgment on himself, guilty of the body and blood of the Lord.

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: The cup of blessing we bless now

C: is a sharing in the blood of Christ.

P: The bread that we break

C: is a sharing in the body of Christ.

P: Since through man's sin came death,

C: Therefore through a man comes the resurrection of the dead.

P: Since all die because we are Adam's offspring,

C: Therefore also in Christ all will be made alive.

P: Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body,

C: for we all share the one bread.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

LSB 209

P: Father, in Your righteous judgment You condemned the sin of Adam and Eve, who ate the forbidden fruit, and You justly barred them and all their children from the tree of life. Yet, in Your great mercy, You promised salvation by a second Adam, Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, and made His cross a life-giving tree for all who trust in Him. We give You thanks for the redemption You have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Grant us Your Holy Spirit that we may faithfully eat and drink of the fruits of His cross and receive the blessings of forgiveness, life, and salvation that come to us in His body and blood.

C: Amen.



The Lord's Prayer

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

All: 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.

Words of Institution

Pax Domini (The Peace of the Lord)

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always. **C: And also with you.**

(We greet one another in peace saying "God's peace" or "The Lord be with you.")

Distribution Anthem

I Will Remember Thee

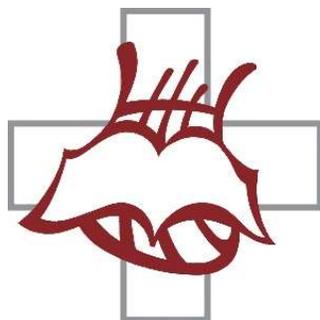
Adult Choir

- Use the anthem's music and words to help you to meditate on God's Word and His truth for you today. Maintain this as meditative time.

According to thy gracious word, with great humility,
This will I do, my dying Lord, I will remember Thee.
Thy body, broken for my sake,
My bread from heaven shall be.
And with Thy cup I take and drink and, thus, remember Thee.

When to the cross I turn my eyes and rest on Calvary,
O Lamb of God my sacrifice, I must remember Thee.

According to thy gracious word, with great humility,
This will I do, my dying Lord, I will remember Thee.
This will I do, my dying Lord. Yes, I will remember Thee.



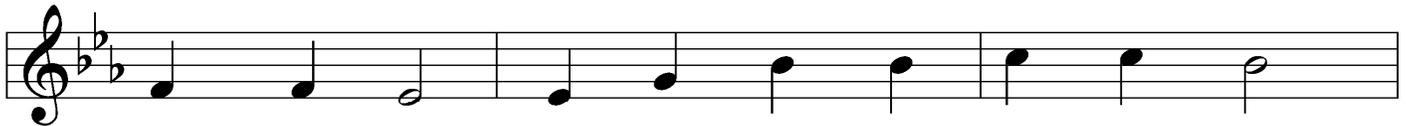
Distribution Hymn

Chief of Sinners Though I Be

LSB 611



1 Chief of sin - ners though I be, Je - sus shed His
 2 Oh, the height of Je - sus' love, High - er than the
 3 On - ly Je - sus can im - part Balm to heal the
 4 Chief of sin - ners though I be, Christ is all in
 5 O my Sav - ior, help af - ford By Your Spir - it



blood for me, Died that I might live on high,
 heav'ns a - bove, Deep - er than the depths of sea,
 wound - ed heart, Peace that flows from sin for - giv'n,
 all to me; All my wants to Him are known,
 and Your Word! When my way - ward heart would stray,



Lives that I might nev - er die. As the branch is
 Last - ing as e - ter - ni - ty! Love that found me—
 Joy that lifts the soul to heav'n, Faith and hope to
 All my sor - rows are His own. He sus - tains the
 Keep me in the nar - row way; Grace in time of



to the vine, I am His, and He is mine.
 won - drous thought! Found me when I sought Him not.
 walk with God In the way that E - noch trod.
 hid - den life Safe with Him from earth - ly strife.
 need sup - ply While I live and when I die.

Text: William McComb, 1793-1873, alt.
 Tune: Richard Redhead, 1820-1901

Common Dismissal

P: Now may this true body and true blood of our Lord....

C: Amen.

Post-Communion Prayer

LSB 212

P: Let us pray. O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in loving-kindness sent Your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank You that for His sake You have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament, and we ask You not to forsake Your children but always to rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may be enabled constantly to serve You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Benediction (Blessing) (Based on 1 Corinthians 1:5,7-9 & 16:23)

P: "In Christ Jesus you have been enriched in every way—in all your speaking and in all your knowledge. Therefore you do not lack any spiritual gift as you eagerly wait for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed. He will keep you strong to the end, so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C: **God, who has called us into fellowship with His Son Jesus Christ, is faithful."**

P: The grace of the Lord Jesus be with you.

C: Amen.

Closing Hymn

Take My Life and Let It Be

LSB 783; sts. 1-4,6



1 Take my life and let it be Con-se - crat - ed, Lord, to Thee;
2 Take my hands and let them move At the im - pulse of Thy love;
3 Take my voice and let me sing Al - ways, on - ly for my King;
4 Take my sil - ver and my gold, Not a mite would I with - hold;



Take my mo - ments and my days, Let them flow in cease - less praise.
Take my feet and let them be Swift and beau - ti - ful for Thee.
Take my lips and let them be Filled with mes - sag - es from Thee.
Take my in - tel - lect and use Ev - 'ry pow'r as Thou shalt choose.

6 Take my love, my Lord, I pour
At Thy feet its treasure store;
Take myself, and I will be
Ever, only, all for Thee.

Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836–79, Tune: William H. Havergal, 1793–1870

UPCOMING WORSHIP SCHEDULE

SUNDAY, MARCH 19

IN-PERSON WORSHIP (IN GYM W/COMMUNION) – 9AM

FELLOWSHIP 10-10:30AM

EDUCATION HOUR 10:30AM-11:30AM

LENT MIDWEEK SERVICE WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22

SOUP & SALAD SUPPER - 5:00PM

IN-PERSON WORSHIP (IN SANCTUARY) – 6:30PM

SUNDAY, MARCH 26

IN-PERSON WORSHIP (IN GYM) – 9AM

FELLOWSHIP 10-10:30AM

EDUCATION HOUR 10:30AM-11:30AM

LENT MIDWEEK SERVICE WEDNESDAY, MARCH 29

SOUP & SALAD SUPPER - 5:00PM

IN-PERSON WORSHIP (IN SANCTUARY) – 6:30PM

PALM SUNDAY, APRIL 2

IN-PERSON WORSHIP (IN GYM W/COMMUNION) – 9AM

FELLOWSHIP 10-10:30AM

EDUCATION HOUR 10:30AM-11:30AM

CONTACT THE OFFICE IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT THE SCHEDULE. USHERS, READERS, AND VARIOUS OTHER VOLUNTEERS ARE ALWAYS NEEDED FOR IN-PERSON WORSHIP AND COMMUNION. IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING FOR ONE OF THOSE ROLES, PLEASE CONTACT THE OFFICE AT OFFICE@BETHELGURNEE.ORG.



EASTER LILIES

**Order Deadline:
Friday, March 24**

As a donation to Bethel Lutheran Church I would like _____ Easter lily plant(s) at \$12.00 each to be placed in our worship areas for Easter services on **April 9**.

Name and telephone number [please print]

Total amount enclosed: \$ _____

Checks can be written to “Bethel Lutheran Church” and place check (or cash) with the form in an envelope, marked “Easter lilies” and place in the offering plate or turn in at the church office. *****Please include your donation when you submit your form.**

**Remember to take your lily plant(s)
Easter Sunday after the service
or later in the week if you would like to keep it.**

Acknowledgements

This liturgy arranged and written by the Rev. Dr. Benjamin C. Squires. © 2012.

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