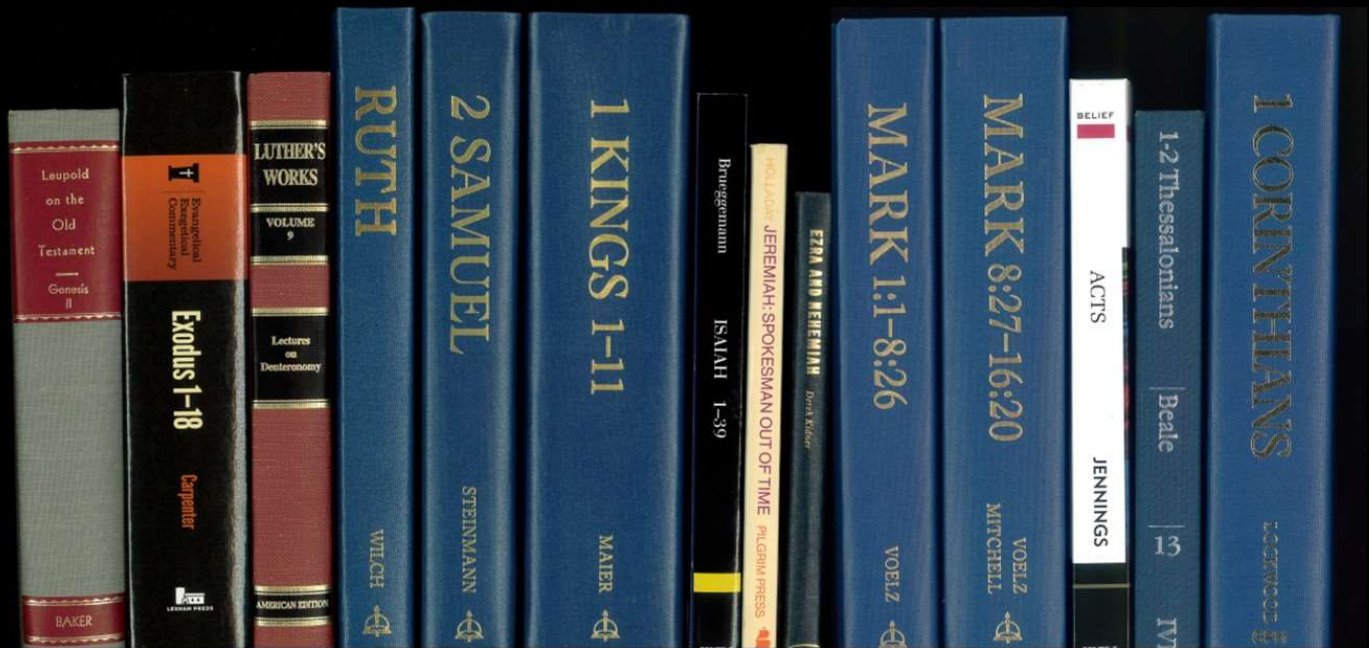


# NARRATIVE LECTIONARY—YEAR 2



FOLLOWING THE SWEEP OF SCRIPTURE  
FROM CREATION TO CHRIST TO THE EARLY CHURCH

TODAY'S READING  
GENESIS 2—CREATION

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2023

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**BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH & PRESCHOOL**

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**ALTAR FLOWERS ARE PROVIDED BY:**

MARIA KUBE IN CELEBRATION OF HER DAUGHTER'S 20<sup>TH</sup> WEDDING ANNIVERSARY



**NARRATIVE LECTIONARY – YEAR 2**

Worship in a traditional order drawing words from Year 2 of the Narrative Lectionary from the appointed readings from the Old Testament, Acts, and 1 Corinthians.

**Opening Hymn**

**Morning Has Broken**



1. Mor-ning has bro - ken	like the first mor - ning,	black-bird has spo -
2. Sweet the rain's new fall	sun - lit from hea - ven,	like the first dew -
3. Mine is the sun - light!	Mine is the mor - ning	born of the one

9



ken	like the first bird.	Praise for the sing - ing!	Praise for the
fall	on the first grass.	Praise for the sweet - ness	of the wet
light	E - den saw play!	Praise with e - la - tion,	praise ev - ery

16

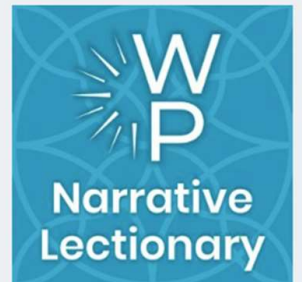


mor - ning!	Praise for them, spring - ing	fresh from the	Word!
gar - den,	sprung in com - plete - ness	where God's feet	pass.
mor - ning,	God's re - cre - a - tion	of the new	day!

**What is the narrative lectionary?**

The **Narrative Lectionary** is a four-year cycle of readings. On the Sundays from September through May each year the texts follow the sweep of the biblical story, from Creation through the early Christian church.

The texts show the breadth and variety of voices within Scripture. They invite people to hear the stories of Abraham and Sarah, Moses and the prophets, Jesus, and Paul. Listening to the many different voices within Scripture enriches preaching and the life of faith.



**Invocation (based on Deuteronomy 6:4-6)**

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

C: Amen.

P: Years ago Moses said, "Hear, O Israel." Today I say, "Hear, O people of God."

C: *We hear!*

P: Then declare the words of faith which God gave to your ancestors through Moses:

C: *The LORD is our God,  
the LORD is one!*

*We love the LORD our God with all our soul and all our heart and all our strength.*

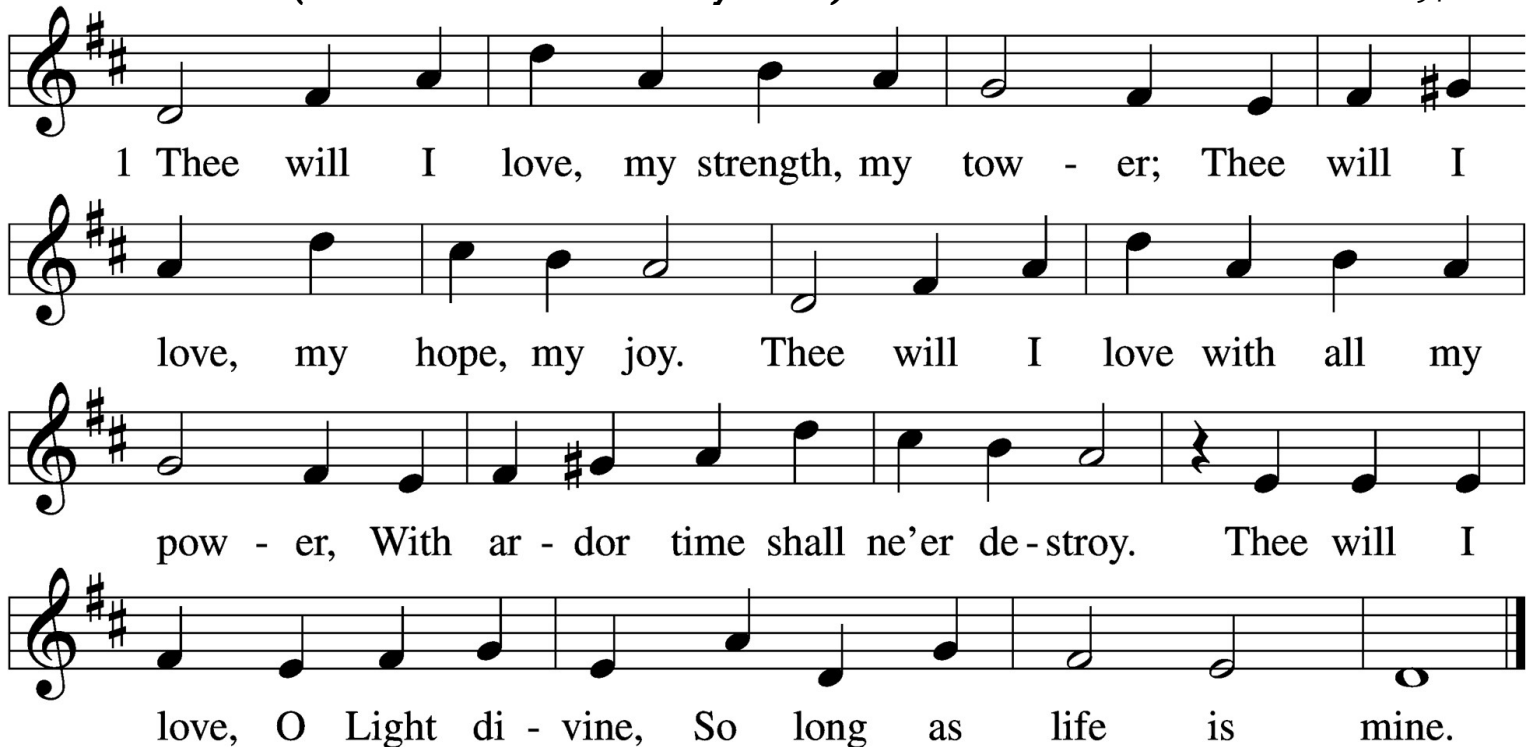
P: Keep these words in mind today even as we enter into His presence in worship.

C: *The LORD is our God,  
the LORD is one!*

*We love the LORD our God with all our soul and all our heart and all our strength. Amen.*

**Verse of Praise (based on Deuteronomy 6:4-5)**

LSB 694 st. 1



1 Thee will I love, my strength, my tow - er; Thee will I  
love, my hope, my joy. Thee will I love with all my  
pow - er, With ar - dor time shall ne'er de - stroy. Thee will I  
love, O Light di - vine, So long as life is mine.



## ***Confession and Absolution (Hosea 11:1-9)***

P: The Lord spoke to His people through the prophet Hosea:

“The more I summoned them, the farther they departed from Me.  
They sacrificed to the Baal idols and burned incense to images.”

**C: *We, too, are confronted with our sin:***

***God took us by the arm,***

***but we did not acknowledge that He has saved us.***

***God lifted the yoke of sin from our necks,***

***placing the burden on Jesus,***

***but we have often refused to repent!***

***We look for help in ourselves and in others and in false things.***

***We know we continue to turn away from the Lord God.***

***Forgive our sinful hearts for the sake of Jesus Christ who died and rose again. Amen.***

P: Again the Lord spoke to His people through the prophet Hosea,  
and He speaks these words of His enduring love to us:

“How can I give you up? How can I surrender you?

How can I treat you like a people destined for destruction?

How can I make you like a city wiped off the face of the Earth?

I will show you mercy, pulling back the punishment that you deserve.

All My tender compassions are aroused.

I will not carry out My fierce anger!

I cannot totally destroy you!

Because I am God—the Holy One among you—

I will not come in wrath!”

Therefore, based on this promise of God’s steadfast love, in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: *Amen.***

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### **Acknowledgements**

This liturgy arranged and written by the Rev. Dr. Benjamin C. Squires. © 2023.

Liturgy Scripture passages taken from / adapted from New English Translation.

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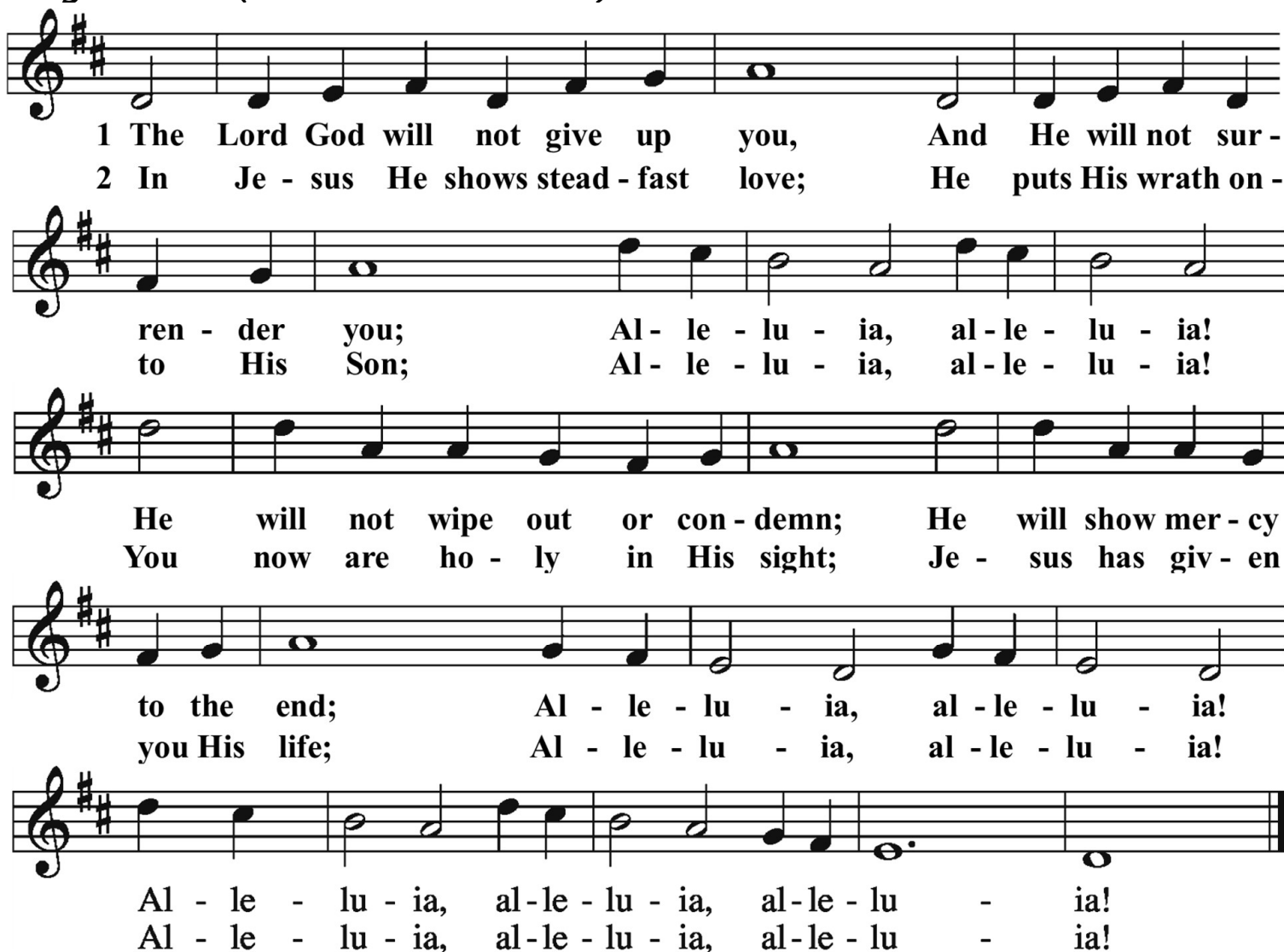
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**Song of Praise (based on Hosea 11:8-9)**

Tune: LSB 816



1 The Lord God will not give up you, And He will not sur-  
2 In Je - sus He shows stead - fast love; He puts His wrath on -  
ren - der you; Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!  
to His Son; Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!  
He will not wipe out or con - demn; He will show mer - cy  
You now are ho - ly in His sight; Je - sus has giv - en  
to the end; Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!  
you His life; Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

**Installation of Christian Education Staff**

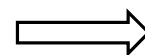
*This installation is based on Bethel's discipleship and membership language. It encourages the Christian Education Staff to prayerfully ask God to be at work in their own lives while also affirming our commitments together as a congregation.*

P: At Bethel, our mission is to help people be Disciples—life-long learners & followers of Jesus Christ. Discipleship means God awakening Disciples from head knowledge of the faith to “heart life”. Are you a disciple of Jesus?

**E: I am through the grace of God.**

P: As Christian Education Staff, do you prayerfully accept your role to teach, support, and lead others in growing as disciples—helping others grow in head knowledge of the faith while also encouraging them in their “heart life”?

**E: I do.**



P: As a gathering of disciples, Bethel seeks to teach faith in Jesus according to God's Word as best expressed in Lutheran theology according to the Lutheran Confessions. Will you hold to this commitment in your teaching while seeking the guidance and support from the Pastor in our doctrine?

**E: I will.**

P: Before you can teach others, you must also seek to be shepherded and held accountable in your life as a believer in Jesus. Do you commit yourselves to seeking ways to be built up in your faith even as you encourage fellow believers at Bethel in their faith?

**E: I do.**

P: Do you then accept your Christian Education positions as your way of supporting the mission of the congregation to bring the Gospel to those who need Jesus?

**E: I do by the grace of God. Amen.**

P: I now ask those gathered here as representatives of this congregation. Having heard the promises made by our Christian Education Staff, will you pray for them as fellow disciples, asking God to help them grow in their own discipleship even as they encourage all of us in our faith? Will you support and work with them as they give us opportunities to grow in the head of the knowledge of the faith and our "heart life"?

**C: We will.**

P: Brothers and sisters in Christ, I install you as Christian Education leaders at Bethel Lutheran Church in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

## **Prayer**

### **Congregational Mission Words**

P: Our mission is to help people be Disciples:

**C: life-long learners & followers of Jesus Christ.**

**May God lead us in His mission. Amen.**

<b>Music:</b>	Ann Souza
<b>Little Lambs:</b>	Dan and Erin Novacek
<b>2nd/3rd Grade:</b>	Cindy Daluga, Michelle Berezcky
<b>4th/5th Grade:</b>	Karen Kozlik, Claudine Rayos
<b>Middle School:</b>	Andrea & David Wait
<b>High School:</b>	Carla Thompson, Elizabeth Blasko
<b>Confirmation Lay Coaches:</b>	Cindy Daluga, Jon Kreamer, Elizabeth Blasko
<b>Women's Bible Study:</b>	Carla Thompson, Karen Kozlik
<b>Sunday School Superintendents:</b>	Emily Schaefer, Jose Rayos
<b>Bethel Preschool:</b>	Donna Stutzman, Becky Anderson, Emily Schaefer, Nicole Kreamer



## Song of Praise

## I Love You, Lord

The musical score is written on four staves in 4/4 time. The melody is in a major key with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are: "I love You, Lord, \_\_\_\_\_ and I lift my voice \_\_\_\_\_ to wor - ship You, O my soul, re - joice! Take joy, my King, \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_ what You hear: \_\_\_\_\_ May it be a sweet, sweet \_\_\_\_\_ sound in \_\_\_\_\_ Your ear. \_\_\_\_\_".

CCLI Song # 25266  
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CCLI License # 11157642

### **Preparation for the Reading of the Word (based on 2 Kings 23:1-3)**

**P:** When King Josiah found out that a lost and forgotten book of God's Word had been found in the temple, he called together all of the people, and like today

**C:** *all the people were there, from the youngest to the oldest.*

**P:** The king read aloud all the words of the scroll of the covenant. He called on the people to commit themselves to God's Word, as we do today:

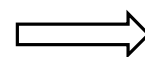
**C:** *all the people are here, from the youngest to the oldest, to hear God's own Word. Amen.*

### **This Week's Reading**

### **Genesis 2:4b-25 (VOICE)**

<sup>4</sup>This is the *detailed* story of the Eternal God's *singular work* in creating all that exists. On the day the heavens and earth were created, <sup>5</sup>there were no plants or vegetation to cover the earth. The fields were barren and empty, because the Eternal God had not sent the rains to *nourish* the soil or anyone to tend it. <sup>6</sup>In those days, a mist rose up from the ground to *blanket the earth*, and its vapors irrigated the land. <sup>7</sup>One day the Eternal God scooped dirt out of the ground, sculpted it into *the shape we call human*, breathed the breath that gives life into the nostrils of the human, and the human became a living soul.

<sup>8</sup>The Eternal God planted a garden in the east in Eden—*a place of utter delight*—and placed the man whom He had sculpted there. <sup>9</sup>*In this garden*, He made the ground pregnant *with life*—*bursting forth* with nourishing food and *luxuriant* beauty. He



created trees, and in the center of this garden of *delights* stood the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

<sup>10</sup> A river flowed from Eden to irrigate the garden, and from there it separated into four smaller rivers. <sup>11-12</sup> The first, the Pishon, flows around the land of Havilah—a rich land plentiful in gold of premium quality, bdellium, and onyx stones. <sup>13</sup> The second, the Gihon, flows around the entire land of Cush. <sup>14</sup> The third, the Tigris, flows east of Assyria, and the fourth is the Euphrates.

<sup>15</sup> The Eternal God placed the *newly made* man in the garden of Eden in order to work the ground and care for it. <sup>16</sup> He made certain demands of the man *regarding life in the garden*.

**God:** Eat freely from any *and all* trees in the garden; <sup>17</sup> I only require that you abstain from eating the fruit of *one tree*—the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. *Beware:* the day you eat the fruit of this tree, you will certainly die.

But then God said to Himself,

**God:** <sup>18</sup> But it is not good for the man to be alone, so I will create a companion for him, a perfectly suited partner.

<sup>19</sup> So out of the *same ground the man was made from*, the Eternal God sculpted every sort of animal and every kind of bird that flies up in the sky. Then He brought them to the man and gave him the authority to name each creature as he saw fit: whatever he decided to call it, that became its name. <sup>20</sup> Thus the man chose names for domesticated animals, birds, and wild beasts. But none of these creatures was a right and proper partner for Adam.

<sup>21</sup> So the Eternal God put him into a deep sleep, removed a rib *from his side*, and closed the flesh around the opening. <sup>22</sup> He formed a woman from the rib taken out of the man and presented her to him.

<sup>23</sup> **Adam:** At last, *a suitable companion, a perfect partner*.

Bone from my bones.

Flesh from my flesh.

I will call this one “woman” as *an eternal reminder*  
*that she was taken out of man*.

<sup>24</sup> Now this is the reason a man leaves his father and his mother, and is united with his wife; and the two become one flesh. <sup>25</sup> *In those days* the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**



### **Collect (Prayer of the Day)**

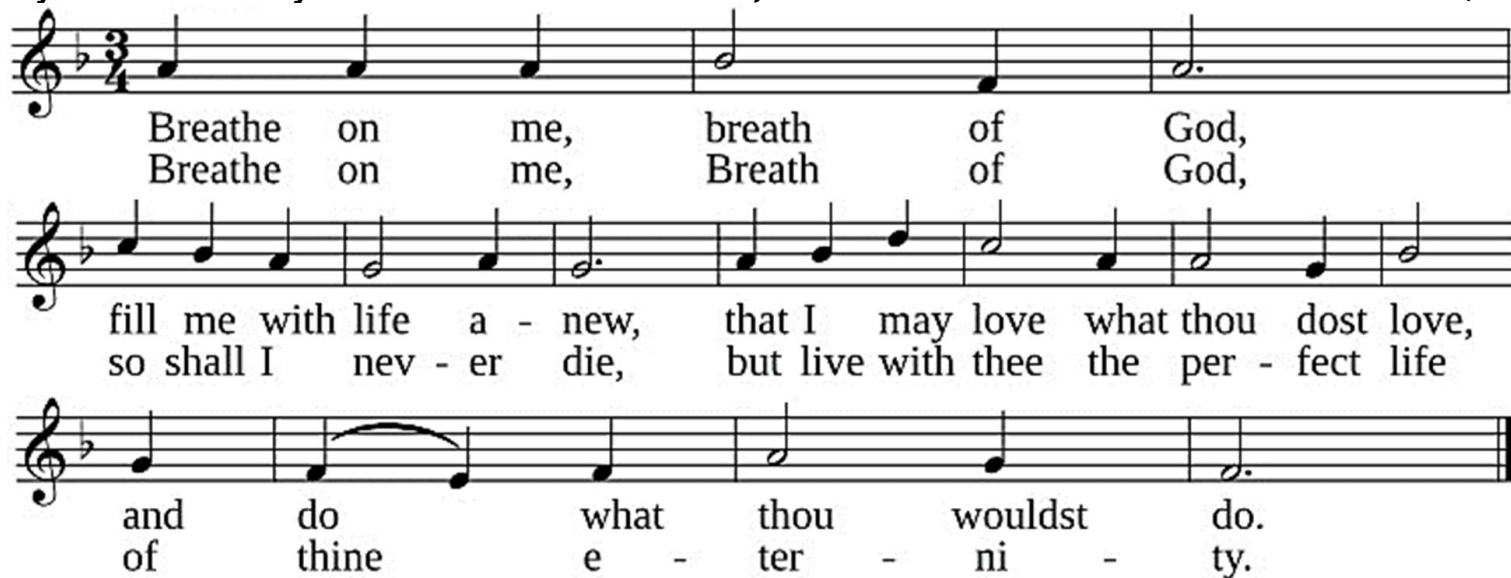
P: Let us pray. Lord God, Creator of heaven and earth, Your Word shows us that all of creation is good and is to be used by Your people for their delight and joy. Open our eyes to see that our bodies, restored by You in Holy Baptism, proclaim the goodness of Your creative will, and when Jesus returns to restore all things, we will come to the fullness of what You created us to be; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

### **Hymn of the Day**

### **Breathe On Me, Breath of God**

UMH 420



Breathe on me, breath of God,  
Breathe on me, Breath of God,  
fill me with life a - new, that I may love what thou dost love,  
so shall I nev - er die, but live with thee the per - fect life  
and do what thou wouldst do.  
of thine e - ter - ni - ty.

### **Sermon**

### **“The God Verb-Adverbs-Prepositions”**

### **Genesis 2**

### **Confession of Faith (spoken in unison)**

1 Corinthians 15:1-6a,20-22,58 (ESV)

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 & Prayer Requests

In addition to the prayer requests already received, Pastor will pause here to see if there are additional requests. Prayers can be thanksgivings, joy, requests for yourself, or requests for others.

## Offertory (Based on Genesis 2 and Isaiah 11:2)

LSB 500 sts. 1, 3

(we join in singing as the offerings are brought forward to the altar)



1 Cre - a - tor Spir - it, by whose aid The world's foun - da - tions  
3 Giv - er of grace, de - scend from high; Your sev'n - fold gifts to



first were laid, Come, vis - it ev - 'ry hum - ble mind; Come,  
us sup - ply; Help us e - ter - nal truths re - ceive And



pour Your joys on hu - man - kind; From sin and sor - row  
prac - tice all that we be - lieve; Give us Your - self that



set us free; May we Your liv - ing tem - ples be.  
we may see The glo - ry of the Trin - i - ty.

## Prayers

### 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.**

**Benediction (Blessing) (based on Deuteronomy 6:4-8)**

P: Hear, O people of God.

C: **We hear!**

P: Declare the words of faith which God gave to your ancestors through Moses:

C: **The LORD is our God,  
the LORD is one!**

**We love the LORD our God with all our soul and all our heart and all our strength.**

P: Keep these words in mind as you go from this place. Teach them to your children and speak of them as you sit in your house, as you walk along the road, as you lie down, and as you get up. May the Lord God keep these words of faith in your heart in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

**The LORD is our God,  
the LORD is one!**

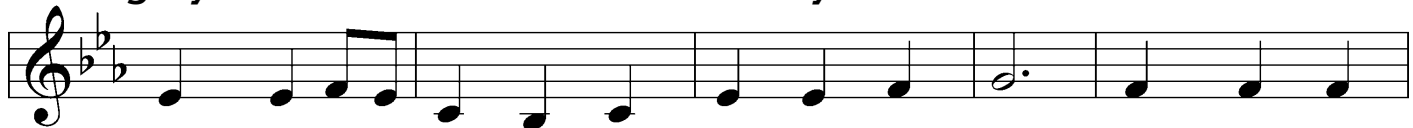
**We love the LORD our God with all our soul and all our heart and all our strength. Amen.**

C: **Amen.**

**Closing Hymn**

**Christ Be My Leader**

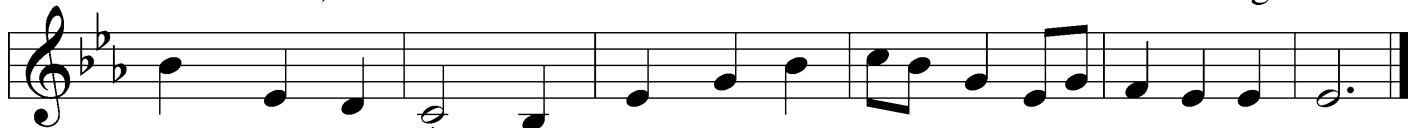
LSB 861



1 Christ be my Lead - er by night as by day; Safe through the  
2 Christ be my Teach - er in age as in youth, Drift - ing or  
3 Christ be my Sav - ior in calm as in strife; Death can - not



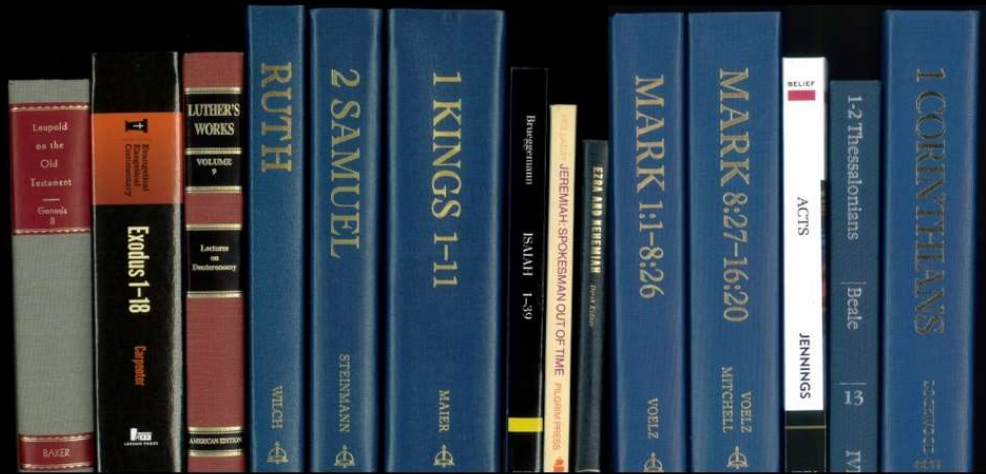
dark - ness, for He is the way. Glad - ly I fol - low, my  
doubt - ing, for He is the truth. Grant me to trust Him; though  
hold me, for He is the life. Nor dark - ness nor doubt - ing nor



fu - ture His care, Dark - ness is day - light when Je - sus is there.  
shift - ing as sand, Doubt can - not daunt me; in Je - sus I stand.  
sin and its stain Can touch my sal - va - tion: with Je - sus I reign.

**Announcements**

## NARRATIVE LECTIONARY—YEAR 2



FOLLOWING THE SWEEP OF SCRIPTURE  
FROM CREATION TO CHRIST TO THE EARLY CHURCH

# SUNDAY ADULT BIBLE STUDY 10:30-11:30AM IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL WITH PASTOR SQUIRES

- Spend time in conversation about today's reading,
- ask questions, the things you're curious about,
- think about how this reading shapes our lives as disciples.

ALL ARE WELCOME.  
NO PREVIOUS BIBLE STUDY REQUIRED.