

LENTEN MIDWEEK MARCH 30, 2022

BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH & PRESCHOOL

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A LITURGY OF DOUBT AND HOPE

Worship in a traditional order drawing on along with words of doubt and hope from Scripture, poets, and writers.

Opening Hymn

"Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive"

LSB 843; tune: 857



1 "For - give our sins as we for - give," You
2 How can Your par - don reach and bless The
3 In blaz - ing light Your cross re - veals The
4 Lord, cleanse the depths with - in our souls And



taught us, Lord, to pray; But You a - lone can
un - for - giv - ing heart That broods on wrongs and
truth we dim - ly knew: What triv - ial debts are
bid re - sent - ment cease; Then, bound to all in



grant us grace To live the words we say.
will not let Old bit - ter - ness de - part?
owed to us, How great our debt to You!
bonds of love, Our lives will spread Your peace.

Text: © Oxford University Press. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 11000126

Text: Rosamond E. Herklots, 1905-87, alt.

Tune: The Whole Booke of Psalmes, 1562, London

Invocation

Jude 1-2, 20-22, 25

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

C: **Amen.**

P: To those who are called, beloved in God the Father and kept for Jesus Christ:
May mercy, peace, and love be multiplied to you.

C: **To the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord,
be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority,
before all time and now and forever. Amen.**

P: We come to be built up in our most holy faith,
building one another up through the Word of God.
God the Father calls on us to have compassion on one another:

C: **"Have mercy on those who doubt."**

P: God the Son calls on us to support one another
as we wait for His mercy that leads to eternal life:

**C: *Jesus is able to keep us from stumbling
and to present us blameless before the presence of his glory
with great joy. Amen.***

Confession of Sins

Based on "Emmanuel" by Aaron Niequist

P: Can we just admit together that we're not fine?

C: *Because I'm not fine, and you're not fine.*

P: Can we just admit together that we're afraid?

C: *Because I'm afraid, and you're afraid.*

P: Can we just admit together that we have doubts?

C: *Because I have doubts, and you have doubts.*

P: Can we just admit together that we're not free?

C: *Because I'm not free, and I want to be.*

P: If you're not free, then call out to God with me:

**C: *Emmanuel,
God with us today,
We humbly call out Your Name:
Emmanuel,
As near as our need,
As close as the air that we breathe,
Emmanuel.
Lord, have mercy.***

P: Can we just admit together that we have failed?

C: *Because I have failed, and you have failed.*

P: Can we just admit that our hands aren't clean?

C: *And our hearts aren't clean, and they'll never be.*

P: Until we're freed, and mercy sings.

**C: *Emmanuel,
God with us today,
We desperately cling to Your Name:
Emmanuel,
As near as our need,
As close as the air that we breathe.
Emmanuel.
Lord, have mercy. Amen.***

Absolution (Forgiveness)

Based on liturgy by Bernie Seter and “Emmanuel” by Aaron Niequist

P: Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, does not desire the death of sinners, which means He does not desire your death. But rather He calls you to turn from your wicked ways and find life in the life of Christ. He has had mercy upon you. He graciously forgives your sins through the death and resurrection of Your Lord Jesus Christ. He strengthens you by the power of the Holy Spirit to amend your sinful lives according to His will, and will keep you in His grace until that day when He will take you to be with Him for eternity. Therefore, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, in His stead and by His command, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

Emmanuel,

God with us today,

In thanksgiving we praise Your Name:

Emmanuel,

Who came near so we are freed,

As close as the Word that we hear.

Emmanuel.

The Lord has had mercy on us.

P: Now we can admit together that we’ve failed,

C: **Because I am forgiven, and you are forgiven.**

P: Now we can admit together that our hands aren’t clean,

C: **Because Jesus made me clean, and He made you clean.**

P: If you’re now free, then call out to God with me:

C: **Emmanuel,**

God with us today,

In thanksgiving we praise Your Name:

Emmanuel.

The Lord has had mercy on us. Amen.

Epistle (New Testament Letter)

2 Corinthians 5:16–21(ESV)

¹⁶From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer. ¹⁷Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. ¹⁸All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not

counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. ²⁰Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Holy Gospel

Luke 15:1–3, 11b–32 (ESV)

¹Now the tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear [Jesus]. ²And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, “This man receives sinners and eats with them.”

³So he told them this parable: . . .

“There was a man who had two sons. ¹²And the younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of property that is coming to me.’ And he divided his property between them. ¹³Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took a journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in reckless living. ¹⁴And when he had spent everything, a severe famine arose in that country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. ¹⁶And he was longing to be fed with the pods that the pigs ate, and no one gave him anything.

¹⁷“But when he came to himself, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have more than enough bread, but I perish here with hunger! ¹⁸I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. ¹⁹I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as one of your hired servants.’” ²⁰And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. ²¹And the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ ²²But the father said to his servants, ‘Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet. ²³And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate. ²⁴For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.’ And they began to celebrate.

²⁵“Now his older son was in the field, and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶And he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. ²⁷And he said to him, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fattened calf, because he has received him back safe and sound.’ ²⁸But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, ²⁹but he answered his father, ‘Look, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command,

yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might celebrate with my friends. ³⁰But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him!’ ³¹And he said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. ³²It was fitting to celebrate and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.’”

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: *Thanks be to God.*

Hymn of the Day **Lord, to You I Make Confession** LSB 608; tune: 420



1 Lord, to You I make con - fes - sion: I have sinned and
 2 Yet, though con - science' voice ap - pall me, Fa - ther, I will
 3 For Your Son has suf - fered for me, Giv'n Him - self to
 4 Lord, on You I cast my bur - den— Sink it in the



gone a - stray, I have mul - ti - plied trans - gres - sion,
 seek Your face; Though Your child I dare not call me,
 res - cue me, Died to save me and re - store me,
 deep - est sea! Let me know Your gra - cious par - don,



Cho - sen for my - self my way. Led by You to
 Yet re - ceive me in Your grace. Do not for my
 Rec - on - ciled and set me free. Je - sus' cross a -
 Cleanse me from in - iq - ui - ty. Let Your Spir - it



see my er - rors, Lord, I trem - ble at Your ter - rors.
 sins for - sake me; Let Your wrath not o - ver - take me.
 lone can van - quish These dark fears and soothe this an - guish.
 leave me nev - er; Make me on - ly Yours for - ev - er.



Refrain Thou-sand, thou-sand thanks shall be, Dear-est Je - sus, un-to Thee.

Greeting and Collect (Prayer of the Day)

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Let us pray. O God, through Your Son, Jesus Christ, You reconciled the world to Yourself and have given to Your Church the ministry of reconciliation. We give You thanks that by Your grace we may forgive others and be at peace. Grant that we may continue to seek to be reconciled to others, with Your forgiveness opening the way to live in the unity of the Spirit and the bond of peace; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

Verses for Lent

2 Corinthians 6:2b; Psalm 85:4; 4:6; 37:6; 113:7

P: Now is the time of God's favor;

C: **now is the day of salvation.**

P: Turn us again, O God of our salvation,

C: **that the light of Your face may shine on us.**

P: May Your justice shine like the sun;

C: **and may the poor be lifted up. Amen.**

Sermon

JESUS + JUSTICE IN CONVERSATION : FORGIVENESS OPENS THE WAY

Luke 15:1–3, 11b–32

Acknowledgements

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Song of Response

Micah 6:8

He has shown thee, O man, what is
good, and what the Lord re - quires of thee; He has
But to do just - ly, and to love mer - cy,
and to walk hum - bly with thy God.

Confession of Faith (adapted from the Apostles' Creed)

First Nations Version

Our Father and Creator, the One Above Us All,
made all things in the world above and the earth below.

Jesus, his special born Son,
was fathered by the Holy Spirit
and was born into this world through a virgin named Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate, a ruler of the Roman people,
who had him nailed to a tree pole, the cross, where he bled to death.
He was buried and then went down to the world of the dead.
On the third day he came back to life, never to die again.
He returned to his Father in the world above
and sat down at his powerful right hand.
One day he will return to this earth to make the final decision
about the eternity of the living and the dead.

After he went to the world above,
Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to us from the Father,
to live in and through us.
There is only one holy and world-wide group of believers in Jesus
—a Sacred Family called his Church.
All of the Holy Spirit’s holy people sit together equally in this Family
and share his Sacred Food at his table.
He has forgiven us and set us free from all of our broken ways,
and all who trust in him, even though they cross over to death,
will be brought back to life again,
to a life that will never end. Amen.

Prayers of the Church

based on Langston Hughes’ poem “Prayer [2]”

P: Gather up
in the arms of your mercy

C: ***The sick, the depraved
The desperate, the tired,***

P: All the scum
of our weary city.
Gather up

* Jesus reached out to people considered by others to be “scum”. We reach out to all people. And we ourselves may even feel like “scum” sometimes. But look at how God responds with love.

C: ***In the arms of your mercy.***

P: Gather up

C: ***In the arms of your love—***

P: Those who expect

C: ***No love from above.***

P: For them—for us—

C: ***We pray now.***

Pastor then offers the Prayers of the Church

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)

Colossians 1:19-20

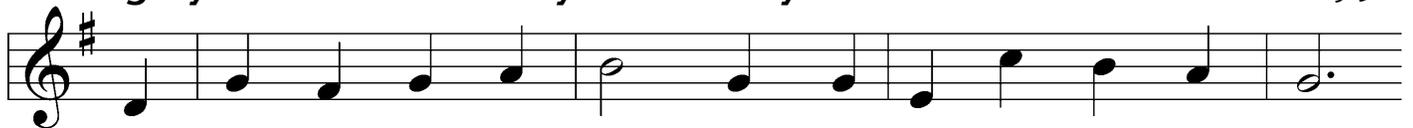
P: God was pleased to have all His fullness dwell in Jesus Christ, and through Him to reconcile to Himself all things, by making peace through His blood, shed on the cross. You are reconciled to God the Father, through the work of God the Son, and kept in this faith by God the Holy Spirit.

C: *Amen.*

Closing Hymn

Today Your Mercy Calls Us

LSB 915



1 To - day Your mer - cy calls us To wash a - way our sin.
2 To - day Your gate is o - pen, And all who en - ter in
3 To - day our Fa - ther calls us; His Ho - ly Spir - it waits;
4 O all - em - brac - ing Mer - cy, O ev - er - o - pen Door,



How - ev - er great our tres - pass, What - ev - er we have been,
Shall find a Fa - ther's wel - come And par - don for their sin.
His bless - ed an - gels gath - er A - round the heav'n - ly gates.
What should we do with - out You When heart and eye run o'er?



How - ev - er long from mer - cy Our hearts have turned a - way,
The past shall be for - got - ten, A pres - ent joy be giv'n,
No ques - tion will be asked us How of - ten we have come;
When all things seem a - gainst us, To drive us to de - spair,



Your pre - cious blood can wash us And make us clean to - day.
A fu - ture grace be prom - ised, A glo - rious crown in heav'n.
Al - though we oft have wan - dered, It is our Fa - ther's home.
We know one gate is o - pen, One ear will hear our prayer.

Text: Oswald Allen, 1816-78, alt.

Tune: Friedrich K. Anthes, 1812-after 1857

Announcements



UPCOMING WORSHIP SCHEDULE



Lent Wednesday, March 30

In-Person Worship*(In Sanctuary) – 6:30PM

Sunday, April 3

In-Person Worship*(In Gym w/Communion) – 9AM

Fellowship 10-10:30AM

Sunday School 10:30-11:30AM

Lent Wednesday, April 6

In-Person Worship*(In Sanctuary) – 6:30PM

Palm Sunday, April 10

In-Person Worship*(In Gym) – 9AM

Fellowship 10-10:30AM

Sunday School 10:30-11:30AM

Maundy Thursday, April 14

In-Person Worship*(In Sanctuary w/Communion) – 6:30PM

Good Friday, April 15

In-Person Worship*(In Sanctuary) – 1:00PM

In-Person Worship*(In Gym) – 6:30PM

Easter Sunday, April 17

In-Person Worship*(In Gym w/Communion) – 9AM

Fellowship 10-10:30AM

Sunday, April 24

In-Person Worship*(In Gym) – 9AM

Fellowship 10-10:30AM

Sunday School 10:30-11:30AM

Bethel Spring Clean-up

April 9th at 8:30AM

Join the Bethel Property Board on Saturday April 9th as we wake up the building and grounds from the winter months and prepare for spring. There will be a variety of chores both inside and out. Lists will be posted so you can see what you might want to do. Regardless of weather, we'll start at 8:30 with prayer, coffee and donuts and then get to it. If weather prevents us from working outside, we will still work inside and those outside chores will be done on Saturday April 23rd. Many hands make light the work! Bring some work gloves and be prepared to beautify Bethel. Some of the chores are listed below.

Coffee

Doughnuts

Trim bushes

Police grounds

Store Snow blowers

Bring in Snow shovels

Bring out Lawn Equipment

Remove dead annuals, clip perennials

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Contact Monte Stoltzman with questions!