

“If you haven't got a penny, a ha-penny will do”



Half-Hearts and Half-Pennies

4th Sunday in Lent
March 10, 2024

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:

DAWN WERFELMANN TO THE GLORY OF GOD



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.

Anthem

Oh, How I Love Jesus

Children's Choirs

Opening Hymn

Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation

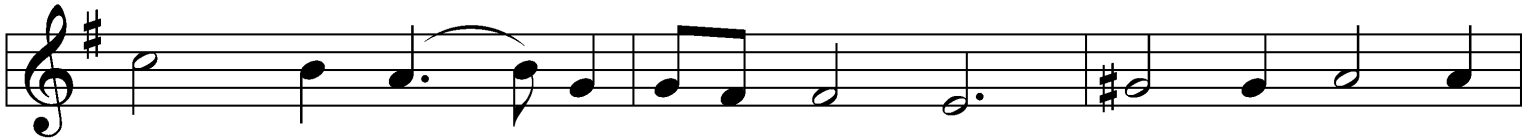
LSB 909 sts. 1–3



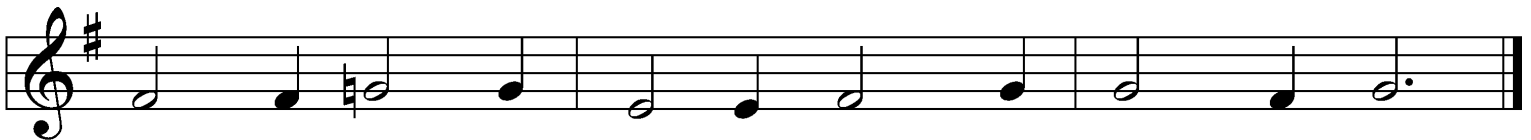
1 Christ is made the sure foun - da - tion, Christ, our head and
2 To this tem - ple, where we call You, Come, O Lord of
3 Grant, we pray, to all Your faith - ful All the gifts they



cor - ner - stone, Cho - sen of the Lord and pre - cious,
hosts, and stay; Come with all Your lov - ing - kind - ness,
ask to gain; What they gain from You, for - ev - er



Bind - ing all the Church in one; Ho - ly Zi - on's
Hear Your peo - ple as they pray; And Your full - est
With the bless - ed to re - tain; And here - af - ter



help for - ev - er And our con - fi - dence a - lone.
ben - e - dic - tion Shed with - in these walls to - day.
in Your glo - ry Ev - er - more with You to reign.

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

LSB 909 st. 4

△ 4 Praise and hon - or to the Fa - ther, Praise and hon - or

to the Son, Praise and hon - or to the Spir - it,

Ev - er three and ev - er one: One in might and

one in glo - ry While un - end - ing a - ges run!

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!

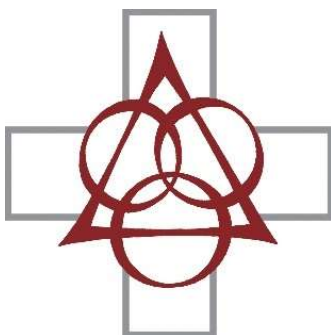
I cannot totally destroy you!

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.***



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; Je - sus saves you, Je - sus saves you!
to His Son; Je - sus saves you, Je - sus saves you!

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; Je - sus saves you, Je - sus saves you!
you His life; Je - sus saves you, Je - sus saves you!

Je - sus saves you, Je - sus saves you, Je - sus saves you !
Je - sus saves you, Je - sus saves you, Je - sus saves you !

Text: The Rev. Dr. Benjamin C. Squires © 2023
pastorsquires@gmail.com



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

P: When King Josiah heard 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 Narrative Lectionary Reading

Mark 12:28-44 (VOICE)

²⁸ One of the scribes who studied and copied the Hebrew Scriptures overheard [the conversation Jesus had just had with the Sadducees, Jewish religious leaders] and was impressed by the way Jesus had answered.

Scribe: Tell me, Teacher. What is the most important thing that God commands *in the law*?

Jesus: ²⁹ The most important commandment is this: "Hear, O Israel, the Eternal One is our God, and the Eternal One is the only God. ³⁰ You should love the Eternal, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength." ³¹ The second great commandment is this: "Love others in the same way you love yourself." There are no commandments more important than these.

Note on the Reading

(VOICE)

Although Jesus is asked for only the single most important commandment, He answers by naming two commands: love God and love others. He includes both because these two teachings can never be really separated from each other. Some people think they can love God and ignore the people around them, but Jesus frequently makes it clear that loving God apart from loving His people is impossible.

Scribe: ³² Teacher, You have spoken the truth. For there is one God and only one God, ³³ and to love God with all our heart and soul and mind and strength and to love our neighbors as ourselves are more important than any burnt offering or sacrifice we could ever give.

³⁴ Jesus heard that the man had spoken with wisdom.

Jesus: Well said; if you understand that, then the kingdom of God is closer than you think.

Nobody asked Jesus any more questions after that.

³⁵ Later Jesus was teaching in the temple.

Jesus: Why do the scribes say that the Anointed One is the son of David? ³⁶ *In the psalms, David himself was led by the Holy Spirit to sing,*

The Master said to my master,
“Sit at My right hand,
in the place of power and honor,
And I will gather Your enemies together,
lead them in on hands and knees,
and You will rest Your feet on their backs.”

³⁷ If David calls Him “Master,” how can He be his son?

The crowd listened to Him with delight.

Jesus: ³⁸ Watch out for the scribes *who act so religious*—who like to be seen in pious clothes and to be spoken to respectfully in the marketplace, ³⁹ who take the best seats in the synagogues and the place of honor at every dinner, ⁴⁰ who spend widows’ inheritances and pray long prayers to impress others. These are the kind of people who will be condemned above all others.

⁴¹ Jesus sat down opposite the treasury, where people came to bring their offerings, and He watched as they came and went. Many rich people threw in large sums of money, ⁴² but a poor widow came and put in only two small coins worth only a fraction of a cent.

Jesus (*calling His disciples together*): ⁴³ Truly this widow has given a greater gift than any other contribution. ⁴⁴ All the others gave a little out of their great abundance, but this poor woman has given God everything she has.

L: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Collect (Prayer of the Day)

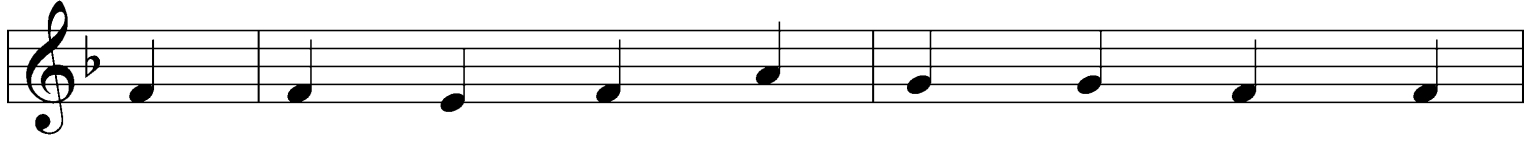
P: Generous God, You spared nothing to bring us into relationship with You. You gave us everything in the person of Jesus. Inspire us through Your Holy Spirit as we remember the widow who gave You all she had to live on. Move us to live such lives as to display that we love You with all our heart and soul and mind and strength and love our neighbors as ourselves. This we pray in the Name of Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

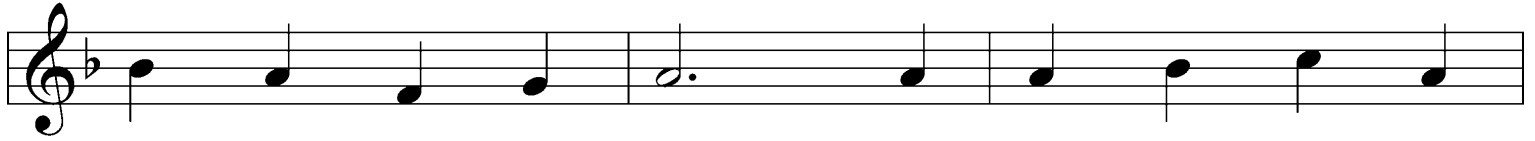
Hymn of the Day

The Temple Rang with Golden Coins

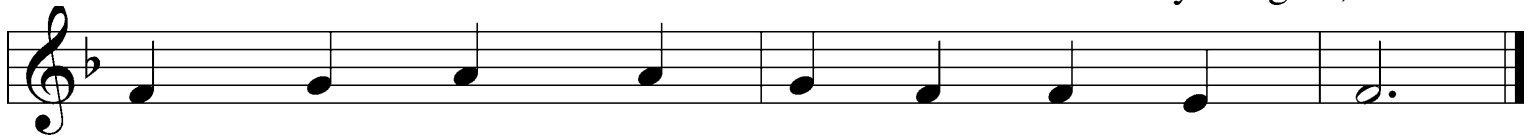
LSB 787



1 The tem - ple rang with gold - en coins The
2 A wid - ow came with cop - per coins And
3 When Je - sus saw her cost - ly gift And
4 At last He brought His of - fer - ing And
5 Lord, help us all, with You, to yield What -



rich in bright ar - ray Con - trib - ut - ed from
of - fered them in praise. They were the last she
knew she had no more, He praised a love that
laid it on a tree; There gave Him - self, His
ev - er love de - mands And free - ly give, as



gleam - ing hoards Their scales could scarce - ly weigh.
had to give Or save for dark - er days.
spared not self And called her rich, though poor.
life, His love For all hu - man - i - ty.
You have giv'n, With o - pen hearts and hands.

Children's Message

Sermon



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.



Acknowledgements

This liturgy arranged and written by the Rev. Dr. Benjamin C. Squires. © 2023.
Liturgy Scripture passages taken from / adapted from New English Translation.
NET Bible® copyright ©1996-2017 by Biblical Studies Press, L.L.C. <http://netbible.com> All rights reserved.
Some scripture quotations are from *The Holy Bible, English Standard Version*,
copyright © 2001 by Crossway Bibles, a division of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.
Other portions used by permission: LSB Hymn License .NET, no. 000013448.
Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2006 Concordia Publishing House.
Hymn of Praise: Text: © 2023 Rev. Dr. Benjamin C. Squires.

The Voice Bible. Copyright © 2012 Thomas Nelson, Inc. The Voice™ translation © 2012 Ecclesia Bible Society All rights reserved.
Today's Collect adapted from: <https://www.faithward.org/women-of-the-bible-study-series/the-widows-offering-heart-of-abundance/>

Offertory**Give Thanks**

LSB 806

Give thanks with a grate - ful heart, Give thanks to the

Ho - ly One, Give thanks _____ be - cause He's giv - en _____ Je - sus

Christ His Son. Give thanks with a grate - ful heart, Give

thanks to the Ho - ly One, Give thanks _____ be - cause He's giv - en _____

Je - sus Christ His Son. And now let the weak say "I am

strong," Let the poor say "I am rich," _____ Be - cause of

what the Lord has done for us. And now let the

weak say "I am strong," Let the poor say "I am



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.

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;
4 Take my sil - ver and my gold, Not a mite would I with - hold;
5 Take my will and make it Thine, It shall be no long - er mine;
6 Take my love, my Lord, I pour At Thy feet its trea - sure store;



Take my mo - ments and my days, Let them flow in cease - less praise.
Take my in - tel - lect and use Ev - 'ry pow'r as Thou shalt choose.
Take my heart, it is Thine own, It shall be Thy roy - al throne.
Take my-self, and I will be Ev - er, on - ly, all for Thee.

Announcements

UPCOMING WORSHIP SCHEDULE

LENT MIDWEEK SERVICE WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13

WORSHIP SERVICE (IN SANCTUARY) - 6:30PM

SUNDAY, MARCH 17

WORSHIP SERVICE (IN GYM W/ COMMUNION) – 9AM

FELLOWSHIP 10-10:30AM

EDUCATION HOUR 10:30-11:30AM

LENT MIDWEEK SERVICE WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20

WORSHIP SERVICE (IN SANCTUARY) - 6:30PM

PALM SUNDAY, MARCH 24

WORSHIP SERVICE (IN GYM) – 9AM

FELLOWSHIP 10-10:30AM

EDUCATION HOUR 10:30-11:30AM