

**Sunday, March 5, 2023**

**Second Sunday in Lent**



**BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH OF MALMO**

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E-mail address: [blcmalmo@gmail.com](mailto:blcmalmo@gmail.com) Church Web Site: [blcmalmo.org](http://blcmalmo.org)

**Pastor James Muske**

**320-583-5796**

Parish Nurses: Darlene Christensen, RN 320-279-0097

Kathy Berland RN ANP 218-838-6181

Prayer Chain Contacts: Char Berg 320-684-2102 or Darlene Christensen 320-279-0097

Church Secretary: Mary Braun

Ministers: All Members of the Congregation

***MISSION STATEMENT***

*We will LIVE and SERVE through FAITH*

*we will ACT with LOVE and KINDNESS*

*we will GIVE hope and SUPPORT to all.*

**Hearing Assistance is available during the service.**

**Please notify usher if you would like assistance**

# Sunday, March 5, 2023

## Second Sunday in Lent

**2 MINUTES OF SILENCE**

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PRAYER & CARE LIST:** Julie Swaggert’s mom, Cheryl Malotky, John Muske, Shirley Moe.

**GIVE ELECTRONICALLY** There are “Simply Giving” forms available in the Narthex and on our website. Never have to remember your check or envelope on Sundays.

**WEDNESDAY LENTEN SERVICES** will continue in person and live streamed throughout the Lent Season. Potluck at 5:30pm & Worship at 6:30pm.

**ISLE COMMUNITY LENTEN CANTATA** Performance on Good Friday, April 7, 2023, at 7:30pm. See poster in Narthex for more information.

### **HEARTLAND CONFERENCE WOMEN’S SPRING GATHERING**

Saturday, March 25th, 2023, from 8:30am to 1:00pm at First Lutheran Church in Aitkin. See the poster on the bulletin board in Narthex.

**SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS** Following church on March 12 and March 26, Darlene Christiansen, Mary Vukelich, and Kathy Carlson will be providing health care directive forms and providing instructions on how to fill out the form and guidance around questions to consider when making your decisions.

### **THIS WEEK AT Bethesda**

**March 6, 2023 – March 12, 2023**

Monday	3/6	11:30 am	Cards
		7:00 pm	AA/Alanon
Wednesday	3/8	9:00 am	Women’s Bible Study
		5:30 pm	Potluck
		6:30 pm	Worship in person & online
Thursday	3/9	8:00 am	ROMEOS
Sunday	3/12	9:00 am	Worship (with Baptism) in person & online



**OPENING HYMN: “This Is the Spirit’s Entry Now” #448 ELW**  
*(Please Stand on the Last Verse)*



- 1 This is the Spir - it's en - try now: the wa - ter and the word,
- 2 This mir - a - cle of life re - born comes from the Lord of breath;
- 3 Let wa - ter be the sa - cred sign that we must die each day
- 4 Re - new - ing Spir - it, hear our praise for your bap - tis - mal pow'r



the cross of Je - sus on your brow, the seal both felt and heard.  
 the sin - less one from life was torn; our life comes through his death.  
 to rise a - gain by his de - sign as fol - l'wers of his way.  
 that wash - es us through all our days. Come, cleanse a - gain this hour.

**CONFESSION and 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.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Oh God,  
**our leader and guide, in the waters of baptism you bring us to new birth to live as your children. Strengthen our faith in your promises, that by your Spirit we may lift up your life to all the world through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen**

*Please be seated*

## **FIRST READING: Genesis 12:1-4a**

<sup>1</sup>The LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. <sup>2</sup>I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. <sup>3</sup>I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

<sup>4a</sup>So Abram went, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him.

Word of God, Word of Life.

**Thanks be to God**

## **Psalm: Psalm 121 (Read Responsively)**

<sup>1</sup> I lift up my eyes to the hills; from where is my help to come?

<sup>2</sup> **My help comes from the LORD, the maker of heaven and earth.**

<sup>3</sup> The LORD will not let your foot be moved nor will the one who watches over you fall asleep.

<sup>4</sup> **Behold, the keeper of Israel will neither slumber nor sleep;**

<sup>5</sup> the LORD watches over you; the LORD is your shade at your right hand;

<sup>6</sup> **the sun will not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.**

<sup>7</sup> The LORD will preserve you from all evil and will keep your life.

<sup>8</sup> **The LORD will watch over your going out and your coming in, from this time forth forevermore.**

**SECOND READING: Romans 4:1-5, 13-17**

<sup>1</sup> What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? <sup>2</sup>For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. <sup>3</sup>For what does the scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness.” <sup>4</sup>Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. <sup>5</sup>But to one who without works trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

<sup>13</sup> For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. <sup>14</sup>If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. <sup>15</sup>For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

<sup>16</sup> For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, <sup>17</sup>as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”)—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

Word of God, Word of Life.

**Thanks be to God**

*Please Stand*

**GOSPEL READING: John 3:1-17**

**Glory to you, O Lord**

<sup>1</sup> Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. <sup>2</sup>He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.” <sup>3</sup>Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.” <sup>4</sup>Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?” <sup>5</sup>Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one

can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. <sup>6</sup>What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. <sup>7</sup>Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’ <sup>8</sup>The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” <sup>9</sup>Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” <sup>10</sup>Jesus answered him, “Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?”

<sup>11</sup>“Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. <sup>12</sup>If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? <sup>13</sup>No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. <sup>14</sup>And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, <sup>15</sup>that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

<sup>16</sup>“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

<sup>17</sup>“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

The gospel of the Lord.      **Praise to you, O Christ.**

## SERMON

### HYMN OF THE DAY:

### “God Loved the World”

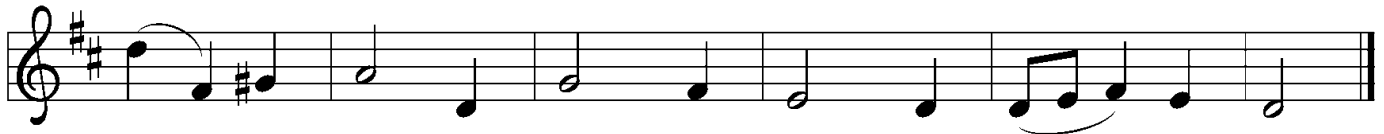
#323 ELW



1 God loved the world so that he gave his on - ly  
 2 Christ Je - sus is the ground of faith, who was made  
 3 If you are ill, if death draws near, this truth your  
 4 Be of good cheer, for God's own Son for - gives all  
 5 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly



Son the lost to save, that all who would in  
 flesh and suf - fered death; all who con - fide in  
 trou - bled heart can cheer: Christ Je - sus res - cues  
 sins that you have done, and jus - ti - fied by  
 Spir - it, Three in One! To you, O bless - ed



him be - lieve should ev - er - last - ing life re - ceive.  
Christ a - lone are built on this chief cor - ner - stone.  
us from death; that is the firm - est ground of faith.  
Je - sus' blood, your bap - tism grants the high - est good.  
Trin - i - ty, be praise now and e - ter - nal - ly!

*Please stand if able*

## **APOSTLE'S 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**

*The prayers are prepared locally for each occasion. The following examples may be adapted or used as appropriate.*

Sustained by God's abundant mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

*A brief silence.*

O God, you so love your church. Raise up leaders who care for your people.

Bless lay theologians, seminary and college professors, and all who are called to the ministry of teaching, that they form and inspire us for the work of the gospel.

Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

O God, you so love your creation. Breathe new life into our planetary home.

Guide the work of researchers, scientists, and activists who love your earth and who inspire us to care for the natural world. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

O God, you so love the world. Uphold leaders who resist tyranny and oppression. Strengthen organizations that promote peace and harmony (*especially*). Direct their work to alleviate human suffering and to address its root causes. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

O God, you so love the world. Uphold leaders who resist tyranny and oppression. Strengthen organizations that promote peace and harmony (*especially*). Direct their work to alleviate human suffering and to address its root causes (*especially*). Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

O God, you so love your children. Bless the young in our midst, and delight us with their joy, wonder, and curiosity. Revive our ministries with children and youth and equip us all for faithful discipleship. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

O God, you so love your saints. As our ancestors in the faith have been a blessing to us, so inspire us by their example of holy living to be a blessing to those who come after us. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your steadfast love and your promise to renew your whole creation; through Jesus Christ our Savior.  
**Amen.**

## **PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*Please be seated for the passing of the offering plate.*

## **OFFERING**

*Please stand as the ushers bring the offering to the altar.*

## **OFFERTORY PRAYER**

God of good gifts,

**receive these and all our offerings as we present them in faithful service for the sake of your gospel. Prepare our hearts to receive you in this meal as you pour out your very presence through Christ Jesus, the wellspring of eternal life. Amen.**



# WORDS OF INSTITUTION

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

### Invitation to Communion

Come and receive Jesus, our strength in the wilderness.

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Embodied God,

**at your table, we have tasted the goodness of Jesus. With the eyes of our hearts open to your promise, empower us to hear the needs of our neighbors and touch the world with your love. Amen.**

## BLESSING

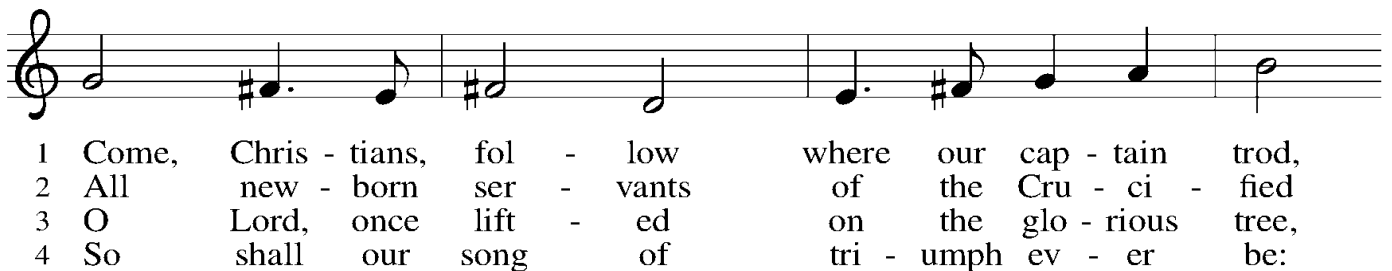
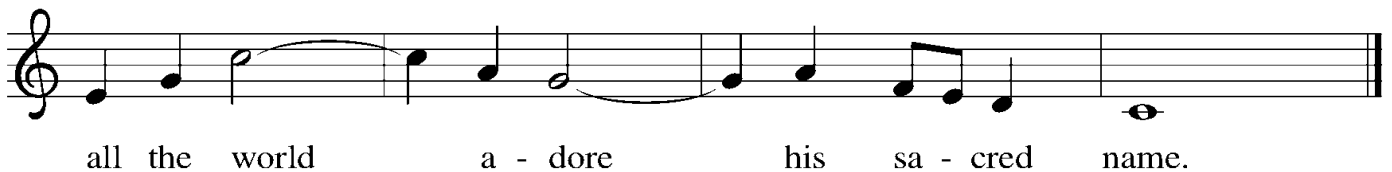
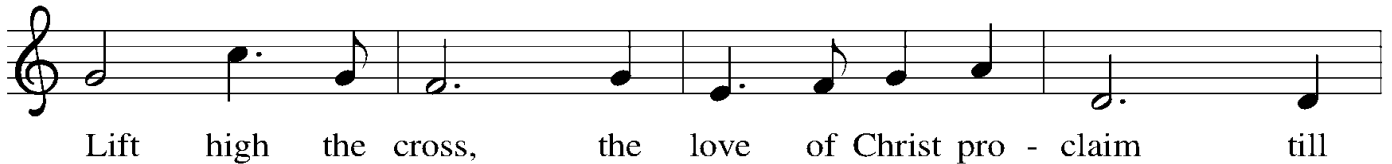
God, the giver of love, † Christ, the resurrection and the life, and the Holy Spirit of rebirth bless you in this Lenten journey.

**Amen.**

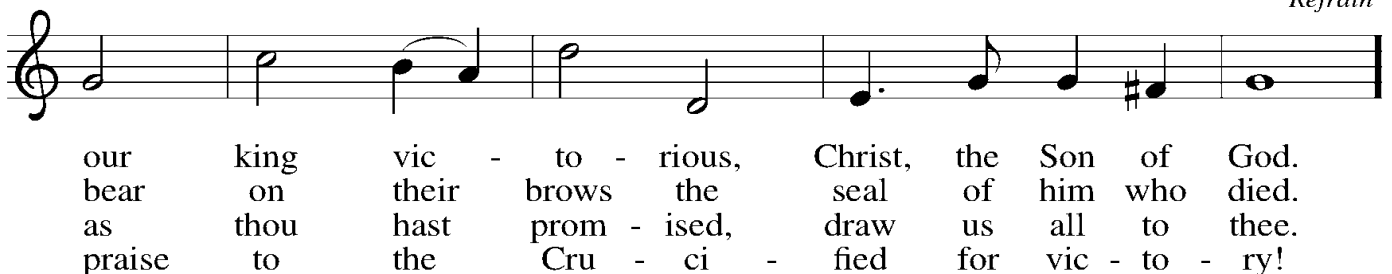
## SENDING HYMN:

### “Lift High the Cross”

#660 ELW



*Refrain*



## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve in love.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Visitors! It has been great having you join us for worship! Please come again.*

## THOSE SERVING THIS WEEK

Music: Digital Hymnal/Jim Christensen

Greeters: Mary Braun

Ushers: Gary & Brenda Sjerven

Lector: LuAnn Gordon

Hospitality: Bev & Wally Swenson

*Thank you for your service!*

Response to God's Word Last Week

Attendance: Sunday, February 26, 2023: In Person: 9:00 am 60 Online: 8

Wednesday March 1, 2023: In Person: 9:00 am: 20 Online: 8

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## DON'T FORGET!

We will be playing JUNK BINGO on Sunday, March 19th from 2 - 4. Bring your dauber and positive attitude for a couple hours of fun. Bring an appetizer to share; we'll provide beverages!

Drop off any "Good Junk" for prizes on the table in the Fellowship Hall by the piano.



Bethesda Lutheran Church (and the surrounding community) is traveling to the FMSC warehouse in Coon Rapids on Friday, April 21 for a packing session between 11:30-1:15 pm. If you are interested in joining us, there is a signup sheet in the office or contact Mary Vukelich by email at [mmvuke@yahoo.com](mailto:mmvuke@yahoo.com) or by call/text at 651-230-4512.