

**LENT II**  
**February 25, 2024**


**PRESERVICE**

**WELCOME**


**OPENING HYMN: "Lift High the Cross"**

LSB 837

*Refrain*




Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro-claim Till



all the world a-dore His sa-cred name.

1 Come, Chris-tians, fol-low where our Cap-tain trod,  
2 Led on their way by this tri-um-phant sign,  
3 All new-born sol-diers of the Cru-ci-fied

*Refrain*



Our king vic-tor-ious, Christ, the Son of God.  
The hosts of God in con-quer-ing ranks com-bine.  
Bear on their brows the seal of Him who died.

**CALL TO WORSHIP:**

Leader: God of the universe,

People: **You call us by name.  
Equip us by Your Spirit to confess our sins  
and embrace Your free and full forgiveness in Jesus;  
in whose name we gather.**

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS:

Leader: Merciful God, Our will is bound to sin and we cannot break free.

**People: Forgive us for when,**

Leader: We have spoken though we should have kept quiet

**People: Forgive us for when,**

Leader: We were silent though we should have said something.

**People: Forgive us for when,**

Leader: We acted though we knew better.

**People: Forgive us for when,**

Leader: We stood still though we should have stepped up or stepped in.

**People: Forgive us,**

Leader: For the wrong we have done and for the good we have failed to do,

**People: Forgive us our sins and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.**

Leader: Almighty God has had mercy on you and through His Son; and for His sake has declared you to be His own child, gathered you in His one, holy Church, in which He daily and richly forgives us our sins and grants us new life through His Spirit.

**People: Be in our midst Lord, enliven our faith, and graciously receive our worship, praises and prayers through You Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

RESPONSIVE HYMN: "Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus"

LSB 685



1 Let us ev - er walk with Je - sus, Fol - low His ex -  
 2 Let us suf - fer here with Je - sus And with pa - tience  
 3 Let us glad - ly die with Je - sus. Since by death He  
 4 Let us al - so live with Je - sus. He has ris - en



am - ple pure, Through a world that would de - ceive us And to  
 bear our cross. Joy will fol - low all our sad - ness; Where He  
 con - quered death, He will free us from de - struc - tion, Give to  
 from the dead That to life we may a - wak - en. Je - sus,



sin our spir - its lure. On - ward in His foot - steps tread - ing,  
 is, there is no loss. Though to - day we sow no laugh - ter,  
 us im - mor - tal breath. Let us mor - ti - fy all pas - sion  
 You are now our head. We are Your own liv - ing mem - bers;



Pil - grims here, our home a - bove, Full of faith and  
 We shall reap ce - les - tial joy; All dis - com - forts  
 That would lead us in - to sin; And the grave that  
 Where You live, there we shall be In Your pres - ence



hope and love, Let us do the Fa - ther's bid - ding. Faith - ful  
 that an - noy Shall give way to mirth here - af - ter. Je - sus,  
 shuts us in Shall but prove the gate to heav - en. Je - sus,  
 con - stant - ly, Liv - ing there with You for - ev - er. Je - sus,



Lord, with me a - bide; I shall fol - low where You guide.  
 here I share Your woe; Help me there Your joy to know.  
 here with You I die, There to live with You on high.  
 let me faith - ful be, Life e - ter - nal grant to me.

## **OLD TESTAMENT: *Genesis 17:1-7; 15-16***

When Abram was 99 years old, the LORD appeared to him. He said to Abram, "I am God Almighty. Live in My presence with integrity. I will give you My promise, and I will give you very many descendants." Immediately, Abram bowed with his face touching the ground, and again God spoke to him, "My promise is still with you. You will become the father of many nations. So your name will no longer be Abram [Exalted Father], but Abraham [Father of Many] because I have made you a father of many nations. I will give you many descendants. Many nations and kings will come from you. I will make My promise to you and your descendants for generations to come as an everlasting promise. I will be your God and the God of your descendants.

God said to Abraham, "Don't call your wife by the name Sarai anymore. Instead, her name is Sarah [Princess]. I will bless her, and I will also give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she will become a mother of nations, and kings will come from her."— GW®

## **EPISTLE: *Romans 5:1-11***

Now that we have God's approval by faith, we have peace with God because of what our Lord Jesus Christ has done. Through Christ we can approach God and stand in His favor. So, we brag because of our confidence that we will receive glory from God. But that's not all. We also brag when we are suffering. We know that suffering creates endurance, endurance creates character, and character creates confidence. We're not ashamed to have this confidence, because God's love has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

Look at it this way: At the right time, while we were still helpless, Christ died for ungodly people. Finding someone who would die for a godly person is rare. Maybe someone would have the courage to die for a good person. Christ died for us while we were still sinners. This demonstrates God's love for us.

Since Christ's blood has now given us God's approval, we are even more certain that Christ will save us from God's anger. If the death of His Son restored our relationship with God while we were still His enemies, we are even more certain that, because of this restored relationship, the life of His Son will save us. In addition, our Lord Jesus Christ lets us continue to brag about God. After all, it is through Christ that we now have this restored relationship with God. – GW®

## **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

**MINISTRY OF MUSIC:**      **"Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus"**      Bethany Choir  
   ~Arr. Dan Forrest

## **GOSPEL: *Mark 8:27-38***

Then Jesus and His disciples went to the villages around Caesarea Philippi. On the way He asked His disciples, "Who do people say I am?"

They answered Him, "Some say You are John the Baptizer, others Elijah, still others one of the prophets."

He asked them, "But who do you say I am?"

Peter answered Him, "You are the Messiah!"

He ordered them not to tell anyone about Him.

Then He began to teach them that the Son of Man would have to suffer a lot. He taught them that He would be rejected by the leaders, the chief priests, and the experts in Moses' Teachings. He would be killed, but after three days He would come back to life. He told them very clearly what He meant.

Peter took Him aside and objected to this. Jesus turned, looked at His disciples, and objected to what Peter said. Jesus said, "Get out of my way, Satan! You aren't thinking the way God thinks but the way humans think."

Then Jesus called the crowd to Himself along with His disciples. He said to them, "Those who want to follow Me must say no to the things they want, pick up their crosses, and follow Me. Those who want to save their lives will lose them. But those who lose their lives for Me and for the Good News will save them. What good does it do for people to win the whole world yet lose their lives? Or what should a person give in exchange for life? If people are ashamed of Me and what I say in this unfaithful and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of those people when He comes with the holy angels in His Father's glory."— GW®

**SONG: "My Song is Love Unknown"**

**Verse 1**

My song is love unknown  
My Savior's love to me  
Love to the loveless shown  
That they might lovely be  
Oh who am I that for my sake  
My Lord should take frail flesh and die

**Verse 2**

Sometimes they strew His way  
And His sweet praises sing  
Resounding all the day  
Hosannas to their King  
Then crucify is all their breath  
And for His death they thirst and cry

**Chorus 1**

Oh Your grace has made a way  
Oh Your love has conquered the grace  
Oh Your love made known to me  
And to the world Your love I'll be

**Verse 3**

Here might I stay and sing  
No story so divine  
Never was love dear King  
Never was grief like Thine  
This is my friend  
In whose sweet praise  
I all my days could gladly spend

**Chorus 2**

Oh Your grace has made a way  
Oh Your love has conquered the grace  
Oh Your love made known to me  
Oh Your grace has made a way  
Oh Your love has conquered the grace  
Oh Your love made known to me  
And to the world Your love I'll be

**SERMON: "Connected with Generations Past"  
Mark 8**

## **SONG OF THE DAY: "Faithful"**

### **Verse 1**

We had chosen the kings of this world  
All the glory and glitter and gold  
Though our kingdoms fell down  
We keep asking for crowns  
We'd reject you to sell our own souls

### **Verse 2**

When you showed us the wonders we wanted  
We laid palms down and shouted your praise  
But when you weren't the king  
That we thought you should be  
We mocked you and spat in your face

### **Chorus**

You are faithful faithful  
Though your people turn away  
You are faithful faithful  
You are faithful every day

### **Verse 3**

When you gave us the choice we took Caesar  
And set a murderer free  
We put nails in your hands nails in your feet  
Then we hung you to die on a tree

### **Verse 4**

When like Thomas it's hard to imagine  
And we still want to see to believe  
You don't scoff at our doubts  
You hold your hands out  
All your kingdom is ours to receive

### **Tag**

You are faithful every day  
You are faithful every day

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY:**

Leader: Timeless One, You renew Your promises in every generation. Deepen our awareness of the example and witness left us by those gone before us; as well as those who journey with us, the saints in our own time, and those who will carry on Your message and love after us.

**CONFESSION OF FAITH: NICENE CREED:** (*\*catholic means the universal Christian Church*)

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,  
begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father.  
Through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven;  
by the power of the Holy Spirit  
he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.  
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.  
He has spoken through the prophets.  
We believe in one holy \*catholic and apostolic Church.  
We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

**OFFERING:** *The Offering Box is located in the center aisle. If you so desire, Text Giving is now available by texting GIVE to 562-210-0463. For On-line Giving information, contact Maraley at [mshaeffe@bethanylutheran.org](mailto:mshaeffe@bethanylutheran.org) or call 562-421-4711, ext. 21. Thank you!*

**CONSECRATION OF GIFTS:**

**Leader:** You are the King of Israel and David's royal Son,

**People:** now in the Lord's name coming, Our King and Blessed One.

**Leader:** As You receive our praises, accept the gifts we bring,

**People:** O Source of every blessing, our good and gracious King.

**PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**

## LORD'S PRAYER:

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.

**\*\*\* For our 8:00 a.m. worshippers, the service continues on the bottom of page 11 with Announcements.**

**\*\*\* For our 9:30 a.m. worshippers, the service continues with the Celebration of Holy Communion:**

### **+ Service of the Sacrament +**

*The Lord's Supper is celebrated at Bethany in the joyful confession that our Lord gives us His very Body and Blood for the forgiveness of sins in this sacrament. God intends this gift for His children who recognize their sin, trust in Christ as their Savior, desire to live for Him alone and join in this joyful confession.*

To help you prepare for communion, we invite you to take a few moments in quiet prayer. You can find prayer prompts on the front page of the burgundy hymnal for both before and after the reception of Holy Communion. Or simply pray: *Dear Lord Jesus, at Your gracious invitation, You invite me to come to You; to eat and drink your holy body and blood as You Yourself have promised to give in this sacrament of Your altar. Forgive me of my sin, through this Your meal of Forgiveness. Let me experience the fullness of Your love, through this Your meal of love. Strengthen my faith, through this meal of Yours that calls for and bestows faith. Empower me to live for You, through this Your meal that promises life everlasting and equips me for daily living as one who has received You and Your gifts.*

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

*For those communing, who so desire, the center cups in each tray are **alcohol free.** The wafers on the stand next to the pillar pulpit side (when kneeling for communion) or on the stand in front of the baptismal font (when processing for communion) are **gluten free.***

*In our 9:30 a.m. service we will practice the Easter tradition of continuous communion. We will not kneel at the altar, rather we will join the procession of saints and come forward and remain standing as we receive the bread and wine. After receiving the elements, you are invited to return to your seat and continue in meditation, prayer and song.*



**DISTRIBUTION: "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.

**"Jesus, Thy Blood and Righteousness"**

LSB 563



1 Je - sus, Thy blood and righ - teous - ness My beau - ty  
 2 Bold shall I stand in that great day, Cleansed and re -  
 3 Lord, I be - lieve Thy pre - cious blood, Which at the  
 4 Lord, I be - lieve, were sin - ners more Than sands up -



are, my glo - rious dress; Midst flam - ing worlds, in  
 deemed, no debt to pay; Ful - ly ab - solved through  
 mer - cy seat of God Pleads for the cap - tives'  
 on the o - cean shore, Thou hast for all a



these ar - rayed, With joy shall I lift up my head.  
 these I am From sin and fear, from guilt and shame.  
 lib - er - ty, Was al - so shed in love for me.  
 ran - som paid, For all a full a - tone - ment made.

5 When from the dust of death I rise  
 To claim my mansion in the skies,  
 This then shall be my only plea:  
 Jesus hath lived and died for me.

6 Jesus, be endless praise to Thee,  
 Whose boundless mercy hath for me,  
 For me, and all Thy hands have made,  
 An everlasting ransom paid.

**POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**



**HOLY BAPTISM:**

**9:30 + Jack Austin McDonald +**

Elder: Through Baptism, God has made (*child's name*) a member of the priesthood we all share in Christ Jesus, that together we may present the forgiveness of God in Christ to our world.

People: **We welcome you into the Lord's family. We receive you as a fellow member of the body of Christ and a worker with us in the kingdom of God.**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**BENEDICTION:**

Leader: Chosen, dear loved and holy in Jesus, freed to serve your neighbor and created in Christ for good works, go under His blessing that you may be a blessing, in the name of the life-giving Lord. Amen.

# CLOSING HYMN: "Lift High the Cross"

LSB 837

*Refrain*

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim Till

all the world a - dore His sa - cred name.

4 O Lord, once lift - ed on the glo - rious tree,  
5 Let ev - 'ry race and ev - 'ry lan - guage tell  
6 So shall our song of tri - umph ev - er be:

*Refrain*

As Thou hast prom - ised, draw us all to Thee.  
Of Him who saves our lives from death and hell.  
Praise to the Cru - ci - fied for vic - to - ry!

## POSTLUDE

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"Lift High the Cross" LSB 837

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"Faithful"

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"Jesus, Thy Blood and Righteousness" LSB 563

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"Lift High the Cross" LSB 837

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## SERVING GOD'S HOUSE TODAY:

Acolyte 9:30...Audrey Kienitz

Lector 8:00...Elsie Rivera

Liturgist...Vicar John Alwood

Director of Music & Worship Arts...Noah Freeman

Artist in Residence...Blake Flattley

Crucifer...Marcus Vander Horck

Lector 9:30...Diana Orr

Preacher...Pastor Kevin Kritzer

Accompanist...Kevin Bowers

Children's Message...Kayleigh Lopez