



Behold the

Lamb
of God!

SON
TINE

**MARCH 22, 2026
FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT**

**AS WE GATHER: *Lenten Series from St. Paul's letter to the Romans:
"The Long Arm of the Gospel"*.**

The "Long Arm of the Law" is a phrase which has its origins in the 1500's, when it was common knowledge that the "King has long arms." In other words, the influence and power of a king could be exerted over great distances. In the 1900's the phrase was altered to highlight the far-reaching powers of authorities to catch criminals.

God, who has written His law on the heart of each individual; also had His law inscribed on tablets of stone. That same God is also revealed to us as One who bears the "Long Arm of the Gospel." He is a God who in divine strength and pure grace, "with a mighty arm and an outstretched hand, has won His people's freedom and delivered them from the guilt of their law-breaking.

The Long Arms of the Gospel were extended on the cross for you! Now they are thrown opened wide in hopes of a Father's embrace (Lk. 15), seek to provide you with the shelter of a Mothering Hen (Mt. 23), and through our Savior and Brother, beckon us home (Jn. 14). The Long Arm of the Gospel is our Lenten series this year (February 22nd - March 22nd) based on the texts of St. Paul's letter to the Romans.

PRELUDE

WELCOME

OPENING SONG: "United in Christ"

Verse 1

People of the Lord come now and sing
Every nation and tongue to Christ our King
With empty hands His gifts receive

Verse 2

Whether young or old you're a child of God
Whether rich or poor no matter what you got
He gathers all at the foot of the cross

Chorus

His body broken makes this body whole
His resurrection it assures us all
No darkness nor doubting nor pain in this life
Could keep us from being united in Christ

Verse 3

Sinners and saints you have a place
With the Spirit's gifts proclaim His grace
There's nothing too small
To be used by the Living God

Bridge

We are the body Christ is the head
Sealed with the promise through blood He shed
We are the body Christ is the head
His grace the heartbeat our confidence
We are the body Christ is the head
Sealed with the promise through blood He shed
We are the body Christ is the head
His grace the heartbeat our confidence
Our confidence

Tag

No darkness nor doubting nor pain in this life
Could keep us from being united in Christ

INVOCATION:

- L:** Grace and peace to you from God our Father, from the Lord Jesus Christ and from the Holy Spirit, who proceeds from both. (*Romans 1:7*)
- P:** **Amen.**

CALL TO WORSHIP:

- L:** All of you who were baptized into Christ Jesus have been united with Him in His death and resurrection (*Romans 6:3*)
- P:** **That we might live a new life.** (*Romans 6:4*)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS:

L: Let us confess our sins to God, for all of us have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. (*Rmns 3:23*)

P: **I confess Lord, that I am no better than anyone else.
No one really understands You as they should.
No one truly seeks You in a way that is pure.
At some point, all of us have turned away from You, Lord.
No one constantly does the right thing.
In fact, oftentimes when I have done the right thing,
It has been with a hidden agenda, rather than from a pure heart.**

L: I confess Lord, that my talk has been foul,
My speech has contained cursing and bitterness;
I've opened my mouth and polluted the air.

P: **I have sought revenge, tried to get even
And have been quick to defend myself or my cause to get my way -
Regardless of who is hurt in the process.**

L: Heartbreak and ruin have littered the lives of many as a result of my actions.

P: **For the sake of Jesus Christ,
Who was delivered over to death for my sins
And raised to life for my justification,
Forgive me and restore me. Amen. (*Rmns. 3:10-17 & 4:25*)**

L: God has demonstrated His love for you in this: while yet a sinner, Christ died for you! Now that you have been set right with God by the sacrificial death of Christ, there is no longer a question of being at odds with God in any way. If you were restored to friendship with God by the death of His Son while you were His enemy, you will certainly be delivered from eternal punishment by His life. (*Rmns 12*)

PSALMODY: *Psalm 116:1-6, 12, 17-19* we read responsively

L: I love the LORD, because he has heard
my voice and my pleas for mercy.

P: **Because he inclined his ear to me,
therefore I will call on him as long as I live.**

L: The snares of death encompassed me;
the pangs of Sheol laid hold on me;

P: **I suffered distress and anguish.**

L: Then I called on the name of the LORD:

P: **“O LORD, I pray, deliver my soul!”**

L: Gracious is the LORD, and righteous;

P: **our God is merciful.**

L: The LORD preserves the simple;

P: **when I was brought low, he saved me.**

L: What shall I render to the LORD

P: **for all his benefits to me?**

L: I will offer to you the sacrifice of thanksgiving

P: **and call on the name of the LORD.**

L: I will pay my vows to the LORD

P: **in the presence of all his people,**

L: in the courts of the house of the LORD,

P: **in your midst, O Jerusalem.**

All: **Praise the Lord!** —ESV®

EPISTLE READING: *Romans 8:1-11*

So those who are believers in Christ Jesus can no longer be condemned. The standards of the Spirit, who gives life through Christ Jesus, have set you free from the standards of sin and death. It is impossible to do what God's standards demand because of the weakness our human nature has. But God sent his Son to have a human nature as sinners have and to pay for sin. That way God condemned sin in our corrupt nature. Therefore, we, who do not live by our corrupt nature but by our spiritual nature, are able to meet God's standards in Moses' Teachings.

Those who live by the corrupt nature have the corrupt nature's attitude. But those who live by the spiritual nature have the spiritual nature's attitude. The corrupt nature's attitude leads to death. But the spiritual nature's attitude leads to life and peace. This is so because the corrupt nature has a hostile attitude toward God. It refuses to place itself

under the authority of God's standards because it can't. Those who are under the control of the corrupt nature can't please God. But if God's Spirit lives in you, you are under the control of your spiritual nature, not your corrupt nature.

Whoever doesn't have the Spirit of Christ doesn't belong to him. However, if Christ lives in you, your bodies are dead because of sin, but your spirits are alive because you have God's approval. Does the Spirit of the one who brought Jesus back to life live in you? Then the one who brought Christ back to life will also make your mortal bodies alive by his Spirit who lives in you. –GW®

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

8:00 & 9:30

HOLY GOSPEL: *John 11:17-45*

When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had been in the tomb for four days. (Bethany was near Jerusalem, not quite two miles away.) Many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them about their brother.

When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went to meet him. Mary stayed at home. Martha told Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask him."

Jesus told Martha, "Your brother will come back to life."

Martha answered Jesus, "I know that he'll come back to life on the last day, when everyone will come back to life."

Jesus said to her, "I am the one who brings people back to life, and I am life itself. Those who believe in me will live even if they die. Everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe that?"

Martha said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one who was expected to come into the world."

After Martha had said this, she went back home and whispered to her sister Mary, "The teacher is here, and he is calling for you."

When Mary heard this, she got up quickly and went to Jesus. (Jesus had not yet come into the village but was still where Martha had met him.) The Jews who were comforting Mary in the house saw her get up quickly and leave. So they followed her. They thought

that she was going to the tomb to cry. When Mary arrived where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died."

When Jesus saw her crying, and the Jews who were crying with her, he was deeply moved and troubled.

So Jesus asked, "Where did you put Lazarus?"

They answered him, "Lord, come and see."

Jesus cried. The Jews said, "See how much Jesus loved him." But some of the Jews asked, "Couldn't this man who gave a blind man sight keep Lazarus from dying?"

Deeply moved again, Jesus went to the tomb. It was a cave with a stone covering the entrance. Jesus said, "Take the stone away."

Martha, the dead man's sister, told Jesus, "Lord, there must already be a stench. He's been dead for four days."

Jesus said to her, "Didn't I tell you that if you believe, you would see God's glory?" So the stone was moved away from the entrance of the tomb.

Jesus looked up and said, "Father, I thank you for hearing me. I've known that you always hear me. However, I've said this so that the crowd standing around me will believe that you sent me." After Jesus had said this, he shouted as loudly as he could, "Lazarus, come out!"

The dead man came out. Strips of cloth were wound around his feet and hands, and his face was wrapped with a handkerchief. Jesus told them, "Free Lazarus, and let him go."

Many Jews who had visited Mary and had seen what Jesus had done believed in him.

-GW®

SERMON SONG: “Overflow”

Verse 1

When the wine ran dry in Cana
You filled to overflow
When 5000 needed feeding
You multiplied the loaves

Verse 2

When the night had come to nothing
And all they had were empty nets
You filled the boat to bursting
You fill my emptiness

Pre-Chorus 1

When I can't see past
All I lack

Chorus 1

You're more than I hoped for
You're Overflow
Abundance incarnate
In flesh and bone
I wanted healing You did me one better
I prayed for a moment You gave me forever

Verse 3

When You were sold for silver
And hung between two thieves
You took the cup of suffering
Poured out your life for me

Pre-Chorus 2

When I can't see past
All I lack

Chorus 2

You're more than I hoped for
You're Overflow
Abundance incarnate
In flesh and bone
I wanted healing You did me one better

I prayed for a moment
You gave me forever and ever and ever
You gave me forever and ever and ever

Bridge 1

Surely goodness and mercy will chase me
And I'll live in the house of my Savior
Forever and ever and ever and ever amen

Bridge 2

Surely goodness and mercy will chase me
And I'll live in the house of my Savior
Forever and ever and ever and ever amen

Bridge 3

Surely goodness and mercy will chase me
And I'll live in the house of my Savior
Forever and ever and ever and ever amen

Bridge 4

Surely goodness and mercy will chase me
And I'll live in the house of my Savior
Forever and ever and ever and ever amen

Chorus 3

You're more than I hoped for
You're Overflow
Abundance incarnate
In flesh and bone
I wanted healing you did me one better
I prayed for a moment you gave me forever
And ever and ever
You gave me forever and ever and ever
You gave me forever and ever and ever
You gave me forever and ever and ever

MESSAGE: *Romans 8:1-11*

SONG OF THE DAY: “God Who Bleeds”

Verse 1

O my soul
Who could ever know
How deep my sins go
O my soul
All the gold
On the earth could never pay
For the debt that I have made
On my soul

Chorus 1

Now I see
Just how great my need
In His hands and in His feet
Lamb of God
Oh my soul shall sing
All glory to the God who bleeds

Verse 2

Oh what love
Knew I'd never have enough
So He chose to pay in blood
Oh what love
I'm in awe
Every earthly gain is lost
At the wonder of the cross
Oh what love

Bridge 1

See from His head His hands His feet
Sorrow and love flow down for me
Forever all my praise will be
Glory to the God who bleeds
See from His head His hands His feet
Sorrow and love flow down for me
Forever all my praise will be
Glory to the God who bleeds

Tag 1

All glory to the God who bleeds

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.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY:

- L:** In mercy, God, send us Your Spirit
That we might offer You ourselves as living sacrifices,
Holy and pleasing to You.
- P:** **Transform us by the Spirit's presence,
That we no longer conform to the pattern of this world,
But are renewed into Your image, O Lord, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Amen. (Romans 12)**

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 Andria at arosas@bethanylutheran.org or call 562-421-4711, ext. 21. Thank you!

CONSECRATION OF GIFTS:

L: Lord of all good, our gifts we bring You now;
P: Use them Your holy purpose to fulfill.

L: Tokens of love and pledges they shall be
P: that our whole life is offered to Your will.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

THE 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 & 11:00 a.m. worshippers, the service continues on page 15 with Announcements.**

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

✠ Holy Communion ✠

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.

*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 am 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 SONGS:

“Chief of Sinners”

- 1 Chief of sinners though I be,
Jesus shed His blood for me,
Died that I might live on high,
Lives that I might never die.
As the branch is to the vine,
I am His, and He is mine.
- 2 Oh, the height of Jesus' love,
Higher than the heav'ns above,
Deeper than the depths of sea,
Lasting as eternity!
Love that found me—wondrous thought!
Found me when I sought Him not.
- 3 Only Jesus can impart
Balm to heal the wounded heart,
Peace that flows from sin forgiv'n,
Joy that lifts the soul to heav'n,
Faith and hope to walk with God
In the way that Enoch trod.
- 4 Chief of sinners though I be,
Christ is all in all to me;
All my wants to Him are known,
All my sorrows are His own.
He sustains the hidden life
Safe with Him from earthly strife.
- 5 O my Savior, help afford
By Your Spirit and Your Word!
When my wayward heart would stray,
Keep me in the narrow way;
Grace in time of need supply
While I live and when I die.

“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

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION:

[L]: May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you a spirit of unity, so that with one heart and one mouth you may give God glory as you follow the Lord Jesus Christ. (*Romans 15:5-6*)

[P]: **Amen.**

CLOSING SONG: “Nothing but the Blood of Jesus”

Verse 1

What can wash away my sin
Nothing but the blood of Jesus
What can make me whole again
Nothing but the blood of Jesus

Chorus

O precious is the flow
That makes me white as snow
No other fount I know
Nothing but the blood of Jesus

Verse 2

For my pardon this I see
Nothing but the blood of Jesus
For my cleansing this my plea
Nothing but the blood of Jesus

Verse 3

Nothing can for sin atone
Nothing but the blood of Jesus
Naught of good that I have done
Nothing but the blood of Jesus

Verse 4

This is all my hope and peace
Nothing but the blood of Jesus
This is all my righteousness
Nothing but the blood of Jesus

POSTLUDE



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"United in Christ"

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"Overflow"

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"God who Bleeds"

CCLI Song # 7256772
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"Chief of Sinners Though I Be" LSB 611

Text: William McComb, 1793-1873, alt.
Tune: Richard Redhead, 1820-1901; setting: *The Lutheran Hymnal*, 1941.
Text and music: Public domain.

"Faithful"

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"Nothing but the Blood"

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SERVING GOD’S HOUSE TODAY:

Acolyte 9:30...Anastasia Kienitz	Crucifer 9:30...Henry Cerulle
Lector 8:00...Matt Ruiz	9:30...Vance Fredricks
Liturgist...Karl Fink	11:00...Nick Davies
Director of Music Ministries & Worship Arts...Noah Freeman	Preacher...Pastor Kevin Kritzer
Artist in Residence...Blake Flattley	Children’s Message...Karl Fink



If You’re a Visitor, WELCOME! We are so glad you have joined us for worship today. If you would like more information about Bethany and its ministries, please scan the QR code to the right. You will be directed to Bethany’s fillable information form.

