



Behold the

Lamb  
of God!

1881

**FEBRUARY 22, 2026  
FIRST 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 22 - March 22<sup>nd</sup>) based on the texts of St. Paul's letter to the Romans.

**PRELUDE:**

Organ 8:00 & 9:30

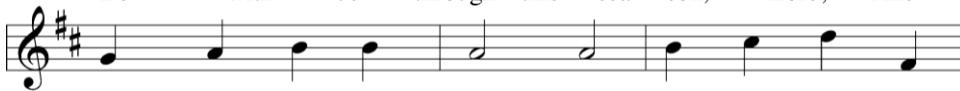
**WELCOME**

**OPENING HYMN: "O Lord, throughout These Forty Days"**

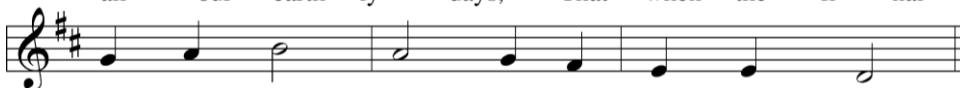
LSB 418



1 O Lord, through - out these for - ty days You  
2 You strove with Sa - tan, and You won; Your  
3 Though parched and hun - gry, yet You prayed And  
4 Be with us through this sea - son, Lord, And



prayed and kept the fast; In - spire re - pen - tance  
faith - ful - ness en - dured; Lend us Your nerve, Your  
fixed Your mind a - bove; So teach us to de -  
all our earth - ly days, That when the fi - nal



for our sin, And free us from our past.  
skill and trust In God's e - ter - nal Word.  
ny our - selves, Since we have known God's love.  
Eas - ter dawns, We join in heav - en's praise.

## 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.** (*Rmns 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*)

**PSALM 130:1-8** *we read responsively*

**L:** Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD!

**P:** **O Lord, hear my voice!**

**L:** Let Your ears be attentive

**P:** **to the voice of my pleas for mercy!**

**L:** If You, O LORD, should mark iniquities,

**P:** **O Lord, who could stand?**

**L:** But with You there is forgiveness,

**P:** **that You may be feared.**

**L:** I wait for the LORD, my soul waits,

**P:** **and in His word I hope;**

**L:** my soul waits for the Lord

**P:** **more than watchmen for the morning,  
more than watchmen for the morning.**

**L:** O Israel, hope in the Lord!

**P:** **For with the LORD there is steadfast love,  
and with him is plentiful redemption.**

**L:** And he will redeem Israel  
from all his iniquities. -ESV®

**MINISTRY OF MUSIC:**

Bethany Choir

**EPISTLE READING: *Romans 5:12-19***

Sin came into the world through one person, and death came through sin. So death spread to everyone, because everyone sinned. Sin was in the world before there were any laws. But no record of sin can be kept when there are no laws. Yet, death ruled from

the time of Adam to the time of Moses, even over those who did not sin in the same way Adam did when he disobeyed. Adam is an image of the one who would come.

There is no comparison between God's gift and Adam's failure. If humanity died as the result of one person's failure, it is certainly true that God's kindness and the gift given through the kindness of one person, Jesus Christ, have been showered on humanity.

There is also no comparison between God's gift and the one who sinned. The verdict which followed one person's failure condemned everyone. But, even after many failures, the gift brought God's approval. It is certain that death ruled because of one person's failure. It's even more certain that those who receive God's overflowing kindness and the gift of his approval will rule in life because of one person, Jesus Christ.

Therefore, everyone was condemned through one failure, and everyone received God's life-giving approval through one verdict. Clearly, through one person's disobedience humanity became sinful, and through one person's obedience humanity will receive God's approval. –GW®

## **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

8:00 & 9:30

### **HOLY GOSPEL: *Matthew 4:1-11***

Then the Spirit led Jesus into the desert to be tempted by the devil. Jesus did not eat anything for 40 days and 40 nights. At the end of that time, he was hungry.

The tempter came to him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become loaves of bread."

Jesus answered, "Scripture says, 'A person cannot live on bread alone but on every word that God speaks.'"

Then the devil took him into the holy city and had him stand on the highest part of the temple. He said to Jesus, "If you are the Son of God, jump! Scripture says, 'He will put his angels in charge of you. They will carry you in their hands so that you never hit your foot against a rock.'"

Jesus said to him, "Again, Scripture says, 'Never tempt the Lord your God.'"

Once more the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms in the world and their glory. The devil said to him, "I will give you all this if you will bow down and worship me."

Jesus said to him, "Go away, Satan! Scripture says, 'Worship the Lord your God and serve only Him.'"

Then the devil left Him, and angels came to take care of Him. -GW®

1 O God, O Lord of heav'n and earth, Thy liv - ing  
 2 Our fa - tal will to e - qual Thee, Our reb - el  
 3 Thou cam - est to our hall of death, O Christ, to  
 4 O Spir - it, who didst once re - store Thy Church that

fin - ger nev - er wrote That life should be an aim -  
 will wrought death and night. We seized and used in pride -  
 breathe our poi - soned air, To drink for us the dark  
 it might be a - gain The bring - er of good news

less mote, A death - ward drift from fu - tile birth.  
 ful spite Thy won - drous gift of lib - er - ty.  
 de - spair That stran - gled our re - luc - tant breath.  
 to men, Breathe on Thy clo - ven Church once more,

Thy Word meant life tri - um - phant hurled In splen - dor through  
 We housed us in this house of doom, Where death had roy -  
 How beau - ti - ful the feet that trod The road that leads  
 That in these gray and lat - ter days There may be those

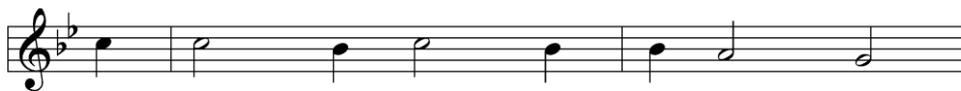
Thy bro - ken world. Since light a - woke and life be - gan,  
 al scope and room, Un - til Thy ser - vant, Prince of Peace,  
 us back to God! How beau - ti - ful the feet that ran  
 whose life is praise, Each life a high dox - ol - o - gy

Thou hast de - sired Thy life for man.  
 Breached all its walls for our re - lease.  
 To bring the great good news to man!  
 To Fa - ther, Son, and un - to Thee.

MESSAGE: *Romans 5:12-19*

HYMN OF THE DAY: "O Love, How Deep"

LSB 544



1 O love, how deep, how broad, how high,  
3 For us bap - tized, for us He bore  
4 For us He prayed; for us He taught;  
5 For us by wick - ed - ness be - trayed,  
6 For us He rose from death a - gain;



Be - yond all thought and fan - ta - sy,  
His ho - ly fast and hun - gered sore;  
For us His dai - ly works He wrought,  
For us, in crown of thorns ar - rayed,  
For us He went on high to reign;



That God, the Son of God, should take  
For us temp - ta - tion sharp He knew;  
By words and signs and ac - tions thus  
He bore the shame - ful cross and death;  
For us He sent His Spir - it here



Our mor - tal form for mor - tals' sake!  
For us the tempt - er o - ver - threw.  
Still seek - ing not Him - self but us.  
For us He gave His dy - ing breath.  
To guide, to strength - en, and to cheer.

**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 Maraley at [mshaeffer@bethanylutheran.org](mailto:mshaeffer@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 11 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.***

*To prepare for communion you can find prayer prompts on the front page of the burgundy hymnal. 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 sacred meal. 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. Amen."*

*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 HYMNS:**

**“I Come, O Savior, to Thy Table”**

LSB 618



1 I come, O Sav - ior, to Thy ta - ble, For weak and  
 2 Thy heart is filled with fer - vent yearn - ing That sin - ners  
 3 Un - wor - thy though I am, O Sav - ior, Be - cause I  
 4 Wea - ry am I and heav - y lad - en; With sin my  
 5 What high - er gift can we in - her - it? It is faith's



wea - ry is my soul; Thou, Bread of Life, a -  
 may sal - va - tion see Who, Lord, to Thee in  
 have a sin - ful heart, Yet Thou Thy lamb wilt  
 soul is sore op - pressed; Re - ceive me gra - cious -  
 bond and sol - id base; It is the strength of



lone art a - ble To sat - is - fy and make me whole:  
 faith are turn - ing; So I, a sin - ner, come to Thee.  
 ban - ish nev - er, For Thou my faith - ful shep - herd art:  
 ly and glad - den My heart, for I am now Thy guest.  
 heart and spir - it, The cov - e - nant of hope and grace.



*Refrain*

Lord, may Thy bod - y and Thy blood Be for my soul the high - est good!

## “I Lay My Sins on Jesus”

LSB 606



1 I lay my sins on Je - sus, The spot - less Lamb of God;  
2 I lay my wants on Je - sus; All full - ness dwells in Him;  
3 I rest my soul on Je - sus, This wea - ry soul of mine;



He bears them all and frees us From the ac - curs - ed load.  
He heals all my dis - eas - es; My soul He does re - deem.  
His right hand me em - brac - es; I on His breast re - cline.



I bring my guilt to Je - sus To wash my crim - son stains  
I lay my griefs on Je - sus, My bur - dens and my cares;  
I love the name of Je - sus, Im - man - uel, Christ, the Lord;



Clean in His blood most pre - cious Till not a spot re - mains.  
He from them all re - leas - es; He all my sor - rows shares.  
Like fra - grance on the breez - es His name a - broad is poured.

### 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 HYMN:****“Jesus, Lead Thou On”**

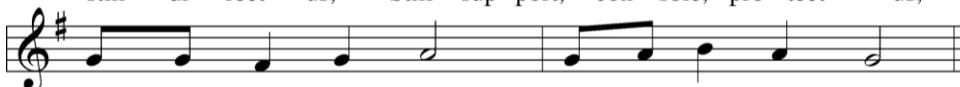
LSB 718



1 Je - sus, lead Thou on Till our rest is won; And al - though the  
 2 If the way be drear, If the foe be near, Let not faith - less  
 3 When we seek re - lief From a long-felt grief, When temp - ta - tions  
 4 Je - sus, lead Thou on Till our rest is won. Heav'n - ly lead - er,



way be cheer - less, We will fol - low calm and fear - less.  
 fears o'er - take us; Let not faith and hope for - sake us;  
 come al - lur - ing, Make us pa - tient and en - dur - ing.  
 still di - rect us, Still sup - port, con - sole, pro - tect us,



Guide us by Thy hand To our fa - ther - land.  
 For through man - y a woe To our home we go.  
 Show us that bright shore Where we weep no more.  
 Till we safe - ly stand In our fa - ther - land.

**POSTLUDE:**

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Organ 8:00 &amp; 9:30

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“O Lord, Throughout These Forty Days” LSB 418

Text: based on Claudia F. Hernaman, 1838-98; para. Gilbert E. Doan, b. 1930.

Tune: *The Psalms of David in Prose and Meeter*, Edinburgh, 1635; setting: *The English Hymnal*, 1906. Public domain.

Text: © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*. All rights reserved. Reprinted under ONELICENSE #A-706149.

“O God, O Lord of Heaven and Earth” LSB 834

Text: Martin H. Franzmann, 1907-76, alt. Tune: Jan O. Bender, 1909-94.

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“O Love, How Deep” LSB 544

Text: attr. Thomas à Kempis, 1380-1471; tr. Benjamin Webb, 1819-85, alt.

Tune: ROCKINGHAM OLD; *Second Supplement to Psalmody in Miniature*, London; adapt. Edward Miller, 1731-1807

Text and Music: Public domain

“I Come, O Savior, to Thy Table” LSB 618

Text: Friedrich Christian Heyder; tr. *The Lutheran Hymnal*, 1941, abr. Tune: *Emskirchner Choral-Buch*, Leipzig. Public domain

Text: © 1941 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved. Reprinted under ONELICENSE #A-706149.

"I Lay My Sins on Jesus" LSB 606

Text: Horatius Bonar, 1808-89.

Tune: *Neu-vermehrtes . . . Gesangbuch*, 3<sup>rd</sup> ed., Meiningen, 1693. Text and music: Public domain

"Jesus, Lead Thou On" LSB 718

Text: Nicolaus Ludwig von Zinzendorf; tr. Jane L. Borthwick, 1813-97, alt. Tune: Adam Drese; Setting: Joseph Herl, b. 1959.

Setting: © 2006 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved. Reprinted under ONELICENSE #A-706149.

Text and tune: Public domain.



**SERVING GOD’S HOUSE TODAY:**

Acolyte 8:00...Oliver Koehlinger

Crucifer 8:00...Ben Culley

Acolyte 9:30...Liam Quitariano

Crucifer 9:30...Henry Cerulle

Lector 8:00...Greg Goebel      9:30...John & Josette Utke

11:00...Nick Davies

Liturgist...Karl Fink

Preacher...Pastor Kevin Kritzer

Director of Music Ministries & Worship Arts...Noah Freeman

Organist...Robert Bottoms

Accompanist...Kevin Bowers

Children’s Message...Alissa Brege



**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.



**Parents of Young Children:** We are so glad you and your children are here! Children are a joyful part of worship—after all, God created them with curiosity, energy, and yes, a few wiggles. Please don’t feel pressure to keep them perfectly still in God’s house. Their presence is truly a gift to our church family.

Worship is where we learn, together, how to listen and speak to God alongside our brothers and sisters in faith. You are welcome to quietly explain parts of the service and what our worship leaders are doing—children learn how to worship by watching and imitating you.

If it would be helpful, “worship bags” are available in the Narthex with items designed to support children and families during worship. Childcare is also available in our Nursery for children from birth through age five. Our caring and qualified staff look forward to welcoming your little one into a safe and loving environment.

Bethany’s Nursery is located across the courtyard. Please feel free to ask an usher if you need directions—we’re happy to help.

Mark Your Calendars!

You won't want to miss these concerts at Bethany Lutheran, Long Beach



THE UNIVERSITY

*A Cappella Choir*

AT BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH

CONDUCTOR: DR. KURT E. VON KAMPEN

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MARCH 11  
2026

*Join us!*

7 PM

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 CONCORDIA  
UNIVERSITY  
NEBRASKA

*at*

 Bethany  
Lutheran  
Church  
Long Beach, CA



**Tuesday, March 17, 2026**

**at 7:00 PM**

*Laudamus*, the premier choir of seminarians from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, will perform at several locations throughout Southern California during its 2026 tour scheduled for March 14–19. The tour theme, “Lamb of God, Who Takes Away the Sin of the World,” is drawn from the Gospel of John and reflects the Lenten season. Each performance will include a variety of musical selections centered on Christ’s sacrificial love and the promise of salvation.

“Our program this year focuses on Christ as the Lamb of God. God the Father sent His Son, Jesus, to be the perfect sacrifice in our place,” said Dr. Samuel Eatherton, assistant professor of Practical Theology, kantor, the Kreft Professor for Music Arts and director of *Laudamus*. “John the Baptist saw Jesus one day and exclaimed to those around him, ‘Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world!’ We pray God will help us reflect that same enthusiasm as we sing of all that Christ has done in winning salvation for us, so that we might live as His children.”



We've all heard the adage, "Clothes make the man." Some say you can trace the notion clear back to Homer. The concept is fleshed out more fully in a line in Shakespeare's Hamlet; and given complete familiarity by Mark Twain. At the core of the concept is the idea that appearance can influence both perception and behavior.

Long before either Shakespeare or Twain had crafted their works, St. Paul wrote that, "Jesus, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to His own advantage; rather, He made Himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross."

The eternal Son of God, took on human nature and put on the form of a servant. This action, His incarnation, certainly directed His behavior and as Isaiah states (chapter 53) is influenced perception of THE suffering servant.

By His grace, through faith, Jesus has covered us in His righteousness, dressed us in His likeness and calls us to be "His masks" in this world. These *Garments of Grace* influence our perception of one another and our behavior as His disciples.

**Join us on Wednesdays during Lent (2/18 thru 3/25) ON OUR CYPRESS CAMPUS, 4321 Cerritos Ave. Cypress CA at 6:30PM** as we gather to rejoice in the promise that our Lord has clothed us in His *Garments of Grace*.

### **Weekly Themes and Texts:**

- Wednesday Lent I (2/25) "Look what I've knitted you." Genesis 3
- Wednesday Lent II (3/4) "You Look Marvelous" Genesis 37
- Wednesday Lent III (3/11) "Swaddled" Luke 2
- Wednesday Lent IV (3/18) "Filthy Rags" 1 Peter 2:24
- Wednesday Lent V (3/25) "Garments of Grace" Revelation 3