



Behold the

Lamb
of God!

1871

MARCH 1, 2026

SECOND 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.



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.

PRELUDE:

"Cascades"
~Philip M. Young

Jubilate Handbells 8:00 & 9:30

WELCOME

OPENING HYMN: "Sing Praise to God, the Highest Good" LSB 819



1 Sing praise to God, the high - est good, The au - thor of cre -
2 What God's al - might - y pow'r has made, In mer - cy He is
3 We sought the Lord in our dis - tress; O God, in mer - cy
5 All who con - fess Christ's ho - ly name, Give God the praise and



a - tion, The God of love who un - der - stood
keep - ing. By morn - ing glow or eve - ning shade
hear us. Our Sav - ior saw our help - less - ness
glo - ry. Let all who know His pow'r pro - claim



Our need for His sal - va - tion. With heal - ing balm our
His eye is nev - er sleep - ing. With - in the king - dom
And came with peace to cheer us. For this we thank and
A - loud the won - drous sto - ry. Cast ev - 'ry i - dol



souls He fills And ev - 'ry faith - less mur - mur stills:
of His might All things are just and good and right:
praise the Lord, Who is by one and all a - dored:
from its throne, For God is God, and He a - lone:



To God all praise and glo - ry!
To God all praise and glo - ry!
To God all praise and glo - ry!
To God all praise and glo - ry!

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: Jesus Christ, through the Spirit of holiness was declared with power to be the Son of God by His resurrection from the dead. (*Rmns 1:4*)

P: We are among those who have been called to belong to Him. (*Rmns 1:6*)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS:

L: When Adam sinned, sin entered the entire human race.

P: **Adam's sin brought death, so death spread to everyone, for everyone sinned, including me.**

(Romans 5:12)

L: The Law of God is good. The trouble is with me!

P: **I am bound in sin. I don't even fully understand myself.**

There are times in which I really want to do what is good and right, but I don't do it.

Instead, I do the very thing I despise. I am a hypocrite.

I know perfectly well that what I do is at times wrong,

And my guilty conscience shows that I agree that the law is good.

But I can't help myself.

So far as my sinful nature is concerned, I am rotten to the core.

No matter which way I turn, I can't make myself do right.

So many have been the times that I have wanted to do right, but I couldn't.

I wanted to do good, but didn't.

So often when I have tried not to do wrong, I have done so anyway.

What a miserable person I am!

Lord, free me from the life that is dominated by sin, and rescue me from death,

For the sake of Jesus Christ, my Lord. Amen. (Rmns 7:18-19 & 25)

L: I am here to announce that there is no condemnation for you who are Christ's own people. God didn't deal with the problem of sin as something remote or unimportant. In His Son, Jesus, He personally took on the human condition and set it right once and for all. Now God has taken up residence in your life, go in peace and serve the Lord.

PSALMODY: PSALM 141:1-4 *we read responsively*

L: O Lord, I call upon you; hasten to me!

P: **Give ear to my voice when I call to you!**

L: Let my prayer be counted as incense before you,

P: **and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice!**

L: Set a guard, O Lord, over my mouth;

P: **keep watch over the door of my lips!**

- L:** Do not let my heart incline to any evil,
P: **to busy myself with wicked deeds**
- L:** in company with men who work iniquity,
P: **and let me not eat of their delicacies!** -ESV®

MINISTRY OF MUSIC: “Oh, How Good Is Christ the Lord” Trinity Choir 8:00
~*Puerto Rican traditional Lenten Song*

“How Deep the Father’s Love for Us” Troubadour Choir 9:30
~*Stuart Townend*

EPISTLE READING: *Romans 4:1-8; 13-17*

What can we say that we have discovered about our ancestor Abraham? If Abraham had God’s approval because of something he did, he would have had a reason to brag. But he could not brag to God about it. What does Scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and that faith was regarded as the basis of Abraham’s approval by God.”

When people work, their pay is not regarded as a gift but something they have earned. However, when people don’t work but believe God, the one who approves ungodly people, their faith is regarded as the basis of God’s approval. David says the same thing about those who are blessed: God approves of people without their earning it. David said,

“Blessed are those whose disobedience is forgiven
and whose sins are pardoned.
Blessed is the person whom the Lord no longer considers sinful.”

So it was not by obeying the laws in Moses’ Teachings that Abraham or his descendants received the promise that he would inherit the world. Rather, he received this promise through God’s approval that comes by faith. If those who obey Moses’ Teachings are the heirs, then faith is useless and the promise is worthless. The laws in Moses’ Teachings bring about anger. But where those laws don’t exist, they can’t be broken. Therefore, the promise is based on faith so that it can be a gift. Consequently, the promise is guaranteed for every descendant, not only for those who are descendants by obeying Moses’ Teachings but also for those who are descendants by believing as Abraham did. He is the father of all of us, as Scripture says: “I have made you a father of many nations.”

Abraham believed when he stood in the presence of the God who gives life to dead people and calls into existence things that don’t even exist. -GW®

MINISTRY OF MUSIC:

“Beautiful Savior”

Bethany Choir 8 & 9:30

~Robert A. Hobby

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

8:00 & 9:30

HOLY GOSPEL: *John 3:1-17*

Nicodemus was a Pharisee and a member of the Jewish council. He came to Jesus one night and said to Him, “Rabbi, we know that God has sent You as a teacher. No one can perform the miracles You perform unless God is with him.”

Jesus replied to Nicodemus, “I can guarantee this truth: No one can see God’s kingdom without being born from above.”

Nicodemus asked Him, “How can anyone be born when he’s an old man? He can’t go back inside his mother a second time to be born, can he?”

Jesus answered Nicodemus, “I can guarantee this truth: No one can enter God’s kingdom without being born of water and the Spirit. Flesh and blood give birth to flesh and blood, but the Spirit gives birth to things that are spiritual. Don’t be surprised when I tell you that all of you must be born from above. The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you don’t know where the wind comes from or where it’s going. That’s the way it is with everyone born of the Spirit.”

Nicodemus replied, “How can that be?”

Jesus told Nicodemus, “You’re a well-known teacher of Israel. Can’t you understand this? I can guarantee this truth: We know what we’re talking about, and we confirm what we’ve seen. Yet, you don’t accept our message. If you don’t believe me when I tell you about things on earth, how will you believe me when I tell you about things in heaven? No one has gone to heaven except the Son of Man, who came from heaven.

“As Moses lifted up the snake on a pole in the desert, so the Son of Man must be lifted up. Then everyone who believes in Him will have eternal life.”

God loved the world this way: He gave His only Son so that everyone who believes in Him will not die but will have eternal life. God sent His Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but to save the world. -GW®

SERMON HYMN: "O Dearest Jesus, What Law Hast Thou Broken" LSB 439



1 O dear - est Je - sus, what law hast Thou bro - ken
 7 O won - drous love, whose depth no heart hath sound - ed,
 12 I'll think up - on Thy mer - cy with - out ceas - ing,
 13 What - e'er of earth - ly good this life may grant me,
 15 And when, dear Lord, be - fore Thy throne in heav - en



That such sharp sen - tence should on Thee be spo - ken?
 That brought Thee here, by foes and thieves sur - round - ed!
 That earth's vain joys to me no more be pleas - ing;
 I'll risk for Thee; no shame, no cross, shall daunt me.
 To me the crown of joy at last is giv - en,



Of what great crime hast Thou to make con -
 All world - ly plea - sures, heed - less, I was
 To do Thy will shall be my sole en -
 I shall not fear what foes can do to
 Where sweet - est hymns Thy saints for - ev - er



fes - sion, What dark trans - gres - sion?
 try - ing While Thou wert dy - ing.
 deav - or Hence - forth for - ev - er.
 harm me Nor death a - larm me.
 raise Thee, I, too, shall praise Thee.

MESSAGE: Romans 4:1-8; 13-17

HYMN OF THE DAY: "God Loved the World So That He Gave"

LSB 571



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 God would not have the sin - ner die; His Son with
 4 Be of good cheer, for God's own Son For - gives all



Son the lost to save, That all who would in
 flesh and suf - fered death; All then who trust in
 sav - ing grace is nigh; His Spir - it in the
 sins which you have done; And, jus - ti - fied by



Him be - lieve Should ev - er - last - ing life re - ceive.
 Him a - lone Are built on this chief cor - ner - stone.
 Word de - clares How we in Christ are heav - en's heirs.
 Je - sus' blood, Your Bap - tism grants the high - est good.

CONFESSION OF FAITH: THE APOSTLES' CREED (**catholic means the universal Christian Church*)

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
 I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
 He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit,
 and born of the virgin Mary,
 He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
 was crucified, died and was buried.
 He descended into hell.
 On the third day He rose again.
 He ascended into heaven,
 and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
 He will come again 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.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY:

- L:** Oh, the depth of the riches of Your wisdom and knowledge, O God.
P: **From You and through You and to You are all things. To You be glory forever!** (*Rmns. 11:33 & 36*)

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 or call 562-421-4711, ext. 21. Thank you!

CONSECRATING THE 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.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

✠ 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 & 11:00 am services, 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: “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross” LSB 425



1 When I sur - vey the won - drous cross On which the
 2 For - bid it, Lord, that I should boast Save in the
 3 See, from His head, His hands, His feet Sor - row and
 4 Were the whole realm of na - ture mine, That were a



Prince of Glo - ry died, My rich - est gain I
 death of Christ, my God; All the vain things that
 love flow min - gled down! Did e'er such love and
 trib - ute far too small; Love so a - maz - ing,



count but loss And pour con - tempt on all my pride.
 charm me most, I sac - ri - fice them to His blood.
 sor - row meet Or thorns com - pose so rich a crown?
 so di - vine, De - mands my soul, my life, my all!

“Taste and See”
 ~James Moore

Bethany Choir

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION:

L: Our salvation is nearer now than when we first believe. So let us be clothed with Christ and forgetting about satisfying the sinful self. (*Rmns 13:11&14*)

P: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN: "Guide Me, O Thou Great Redeemer" LSB 918

1 Guide me, O Thou great Re - deem - er, Pil - grim through this
2 O - pen now the crys - tal foun - tain Whence the heal - ing
3 When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, Bid my anx - ious
bar - ren land. I am weak, but Thou art might - y;
stream doth flow; Let the fi - ery, cloud - y pil - lar
fears sub - side; Death of death and hell's de - struc - tion,
Hold me with Thy pow'r - ful hand. Bread of heav - en,
Lead me all my jour - ney through. Strong de - liv - 'er,
Land me safe on Ca - naan's side. Songs of prais - es,
bread of heav - en, Feed me till I want no
strong de - liv - 'er, Be Thou still my strength and
songs of prais - es I will ev - er give to
more;
shield;
Thee;
Feed me till I want no more.
Be Thou still my strength and shield.
I will ev - er give to Thee.

POSTLUDE



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“Sing Praise to God, the Highest Good” LSB 819

Text: Johann Jacob Schütz, 1640-90; tr. Frances E. Cox, 1812-97, adapt., sts. 1-3, 5; tr. Catherine Winkworth. 1827-78; adapt. St. 4.
Tune: Melchoir Vulpius, c. 1570-1615; setting: *The Lutheran Hymnal*, 1941 Text and music: Public domain

“Oh, How Good is Christ the Lord” Puerto Rican traditional Lenten Song. Terry D. Taylor, Edgar Cajas. Tune: ©2018 Celebrating Grace Music, a division of Celebrating Grace, Inc. All rights reserved. Text: ©2018 Celebrating Grace Music, a division of Celebrating Grace, Inc. All rights reserved. Streamed with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-706149

“How Deep the Father’s Love for Us”

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“Beautiful Savior” Setting by Robert A. Hobby. © Birnamwood Publications (ASCAP) A division of MorningStar Music Publishers, Inc. All rights reserved. Streamed with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-706149

“O Dearest Jesus, What Law Hast Thou Broken” LSB 439 Stzs. 4, 5, 6, 7

Text: Johann Heerman; tr. Catherine Winkworth, alt.; Tune: Johann Crüger; setting: *The Lutheran Hymnal*, 1941; Text & music: Public domain.

“God Loved the World So That He Gave” LSB 571

Text: *Heiliges Lippen- und Hertzens-Opffer*, Stettin, c. 1778; tr. August Crull, 1845-1923, alt.

Tune: George J. Elvey, 1816-93; setting: *The Lutheran Hymnal*, 1941.

Text and music: Public domain.

“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross” LSB 425

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748; Music: Lowell Mason, 1792-1872; Text and Music: Public domain

“Taste and See” Tune: James E. Moore, Jr., © 1983, GIA Publications, Inc. Text: Psalm 34; James E. Moore Jr., © 1983, GIA Publications, Inc. Streamed with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-706149

“Guide Me, O Thou Great Redeemer” LSB 918

Text: William Williams, 1717-91, abr.; tr. Peter Williams, 1722-96, st. 1, alt.; tr. William Williams, 1717-91, sts. 2-3.

Music: John Hughes, 1873-1932. Text and music: Public domain.



SERVING GOD’S HOUSE TODAY:

Lector 8:00...Ruth Lopez 9:30...John Holmquist 11:00...Les Friend
Liturgist...Pastor John Alwood Preacher...Pastor Seth Moorman
Director of Music Ministries & Worship Arts...Noah Freeman
Accompanist...Kevin Bowers Children’s Message...Alissa Brege



Today’s Flowers are given to the glory of God:

*~ to celebrate Mary, Ryan, and Jacob Fink
on their birthdays. ~*



Love, Karl (and Dad)



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.



UPDATE: While our Cypress campus is still a work in progress, it is able to welcome worshippers again!

Our midweek Wednesday Lenten services are being held on the Cypress campus and starting on Palm Sunday, March 29th, we will once again hold Sunday morning worship services on the Cypress campus.

*Starting on Palm Sunday Bethany Lutheran's Sunday morning worship schedule will be:

On the Long Beach campus at 8:00 and 9:30 am.
On the Cypress campus at 11:10 am.



Mark Your Calendars!

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



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A Cappella Choir
AT BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH

CONDUCTOR: DR. KURT E. VON KAMPEN

MARCH 11
2026

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TUESDAY, MARCH 17 AT 7 PM

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BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH'S ANNUAL

BRIANNA ESSWEIN MEMORIAL GOLF TOURNAMENT



FRIDAY
MARCH 27



6:30 AM *CHECK IN*
7:45 AM *IN CARTS!*
8 AM *TEE TIME*
1 PM *BUFFET LUNCH*



NAVY GOLF COURSE
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\$150 PER GOLFER
UNTIL MARCH 2ND



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ATTENTION!

**LAST WEEK TO
REGISTER AT THE LOWER
PRICE! NEXT WEEK THE PRICE
GOES UP TO \$175 PER GOLFER.**



Contact Karl Fink kfink@bethanylutheran.org



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

HOLY WEEK WORSHIP:

- Maundy Thursday on the Long Beach campus at 6:30 pm
- Good Friday on the Long Beach campus at 1:00 pm and 6:30 pm