



Behold the

Lamb
of God!

SONNEN

MARCH 8, 2026 THIRD 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: "Festive Bell Flourish" Crescendo Handbell Choir
~ Lee G Barrow

WELCOME

OPENING HYMN: "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
4 Be of good cheer, for God's own Son For - gives all
6 Glo - ry to God the Fa - ther, Son, And Ho - ly



Son the lost to save, That all who would in
flesh and suf - fered death; All then who trust in
sins which 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.
Him a - lone Are built on this chief cor - ner - stone.
Je - sus' blood, Your Bap - tism grants the high - est good.
Trin - i - ty, Be praise now and e - ter - nal - ly!

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*)

PSALMODY: Psalm 142:1-6 *we read responsively*

L: With my voice I cry out to the Lord;
P: **with my voice I plead for mercy to the Lord.**

L: I pour out my complaint before Him;
P: **I tell my trouble before Him.**

L: When my spirit faints within me,
P: **You know my way!**

L: In the path where I walk
P: **they have hidden a trap for me.**

L: Look to the right and see:
P: **there is none who takes notice of me;**

L: no refuge remains to me;
P: **no one cares for my soul.**

L: I cry to You, O Lord;
P: **I say, “You are my refuge,
my portion in the land of the living.”**

L: Attend to my cry,
P: **for I am brought very low!**

L: Deliver me from my persecutors,
P: **for they are too strong for me!** -ESV®

EPISTLE READING: 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®

HOLY GOSPEL: *John 4:5-26*

He arrived at a city in Samaria called Sychar. Sychar was near the piece of land that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's Well was there. Jesus sat down by the well because He was tired from traveling. The time was about noon.

A Samaritan woman went to get some water. Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink of water." (His disciples had gone into the city to buy some food.)

The Samaritan woman asked Him, "How can a Jewish man like you ask a Samaritan woman like me for a drink of water?" (Jews, of course, don't associate with Samaritans.)

Jesus replied to her, "If you only knew what God's gift is and who is asking you for a drink, you would have asked Him for a drink. He would have given you living water."

The woman said to Him, "Sir, You don't have anything to use to get water, and the well is deep. So where are You going to get this living water? You're not more important than our ancestor Jacob, are You? He gave us this well. He and his sons and his animals drank water from it."

Jesus answered her, "Everyone who drinks this water will become thirsty again. But those who drink the water that I will give them will never become thirsty again. In fact, the water I will give them will become in them a spring that gushes up to eternal life."

The woman told Jesus, "Sir, give me this water! Then I won't get thirsty or have to come here to get water."

Jesus told her, "Go to your husband, and bring him here."

The woman replied, "I don't have a husband."

Jesus told her, "You're right when you say that you don't have a husband. You've had five husbands, and the man you have now isn't your husband. You've told the truth."

The woman said to Jesus, "I see that You're a prophet! Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain. But you Jews say that people must worship in Jerusalem."

Jesus told her, "Believe me. A time is coming when you Samaritans won't be worshiping the Father on this mountain or in Jerusalem. You don't know what you're worshiping. We Jews know what we're worshiping, because salvation comes from the Jews. Indeed, the time is coming, and it is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and

truth. The Father is looking for people like that to worship Him. God is a spirit. Those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.”

The woman said to Him, “I know that the Messiah is coming. When He comes, He will tell us everything.” (*Messiah* is the one called *Christ*.)

Jesus told her, “I am He, and I am speaking to you now.” -GW®

SERMON SONG: “My Worth is Not in What I Own”

Verse 1

My worth is not in what I own
Not in the strength of flesh and bone
But in the costly wounds of love at the cross

Verse 2

My worth is not in skill or name
In win or lose in pride or shame
But in the blood of Christ that flowed at the cross

Chorus

I rejoice in my Redeemer
Greatest treasure Wellspring of my soul
I will trust in Him no other
My soul is satisfied in Him alone

Verse 3

As summer flowers we fade and die
Fame youth and beauty hurry by
But life eternal calls to us at the cross

Verse 4

I will not boast in wealth or might
Or human wisdom's fleeting light
But I will boast in knowing Christ at the cross

Verse 5

Two wonders here that I confess
My worth and my unworthiness
My value fixed my ransom paid at the cross

MESSAGE: “God is Not Your Enemy” *Romans 5:1-11*

HYMN OF THE DAY:

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

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 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 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**.*

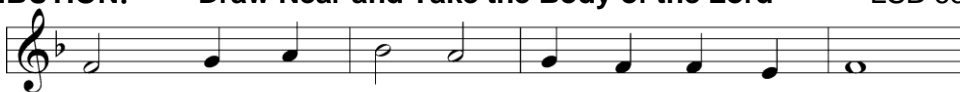
*The wafers on the stand next to the pillar pulpit side (when kneeling for communion) or on the stand in front of the baptismal font (when processing for communion) are **gluten free**.*

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.

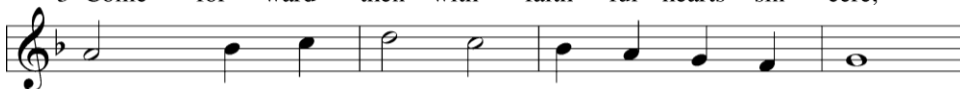
DISTRIBUTION:

Draw Near and Take the Body of the Lord

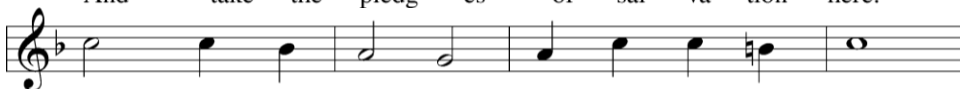
LSB 637



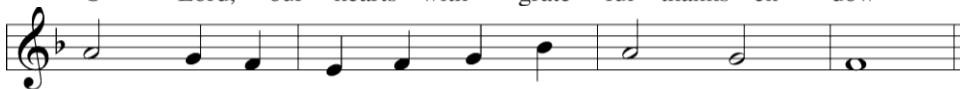
1 Draw near and take the bod - y of the Lord,
 2 He who His saints in this world rules and shields,
 3 Come for - ward then with faith - ful hearts sin - cere,



And drink the ho - ly blood for you out - poured;
 To all be - liev - ers life e - ter - nal yields;
 And take the pledg - es of sal - va - tion here.



Of - fered was He for great - est and for least,
 With heav'n - ly bread He makes the hun - gry whole,
 O Lord, our hearts with grate - ful thanks en - dow



Him - self the vic - tim and Him - self the priest.
 Gives liv - ing wa - ters to the thirst - ing soul.
 As in this feast of love You bless us now.

“Come to Calvary’s Holy Mountain”

LSB 435

1 Come to Cal - v'ry's ho - ly moun - tain, Sin - ners, ru - ined
 2 Come in pov - er - ty and mean - ness, Come de - filed, with -
 3 Come in sor - row and con - tri - tion, Wound - ed, im - po -
 4 They that drink shall live for - ev - er; 'Tis a soul - re -
 by the fall; Here a pure and heal - ing foun - tain
 out, with - in; From in - fec - tion and un - clean - ness,
 tent, and blind; Here the guilt - y, free re - mis - sion,
 new - ing flood. God is faith - ful; God will nev - er
 Flows for you, for me, for all, In a full, per -
 From the lep - ro - sy of sin, Wash your robes and
 Here the trou - bled, peace may find. Health this foun - tain
 Break His cov - e - nant of blood, Signed when our Re -
 pet - ual tide, O - pened when our Sav - ior died.
 make them white; Ye shall walk with God in light.
 will re - store; They that drink shall thirst no more.
 deem - er died, Sealed when He was glo - ri - fied.

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: “Glory Be to Jesus”

Verse 1

Glory be to Jesus who in bitter pains
Poured for me the lifeblood from His sacred veins
Grace and life eternal in that blood I find
Blest be His compassion infinitely kind

Chorus 1

We lift our voices singing praise to Your name
For the mercy that flows from the Lamb who was slain

Verse 2

Blest through endless ages be the precious stream
Which from endless torment did the world redeem
Abel’s blood for vengeance pleaded to the skies
But the blood of Jesus for our pardon cries

Chorus 2

We lift our voices singing praise to Your name
For the mercy that flows from the Lamb
We lift our voices singing praise to Your name
For the mercy that flows from the Lamb who was slain

Bridge 1

Praise You I will never cease to praise You
Praise You I will never cease to praise You

Bridge 2

We’ll not be silent we’ll shout it aloud
Letting all the world know of this Love
We’ll not be silent we’ll shout it aloud
Letting all the world know of this Love

POSTLUDE



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"God Loved the World So That He Gave" LSB 571
Text: *Heiliges Lippen- und Hertzens-Opfer*, 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.

"My Worth Is Not in What I Own (At the Cross)"
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"My Song is Love Unknown"
CCLI Song #7064068 Blake Flattley, John Nicholson Ireland, Samuel Crossman © 2015 There Will Be Rest. Admin by Blake Flattley Music. All rights reserved. For use solely with the SongSelect® Terms of Use. All rights reserved. www.ccli.com CCLI License # 396555

"Draw Near and Take the Body of the Lord" LSB 637
Text: Latin, 7th cent.; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-66, alt. Tune: *Trente quatre Pseaumes de David*, Geneva, 1551, ed. Louis Bourgeois; setting: *The Lutheran Hymnal*, 1941. Text and music: Public domain.

"Come to Calvary's Holy Mountain" LSB 435
Text: James Montgomery, 1771-1854, alt. Tune: Ludvig M. Lindeman, 1812-87; setting: *Lutheran Book of Worship*, 1978. Text and Music: Public domain

"Glory Be to Jesus" LSB 433
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SERVING GOD'S HOUSE TODAY:

Acolyte 9:30...Alice Kienitz	Crucifer 9:30...Reenie Long
Lector 8:00...Claude Potter	9:30...Chris Cale
Liturgist...Karl Fink	Message...Ryan Fink
Artist in Residence...Blake Flattley	Organ/Keyboard...Kevin Bowers
Crescendo Bells Director...Sara Cerulle	Children's Message...Kayleigh Lopez



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.

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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7 PM

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LAUDAMUS TOUR 2026

DIRECTOR:
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The premier choir of seminarians from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis.



TUESDAY, MARCH 17 AT 7 PM

BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH LONG BEACH CAMPUS
4644 CLARK AVE. LONG BEACH, CA 90808



Concordia
Seminary
ST. LOUIS

at



Bethany
Lutheran
Church
Long Beach, CA



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 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