



Behold the

Lamb
of God!

1921

MARCH 15, 2026
FOURTH 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:

“”
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Organ 8:00 & 9:30

WELCOME

OPENING HYMN:

"Lord, Open Now My Heart to Hear"

LSB 908



1 Lord, o - pen now my heart to hear, And through Your
2 Your Word in - spires my heart with - in; Your Word grants
3 To God the Fa - ther, God the Son, And God the



Word to me draw near; Let me Your Word e'er pure re -
heal - ing from my sin; Your Word has pow'r to guide and
Spir - it, Three in One, Shall glo - ry, praise, and hon - or



tain; Let me Your child and heir re - main.
bless; Your Word brings peace and hap - pi - ness.
be Now and through - out e - ter - ni - ty.

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 138:1-9 *we read responsively*

L: I give You thanks, O Lord, with my whole heart;

P: **before the gods I sing Your praise;**

L: I bow down toward Your holy temple
and give thanks to Your name for Your steadfast love and Your faithfulness,

P: **for You have exalted above all things
Your name and Your word.**

L: On the day I called, You answered me;

P: **my strength of soul You increased.**

L: All the kings of the earth shall give You thanks, O Lord,
for they have heard the words of Your mouth,

P: **and they shall sing of the ways of the Lord,
for great is the glory of the Lord.**

L: For though the Lord is high, He regards the lowly,

P: **but the haughty He knows from afar.**

L: Though I walk in the midst of trouble,
You preserve my life;

P: **You stretch out Your hand against the wrath of my enemies,
and Your right hand delivers me.**

L: The Lord will fulfill His purpose for me;

P: **Your steadfast love, O LORD, endures forever.**

L: Do not forsake the work of Your hands. -ESV®

EPISTLE READING: *Romans 6:8-14*

If we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with Him. We know that Christ, who was brought back to life, will never die again. Death no longer has any power over Him. When He died, He died once and for all to sin's power. But now He lives, and He lives for God. So consider yourselves dead to sin's power but living for God in the power Christ Jesus gives you.

Therefore, never let sin rule your physical body so that you obey its desires. Never offer any part of your body to sin's power. No part of your body should ever be used to do any ungodly thing. Instead, offer yourselves to God as people who have come back from death and are now alive. Offer all the parts of your body to God. Use them to do

everything that God approves of. Certainly, sin shouldn't have power over you because you're not controlled by God's laws, but by God's favor. -GW®

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

8:00 & 9:30

HOLY GOSPEL: *John 9:1-7, 13-17, 34-41*

As Jesus walked along, He saw a man who had been born blind. His disciples asked Him, "Rabbi, why was this man born blind? Did he or his parents sin?"

Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned. Instead, he was born blind so that God could show what he can do for him. We must do what the one who sent me wants us to do while it is day. The night when no one can do anything is coming. As long as I'm in the world, I'm light for the world."

After Jesus said this, He spit on the ground and mixed the spit with dirt. Then He smeared it on the man's eyes and told him, "Wash it off in the pool of Siloam." (*Siloam* means "sent.") The blind man washed it off and returned. He was able to see.

Some people brought the man who had been blind to the Pharisees. The day when Jesus mixed the spit and dirt and gave the man sight was a day of rest—a holy day. So the Pharisees asked the man again how he received his sight.

The man told the Pharisees, "He put a mixture of spit and dirt on my eyes. I washed it off, and now I can see."

Some of the Pharisees said, "The man who did this is not from God because He doesn't follow the traditions for the day of rest—a holy day." Other Pharisees asked, "How can a man who is a sinner perform miracles like these?" So the Pharisees were divided in their opinions.

They asked the man who had been born blind another question: "What do you say about the man who gave you sight?"

The man answered, "He's a prophet."

The Jews answered him, "You were born full of sin. Do you think you can teach us?" Then they threw him out of the synagogue.

Jesus heard that the Jews had thrown the man out of the synagogue. So when Jesus found the man, He asked him, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?"

The man replied, "Sir, tell me who He is so that I can believe in Him."

Jesus told him, "You've seen Him. He is the person who is now talking with you."

The man bowed in front of Jesus and said, "I believe, Lord."

Then Jesus said, "I have come into this world to judge: Blind people will be given sight, and those who can see will become blind."

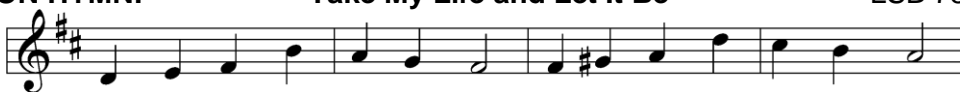
Some Pharisees who were with Jesus heard this. So they asked Him, "Do You think we're blind?"

Jesus told them, "If you were blind, you wouldn't be sinners. But now you say, 'We see,' so you continue to be sinners. -GW®

SERMON HYMN:

"Take My Life and Let It Be"

LSB 783



- 1 Take my life and let it be Con-se - crat - ed, Lord, to Thee;
- 2 Take my hands and let them move At the im - pulse of Thy love;
- 3 Take my voice and let me sing Al-ways, on - ly for my King;
- 4 Take my sil - ver and my gold, Not a mite would I with - hold;



Take my mo - ments and my days, Let them flow in cease - less praise.
Take my feet and let them be Swift and beau - ti - ful for Thee.
Take my lips and let them be Filled with mes - sag - es from Thee.
Take my in - tel - lect and use Ev - 'ry pow'r as Thou shalt choose.

- 5 Take my will and make it Thine,
It shall be no longer mine;
Take my heart, it is Thine own,
It shall be Thy royal throne.
- 6 Take my love, my Lord, I pour
At Thy feet its treasure store;
Take myself, and I will be
Ever, only, all for Thee.

MESSAGE: *Romans 6:8-14*

HYMN OF THE DAY:

“Jesus, Refuge of the Weary”

LSB 423



1 Je - sus, ref - uge of the wea - ry, Blest Re - deem - er,
2 Do we pass that cross un - heed - ing, Breath - ing no re -
3 Je - sus, may our hearts be burn - ing With more fer - vent



whom we love, Foun - tain in life's des - ert drea - ry, Sav - ior
pen - tant vow, Though we see You wound - ed, bleed - ing, See Your
love for You; May our eyes be ev - er turn - ing To be -



from the world a - bove: Of - ten have Your eyes, of - fend - ed,
thorn - en - cir - cled brow? Yet Your sin - less death has brought us
hold Your cross a - new Till in glo - ry, part - ed nev - er



Gazed up - on the sin - ner's fall; Yet up - on the
Life e - ter - nal, peace, and rest; On - ly what Your
From the bless - ed Sav - ior's side, Grav - en in our



cross ex - tend - ed, You have borne the pain of all.
grace has taught us Calms the sin - ner's deep dis - tress.
hearts for - ev - er, Dwell the cross, the Cru - ci - fied.

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.

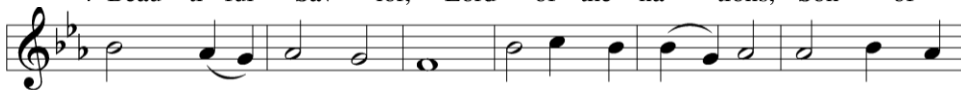
To prepare for communion you can find prayer prompts on the front page of the burgundy hymnal. Or simply pray: "Dear Lord Jesus, at Your gracious invitation, You invite me to come to You; to eat and drink Your holy body and blood as You Yourself have promised to give in this sacred meal. Forgive me of 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**.*

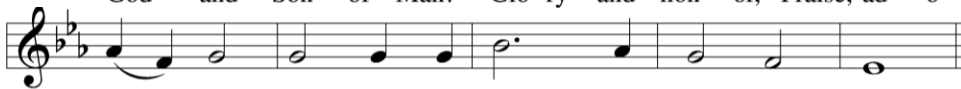
In our 9:30 & 11:00 am services, we will practice the Easter tradition of continuous communion. We will not kneel at the altar, rather we will join the procession of saints and come forward and remain standing as we receive the bread and wine. After receiving the elements, you are invited to return to your seat and continue in meditation, prayer and song.



1 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, King of cre - a - tion, Son of
 2 Fair are the mead - ows, Fair are the wood - lands, Robed in
 3 Fair is the sun - shine, Fair is the moon - light, Bright the
 4 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, Lord of the na - tions, Son of

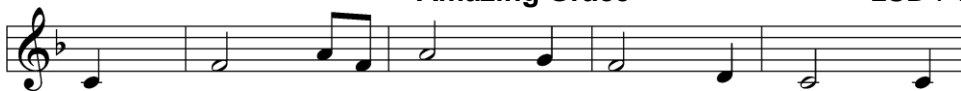


God and Son of Man! Tru - ly I'd love Thee, Tru - ly I'd
 flow'rs of bloom - ing spring; Je - sus is fair - er, Je - sus is
 spar - kling stars on high; Je - sus shines bright - er, Je - sus shines
 God and Son of Man! Glo - ry and hon - or, Praise, ad - o -

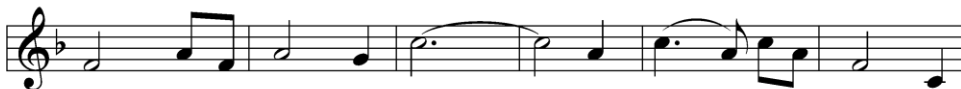


serve Thee, Light of my soul, my joy, my crown.
 pur - er, He makes our sor - r'wing spir - it sing.
 pur - er Than all the an - gels in the sky.
 ra - tion Now and for - ev - er - more be Thine!

“Amazing Grace”



1 A - maz - ing grace— how sweet the sound— That
 2 The Lord has prom - ised good to me, His
 3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I
 4 Yes, when this flesh and heart shall fail And
 5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, Bright



saved a wretch like me! I once was lost but
 Word my hope se - cures; He will my shield and
 have al - read - y come; His grace has brought me
 mor - tal life shall cease, A - maz - ing grace shall
 shin - ing as the sun, We've no less days to



now am found, Was blind but now I see!
 por - tion be As long as life en - dures.
 safe thus far, His grace will lead me home.
 then pre - veil In heav - en's joy and peace.
 sing God's praise Than when we'd first be - gun.

“Sent Forth by God’s Blessing”

LSB 643

1 Sent forth by God’s bless-ing, Our true faith con-fess-ing,
 2 With praise and thanks-giv-ing To God ev-er-liv-ing,

The peo-ple of God from His dwell-ing take leave.
 The tasks of our ev-’ry-day life we will face.

The Sup-per is end-ed. O now be ex-tend-ed
 Our faith ev-er shar-ing, In love ev-er car-ing,

The fruits of this ser-vice in all who be-lieve.
 Em-brac-ing His chil-dren of each tribe and race.

The seed of His teach-ing, Re-cep-tive souls reach-ing,
 With Your feast You feed us, With Your light now lead us;

Shall blos-som in ac-tion for God and for all.
 U-nite us as one in this life that we share.

His grace did in-vite us, His love shall u-nite us
 Then may all the liv-ing With praise and thanks-giv-ing

To work for God’s king-dom and an-swer His call.
 Give hon-or to Christ and His name that we bear.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER



HOLY BAPTISM:

11:00 am

✠ **Zelda Francos** ✠

✠ **Saros Francos** ✠

Elder: Through Baptism, God has made **Zelda and Saros** members 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 fellow members of the body of Christ and workers with us in the kingdom of God.**

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.

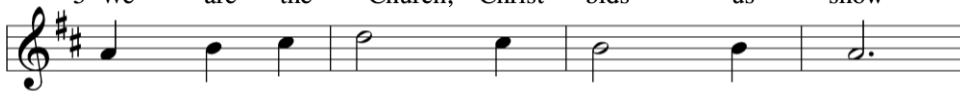
CLOSING HYMN:

“Forth in the Peace of Christ We Go”

LSB 920



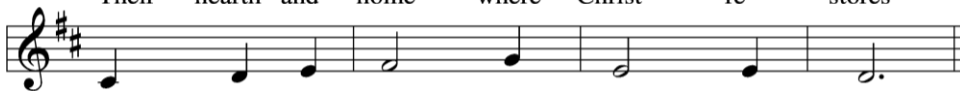
1 Forth in the peace of Christ we go;
4 Christ’s are our lips, His Word we speak;
5 We are the Church; Christ bids us show



Christ to the world with joy we bring;
Proph - ets are we whose deeds pro - claim
That in His Church all na - tions find



Christ in our minds, Christ on our lips,
Christ’s truth in love that we may be
Their hearth and home where Christ re - stores



Christ in our hearts, the world’s true king.
Christ in the world, to spread Christ’s name.
True peace, true love to all man - kind.



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"Lord, Open Now My Heart to Hear" LSB 908

Text: Johann Olearius, 1611-84; tr. Matthias Loy, 1828-1915, sts. 1, 3, alt.; tr. Mark A. Jeske, b. 1952, st. 2. Tune: *Geistliche Lieder aufs new gebessert*, Wittenbert, 1543, ed. Joseph Klug. Text (sts. 1, 3) and tune: Public domain. Text (st. 2): © 1993 Mark A. Jeske. All rights reserved. Reprinted under ONELICENSE#A-706149.

"Take My Life and Let It Be" LSB 783

Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836-79. Music: William H. Havergal, 1793-1870
Text and music: Public domain.

"Jesus, Refuge of the Weary" LSB 423

Text: Girolamo Savonarola, 1452-98; tr. Jane F. Wilde, 1826-96, alt.
Tune: *Erbaulicher Musicalischer Christen-Schatz*, Basel, 1745; setting: *The Lutheran Hymnal*, 1941.
Text and music: Public domain.

"Beautiful Savior" LSB 537

Text: *Münsterisch Gesangbuch*, Münster, 1677; tr. Joseph A. Seiss, 1823-1904.
Tune: Silesian, 19th cent.; setting: *Service Book and Hymnal*, 1958.
Text and music: Public domain.

"Amazing Grace" LSB 744

Text: John Newton, 1725-1807, sts. 1-4, alt.; *A Collection of Sacred Ballads*, Richmond, 1790, st. 5;
Tune: *Columbian Harmony*, Cincinnati, 1829; setting: Joseph Herl. B. 1959.
Text and tune: Public domain
Setting: ©2006 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved.
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"Sent Forth by God's Blessing" LSB 643

Text: Omer E. Westendorf, 1916-1997, alt. Copyright © 1964 World Library Publications.
Tune: Welsh, *THE ASH GROVE*; setting: Leland B. Sateren, b. 1913.
Tune: Public domain; setting: ©1978 Augsburg Fortress Publishing. All rights reserved.
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"Forth in the Peace of Christ We Go" LSB 920

Text: James Quinn, b. 1919
Tune: Georg Joseph, 17th cent., adapt.; setting: *Cantica Spiritualia*, 1847
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SERVING GOD’S HOUSE TODAY:

Lector 8:00...Elsie Rivera	9:30...Neal & Barbara Hasty	11:00...Brady Bowman
Liturgist 8:00 & 9:30...Pastor Seth Moorman		Liturgist 11:00...Pastor Kevin Kritzer
Preacher...Pastor John Alwood		Organist 8:00 & 9:30...Robert Bottoms
Pianist 11:00...Pat Gagan		Children’s Message...Kaley Ross



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 this concert at Bethany Lutheran, Long Beach

LAUDAMUS TOUR 2026

DIRECTOR:
**DR. SAMUEL
EATHERTON**

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 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 IV (3/18) "Filthy Rags" | Peter 2:24
Wednesday Lent V (3/25) "Garments of Grace" | Revelation 3

HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SERVICES:

PALM SUNDAY Worship Services:

Sunday, March 29 at 8:00, 9:30 Bethany Long Beach Campus
11:10 Cypress Campus

MAUNDY THURSDAY Worship Service

Thursday, April 2 at 6:30 pm Long Beach Campus

GOOD FRIDAY Worship Services

Friday, April 3 at 1:00 pm OR 6:30 pm Long Beach Campus

EASTER FESTIVAL Worship Services

Sunday, April 5 at 8:00, 9:30 Long Beach Campus; 11:10 Cypress Campus