



Third Sunday in Lent

March 7, 2021

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod

14531 Old Olga Road

Fort Myers, FL

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod

Sunday Worship: 10:30 AM

Sunday School & Bible Class: 11:30 AM

Church Office: **(239) 694-3878**

bethlehemlutheranfortmyers.org

E-Mail: bethlehemlc@gmail.com

Rev. Karl P. Glander, Pastor

Pastor's Cell Phone: **(239) 293-1489**

Pastor's E-Mail Address:

pastorkarlglander@gmail.com

Linda Kirsch, Church Secretary

The Ten Commandments listed in Exodus 20 give us a set of rules to help us understand how to live with others. Like the rules we have in our home, school, or elsewhere, they free us to live a good life and teach us how to be thoughtful and kind to others through our actions and our words. What act of kindness can you do for someone this week?

In the Gospel of John, the cleansing of the temple has an emphasis on Jesus as the temple of God,

the very place to worship, see, and experience God in the world. We worship God in our congregations and in our daily lives. Where Christ is present in faith, your home is church, too, because God in Christ dwells with you. Keep this in mind as you do your *Daily Bible Readings* this week. Say the *Prayer for the Week* and add your own prayers. End the time by saying: **Remember that you are God's, and to God you shall return.**



IT IS GREAT TO HAVE YOU IN WORSHIP WITH US TODAY!

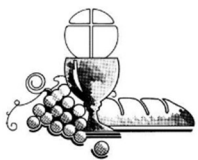
Here at Bethlehem Lutheran, we believe in the teachings of the Bible as taught by Jesus and the apostles and strive to live our lives in accord with the gospel of Jesus Christ. We are all fellow sinners who live together in the mercy and grace of Jesus. Jesus is the heart and center of all that we say and do as we serve Him and live in Christian love with one another.

If you would like to learn more about this church, or are looking for a church family, please talk to our pastor or one of the ushers or elders. They would be happy to talk with you! Regardless of whether you join or not, we welcome you and your

family to worship with us any time! Please sign our guest register in the lobby and fill out the Communication Card in the bulletin and place in the offering plate in the Narthex. Please include your local contact information and email. Members, please fill in your name for attendance. Thank you!

Should you have something we could privately pray about for you this week, we invite you to let our pastor or one of our members know so we can seek the Lord's face together.

Come visit us again sometime soon and may the Lord richly bless you!



ATTENDING COMMUNION AT BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN

The Lord's Supper was established as a meal of fellowship and confession. In this meal, we confess together our one faith in Christ and our Confessions, especially the doctrine set forth in Luther's Small Catechism. Therefore, those who are not one in membership in The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod are asked to speak with the pastor.

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

March 7, 2021

PRELUDE

✠ ORDER OF WORSHIP ✠

HYMN OF INVOCATION

427 IN THE CROSS OF CHRIST I GLORY

- 1 In the cross of Christ I glory,
Tow'ring o'er the wrecks of time.
All the light of sacred story
Gathers round its head sublime.
- 2 When the woes of life o'ertake me,
Hopes deceive, and fears annoy,
Never shall the cross forsake me;
Lo, it glows with peace and joy.
- 3 When the sun of bliss is beaming
Light and love upon my way,
From the cross the radiance streaming
Adds more luster to the day.

4 Bane and blessing, pain and pleasure
By the cross are sanctified;
Peace is there that knows no measure,
Joys that through all time abide.

(please rise)

+ CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION +

[P] In the name of the Father and of the ✝ Son and
of the Holy Spirit.

[C] Amen.

[P] If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves,
and the truth is not in us.

[C] But if we confess our sins, God, who is
faithful and just, will forgive our sins and
cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

*(Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-
examination.)*

[P] Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

[C] Most merciful God, we confess that we are
by nature sinful and unclean. We have

sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

[P] Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✝ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

[C] Amen.

(please be seated)

+ SERVICE OF THE WORD +

INTROIT

Psalm 19

The Law of the LORD Is Perfect

[P] The heavens declare the glory of God,
and the sky above proclaims his handiwork.

[C] Day to day pours out speech,
and night to night reveals knowledge.

[P] There is no speech, nor are there words,
whose voice is not heard.

[C] Their measuring line goes out through all
the earth,
and their words to the end of the world.
In them he has set a tent for the sun,

[P] which comes out like a bridegroom leaving his
chamber,
and, like a strong man, runs its course with joy.

[C] Its rising is from the end of the heavens,
and its circuit to the end of them,
and there is nothing hidden from its heat.

P The law of the LORD is perfect,
reviving the soul;
the testimony of the LORD is sure,
making wise the simple;

C the precepts of the LORD are right,
rejoicing the heart;
the commandment of the LORD is pure,
enlightening the eyes;

P the fear of the LORD is clean,
enduring forever;
the just decrees of the LORD are true,
and righteous altogether.

C More to be desired are they than gold,
even much fine gold;
sweeter also than honey
and drippings of the honeycomb.

P Moreover, by them is your servant warned;
in keeping them there is great reward.

C Who can discern his errors?

Declare me innocent from hidden faults.

P Keep back your servant also from
presumptuous sins;

let them not have dominion over me!
Then I shall be blameless,
and innocent of great transgression.

**C Let the words of my mouth and the
meditation of my heart**

**be acceptable in your sight,
O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.**

(please rise)

KYRIE

P In peace let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

P For the peace from above and for our salvation
let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

P For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

P For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

P Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C Amen.

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy, be gracious to all who have gone astray from Your ways and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of Your Word; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who

lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

(please be seated)

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Exodus 20:1–17*
The Ten Commandments

¹And God spoke all these words, saying,

²“I am the LORD your God, who brought you out
of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.

³“You shall have no other gods before me.

⁴“You shall not make for yourself a carved image,
or any likeness of anything that is in heaven
above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in
the water under the earth. ⁵You shall not bow
down to them or serve them, for I the LORD your
God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the
fathers on the children to the third and the fourth
generation of those who hate me, ⁶but showing
steadfast love to thousands of those who love me
and keep my commandments.

⁷“You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes his name in vain.

⁸“Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.
⁹Six days you shall labor, and do all your work,
¹⁰but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates. ¹¹For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.

¹²“Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.

¹³“You shall not murder.

¹⁴“You shall not commit adultery.

¹⁵“You shall not steal.

¹⁶“You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

¹⁷“You shall not covet your neighbor’s house; you shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, or his male

servant, or his female servant, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor's."

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE

1 Corinthians 1:18–31

Christ the Wisdom and Power of God

¹⁸The word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹For it is written,

"I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart."

²⁰Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe. ²²For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, ²³but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, ²⁴but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the

wisdom of God. ²⁵For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

²⁶For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth.

²⁷But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; ²⁸God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, ²⁹so that no human being might boast in the presence of God.

³⁰He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, whom God made our wisdom and our righteousness and sanctification and redemption.

³¹Therefore, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

(please rise)

♪ALLELUIA AND VERSE♪ (LENT)

☩ Return to the Lord, your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and abounding in steadfast love.

HOLY GOSPEL

John 2:13–22

☐ The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the second chapter.

☩ Glory to You, O Lord.

Jesus Cleanses the Temple

¹³The Passover of the Jews was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. ¹⁴In the temple he found those who were selling oxen and sheep and pigeons, and the money-changers sitting there. ¹⁵And making a whip of cords, he drove them all out of the temple, with the sheep and oxen. And he poured out the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables. ¹⁶And he told those who sold the pigeons, “Take these things away; do not make my Father’s house a house of trade.” ¹⁷His disciples remembered that it was written, “Zeal for your house will consume me.”

¹⁸So the Jews said to him, “What sign do you show us for doing these things?” ¹⁹Jesus answered them, “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.” ²⁰The Jews then said, “It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will you raise it up in three days?” ²¹But he was speaking about the temple of his body. ²²When therefore he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they believed the Scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

[P] This is the Gospel of the Lord.

[C] Praise to You, O Christ.

(please be seated)

HYMN OF THE DAY

973 THY WORD IS A LAMP

**ref Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet
And a light unto my path.
Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet
And a light unto my path.**

1 When I feel afraid, think I've lost my way,
Still You're there right beside me.
And nothing will I fear as long as You are near.
Please be near me to the end. **Refrain**

**ref Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet
And a light unto my path.
Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet
And a light unto my path.**

2 I will not forget Your love for me, and yet
My heart forever is wandering.
Jesus, be my guide and hold me to Your side;
And I will love You to the end. **Refrain**

SERMON

"Foolishness?"

. . . Pastor Karl

(please rise)

NICENE CREED

**☐ I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,**

**maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation
came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of
the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under
Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again
according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to
judge both the living and the dead,**

whose kingdom will have no end.
And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the
Son,
who with the Father and the Son together
is worshiped and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and
apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the
remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life ✝ of the world to come.
Amen.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P Lord, in Your mercy
C Hear our prayer.

(please be seated)

OFFERING

♪OFFERTORY RESPONSE♪

805 PRAISE GOD, FROM WHOM ALL
BLESSINGS FLOW
(please rise)

△ **1 Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host:
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Amen.**

+ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT +

[P] The Lord be with you.

[C] And also with you.

[P] Lift up your hearts.

[C] We lift them to the Lord.

[P] Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

[C] It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

[P] It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should
at all times and in all places give thanks to You,

holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God,
through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who overcame
the assaults of the devil and gave His life as a
ransom for many that with cleansed hearts we
might be prepared joyfully to celebrate the
paschal feast in sincerity and truth. Therefore
with angels and archangels and with all the
company of heaven we laud and magnify Your
glorious name, evermore praising You and
saying:

♪SANCTUS♪

**☐ Holy, holy, holy Lord God of pow'r and
might:**

Heaven and earth are full of Your glory.

Hosanna. Hosanna.

Hosanna in the highest.

**Blessed is He who comes in the name of the
Lord.**

Hosanna in the highest.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

**☐ Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for
You have had mercy on those whom You
created and sent Your only-begotten Son into**

our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: “Take, eat; this is My ✝

body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.”

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✝ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

P As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord’s death until He comes.

C Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

P O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

♪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 debts,
as we forgive our debtors;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom
and the power and the glory
Forever. Amen.**

☐ The peace of the Lord be with you always.

☐ Amen.

♪AGNUS DEI♪

☐ Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

(please be seated)

DISTRIBUTION

(please rise)

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart ✝ in peace.

C Amen.

COMMUNION HYMN

611 CHIEF OF SINNERS THOUGH I BE

1 Chief of sinners though I be,
Jesus shed His blood for me,
Died that I might live on high,
Lives that I might never die.
As the branch is to the vine,
I am His, and He is mine.

2 Oh, the height of Jesus' love,
Higher than the heav'ns above,
Deeper than the depths of sea,
Lasting as eternity!
Love that found me—wondrous thought!
Found me when I sought Him not.

3 Only Jesus can impart
Balm to heal the wounded heart,
Peace that flows from sin forgiv'n,
Joy that lifts the soul to heav'n,
Faith and hope to walk with God
In the way that Enoch trod.

4 Chief of sinners though I be,
Christ is all in all to me;
All my wants to Him are known,
All my sorrows are His own.
He sustains the hidden life
Safe with Him from earthly strife.

5 O my Savior, help afford
By Your Spirit and Your Word!
When my wayward heart would stray,
Keep me in the narrow way;

Grace in time of need supply
While I live and when I die.

♪NUNC DIMITTIS♪

**☐ Lord, now You let Your servant go in peace;
Your word has been fulfilled.**

**My own eyes have seen the salvation which
You have prepared in the sight of ev'ry
people:**

**A light to reveal You to the nations and the
glory of Your people Israel.**

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to
the Holy Spirit;**

**as it was in the beginning, is now, and will
be forever. Amen.**

POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

☐ Let us pray.

**We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You
have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and
we implore You that of Your mercy You would
strengthen us through the same in faith toward
You and in fervent love toward one another;
through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who**

lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

(please be seated)

CLOSING HYMN

728 HOW FIRM A FOUNDATION

(Stanzas 1–2)

- 1 How firm a foundation, O saints of the Lord,
Is laid for your faith in His excellent Word!
What more can He say than to you He has said
Who unto the Savior for refuge have fled?
- 2 “Fear not! I am with you, O be not dismayed,
For I am your God and will still give you aid;
I’ll strengthen you, help you, and cause you to
stand,
Upheld by My righteous, omnipotent hand.

BENEDICTION

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be
gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

✠ Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

POSTLUDE

This Week's Calendar



SUNDAY ~ MARCH 7, 2021

11:30 a.m. No Adult Bible Class or Confirmation Class

11:45 a.m. Jim Keiper's Memorial Service



WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY ~ MARCH 10, 2021 at 10:30 a.m.

SPECIAL NEWS & NOTES



SUNDAY ~ MARCH 14, 2021

10:30 a.m. Sunday Worship

11:30 a.m. No Adult Bible Class



WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY ~ March 17, 2021 at 10:30 a.m.



Flower Calendar: The 2021 Flower Chart is up in the narthex. The flowers decorating the chancel at Bethlehem are placed there as an act of worship and devotion to glorify God. They are also, an expression of the beauty and goodness of God. Members of the

congregation may donate altar flowers as an expression of thanksgiving to God, in remembrance of departed loved one, on the occasion of a special event, such as a baptism, birthday, wedding anniversary, or simply to praise God. If you wish to donate flowers for use on the chancel, the cost is \$40.00 for two vases, if you would like to just purchase 1 vase at \$20.00 that's okay, but please put up there 1 vase and someone can sign up with you for the other. It is also tax deductible. Please place money in an envelope marked flowers in the offering basket.



Birthday Greetings!!

3/9: Barbara Schaeffer

3/11: Ben Smith, 3/13: Ruthann Thornton



Anniversary Greetings!!

3/11: Barbara Bulmahn and Vern Stork



The Flowers at our altar this morning were given to the *Glory of God* by the Richard and Terri Gerlach for their 53rd wedding anniversary on March 15th.

Stewardship & Attendance

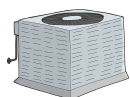
Monthly Giving

Offerings: \$8928

Expenses: \$9080

Weekly Attendance

Worship Service – 49



Air Conditioning Fund:

The air conditioning units for the sanctuary were installed about 15 years ago. They have required more frequent maintenance and repair in the last year. We have begun raising funds to replace these units. The estimated replacement cost is approximately \$25,000. We are starting an “Air Conditioning Fund” to raise the needed money. Please label your donations as “A/C Fund”.

Prayer Chain: Life presents challenges to all of us, but sometimes those challenges can feel like it’s just too much. If you are experiencing situations, whether physical, emotional, or spiritual, you may give your prayer requests to Linda Kirsch 239-693-5026 or e-mail: jlkirsch3@comcast.net or call or email Linda if you would like to become a part of our Prayer chain.

“Hear my prayer, O Lord; listen to my cry for mercy.”



Bertha Bos

Vi Hacker

Harrison and Joyce Kimbrell

Jan and Emy Larson



Rev. Karl P. Glander

Organist: Holly Bell

Elder: Paul Rugenstein

Altar Guild: Karen Johnson, Betty Willis

Ushers: Gary and Sandra Lohr

Reader: Pam Rugenstein

Acolyte: Jake Stecklein