

Bethany Lutheran Church

Long Beach, California

562-421-4711

4th SUNDAY IN LENT

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MARCH 22, 2020

+ *God Gathers Us In His Presence* +

WELCOME

OPENING HYMN:

"I Am Jesus' Little Lamb"

LSB 740



1 I am Je - sus' lit - tle lamb, Ev - er glad at
2 Day by day, at home, a - way, Je - sus is my
3 Who so hap - py as I am, E - ven now the



heart I am; For my Shep - herd gent - ly guides me,
staff and stay. When I hun - ger, Je - sus feeds me,
Shep - herd's lamb? And when my short life is end - ed,



Knows my need and well pro - vides me, Loves me ev - 'ry
In - to pleas - ant pas - tures leads me; When I thirst, He
By His an - gel host at - tend - ed, He shall fold me



day the same, E - ven calls me by my name.
bids me go Where the qui - et wa - ters flow.
to His breast, There with - in His arms to rest.

CALL TO WORSHIP:

Leader: In the name of the Father and of the +Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Leader: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

People: who made heaven and earth.

Leader: If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

People: But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.

Leader: We are gathered together to hear God's Word, to come to Him in prayer and to give Him the praise He deserves. We begin by considering our own unworthiness and confessing to God that we have indeed sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people, we take refuge in the infinite mercy of our God and Father, seeking His grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

People: Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.

Leader: Almighty God, merciful Father, in Holy Baptism You declared us to be Your children and gathered us into Your one, holy Church, in which You daily and richly forgive us our sins and grant us new life through Your Spirit. Be in our midst, enliven our faith, and graciously receive our prayer and praise; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: Amen.

Leader: We join God's baptized children around the world, many of whom always worship in small cloistered communities out of requirement, danger or for protective measures, but who yet boldly confess the faith once and for all delivered to the saints, and we boldly join them now:

APOSTLE'S 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.

+ We Give Thanks for God's Word +

OFFERING:

If you so desire, Text Giving is now available.

Text GIVE to 562-210-0463. Thank you!

VOLUNTARY

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH:

Leader: FINALLY LORD, we pray that You,
the source of holy desires, good counsel, and just works,

People: Would give us, Your servants, the peace that the world cannot give.
**Defend us from all enemies and free us from fear
that we might live in hope and peace,
and serve you in confidence and faithfulness;
for the sake of Jesus in whose name we pray. Amen.**

THE HOLY GOSPEL: *John 9:1-11*

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.

His neighbors and those who had previously seen him begging asked, “Isn’t this the man who used to sit and beg?”

Some of them said, “He’s the one.” Others said, “No, he isn’t, but he looks like him.” But the man himself said, “I am the one.”

So they asked him, “How did you receive your sight?”

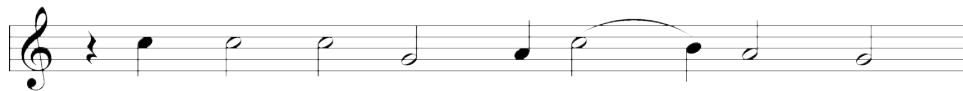
He replied, “The man people call Jesus mixed some spit with dirt, smeared it on my eyes, and told me, ‘Go to Siloam, and wash it off.’ So I went there, washed it off, and received my sight.” – GW ®

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON HYMN:

“A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”

LSB 656



1 A might - y for - tress is our God,
2 With might of ours can naught be done,
3 Though dev - ils all the world should fill,
4 The Word they still shall let re - main

A trust - y shield and weap - on;
 Soon were our loss ef - fect - ed;
 All ea - ger to de - vour us,
 Nor an - y thanks have for it;

He helps us free from ev - 'ry need
 But for us fights the val - iant One,
 We trem - ble not, we fear no ill;
 He's by our side up - on the plain

That hath us now o'er - tak - en.
 Whom God Him - self e - lect - ed.
 They shall not o - ver - pow'r us.
 With His good gifts and Spir - it.

The old e - vil foe Now means
 Ask ye, Who is this? Je - sus
 This world's prince may still Scowl fierce
 And take they our life, Goods, fame,

dead - ly woe; Deep guile and great might
 Christ it is, Of Sab - a - oth Lord,
 as he will, He can harm us none.
 child, and wife, Though these all be gone,

Are his dread arms in fight; On earth
 And there's none oth - er God; He holds
 He's judged; the deed is done; One lit -
 Our vic - t'ry has been won; The King -

is not his e - qual.
 the field for - ev - er.
 tle word can fell him.
 dom ours re - main - eth.

SERMON: *“God Is with Us”*

Text: Psalm 46

SCRIPTURE READING: *Psalm 46*

God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.
Therefore we will not fear though the earth gives way,
though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea,
though its waters roar and foam,
though the mountains tremble at its swelling.

There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
the holy habitation of the Most High.
God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved;
God will help her when morning dawns.
The nations rage, the kingdoms totter;
he utters his voice, the earth melts.
The LORD of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our fortress.

Come, behold the works of the LORD,
how he has brought desolations on the earth.
He makes wars cease to the end of the earth;
he breaks the bow and shatters the spear;
he burns the chariots with fire.
“Be still, and know that I am God.
I will be exalted among the nations,
I will be exalted in the earth!”
The LORD of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our fortress. – ESV ®

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.**

+ *God Sends Us Forth for Lives of Love and
Service* +

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ARE YOU RECEIVING THE BETHANY BULLET? If you would like to receive the *Bethany Bullet* please email Aimee Coleman (acoleman@bethanylutheran.org) with your name and email address. The *Bethany Bullet* is a weekly capsule of worship highlights and big information that your brain may or may not have 'downloaded' from the prior Sunday. The purpose is to bolster you in faith, build you up in the key Biblical themes shared the previous Sunday in worship, to bring to mind the important issues on Bethany's plate and to broaden your awareness of opportunities of service to your Lord, your church, and your community. Tell a friend about the *Bethany Bullet!*