



Bethlehem Lutheran Church

Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod

14531 Old Olga Road

Fort Myers, FL

March 5, 2025

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod

14531 Old Olga Road S.E.

Ft Myers, FL 33905

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

Pastor Karl's Monday Morning Message

live Monday's at 9:00 a.m. on

Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/BLCEFM/>

Linda Kirsch, Church Secretary



**IT IS GREAT TO HAVE YOU IN WORSHIP
WITH US THIS EVENING!**

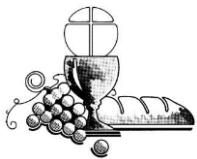
Here at Bethlehem Lutheran, we believe in the teachings of the Bible as taught by Jesus and the apostles and strive to live our lives in accord with

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!

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 is celebrated at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in the confession and glad confidence that, as he says, our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but his very body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with him and with one another. Our Lord invites to

his table those who trust his words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as he forgives and loves us, that they may show forth his death until he comes.

Because those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm and because Holy Communion is a confession of faith which is confessed at this altar, any who are not yet instructed, in doubt, or who hold a confession differing from that of Bethlehem Lutheran Church LCMS and yet desire to receive the sacrament, are invited to speak with Pastor Karl Glander.

As part of tonight's worship, the imposition of ashes will be offered. This practice may not be familiar to everyone. Ashes have been used in Christian churches to mark the beginning of Lent since at least the 10th Century, and ashes are mentioned in scripture as a symbol of purification and repentance.

We offer the imposition of ashes tonight as a physical reminder of our mortality and sin, an assurance of God's forgiveness and salvation. As entering church this evening, those who wish to receive the imposition of ashes will be done upon entering church. I will place the mark of ashes on

your forehead. If you would prefer the mark on the back of your hand, simply hold your hand out.

Let us begin our time of worship by focusing our minds and hearts on God's presence with us. Relax into a comfortable position and close your eyes as you take a few deep breaths. The journey begins now...

Ash Wednesday

March 5, 2025

AS WE GATHER

God Has a Word for That

“Alas! And did my Savior bleed, And did my sov'reign die? Would He devote that sacred head For such a worm as I?” (*LSB* 437:1) These words of Isaac Watts set the tone for our Ash Wednesday worship. We begin our time in Isaiah 40–55 with a verse where God calls the exilic community in Babylon a worm (41:14). Their hopelessness is epitomized in Psalm 22:1, “My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?” And then in Psalm 22:6 David says, “I am a

worm and not a man.” Ash Wednesday is a time to acknowledge who we are in God’s sight and then receive His gracious absolution. Our Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel, declares us loved and forgiven. And He goes one step further. In Jesus Christ, our God transforms worms into mountain movers (Isaiah 41:15). There is a word for that—grace!

This Lent, our **Call to Worship/Confession and Absolution** is drawn from the Seven Penitential Psalms, so named by Cassiodorus (c. AD 485–c. AD 585) in the sixth century AD. For centuries, Psalms 6, 32, 38, 51, 102, 130, and 143 have served as a source of prayer and reflection during Lent. Their honest confessions invite us to turn to our Lord with the same candor and humility.

INVOCATION

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. (2 Corinthians 13:14)

C Amen.

OPENING HYMN

570 Just as I Am, without One Plea

(Stanzas 1-3)

1 Just as I am, without one plea
But that Thy blood was shed for me
And that Thou bidd'st me come to Thee,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

2 Just as I am and waiting not
To rid my soul of one dark blot,
To Thee, whose blood can cleanse each spot,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

3 Just as I am, though tossed about
With many a conflict, many a doubt,
Fightings and fears within, without,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

(Please rise if able)

+ CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION +

RESPONSIVE PSALM

Psalm 6

P O Lord, do not rebuke me in Your anger or
discipline me in Your wrath.

- C** Be merciful to me, Lord, for I am faint; O Lord, heal me, for my bones are in agony.
- P** My soul is in anguish. How long, O Lord, how long?
- C** Turn, O Lord, and deliver me; save me because of Your unfailing love.
- P** No one remembers You when he is dead. Who praises You from the grave?
- C** I am worn out from groaning; all night long I flood my bed with weeping and drench my couch with tears.
- P** My eyes grow weak with sorrow; they fail because of all my foes.
- C** Holy God, holy and most merciful Father, have mercy upon us. We have lived as though You do not matter and as if we mattered most. We have not loved You with our whole heart and we have failed to love our neighbor as ourselves.

P The Lord has heard your cry for mercy; the Lord accepts your prayer. As a called and ordained servant of the Word, I announce the grace of God to all of you. Therefore in the stead and by the command of our Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

RESPONSE

570 Just as I Am, without One Plea

(Stanzas 4-5)

4 Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind;
Sight, riches, healing of the mind,
Yea, all I need, in Thee to find,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

5 Just as I am, Thou wilt receive,
Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
Because Thy promise I believe,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray. O God of steadfast love and mercy, we give You thanks for the season of Lent—its call to repentance, its focus on Jesus’ suffering and death, and its offer of new life. Grant us faith to embrace the grace that You pour out so abundantly because of the blood and resurrection of Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

“Worms!”

. . . *Pastor Karl*

Today’s Scripture lessons have as their theme
“God’s Transformative Power.”

OLD TESTAMENT

Isaiah 41:14–16

¹⁴Fear not, you worm Jacob,

you men of Israel!

I am the one who helps you, declares the Lord;
your Redeemer is the Holy One of Israel.

¹⁵Behold, I make of you a threshing sledge,
new, sharp, and having teeth;

you shall thresh the mountains and crush them,
and you shall make the hills like chaff;

¹⁶you shall winnow them, and the wind shall carry
them away,

and the tempest shall scatter them.

And you shall rejoice in the Lord;

in the Holy One of Israel you shall glory.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE

Hebrews 2:1–9

¹Therefore we must pay much closer attention to
what we have heard, lest we drift away from it.

²For since the message declared by angels proved
to be reliable, and every transgression or
disobedience received a just retribution, ³how shall
we escape if we neglect such a great salvation? It
was declared at first by the Lord, and it was
attested to us by those who heard, ⁴while God also

bore witness by signs and wonders and various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to His will.

⁵Now it was not to angels that God subjected the world to come, of which we are speaking. ⁶It has been testified somewhere,

“What is man, that You are mindful of him, or the son of man, that You care for him?

⁷You made him for a little while lower than the angels;

you have crowned him with glory and honor,

⁸putting everything in subjection under his feet.”

Now in putting everything in subjection to him, He left nothing outside his control. At present, we do not yet see everything in subjection to him. ⁹But we see Him who for a little while was made lower than the angels, namely Jesus, crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God He might taste death for everyone.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

(Please rise if able)

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 5:1–12

¹Seeing the crowds, He went up on the mountain, and when He sat down, His disciples came to Him.

²And He opened His mouth and taught them, saying:

³“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴“Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

⁵“Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

⁶“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

⁷“Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.

⁸“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

⁹“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

¹⁰“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹“Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. ¹²Rejoice and be glad,

for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

PThis is the Gospel of the Lord.

CPraise to You, O Christ.

NICENE CREED

C 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.

SERMON

“God Has a Word for That”

. . . Pastor Karl

SERMON HYMN

437 Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed

(Stanzas 1–3)

1 Alas! and did my Savior bleed,
And did my Sov'reign die?
Would He devote that sacred head
For such a worm as I?

2 Was it for crimes that I had done
He groaned upon the tree?
Amazing pity, grace unknown,
And love beyond degree!

3 Well might the sun in darkness hide
And shut his glories in
When God, the mighty Maker, died
For his own creatures' sin.

OFFERING

THE IMPOSITION OF ASHES

P Almighty God, You created us out of the dust of the ground. May these ashes remind us that we are dust and shall return to dust. May they also remind us of the cross of Christ by which we are given everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

(Those who wish to receive ashes may come forward one at a time.)

[The minister imposes ashes on the forehead with the sign of the cross — a reminder of the cross placed on the forehead at the time of Baptism — with the words, “Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.” The congregation remains silent.]

(Please rise if able)

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P Heavenly Father, the mountains of sin and shame stand in our way, but we believe that,

C “We will thresh the mountains and crush them, and reduce the hills to chaff” (Isaiah 41:15).

P O God, the mountains and hills of addictions and obsessions threaten to overwhelm us, but we trust that,

C “We will thresh the mountains and crush them, and reduce the hills to chaff” (Isaiah 41:15).

P Loving Lord, obstacles standing in our way fill our hearts with fear and anxiety, but we know that,

C “We will thresh the mountains and crush them, and reduce the hills to chaff” (Isaiah 41:15).

P Heavenly Father, You have a word for all of this,

C Grace, grace, amazing and life-changing grace!

+ Congregational Prayers +

- P** Father, we pray confidently and boldly,
because You are
- C** “The One who helps us; our Redeemer, the
Holy One of Israel” (Isaiah 41:14).
- P** In Christ’s holy name we pray. Amen.

LORD’S PRAYER

- P** Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach
us to pray:
- C** 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.

+CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER+

PREFACE

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.

PROPER PREFACE

♪SANCTUS♪

C 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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

♪ **AGNUS DEI** ♪ (*Lamb of God*)

(Sung to the tune of “O Sacred Head, Now Wounded”; LSB 449)

O Lamb of God, once lifted upon the cursed tree,

O Lamb of God, once offered in sacrifice for me,

O Lamb of God, my Savior in my place crucified,

Your peace and mercy grant me. My Savior will provide.

(Please be seated)

DISTRIBUTION

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

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,
Lived 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.

**560 Drawn to the Cross, Which Thou Hast
Blessed**

1 Drawn to the Cross, which Thou hast blessed
With healing gifts for souls distressed,
To find in Thee my life, my rest,
Christ crucified, I come.

2 Thou knowest all my griefs and fears,
Thy grace abused, my misspent years;
Yet now to Thee with contrite tears,
Christ crucified, I come.

3 Wash me and take away each stain;
Let nothing of my sin remain.
For cleansing, though it be through pain,
Christ crucified, I come.

4 And then for work to do for Thee,
Which shall so sweet a service be
That angels well might envy me,
Christ crucified, I come.

543 What Wondrous Love Is This

1 What wondrous love is this,
O my soul, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this
That caused the Lord of bliss
To bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my
soul,
To bear the dreadful curse for my soul!

2 When I was sinking down, sinking down, sinking
down,
When I was sinking down, sinking down,
When I was sinking down
Beneath God's righteous frown,
Christ laid aside his crown for my soul, for my
soul,
Christ laid aside his crown for my soul.

3 To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing;
To God and to the Lamb I will sing;
To God and to the Lamb,
Who is the great I AM.
While millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing.
While millions join the theme, I will sing.

4 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on;

And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on.

And when from death I'm free,

I'll sing His love for me,

And through eternity I'll sing on, I'll sing on,

And through eternity I'll sing on.

527 O Savior, Precious Savior

1 O Saviour, precious Saviour,

Whom yet unseen we love;

O Name of might and favor,

All other names above,

We worship Thee, we bless Thee,

To Thee, O Christ, we sing;

We praise Thee and confess Thee,

Our holy Lord and King.

2 O bringer of salvation,

Who wondrously hast wrought,

Thyself the revelation

Of love beyond our thought.

We worship Thee, we bless Thee,

To Thee, O Christ, we sing;

We praise Thee, and confess Thee,
Our gracious Lord and King.

3 In Thee all fulness dwelleth,
All grace and pow'r divine;
The glory that excelleth,
O Son of God, is Thine.
We worship Thee, we bless Thee,
To Thee, O Christ, we sing;
We praise Thee and confess Thee,
Our glorious Lord and King.

4 O grant the consummation
Of this our song above
In endless adoration
And everlasting love;
Then shall we praise and bless Thee
Where perfect praises ring,
And evermore confess Thee,
Our Saviour and our King!

(Please rise)

♪ **NUNC DIMITTIS** ♪ *(Song of Simeon)*

Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace according to Thy Word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou has prepared before the face of all people, a light to lighten the Gentiles and the Glory of Thy people Israel. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

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.

C Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

507 Holy, Holy, Holy

(Stanzas 3–4)

3 Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide Thee,
Though the eye of sinful man Thy glory may not
see,

Only Thou art holy; there is none beside Thee,
Perfect in pow'r, in love, and purity.

4 Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
All Thy works shall praise Thy name in earth and
sky and sea.

Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty!
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

Silent Prayer: Heavenly Father, we are so
thankful that worms become mountain movers and
that the lowly and despised are loved and lifted up.
Look out, mountains, here we come! In Jesus'
name. Amen.

SERMON NOTES

“God Has a Word for That”

“Do not be afraid, O worm Jacob, O dead ones of Israel . . . ” (Isaiah 41:14).

Worm = _____ (e.g.,
Isaiah 66:24; Jonah 4:7)

“My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me? . . .
. I am a worm and not a man” (Psalm 22:1, 6).

“I Myself will help you, declares the Lord; your
Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel” (Isaiah 41:14).

“Redeemer” = _____
(Job 19:25; 42:10)

“Holy One” = _____

“See, I am making you into a threshing sledge,
new and sharp, with many teeth. You will thresh
the mountains and crush them, and reduce the
hills to chaff” (Isaiah 41:15).

My mountains = _____

“You shall winnow them, and the wind shall carry them away, and the tempest shall scatter them. And you shall rejoice in the Lord; in the Holy One of Israel you shall glory” (Isaiah 41:16).

For next week, read Isaiah 43:1–7 and answer these questions: Please complete this for Wednesday’s Bible class. Thank you!

1. In Isaiah 40:26, the prophet writes that God calls each star by name. What does it mean for you that this same God also calls you by name (Isaiah 43:1)?
2. Israelites passed through the waters when God led them through the Red Sea (Isaiah 43:1; cf. Exodus 14). What comfort does this give to you?
3. Look again at Isaiah 43:3–7. What value does God place on His people? What does this say about your worth?



Rev. Karl P. Glander
Organist: Holly Bell
Pianist: Cheryl Nelson
Elder: Klaus Naumann
Altar Guild: Betty Willis
Ushers: Doug Grage, Paul Rugenstein
Reader: Annette Brocious
Acolyte: Nala Hidalgo