



March 18, 2026

Bethlehem Lutheran Church
Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod
14531 Old Olga Road
Fort Myers, FL

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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

Linda Kirsch, Church Secretary

Welcome in the name of Jesus!

We're so glad to have you join us to worship our Lord! If you are a guest with us today, please introduce yourself to our pastor and stop by the registration book in the Narthex.

The Order of Vespers

March 18, 2026

(Please rise)

OPENING VERSICLES

P O Lord, open my lips,

C and my mouth will declare Your praise.

P Make haste, O God, to deliver me;

C make haste to help me, O Lord.

C 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.

Praise to You, O Christ, Lamb of our salvation.

+ PSALMODY +

PSALM

Psalm 101

(Spoken responsively)

I Will Walk with Integrity

P I will sing of steadfast love and justice; to you, O LORD, I will make music.

C I will ponder the way that is blameless.
Oh when will you come to me?
I will walk with integrity of heart
within my house;

P I will not set before my eyes
anything that is worthless.
I hate the work of those who fall away;
it shall not cling to me.

C **A perverse heart shall be far from me;
I will know nothing of evil.**

P Whoever slanders his neighbor secretly
I will destroy.
Whoever has a haughty look and an arrogant
heart
I will not endure.

C **I will look with favor on the faithful in the
land,
that they may dwell with me;
he who walks in the way that is blameless**

shall minister to me.

P No one who practices deceit
shall dwell in my house;
no one who utters lies
shall continue before my eyes.

G Morning by morning I will destroy
all the wicked in the land,
cutting off all the evildoers
from the city of the LORD.

(Please be seated)

+ READINGS +

READING

Proverbs 3:21–35

L A reading from Proverbs, chapter 3.

²¹My son, do not lose sight of these—
keep sound wisdom and discretion,

²²and they will be life for your soul
and adornment for your neck.

²³Then you will walk on your way securely,
and your foot will not stumble.

²⁴If you lie down, you will not be afraid;
when you lie down, your sleep will be
sweet.

²⁵Do not be afraid of sudden terror
or of the ruin of the wicked, when it comes,
²⁶for the LORD will be your confidence
and will keep your foot from being caught.

²⁷Do not withhold good from those to whom it
is due,
when it is in your power to do it.

²⁸Do not say to your neighbor, “Go, and come
again,
tomorrow I will give it”—when you have it
with you.

²⁹Do not plan evil against your neighbor,
who dwells trustingly beside you.

³⁰Do not contend with a man for no reason,
when he has done you no harm.

³¹Do not envy a man of violence
and do not choose any of his ways,

³²for the devious person is an abomination to
the LORD,
but the upright are in his confidence.

³³The LORD’s curse is on the house of the
wicked,

but he blesses the dwelling of the righteous.
³⁴Toward the scorners he is scornful,
but to the humble he gives favor.
³⁵The wise will inherit honor,
but fools get disgrace.

L O Lord, have mercy on us.

C **Thanks be to God.**

READING

Ephesians 4:25–32

L A reading from Ephesians, chapter 4.

²⁵Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another. ²⁶Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, ²⁷and give no opportunity to the devil. ²⁸Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need. ²⁹Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear. ³⁰And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of

God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. ³¹Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. ³²Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

L O Lord, have mercy on us.

C **Thanks be to God.**

(Please rise)

READING

Matthew 22:34–40

P A reading from Matthew, chapter 22.

The Great Commandment

³⁴But when the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together. ³⁵And one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. ³⁶“Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?” ³⁷And he said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. ³⁸This is the great and first commandment. ³⁹And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as

yourself. ⁴⁰On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.”

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C **Thanks be to God.**

RESPONSORY (LENT)

LSB 231

L Deliver me, O Lord, my God, for You are the God of my salvation.

C **Rescue me from my enemies, protect me from those who rise against me.**

L In You, O Lord, do I put my trust, leave me not, O Lord, my God.

C **Rescue me from my enemies, protect me from those who rise against me.**

L Deliver me, O Lord, my God, for You are the God of my salvation.

C **Rescue me from my enemies, protect me from those who rise against me.**

(Please be seated)

SERMON HYMN

421 JESUS, GRANT THAT BALM AND HEALING

(Stanza 4)

- 4 Ev'ry wound that pains or grieves me
By Your wounds, Lord, is made whole;
When I'm faint, Your cross revives me,
Granting new life to my soul.
Yes, Your comfort renders sweet
Ev'ry bitter cup I meet;
For Your all-atoning passion
Has procured my soul's salvation.

SERMON

"*Danger of Complacency*"

... Pastor Karl

+ CANTICLE +

(Please rise)

- L** Let my prayer rise before You as incense,
C and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.

MAGNIFICAT

LSB 248

Refrain



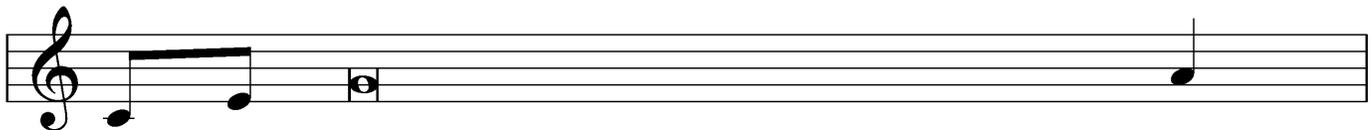
My soul mag-ni-fies the Lord, and my spir - it re -



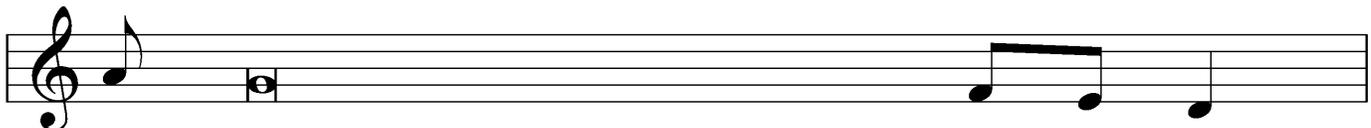
joic - es in God, my Sav - ior. My soul mag-ni-fies the



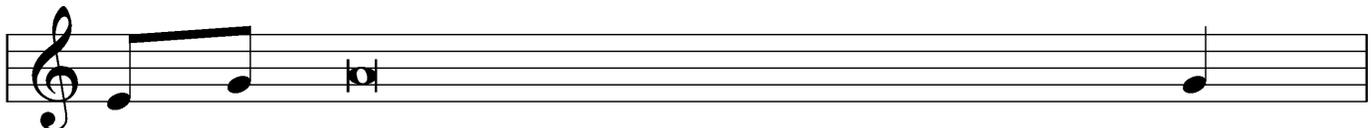
Lord, and my spir - it re - joic - es in God, my Sav - ior.



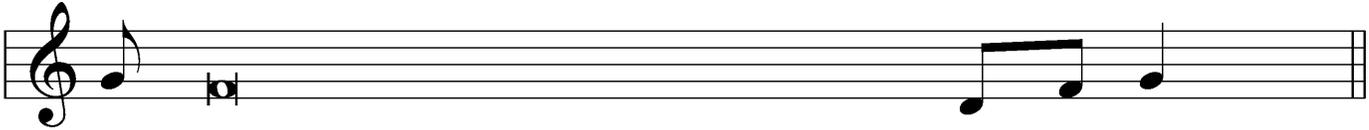
- 1 For _____ He has re - - - - - garded
- 2 For the Mighty One has done great things to me,
- 3 He has shown strength with His arm;
- 4 He has filled the hungry with good things,
- 5 Glo - ry be to the Father and to the Son



- 1 the lowliness of His hand-maiden.
- 2 and holy is His name;
- 3 He has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.
- 4 and the rich He has sent emp - - - - - ty a - way.
- 5 and to the Ho - ly Spirit;



- 1 For be - hold, from this day
- 2 and His mercy is on those who fear Him
- 3 He has cast down the mighty from their thrones
- 4 He has helped His servant Israel in remembrance of His mercy
- 5 as it was in the be - - - - - ginning,



- 1 all generations will call me blessed.
- 2 from generation to gen - er - ation. *Refrain*
- 3 and has exalt - - ed the lowly.
- 4 as He spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his seed for - ever.
- 5 is now, and will be forever. A - men. *Refrain*

(Please be seated)

OFFERING

+ PRAYER +

(Please rise)

KYRIE

LSB 233

- ☐ Lord, have mercy;**
- Christ, have mercy;**
- Lord, have mercy.**

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.**

COLLECTS

P O Lord, hear my prayer.

C And let my cry come to You.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

P Almighty God, our heavenly Father, Your mercies are new every morning; and though we deserve only punishment, You receive us as Your children and provide for all our needs of body and soul. Grant that we may heartily acknowledge Your merciful goodness, give thanks for all Your benefits, and serve You in willing obedience; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You

and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

COLLECT FOR PEACE

P O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; 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 rise)

BENEDICAMUS

LSB 234

P Let us bless the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

BENEDICTION

LSB 234

P The grace of our Lord ✠ Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy

Spirit be with you all.

C Amen.

(Please be seated)

CLOSING HYMN

392 GOD LOVES ME DEARLY

1 God loves me dearly,
Grants me salvation,
God loves me dearly,
Loves even me. **Refrain**

ref Therefore I'll say again:
God loves me dearly,
God loves me dearly,
Loves even me.

2 I was in slav'ry,
Sin, death, and darkness;
God's love was working
To make me free. **Refrain**

3 He sent forth Jesus,
My dear Redeemer,
He sent forth Jesus
And set me free. **Refrain**

ref **Therefore I'll say again:**
God loves me dearly,
God loves me dearly,
Loves even me.

4 Jesus, my Savior,
Himself did offer;
Jesus, my Savior,
Paid all I owed. **Refrain**

5 Now I will praise You,
O Love Eternal;
Now I will praise You
All my life long. **Refrain**



SERVING IN THE LORD'S HOUSE TODAY

Preacher: Rev. Karl P. Glander

Organist: Holly Bell

Guest Pianist: Cheryl Nelson

Flutist: Nancy Rybak

Bells: Debbie Jackow

The Sound System: Jeff Kirsch

Elder: Klaus Naumann

Altar Guild: Emmy Larson, Betty Willis

Ushers: Doug Grage

Reader: Holly Bell



Lenten Services

March 25th at 7:00 p.m.

HAPPY
Holy Week



Palm Sunday Service

March 29th at 10:30 a.m.

Maundy Thursday Service

April 2nd at 7:00 p.m. with Holy Communion

Good Friday Service

April 3rd at 7:00 p.m.

Easter Services

April 5th

6:30 a.m. Sunrise Service

8-10 a.m. Easter Breakfast

10:30 a.m. Easter Celebration Service

11:45 a.m. Easter Egg Hunt