

**PRAYER OF THE DAY:**

**Eternal Lord, your kingdom has broken into our troubled world through the life, death, and resurrection of your Son. Help us to hear your Word and obey it, so that we become instruments of your redeeming love; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.**

**First Reading: Ezekiel 33:7-20**

<sup>7</sup>So you, mortal, I have made a sentinel for the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. <sup>8</sup>If I say to the wicked, “O wicked ones, you shall surely die,” and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but their blood I will require at your hand. <sup>9</sup>But if you warn the wicked to turn from their ways, and they do not turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but you will have saved your life. <sup>10</sup>Now you, mortal, say to the house of Israel, Thus you have said: “Our transgressions and our sins weigh upon us, and we waste away because of them; how then can we live?” <sup>11</sup>Say to them, As I live, says the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from their ways and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways; for why will you die, O house of Israel? <sup>12</sup>And you, mortal, say to your people, The righteousness of the righteous shall not save them when they transgress; and as for the wickedness of the wicked, it shall not make them stumble when they turn from their wickedness; and the righteous shall not be able to live by their righteousness when they sin. <sup>13</sup>Though I say to the righteous that they shall surely live, yet if they trust in their righteousness and commit iniquity, none of their righteous deeds shall be remembered; but in the iniquity that they have committed they shall die. <sup>14</sup>Again, though I say to the wicked, “You shall surely die,” yet if they turn from their sin and do what is lawful and right—<sup>15</sup>if the wicked restore the pledge, give back what they have taken by robbery, and walk in the statutes of life, committing no iniquity—they shall surely live, they shall not die. <sup>16</sup>None of the sins that they have committed shall be remembered against them; they have done what is lawful and right, they shall surely live. <sup>17</sup>Yet your people say, “The way of the Lord is not just,” when it is their own way that is not just. <sup>18</sup>When the righteous turn from their righteousness, and commit iniquity, they shall die for it. <sup>19</sup>And when the wicked turn from their wickedness, and do what is lawful and right, they shall live by it. <sup>20</sup>Yet you say, “The way of the Lord is not just.” O house of Israel, I will judge all of you according to your ways!

**Psalm: Psalm 85**

<sup>1</sup>LORD, you were favorable to your land; you restored the fortunes of Jacob.

<sup>2</sup>**You forgave the iniquity of your people; you pardoned all their sin.**

<sup>3</sup>You withdrew all your wrath; you turned from your hot anger.

<sup>4</sup>**Restore us again, O God of our salvation, and put away your indignation toward us.**

<sup>5</sup>Will you be angry with us forever? Will you prolong your anger to all generations?

<sup>6</sup>**Will you not revive us again, so that your people may rejoice in you?**

<sup>7</sup>Show us your steadfast love, O LORD, and grant us your salvation.

<sup>8</sup>**Let me hear what God the LORD will speak, for he will speak peace to his people, to his faithful, to those who turn to him in their hearts.**

<sup>9</sup>Surely his salvation is at hand for those who fear him, that his glory may dwell in our land.

<sup>10</sup>**Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet; righteousness and peace will kiss each other.**

<sup>11</sup>Faithfulness will spring up from the ground, and righteousness will look down from the sky.

<sup>12</sup>**The LORD will give what is good, and our land will yield its increase.**

<sup>13</sup>Righteousness will go before him, and will make a path for his steps.

**Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 10:1-13**

<sup>10</sup>I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, <sup>2</sup>and

all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, <sup>3</sup>and all ate the same spiritual food, <sup>4</sup>and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ. <sup>5</sup>Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness. <sup>6</sup>Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did. <sup>7</sup>Do not become idolaters as some of them did; as it is written, “The people sat down to eat and drink, and they rose up to play.” <sup>8</sup>We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. <sup>9</sup>We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents. <sup>10</sup>And do not complain as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. <sup>11</sup>These things happened to them to serve as an example, and they were written down to instruct us, on whom the ends of the ages have come. <sup>12</sup>So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall. <sup>13</sup>No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.

**Gospel: Luke 13:1-9**

<sup>13</sup>At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. <sup>2</sup>He asked them, “Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? <sup>3</sup>No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. <sup>4</sup>Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? <sup>5</sup>No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did.” <sup>6</sup>Then he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. <sup>7</sup>So he said to the gardener, ‘See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?’ <sup>8</sup>He replied, ‘Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. <sup>9</sup>If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.’”

## THIS WEEK AT BETHANY

<b>Today: March 23<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>Sunday: March 30<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>Third Sunday in Lent</b>	<b>Second Sunday in Lent</b>
9:15- Adult SS	9:15 Adult- SS
9:30-Youth SS	9:30-Youth SS
9:30-Coffee Fellowship	9:30-Coffee Fellowship
10:30-Worship	10:30-Worship
4:00-4-H Club Mtg	4:00-Laurens Care Center Svc
6:00-Bethany Prayer Group	6:00-Bethany Prayer Group
<b>Monday: March 24<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Monday: March 31<sup>st</sup></b>
7:00-Hand Bell rehearsal	4:00-W/M mtg
<b>Tuesday: March 25<sup>th</sup></b>	
8:30-Prayer Group	
9:30-Morning Coffee @ BLC	
7:00-Confirmation	
<b>Wednesday: March 26<sup>th</sup></b>	
11:30-Lenten Luncheon FCC	
5:30-Lenten Soup Supper	
6:30-Lenten Evening Service	

**Prayer Concerns:** Bethany Lutheran Church members, nursing home residents, storm/flood/fire victims, those suffering any illness, Myra Reese, John Wills, Tami Hawk, Don & Brenda DeHaan, Dorothy Smith, Janelle Mason, Linda Galbraith, Tim Burton, Desiree Welty, Roberta Baker, Pastor John Mayer, Elizabeth Dunbar, Monica Isom, Don Ehlers, Bill Alexander, Eli Honer, Dorothy Sandvig, Gloria Bell, Helen Dodge, Patricia Bentsen. Our youth, parents & teachers, our military & missionaries.

**Lectors:** Tom Anderson  
**Ushers:** March 23<sup>rd</sup> -Kelly & Dawn Gordon  
 March 30<sup>th</sup> -Julian Johnsen Family

**Acolytes:** Bethany Youth  
**Weekly Budget Needs:** \$2817.00  
 Faith Promise \$1377.00 Worship 41  
 Sunday School \$9.00 Youth SS 11 Adult SS 5  
 Lent \$80.00 Pot Luck \$18.00 Noisy Offering \$67.98

**Birthdays:** March 23-Keton Alexander; 24-Jason Langan

\*\*\*Please note that the blue CH (Celebration Hymnal) is located under the pew in front of you.  
**Altar Flowers:**

An asterisk (\*) indicates when to stand (as able)

### ORDER OF THE SERVICE

PRELUDE/ RINGING OF THE BELL  
 WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

### WORSHIP OF PRAYER & MEDITATION

\*CONFESSION P.56  
 \*HYMN *Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer* **LBW 343**  
 \*GREETING P.57  
 \*KYRIE P.57  
 \*PRAYER OF THE DAY (bulletin-in unison)

### MEDITATION ON GOD'S WORD

**Lenten Reading` -** *At the Cross*  
*The Sneering Ruler* *Tom Anderson*  
**FIRST READING:** Ezekiel 33:7-20  
**Psalm:** Psalm 85 (bulletin – responsively)  
**SECOND READING:** 1 Corinthians 10:1-13  
 Lenten Sentence P.63  
 \***THE HOLY GOSPEL:** Luke 13:1-9  
 \*GOSPEL RESPONSES P.63  
 CHILDREN'S SERMON  
 SERMON **Pastor David Klappenbach**  
 HYMN *Near the Cross* **CH 319**  
 Apostles Creed P.65

### OFFERING OURSELVES TO GOD

OFFERING P.75  
 \*OFFERTORY P.75  
 \*PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH  
 \*PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH  
 Leader: ...Lord in your mercy  
 Response: Hear our prayer.  
 \***THE LORD'S PRAYER** **CH 631**

### OUR SENDING

\***BENEDICTION** P.76  
 \*HYMN *Great is Thy Faithfulness* **CH 139**  
 \*DISMISSAL



**March 23, 2025**  
**First Sunday in Lent**

**WORSHIP, LOVE, ACCEPT**  
**TOGETHER IN CHRIST'S NAME**

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To our visitors! Welcome to our Sunday Service. We are happy to have you sharing in our worship service and ask for the opportunity to meet you. We invite you to complete the visitor card in front of you and give to an usher. Please come again!

**We are a**  
**Christ-Centered**  
**Mission-Driven**  
**Traditionally-Grounded**  
**Congregationally-Focused**  
**Church.**