

Third Sunday in Lent

March 23, 2025

Congregations of Medora, Belfield, Daglum

Musical Accompanists

Tami Elefson – Medora Jean Franklin – Belfield

A warm welcome to you!

We hope you are blessed in worship today.



Introduction

Though we sometimes doubt and often resist God's desire to protect and save us, our God persists. In holy baptism, God's people have been called and gathered into a God-initiated relationship that will endure. Lent provides the church with a time and a tradition in which to seek God's face again. Lent provides another occasion to behold the God of our salvation in the face of the Blessed One who "comes in the name of the Lord."

ORDER OF SERVICE

Announcements

**Stand*

Gathering

Confession and Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

Amen.

Let us return to God, confessing our sin in the assurance of God's abiding love.

Silence for reflection and self-examination

Compassionate One,

you are slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, but our lives do not always reflect you and your love for the world. We do not show others the tender compassion you have shown to us. We do not welcome others with the radical hospitality you grant to all people. We oppress others, even though you have set us free again and again. We squander the abundant gifts of the earth. Transform our lives and guide us again in the way of the cross. Amen.

Beloved in Christ,

God's arms are always stretched open wide to welcome the wandering ones home. In ✚ Christ your sins are forgiven. You have a place in God's house forever.

Amen.

Hymn – Before the Waters Nourished Earth

1 Be - fore the wa - ters nour - ished earth or night im -
 2 This Love re - mained as time re - vealed the loss of
 3 De - spair, so deep it bears no name, or sor - rows
 4 The Love that called cre - a - tion good all good - ness

ag - ined³ morn - ing, a Love con - ceived the
 E - den's glo - ry and, griev - ing, holds in
 par - a - lyz - ing can - not re - voke Love's
 still is bring - ing. This Love turns death a -

u - ni - verse and rev - eled in its form - ing.
 mem - o - ry each trag - ic hu - man sto - ry.
 faith - ful claim to dwell with - in our dy - ing.
 gain to life and si - lence in - to sing - ing.

Text: Jeannette M. Lindholm, b. 1961
 Music: ST. COLUMBA, Irish melody
 Text © 1996 Jeannette M. Lindholm, admin. Augsburg Fortress

Call to Worship

Come to the water, all you who thirst.

We come to drink deeply from the river of life.

Come to the water, all you who are weary.

We come to rest in the quiet pools of God's love.

Come to the water, all you who long for justice.

We come to be renewed in God's everflowing stream.

For God is here among us, washing away the dust and grime of our lives, and pouring out the Spirit on all who thirst. Let us worship God together. - Inspired by Isaiah 55:1-3

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray

Eternal God, 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, and bring your saving love to fruition in our lives, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

**Congregation is seated*

Word

First Reading: Isaiah 55:1-9

¹Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. ²Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. ³Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live. I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David. ⁴See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. ⁵See, you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you. ⁶Seek the LORD while he may be found, call upon him while he is near; ⁷let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the LORD, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. ⁸For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD. ⁹For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 63:1-8

¹O God, you are my God; eagerly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you, my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.

²**Therefore I have gazed upon you in your holy place, that I might behold your power and your glory.**

³For your steadfast love is better than life itself; my lips shall give you praise.

⁴**So will I bless you as long as I live and lift up my hands in your name.**

⁵My spirit is content, as with the richest of foods, and my mouth praises you with joyful lips,

⁶**when I remember you upon my bed, and meditate on you in the night watches.**

⁷For you have been my helper, and under the shadow of your wings I will rejoice.

⁸**My whole being clings to you; your right hand holds me fast.**

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 10:1-13

¹I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, ²and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, ³and all ate the same spiritual food, ⁴and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ. ⁵Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness. ⁶Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did. ⁷Do 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." ⁸We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. ⁹We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents. ¹⁰And do not complain as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. ¹¹These 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. ¹²So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall. ¹³No 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.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

**Stand*

The Holy Gospel: Luke 13:1-9

The holy gospel according to _____.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices.² Jesus asked them, "Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans?"³ No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. ⁴ 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? ⁵ No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did." ⁶ 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. ⁷ 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?' ⁸ He replied, 'Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. ⁹ If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.' "

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

**Congregation is seated*

Children's Sermon

Sermon

Hymn #481 - Come to the Table



Come to the ta - ble of mer - cy, pre - pared with the wine and the bread.



All who are hun - gry and thirst - y, come, and your souls will be fed.



Come at the Lord's in - vi - ta - tion; re - ceive from his nail - scarred hand.



Eat of the bread of sal - va - tion; drink of the blood of the Lamb.

Text: Claire Cloninger, b. 1942

Music: COME TO THE TABLE, Martin J. Nystrom, b. 1956

Text and music © 1991 Integrity's Hosanna! Music; Juniper Landing Music, admin. Word Music; and Word Music.

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**Stand*

Nicene Creed

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,

of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven;
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the virgin Mary,
and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen

**Congregation is seated*

Prayers of Intercession

Led by the Spirit, let us turn to God in prayer for the church, the world, and all those in need.

Prayer Response: God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

Remembering those in our prayers: Family of Bert Salo, **Robin Sandaker, Elaine Tjelde, Steve & Denise Cowan, Sandy Simnioniw, Rick Wolfgram, Emma Hlibichuk, Christine Perrin, Denise Tibbs, Tom Adams, Randy Wolfgram, Duane Tessier, Shirley Olson, Gerry Suomala, Mary Knotts, JoAnne Suomala, Delores Roy, Cord Kessel, Halle Blain, Marilyn Oyhus, Mark Trechock, Craig McLaughlin, Johnny Syminow, Mindy O'Brien, Lincoln Lee Johnson, Josephine Shypkoski-Thompson,** those who have lost jobs, those seeking Sobriety, those struggling with infertility, all troops, their families, and those working for peace in our world.

Receive the prayers of your people and draw all things together in your love, in the name of Jesus, who leads us from death to life.

Amen.

Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you

**Congregation is seated*

Meal

Offering

One of the ways we worship God is through the giving of our offerings. We worship when we give our hearts back to God through singing, through prayer, and through our offerings. We receive back from God the gifts of forgiveness and grace. Through financial giving we praise God for the blessings of having the resources to offer back to God that which has been given to us. Please take a moment to prayerfully consider how God is encouraging you to share your gifts. If you have not already left your offerings as you came in, please do so as you depart. Or, you may give online at belfieldlutheran.org or medoralutheranchurch.org and click on the support tab. We give thanks for the gifts you offer and pray for God's abundant blessings in return.

Choir Anthem - Invitation to Communion

Offering Prayer

Gracious Provider,

you set your immense treasures among us, opening your heart to the world. As we prepare to feast on your bountiful love, deepen our commitment to sharing those treasures with others, through our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

**Stand*

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

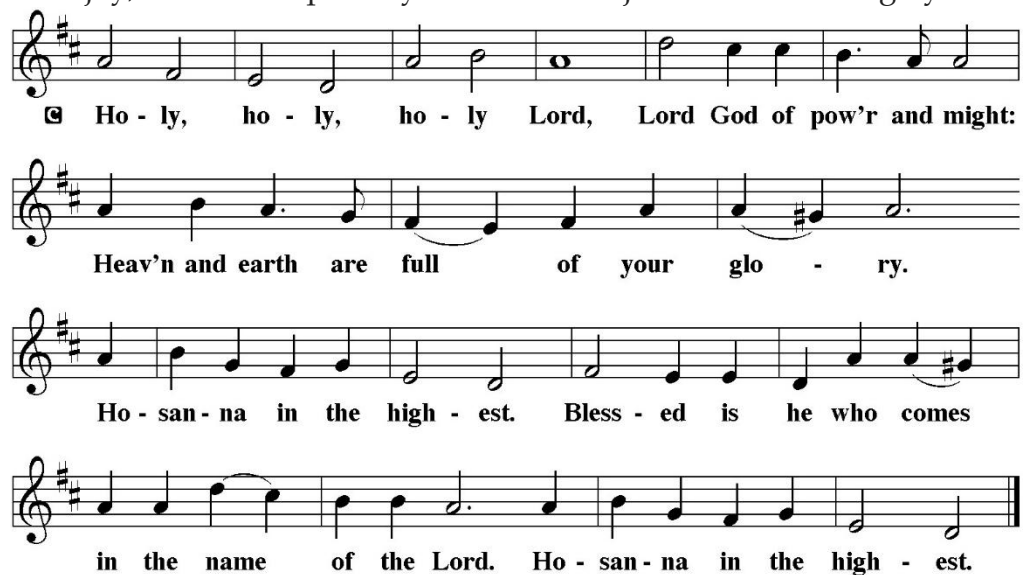
Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might:
Heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Words of Institution

Lord's Prayer

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.**

**Congregation is seated*

Communion Song - Hymn #666 - What Wonderful Love



1 What won-drous love is this, O my soul, O my soul! What
2 When I was sink - ing down, sink - ing down, sink - ing down, when
3 To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing; to
4 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on; and



won - drous love is this, O my soul! What won-drous love is this
I was sink - ing down, sink - ing down, when I was sink - ing down
God and to the Lamb I will sing; to God and to the Lamb,
when from death I'm free, I'll sing on; and when from death I'm free,



that caused the Lord of bliss to bear the dread-ful curse for my
be - neath God's righ - teous frown, Christ laid a - side his crown for my
who is the great I AM, while mil - lions join the theme, I will
I'll sing God's love for me, and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing



soul, for my soul, to bear the dread-ful curse for my soul?
soul, for my soul, Christ laid a - side his crown for my soul.
sing, I will sing, while mil - lions join the theme, I will sing.
on, I'll sing on; and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing on.

Text: North American folk hymn, 19th cent., alt.
Music: WONDROUS LOVE, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

Communion Distribution

All are welcome to receive Holy Communion. Please come forward and hold out your hands in the form of a cross or a cradle to receive the body of Christ. Choose a cup of red wine or white grape juice. If you are only able to receive one of the two elements, please know that you receive the fullness of Christ in one element. You may choose to receive a simple blessing if you prefer. Please notify an usher or the pastor if you have difficulty coming forward and communion will be brought to you.

*Stand

Prayer after Communion

Generous Host,

you have shared your feast with us and made us new. Send us now to set tables of love and grace in our communities, that your liberating love might nourish the world into freedom, in the name of the crucified one, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Sending

Blessing

God our tender parent,

God the crucified one,

God the reconciling Spirit, ✠ bless you now and forever.

Amen.

Hymn #623 - Rock of Ages



1 Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, let me hide my - self in thee;
2 Not the la - bors of my hands can ful - fill thy law's de - mands;
3 Noth - ing in my hand I bring; sim - ply to thy cross I cling.
4 While I draw this fleet - ing breath, when mine eye - lids close in death,



let the wa - ter and the blood, from thy riv - en side which flowed,
could my zeal no res - pite know, could my tears for - ev - er flow,
Na - ked, come to thee for dress; help - less, look to thee for grace;
when I soar to worlds un - known, see thee on thy judg - ment throne,



be of sin the dou - ble cure; cleanse me from its guilt and pow'r.
all for sin could not a - tone; thou must save, and thou a - lone.
foul, I to the foun - tain fly; wash me, Sav - ior, or I die.
Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, let me hide my - self in thee.

Text: Augustus M. Toplady, 1740–1778
Music: TOPLADY, Thomas Hastings, 1784–1872

Dismissal

Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

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** Thank you, Pastor Dorothy Stein for leading worship today. You are greatly appreciated!
For emergencies or pastoral care contacts & information please call 701-575-4703.

** Mid-week Lenten Services – Services are held at Belfield Lutheran Church on Wednesday evenings. The weekly services will be held each Wednesday through April 9. Soup is served at 5:30 pm and at 6:15 pm Worship including a Reader's Theater. Volunteers for the Reader's Theater are needed to participate with the confirmation students. If you would like to participate, please contact Carmen Waldo 701-590-3934.

Note: No midweek worship on March 26.

** Coats for Kids – If you know of a kid in need of a winter coat, please contact Carmen Waldo 701-590-3934. The only information needed is the size and if it is for a boy or girl. The coats are provided (free of charge) back to the requestor.

Announcements – Please send any announcements by Wednesday evening to Tami Elefson: call or text 701-290-4107 or email: office@belfieldlutheran.org or medoralutheranchurch@gmail.com

Today

8:30 am – Medora Lutheran Worship
9:00 am – Choir Practice at Belfield Lutheran Church
9:15 am – Sunday School at Belfield Lutheran Church
10:00 am – Belfield Lutheran Worship
2:00 pm – Bible Study at Dwelle's

Monday, March 24

6:30pm – Belfield Council Meeting at Belfield Lutheran Church

Tuesday, March 25

3:30 pm – Bible Study at Belfield Lutheran Church
8:00 pm - AA Meeting at Belfield Lutheran Church

Wednesday, March 26

3:30 pm – Sunday School at Medora Lutheran Church
4:30 pm – Parish Council and Call Committee Meetings at Belfield Lutheran Church
5:30 pm – Soup Supper at Belfield Lutheran Church
6:00 pm – AA Meeting at Medora Lutheran Church

Thursday, March 27

7:00 pm – Bible Study at Belfield Lutheran Church

Sunday, March 30

8:30 am – Medora Lutheran Worship
9:00 am – Choir Practice at Belfield Lutheran Church
9:15 am – Sunday School at Belfield Lutheran Church
10:00 am – Belfield Lutheran Worship
2:00 pm – Bible Study at Dwelle's

Belfield, Daglum & Medora Lutheran Churches
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