

# BETHANY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA

You have a place here!

*“Joyfully we profess our faith through God’s unconditional love.  
Here and now God dwells in all of our lives,  
bears our sins on the cross, and forgives us all.”*

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## THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

9:00 am Sunday, March 8, 2026

*Pastor Dave Johnson*

### TODAY’S REFLECTION



In today’s gospel the Samaritan woman asks Jesus for water, an image of our thirst for God. Jesus offers living water, a sign of God’s grace flowing from the waters of baptism. The early church used this gospel and those of the next two Sundays to deepen baptismal reflection during the final days of preparation before baptism at Easter. As we journey to the resurrection feast, Christ comes among us in word, bath, and meal—offering us the life-giving water of God’s mercy and forgiveness.

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*All baptized and confessing believers are welcome to receive Holy Communion.*

*We hope that your worship experience is spiritually fulfilling  
and your day begins with our Lord's gifts of peace and joy*

▼ **Prelude Reflections for Meditation**

▼ **Welcome Greeting—Prayers and Praises**

▲ **Opening Hymn**

*"I Will Call Upon the Lord", page 10*

▲ **Confession & Forgiveness**

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

Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt and blots out all offenses.

*Silence for Reflection*

Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you: Gracious God,  
**have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word: Gracious God,  
**have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For failing to recognize your coming reign, and for hindering the work of the Spirit:  
Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition, and for disdain the living water  
Christ offers: Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For disregarding voices from the margin, and for distrusting signs of your healing and  
hope in the world: Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent, and for disregarding Christ's call to  
come forth to life: Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound. Through faith, the free gift of God,  
you have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ. In the name of † Jesus Christ, your  
sins are forgiven. The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead dwells in you,  
pours God's love into your hearts, and gives you life and peace.

**Amen.**

## ▲ Prayer of the Day

Merciful God, **the fountain of living water, you quench our thirst and wash away our sin. Give us this water always. Bring us to drink from the well that flows with the beauty of your truth through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.**  
**Amen.**

## THE WORD

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching and song*

### ▼ God's Word from the Scriptures (NRSV)

*The First Reading is from Exodus 17:1-7*

From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. The people quarreled with Moses and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the Lord?" But the people thirsted there for water, and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" So Moses cried out to the Lord, "What shall I do for this people? They are almost ready to stone me." The Lord said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile and go. I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the Lord, saying, "Is the Lord among us or not?"

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

### ▼ God's Word from the Psalms (NRSV)

*Psalm 95*

O come, let us sing to the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!  
**Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!**

For the Lord is a great God and a great King above all gods.

**In his hand are the depths of the earth; the heights of the mountains are his also.**

The sea is his, for he made it, and the dry land, which his hands have formed.

**O come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker!**

For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand. O that today you would listen to his voice!

**Do not harden your hearts, as at Meribah, as on the day at Massah in the wilderness,**

<sup>4</sup>When your ancestors tested me and put me to the proof, though they had seen my work.  
**For forty years I loathed that generation and said, They are a people whose hearts go astray, and they do not regard my ways.”**

Therefore in my anger I swore, “They shall not enter my rest.”

▼ **God’s Word from the Scriptures (NRSV)**

*The Second Reading is from Romans 5:1-11*

Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand, and boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our afflictions, knowing that affliction produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us. For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. Much more surely, therefore, since we have now been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

▲ **God’s Word from the Gospel (NRSV)**

*The Holy Gospel according to John 4:5-42*

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

So he came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob’s well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon. A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, “Give me a drink.” (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, “How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?” (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) Jesus answered her, “If you knew the gift of God and who it is that is saying to you, ‘Give me a drink,’ you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water.” The woman said to him, “Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our

ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?" Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life." The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water." Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come back." The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband,' for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!" The woman said to him, "Sir, I see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem." Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming and is now here when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming" (who is called Christ). "When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us." Jesus said to her, "I am he, the one who is speaking to you." Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, "What do you want?" or, "Why are you speaking with her?" Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, "Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?" They left the city and were on their way to him. Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, "Rabbi, eat something." But he said to them, "I have food to eat that you do not know about." So the disciples said to one another, "Surely no one has brought him something to eat?" Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work. Do you not say, 'Four months more, then comes the harvest'? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting. The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. For here the saying holds true, 'One sows and another reaps.' I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor." Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me everything I have ever done." So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them, and he stayed there two days. And many more believed

<sup>6</sup>because of his word. They said to the woman, “It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Savior of the world.”

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

▼ **Sermon—God’s Word Applied to Life**

▼ **Hymn of the Day**

*“Freely, Freely”, page 11*

▲ **The Apostles’ Creed**

**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.**

▲ **Prayers of the Church**

Reconciled by God’s mercy and sustained by God’s presence, let us pray for the world and its needs.

A brief silence.

O God, when suffering arises, preserve your church. Give to pastors, deacons, bishops, and all servants of your gospel the endurance that produces character and the hope that will never disappoint. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

When the waters run dry, sustain this earth. Send water to places languishing with drought, and bring relief to places damaged by flood. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

When quarrels ensue, soften our hearts. Quell hostilities between nations and peoples, and reconcile all humans across the lines of race, class, nationality, moral conviction, religion, and all else that divides or oppresses. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

When your people thirst, satisfy their needs. Send water and food to all who need nourishment. Grant welcome to all who are excluded. Show your mercy to any in need, especially to those we name before you (either in silence or out loud). Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

When we gather to worship, send us your Spirit. Renew our hearts through the joyful noise we make and bless the work of our church musicians and musical ensembles. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

O God, when death draws near, we rejoice in the promise of life with you. We remember all who have entered eternal rest, and we pray that you bring us the hope of sharing in your glory. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Receive our prayers, O God, through Jesus Christ, our strength and salvation. **Amen.**

▲ **Sharing of the Peace**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*Greet each other with a sign of Christ's peace.*

**THE MEAL**

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ*

▼ **Offering and Presentation of the Gifts**

January—March Mission Designation ~ **World Hunger**

▼ **Offering Prayer**

O God, **maker of heaven and earth, your steadfast love embraces all creation. You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth and bring forth its bounty. Through these gifts of bread and wine, draw us into the death and life of your Son, who calls us to bear witness to his saving work. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.**

▼ **The Great Thanksgiving and Words of Institution**

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

▼ **The 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.**

▼ **Invitation and Distribution of Communion**

Come to the table.  
Feast on God's goodness and mercy.

▼ **Post Communion Blessing**

Let Us Break Bread Together



1 Let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees;  
2 Let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees;  
3 Let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees;



let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees.  
let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees.  
let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees.



When I fall on my knees, with my face to the ris - ing



sun, O Lord, have mer - cy on me.

Text: African American spiritual

Music: BREAL BREAD TOGETHER, African American spiritual

The body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in His grace until He comes again. In the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

▼ **Post Communion Prayer**

God of our salvation,  
**we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls,  
 reconciles us to you, and strengthens us for the journey.**  
**Through the body and blood of your Son,  
 may we become Christ's body in the world,  
 bearing witness to your love for all creation,  
 through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**  
**Amen.**

**THE SENDING**

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world*

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▼ **Closing Hymn**

*"Jesus Paid It All", Insert*

▼ **Announcements**

*Anyone is welcome to make announcements at this time.*

▲ **Blessing and Dismissal**

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.  
 In the name of the Father and the † Son and the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Go in peace. Believe the good news.  
**Thanks be to God.**

# I Will Call Upon the Lord 2x

The musical score is written on six staves of music. Each staff begins with a treble clef and a common time signature (C). The lyrics are printed below the notes. The melody consists of eighth and quarter notes, with some rests. The lyrics are: "I will call up-on the Lord who is wor-thy to be praised. So shall I be saved from my en - e - mies. I will call up - on the Lord. The Lord liv-eth, and bless-ed be the Rock, and let the God of my sal - va - tion be ex - alt - ed. The Lord liv-eth, and bless - ed be the Rock, and let the God of my sal - va - tion be ex - alt - ed."

I will call up-on the Lord who is wor-thy to be  
 praised. So shall I be saved from my en - e - mies.  
 I will call up - on the Lord. The  
 Lord liv-eth, and bless-ed be the Rock, and let the God of my sal -  
 va - tion be ex - alt - ed. The Lord liv-eth, and bless - ed be the Rock,  
 and let the God of my sal - va - tion be ex - alt - ed.

Text: Michael O'Shields

Music: O'SHIELDS, Michael O'Shields

Text and music © 1981 Sound III and All Nations Music; assigned to MCA Music Publishing and The Lorenz Corporation

# Freely Freely

Words and Music by  
Carol Owens

♩ = 100

## VERSE

D (A) Bm<sup>7</sup> Em<sup>7</sup> A<sup>7</sup> Em<sup>7</sup>



1. God for - gave my sin in Je - sus' name, I've been born a -  
2. All \_\_\_ pow'r is giv'n in Je - sus' name, In \_\_\_ earth and

6 A<sup>7</sup> (A/G) D/F# A<sup>7</sup> D G D/F# Em<sup>7</sup> A/C#



-gain in Je - sus' name; And in Je - sus' name I come to  
heav'n in Je - sus' name; And in Je - sus' name I come to

## CHORUS

12 D D (Em<sup>7(4)</sup>) D/F# G A<sup>sus</sup> A<sup>7</sup> D G/A A<sup>7</sup> D



you to share His love as He told me to: He said, "Free - ly  
you to share His pow'r as He told me to:

18 Em<sup>7</sup> A A<sup>7</sup> D G/A



free - ly, you have re - ceived. Free - ly, free - ly give; \_\_\_

25 D Em<sup>7</sup> A



Go in My name and be - cause you be - lieve,

29 A<sup>7</sup> D



oth - ers will know that I live." \_\_\_

## Bethany Evangelical Lutheran Church

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## ONLINE BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH OFFERING DONATIONS

are available following these easy steps from our secure Website or Facebook Page

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## MORE SPECIAL WAYS TO GIVE THROUGH YOUR TIME AND TALENTS

Sunday Worship Lectors and Communion Assistants are needed

Service Assistant to advance projected bulletin slides

Maintenance chores around the facility

Christian Education Volunteers

## BETHANY WEEKLY EVENTS CALENDAR

<b>Sunday</b>	9:00 am Worship, in the Great Room and Facebook Live-Stream/Video
<b>Tuesday</b>	9:00 am Community Coffee in Great Room 9:00 am Cover Girls in Classroom
<b>Wednesday</b>	10:30 am Women's Bible Study via ZOOM 6:00 pm Lenten Soup and Sandwich Meal at Calvary Lutheran Church 6:45 pm Lenten Service at Calvary Lutheran Church
<b>Thursday</b>	7:00 am Men's Breakfast and Bible Study in Great Room 11:00 am Crossroads Bible Study For ALL in Conference Room 6:30 pm Pub Theology

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