

THIRSTY

March 8 & 9, 2026

LENT

Coming to Our Senses

Welcome to Bethlehem!

We welcome our guests who are worshipping with us today. Thanks for joining us! We are a community of ordinary people who gather to hear the message of God's grace in Jesus. We believe that he is our savior—and yours, too!

We'd love to have you join us again soon. Please take a moment to fill out a connection card (located in the back of the pew in front of you). The blue side is for members to fill out and the yellow side is for visitors.

A lounge for parents needing to quiet small children is located at the rear of church. The room has a clear window for viewing and is equipped with a speaker system.

A hearing loop is available in the worship area and fellowship hall. Set your hearing aid to “t-coil” or ask for headphones at the A/V desk in the back of church.



Today's Worship

Our theme this year for the season of Lent is “Coming to Our Senses.” Today's focus is “Thirsty”. We are tempted to satisfy our deep thirst with worldly things, a strategy doomed to failure. We realize that our thirst is satisfied only by the one who said, “Whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst.”

To Prepare Our Hearts for Worship

Lord, I'm here to worship you. You are here, too, to speak to me. Give me a focused heart ready to listen to you. Show me how I've failed this week, so that I can see all the more how you have loved me. Give me a heart that loves to praise and thank you for your everlasting goodness to me.

Gathering Rite on the Word of God

Christian Worship Supplement

Invocation

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation: Amen.

♪ **Blessed Jesus, at your Word**
We are gathered all to hear you.
Let our hearts and souls be stirred
Now to seek and love and fear you,
By your teachings, sweet and holy,
Drawn from earth to love you solely.

P: Oh, how I love your law!

C: I meditate on it all day long.

P: Your commands make me wiser than my enemies,

C: for they are ever with me.

P: I have more insight than all my teachers,

C: for I meditate on your statutes.

P: How sweet are your words to my taste,

C: sweeter than honey to my mouth!

♪ **All our knowledge, sense, and sight**
Lie in deepest darkness shrouded
Till your Spirit breaks our night
With the beams of truth unclouded.
You alone to God can win us;
You must work all good within us.

Confession

P: All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness,

C: so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

P: Yet so often we have despised God's Word and failed to gladly hear and learn it. For this and all our sins, we bow before God and humbly ask his forgiveness.

C: Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.

♪ Gracious Savior, good and kind,
Light from Light, from God proceeding,
Open now our heart and mind;
Help us by your Spirit's pleading.
Hear the cry your people raises;
Hear and bless our prayers and praises.

Absolution

P: God gave his Word so “that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name”. The Scriptures testify about Jesus, who lived a perfect life for you, died on the cross to pay for all your sins, and rose again to assure you of your salvation. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

♪ Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
Praise to you and adoration!
Grant that we your Word may trust,
Confident of our salvation,
While we here below must wander,
Till we sing your praises yonder.

The Word

Today's Prayer

P: God, to your glory, you always show mercy. Be gracious to all who have gone astray from your ways. Bring them back with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold onto the unchangeable truth of your Word; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

First Reading

Exodus 17:1-7

¹The whole Israelite community set out from the Desert of Sin, traveling from place to place as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. ²So they quarreled with Moses and said, “Give us water to drink.”

Moses replied, “Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you put the LORD to the test?”

³But the people were thirsty for water there, and they grumbled against Moses. They said, “Why did you bring us up out of Egypt to make us and our children and livestock die of thirst?”

⁴Then Moses cried out to the LORD, “What am I to do with these people? They are almost ready to stone me.”

⁵The LORD answered Moses, “Go out in front of the people. Take with you some of the elders of Israel and take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. ⁶I will stand there before you by the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it for the people to drink.” So Moses did this in the sight of the elders of Israel. ⁷And he called the place Massah and Meribah because the Israelites quarreled and because they tested the LORD saying, “Is the LORD among us or not?”

Today's Psalm: Come, O Come, Let Us Sing to the Lord

Psalm 95

Refrain



Come, O come, let us sing to the Lord,



let us shout with joy to our sav - ing Rock;



come, en - ter in with our songs of praise,



come, en - ter in with thanks - giv - ing.



1 You are a great and a wondrous God,
2 Come, let us worship and, bowing low,



cup - ping in your hands all the depths of earth.
kneel be - fore the One who has made us all.



You made the hills and the mountains high,
You are the God whom we call our own,



you made the seas and the dry land.
we are the flock that you shepherd.

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Second Reading

Romans 5:1–8

¹Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ²through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God. ³Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; ⁴perseverance, character; and character, hope. ⁵And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

⁶You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. ⁸But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Children's Message

Gospel Reading

John 4:5–26

⁵So he came to a town in Samaria called Sychar, near the plot of ground Jacob had given to his son Joseph. ⁶Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired as he was from the journey, sat down by the well. It was about noon.

⁷When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, "Will you give me a drink?"
⁸(His disciples had gone into the town to buy food.)

⁹The Samaritan woman said to him, "You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?" (For Jews do not associate with Samaritans.)

¹⁰Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water."

¹¹"Sir," the woman said, "you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water? ¹²Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did also his sons and his livestock?"

¹³Jesus answered, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, ¹⁴but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life."

¹⁵The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water so that I won't get thirsty and have to keep coming here to draw water."

¹⁶He told her, "Go, call your husband and come back."

¹⁷"I have no husband," she replied.

Jesus said to her, "You are right when you say you have no husband. ¹⁸The fact is, you have had five husbands, and the man you now have is not your husband. What you have just said is quite true."

¹⁹"Sir," the woman said, "I can see that you are a prophet. ²⁰Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you Jews claim that the place where we must worship is in Jerusalem."

²¹"Woman," Jesus replied, "believe me, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. ²²You Samaritans worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know, for salvation is from the Jews. ²³Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. ²⁴God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth."

²⁵The woman said, "I know that Messiah" (called Christ) "is coming. When he comes, he will explain everything to us."

²⁶Then Jesus declared, “I, the one speaking to you—I am he.”

Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day he rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Hymn: I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say

Blue Hymnal, p.703

Sermon

Today's Message from God's Word

“A Day in the Life of Jesus”

John 4:5-26

Create in Me

Cre - ate in me a
pure heart, O God, and re - new a right spir - it with -
in me. Do not cast me a - way from your
pres - ence or take your Ho - ly Spir - it from
me. Re - store to me the joy of your sal - va - tion, and up -
hold, up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

Offering

Your offerings are just one way you support the gospel ministry we do, and we thank God for them! Guests are welcome to give but need not feel obligated. If you'd like to give online, scan the QR code on the right side of the page or go to bethlehem-wels.com/giving.



Give Online

Please also use this time to sign the connection card located in the back of the pew in front of you and quietly meditate. Sign the blue side if you're a member, or the yellow side if you're a visitor. Drop it off in the offering plates as they're passed along your row.

Hymn: My Song Is Love Unknown

Blue Hymnal, p.397 sts. 1–2

The Church's Prayer

- P: Gracious Father, you are the giver of life and the source of every good and perfect gift. You create each person uniquely and wonderfully, according to your gracious will.
- C: We praise you, Lord, for the gift of every life.**
- P: Lord Jesus, during your earthly ministry you showed compassion to those who were overlooked, misunderstood, or burdened in body and mind.
- C: Have mercy on all who face special challenges.**
- P: We pray for those who live with physical disabilities, developmental delays, chronic illness, and mental health struggles. Remind them daily that they are precious in your sight and redeemed by your blood.
- C: Strengthen them with your promises and fill them with your peace.**
- P: When frustration, isolation, or discouragement weigh heavily upon them, assure them that nothing can separate them from your love in Christ.
- C: Uphold them, Lord, with your mighty hand.**

Hymn: My Song Is Love Unknown

Blue Hymnal, p.397 sts. 3–4

- P: We pray for parents, caregivers, teachers, therapists, and family members. When they are weary, grant endurance. When decisions are difficult, grant wisdom. When anxieties rise, grant peace.
- C: Sustain them with your grace each day.**
- P: Holy Spirit, work within us as a congregation. Remove impatience, misunderstanding, and fear from our hearts.
- C: Create in us hearts that reflect Christ's love.**
- P: Help us to welcome, support, and encourage one another. Make us a church where every person is valued, included, and strengthened through Word and Sacrament.
- C: Make us faithful servants of one another in love.**
- P: Confident that your power is made perfect in weakness and that all things work for the good of those who love you, we entrust all our prayers into your hands.

Special Prayers

Lord's Prayer

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,**

your kingdom come,
your will be done
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and forever. Amen.

Hymn: My Song Is Love Unknown

Blue Hymnal, p.397 sts. 5-7

P: O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

C: **And his mercy endures forever.**

P: Lord, you've given us your Holy Word to teach us. May we hear, read, learn, and take it to heart. May it strengthen and comfort us, so that we hold onto our hope of everlasting life in Jesus Christ, our Savior. In his name we pray.

C: **Amen.**

Blessing

Romans 15:5-6

P: May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had, so that with one mind and one voice you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C: **Amen.**

Hymn: Jesus Loves Me

Blue Hymnal, p.584 sts. 1-2

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Bethlehem's Mission

There is no more important message than the one about Jesus. He's the world's savior. That's Good News (1 Corinthians 1:23)!

Because of our love for that message, we make it our goal to reflect God's love by:

- **Gathering** · *Enjoying fellowship with God and our fellow believers (1 John 1:1-3).*
- **Growing** · *Strengthening and maturing in our faith through daily contact with God's Word (Isaiah 55:10-11).*
- **Going**
 1. *Sharing the good news of God's forgiving love with our family, friends, community, and co-workers (Mark 16:15).*
 2. *Using our unique gifts to serve God and our neighbors in our callings inside and outside of this congregation (1 Corinthians 12:1).*

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Weekly Services

Sundays at 8:00am & 10:30am
Mondays at 6:30pm

Streamed at 8:00 and 10:30am on **YouTube**.

