

Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 19, 2023

Pastor Dawn Busch

Serving the congregations of Medora, Belfield, Daglum

Musical Accompanists

Tami Elefson – Medora Jean Franklin – Belfield

A warm welcome to all visitors and friends.

We hope you are blessed by worshipping with us today.



ORDER OF SERVICE

Announcements

Gathering

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

Confession and Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who moves with us these forty days, and sustains us with the gift of grace.

Amen.

Let us acknowledge before God and one another our need for repentance and God's mercy.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy God,

we confess to you our faults and failings. Too often we neglect and do not trust your holy word; we take for ourselves instead of giving to others; we spoil rather than steward your creation; we cause hurt though you call us to heal; Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, as we seek to follow in your way of life. Amen.

Hear the good news:

God so loved the world that God's only Son was given, so that all the world may receive life. This promise is for you! God embraces you with divine mercy, † forgives you in Christ's name, and strengthens you in the Spirit's power.

Amen.

Hymn #400 - God, Whose Almighty Word



1 God, whose al - might - y word cha - os and dark - ness heard
 2 Lord, who once came to bring, on your re - deem - ing wing,
 3 Spir - it of truth and love, life - giv - ing, ho - ly dove,
 4 Ho - ly and bless - ed three, glo - ri - ous Trin - i - ty,



and took their flight: hear us, we hum - bly pray, and where the
 heal - ing and sight, health to the sick in mind, sight to the
 speed forth your flight; move on the wa - ter's face bear - ing the
 wis - dom, love, might! Bound - less as o - cean's tide, roll - ing in



gos - pel day sheds not its glo - rious ray,
 in - ly blind: oh, now to hu - man - kind let there be light!
 lamp of grace, and in earth's dark - est place
 full - est pride, through the earth, far and wide,

Text: John Marriott, 1780–1825, alt.
 Music: ITALIAN HYMN, Felice de Giardini, 1716–1796

Call to Worship

Seek the Lord while he may be found.

Call upon God while he is near.

Wicked, forsake your ways!

Unrighteous, forsake your thoughts!

Come back to God.

Return to the Lord!

Come back to God.

Return to the Lord!

The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. (*Isaiah 55:6-7; Joel 2:13*)

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray

Bend your ear to our prayers, Lord Christ, and come among us. By your gracious life and death for us, bring light into the darkness of our hearts, and anoint us with your Spirit, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

**Congregation is seated*

Word

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

First Reading: 1 Samuel 16:1-13

¹The LORD said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons." ²Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me." And the LORD said, "Take a heifer with you, and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to

the LORD.’ ³Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you.” ⁴Samuel did what the LORD commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, “Do you come peaceably?” ⁵He said, “Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the LORD; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice.” And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice. ⁶When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, “Surely the LORD’s anointed is now before the LORD.” ⁷But the LORD said to Samuel, “Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the LORD does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart.” ⁸Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, “Neither has the LORD chosen this one.” ⁹Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, “Neither has the LORD chosen this one.” ¹⁰Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, “The LORD has not chosen any of these.” ¹¹Samuel said to Jesse, “Are all your sons here?” And he said, “There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep.” And Samuel said to Jesse, “Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here.” ¹²He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The LORD said, “Rise and anoint him; for this is the one.” ¹³Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the LORD came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm: 23

¹The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not be in want.

²**The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures and leads me beside still waters.**

³You restore my soul, O LORD, and guide me along right pathways for your name’s sake.

⁴**Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**

⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

⁶**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.**

Second Reading: Ephesians 5:8-14

⁸Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light – ⁹for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. ¹⁰Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. ¹¹Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. ¹²For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; ¹³but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, ¹⁴for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, “Sleeper, awake! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.”

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

**Stand*

The Holy Gospel: John 9:1-41

The Holy Gospel according to _____.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹As [Jesus] walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. ²His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" ³Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. ⁴We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. ⁵As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." ⁶When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, ⁷saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. ⁸The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" ⁹Some were saying, "It is he." Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying, "I am the man." ¹⁰But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" ¹¹He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' Then I went and washed and received my sight." ¹²They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know." ¹³They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. ¹⁴Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. ¹⁵Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see." ¹⁶Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And they were divided. ¹⁷So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened." He said, "He is a prophet." ¹⁸The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight ¹⁹and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" ²⁰His parents answered, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; ²¹but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself." ²²His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. ²³Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him." ²⁴So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, "Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner." ²⁵He answered, "I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." ²⁶They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" ²⁷He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?" ²⁸Then they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. ²⁹We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." ³⁰The man answered, "Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. ³¹We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. ³²Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. ³³If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." ³⁴They answered him, "You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?" And they drove him out. ³⁵Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" ³⁶He answered, "And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him." ³⁷Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he." ³⁸He said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshiped him. ³⁹Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind." ⁴⁰Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, "Surely we are not blind, are we?" ⁴¹Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, 'We see,' your sin remains."

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

*Congregation is seated

Children's Sermon

Hymn - Lamb of God



1 Your on - ly Son, no sin to hide, but you have
2 Your gift of love we cru - ci - fied. We laughed and
3 I was so lost, I should have died, but you have



sent him from your side to walk up - on this guilt - y
scorned him as he died. The hum - ble king we named a
brought me to your side to be led by your staff and



sod and to be - come the Lamb of God. O Lamb of
fraud and sac - ri - ficed the Lamb of God.
rod and to be called a lamb of God.



God, sweet Lamb of God, I love the ho - ly Lamb of God. Oh, wash me



in your pre - cious blood, my Je - sus Christ, the Lamb of God.

Text: Twila Paris, b. 1958
Music: Twila Paris

YOUR ONLY SON
LMD

The Sermon

Hymn #448 - Amazing Grace



1 A - maz - ing grace, how sweet the sound, that
2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and
3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I
4 The Lord has prom - ised good to me; his



saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but
grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that
have al - read - y come; 'tis grace has brought me
word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and



now am found; was blind, but now I see.
grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!
safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
por - tion be as long as life en - dures.

Text: John Newton, 1725-1807
Music: NEW BRITAIN, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

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

Prayers of the Church

As we mark these forty days with repentance and forgiveness, let us pray for the renewal of the church and the restoration of the world to the life of God.

Prayer Response: Merciful God,
Receive our prayer.

Remembering those in our prayers: Family of Nicole Koegl, Kathy Malkowski, Glenda Buckman, Damon Hall, Rosemary Walter, Halle Blain, Kwirt Johnson, Pastor Beth Parks, Randy Mosser, Dale Oyhus, Bernadette Obrigewitch, Maurice Obrigewitch, Craig McLaughlin, JoAnne Suomala, Mary Knotts, Bryce Wigert, Norma Newton, Lanie Nichols, Margaret Braun, Johnny Syminow, Mark Hinrichs, Lincoln Lee Johnson, Duane Davis, Carmen Ruud, Becky Yadon, Carol Johnson, Monica Hushka, Mark Trechock, Janeen Nichols, Marilyn Oyhus, Mindy O'Brien, Chandler Nichols,

Bennette Mansfield, those who have lost their jobs, those with mental illness, those seeking Sobriety, those struggling with infertility, all troops and their families & those working for peace in our world.

Into your hands we trust all these things and whatever you know we need, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen

Sharing of God's Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

Meal

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

Offering

Offertory - Now is the Time of Grace

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp). The first staff has two measures, with a first ending bracket over the first measure and a second ending bracket over the second measure. The lyrics are: "Now is the time of grace, now is the day of sal - va - tion." The second staff also has two measures with the lyrics: "Turn now, and seek God's face, now be-hold God's in - vi - ta - tion." The music consists of quarter and eighth notes.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950, based on 2 Corinthians 6:2 and Isaiah 58:6-9
Music: TIME OF GRACE, Marty Haugen
Text and music © 2009 Augsburg Fortress

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Offering Prayer

Compassionate God,

we offer you these gifts as signs of our time and labor. Receive the offering of our lives, and feed us with your grace, that, in the midst of death, all creation might feast on your unending life in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

**Stand*

Dialogue

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 our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right and salutarywe praise your name and shout with the angels:

Holy, holy, holy Lord God,

God of might and power; holy is the Lord.

Holy, holy, holy Lord God,

God of might and power; holy is the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest, hosanna here on earth.
Blest is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest, hosanna here on earth.
Blest is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God. You are most holy, and great is the majesty of your glory.

Words of Institution

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Remembering Jesus' command, his life-giving passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension, and the promise of his coming again, we give thanks to you, not as we ought but as we are able; we ask you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving as we sing of your command and invitation:



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
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With your Word and Holy Spirit, bless us, your servants, and these your gifts of bread and wine, so that we and all who share in the body and blood of Christ, receiving the forgiveness of sin, may be changed to live as your holy people and may be given our inheritance with all your saints. To you be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever.

Amen.

The 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.**

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.

Prayer after Communion

God of Grace and Mercy,

At your table, we have tasted your goodness and received nourishment for our journey. With our hearts open to your promise, open our ears to hear the needs of our neighbors and open our hands to touch the world with your love.

Amen.

Sending

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

Blessing

Hymn #776 - Be Thou My Vision

1 A - maz - ing grace, how sweet the sound, that
 2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and
 3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I
 4 The Lord has prom - ised good to me; his

saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but
 grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that
 have al - read - y come; 'tis grace has brought me
 word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and

now am found; was blind, but now I see.
 grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!
 safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
 por - tion be as long as life en - dures.

Text: John Newton, 1725-1807
 Music: NEW BRITAIN, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

Dismissal

Go in peace. Serve in love.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

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** The BDM Parish Extravaganza will be held on March 26 at St B's Parish Center in Belfield. Join us for soup (9:30-12:30), fellowship (as long as you want!), and a live auction beginning at 12:30. Auction items, bars/cookies for the dessert table, along with baked goods & craft items for the Harvest Table are needed. We would love to have your help if you are willing to lend a hand at the event. Please look for a sign-up sheet to see where your gifts of service will be helpful. For any questions - contacts are Sherri O'Brien @ 701-290-9826, Nita Northrop @ 701-290-9595, or Darnyl @ 701-290-1373.

**The parsonage is in need of new windows on the main floor. The current windows are original to the house and frost up in the winter. 10 windows are needed at an average cost of \$2000 per window for a total of \$20,000 for all of them. If you would like to donate to this project, please do one of the following: Online donations can be given at: medoralutheranchurch.org or belfieldlutheran.org then click "Support" for either website. If you prefer to give by check, please put "Parsonage Fund" in the memo. Thank you

Today

8:30 am – Medora Lutheran Worship
9:00 am – Sunday School at Belfield Lutheran Church
9:00 am – Choir Practice at Belfield Lutheran Church
10:00 am – Belfield Lutheran Worship
11:45 am – Daglum Lutheran Worship
6:00 pm – Bible Study at Dwelle's home – please RSVP

Monday, March 20

Belfield Council Meeting at Belfield Lutheran Church

Tuesday, March 21

3:30 pm – Pastor's Bible Study at Belfield Lutheran or on Zoom
8:00 pm – AA Meeting at Belfield Lutheran Church

Wednesday, March 22

5:30 pm – Soup Supper at Belfield Lutheran Church
6:30 pm – Worship at Belfield Lutheran Church

Thursday, March 23

7:00 am – Bible Study at Belfield Lutheran Church

Friday, March 24

8:00 pm – AA Meeting at Medora Lutheran Church

Sunday, March 26

8:30 am – Medora Lutheran Worship
9:00 am – Sunday School at Belfield Lutheran Church
9:30 am – BDM Parish Extravaganza begins at St B's Parish Center, Belfield
10:00 am – Belfield Lutheran Worship
6:00 pm – Bible Study at Dwelle's home – please RSVP

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

Belfield, Daglum & Medora Lutheran Churches

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