

Second Sunday in Lent

March 5, 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 #507 - How Firm a Foundation



1 How firm a foun - da - tion, O saints of the Lord,
 2 "Fear not, I am with you, oh, be not dis - mayed,
 3 "When through fi - ery tri - als your path - way shall lie,
 4 "Through - out all their life - time my peo - ple shall prove
 is laid for your faith in his ex - cel - lent word!
 for I am your God and will still give you aid;
 my grace, all - suf - fi - cient, shall be your sup - ply.
 my sov - 'reign, e - ter - nal, un - change - a - ble love;
 What more can he say than to you he has said
 I'll strength - en you, help you, and cause you to stand,
 The flames shall not hurt you; I on - ly de - sign
 and then, when gray hairs shall their tem - ples a - dorn,
 who un - to the Sav - ior for ref - uge have fled?
 up - held by my righ - teous, om - nip - o - tent hand."
 your dross to con - sume and your gold to re - fine."
 like lambs they shall still in my bo - som be borne."

Text: J. Rippon, *A Selection of Hymns*, 1787, alt.
 Music: FOUNDATION, early American

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

O God, our leader and guide, in the waters of baptism you bring us to new birth to live as your children. Strengthen our faith in your promises, that by your Spirit we may lift up your life to all the world through your Son, 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

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

First Reading: Genesis 12:1-4a

¹The LORD said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. ²I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.” ^{4a}So Abram went, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm: 121

¹I lift up my eyes to the hills; from where is my help to come?

²**My help comes from the LORD, the maker of heaven and earth.**

³The LORD will not let your foot be moved nor will the one who watches over you fall asleep.

⁴**Behold, the keeper of Israel will neither slumber nor sleep;**

⁵the LORD watches over you; the LORD is your shade at your right hand;

⁶**the sun will not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.**

⁷The LORD will preserve you from all evil and will keep your life.

⁸**The LORD will watch over your going out and your coming in, from this time forth forevermore.**

Second Reading: Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

¹What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? ²For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. ³For what does the scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness.”

⁴Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. ⁵But to one who without works trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness. ¹³For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. ¹⁴If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. ¹⁵For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation. ¹⁶For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, ¹⁷as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”) – in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

**Stand*

The Holy Gospel: John 3:1-17

The Holy Gospel according to _____.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. ²He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.” ³Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell

you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.”⁴ Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?”⁵ Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. ⁶What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’ ⁸The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.”⁹ Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?”¹⁰ Jesus answered him, “Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things? ¹¹Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. ¹²If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? ¹³No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. ¹⁶“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. ¹⁷“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

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

Refrain

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 - God Loved the World



1 God loved the world so that he gave his on - ly
2 Christ Je - sus is the ground of faith, who was made
3 If you are ill, if death draws near, this truth your
4 Be of good cheer, for God's own Son for - gives all
5 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly



Son the lost to save, that all who would in
flesh and suf - fered death; all who con - fide in
trou - bled heart can cheer: Christ Je - sus res - cues
sins that you have done, and jus - ti - fied by
Spir - it, Three in One! To you, O bless - ed



him be - lieve should ev - er - last - ing life re - ceive.
Christ a - lone are built on this chief cor - ner - stone.
us from death; that is the firm - est ground of faith.
Je - sus' blood, your bap - tism grants the high - est good.
Trin - i - ty, be praise now and e - ter - nal - ly!

Text: *Gesangbuch*, Bollhagen, 1791; tr. August Crull, 1846–1923, alt.
Music: ROCKINGHAM OLD, Edward Miller, 1731–1807, adapt.

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 Dick Schuhrke, Damon Hall, Rosemary Walter, Halle Blain, Kwirt Johnson, Pastor Beth Parks, Randy Mosser, Maurice Obrigewitch, Craig McLaughlin, Al Urban, JoAnne Suomala, Dale Oyhus, Mary Knotts, Bryce Wigert, Norma Newton, Lanie Nichols, Margaret Braun, Johnny Syminow, Mark Hinrichs, Nicole Koegl, 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.

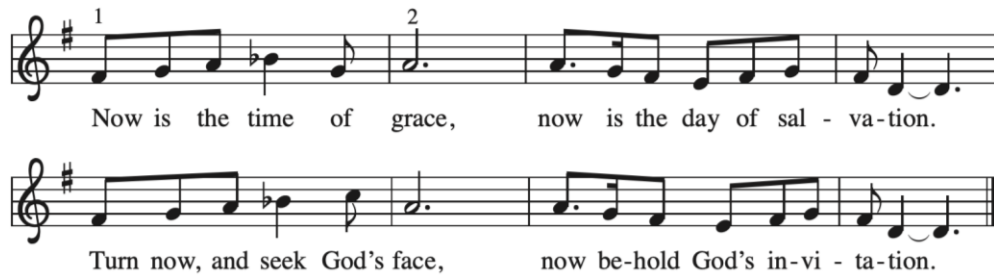
And also with you.

Meal

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

Offering

Offertory - Now is the Time of Grace



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

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

Prayer

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 #377 - Lift High the Cross

Refrain

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim Till
all the world adore his sacred name.

1 Come, Christians, follow where our captain trod,
2 Led on their way by this triumphant sign,
3 All new-born soldiers of the Crucified,
4 O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,
Our king victorious, Christ, the Son of God.
The hosts of God in conquering ranks combine.
Bear on their brows the seal of him who died.
As thou hast promised, draw us all to thee.

5 So shall our song of triumph ever be:
Praise to the Crucified for victory! *Refrain*

Text: George W. Kitchin, 1827-1912; Michael R. Newbolt, 1874-1956
Tune: Sydney H. Nicholson, 1875-1947

CRUCIFER
10 10 10 10

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

Tuesday, March 7

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

Wednesday, March 8

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

Thursday, March 9

7:00 am – Bible Study at Belfield Lutheran Church

Friday, March 10

8:00 pm – AA Meeting at Medora Lutheran Church

Sunday, March 12

8:30 am – Medora Lutheran Worship
9:00 am – Sunday School at Belfield Lutheran Church
10:00 am – Belfield Lutheran Worship
11:15 am – Choir Practice at Belfield Lutheran Church
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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