

HYMN OF THE DAY *“My Hope is Built on Nothing Less”* **ELW #596**

My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness;
no merit of my own I claim, but wholly lean on Jesus' name.

Chorus

On Christ, the solid rock, I stand; all other ground is sinking sand, all other ground is sinking sand.

When darkness veils his lovely face, I rest on his unchanging grace;
in ev'ry high and stormy gale my anchor holds within the veil. *Chorus*

His oath, his covenant, his blood sustain me in the raging flood;
when all supports are washed away, he then is all my hope and stay. *Chorus*

When he shall come with trumpet sound, oh, may I then in him be found,
clothed in his righteousness alone, redeemed to stand before the throne! *Chorus*

APOSTLES' CREED

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH L) Lord in your Mercy C) **Hear our Prayer**

SHARING THE PEACE: L) *“The peace of Christ be with you all”* C) **And also with you.**

OFFERING/OFFERTORY *“Give Thanks”*

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Give thanks with a grateful heart. Give thanks to the Holy One.

Give thanks because he's given Jesus Christ his son. *Repeat*

And now let the weak say I am strong, Let the poor say I am rich.

Because of what the Lord has done for us. *Repeat*

(end with) Give thanks.

HOLY COMMUNION (At the Rail)

✠ Words of Institution & Lord's Prayer

✠ Distribution Hymns: “Let Us Break Bread Together” **ELW 471** “One Bread One Body”
ELW 496

✠ Blessing & Benediction

SENDING HYMN *“Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing”* **ELW #886**

Oh, for a thousand tongues to sing my great Redeemer's praise,
the glories of my God and King, the triumphs of his grace!

My gracious Master and my God, assist me to proclaim,
to spread through all the earth abroad the honors of your name.

The name of Jesus charms our fears and bids our sorrows cease,
sings music in the sinner's ears, brings life and health and peace.

He speaks, and list'ning to his voice, new life the dead receive;
the mournful, broken hearts rejoice, he humble poor believe.

THE DISMISSAL L) Go in peace. Share your bread. All) **Thanks be to God.**

Benton & Willow Creek Lutheran Churches

Third Sunday in Lent – March 3rd, 2024

Guest Pastor: Lon Kvanli Organist: Paul Mesner & LaVonne Burns

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP – Psalm 19

¹The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky proclaims its maker's handiwork.

²**One day tells its tale to another, and one night imparts knowledge to another.**

³Although they have no words or language, and their voices ¹ are not heard,

⁴**their sound has gone out into all lands, and their message to the ends of the world, where God has pitched a tent for the sun.**

⁵It comes forth like a bridegroom out of his chamber; it rejoices like a champion to run its course.

⁶**It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens and runs about to the end of it again; nothing is hidden from its burning heat.**

⁷The teaching of the LORD is perfect and revives the soul; the testimony of the LORD is sure and gives wisdom to the simple.

⁸**The statutes of the LORD are just and rejoice the heart; the commandment of the LORD is clear and gives light to the eyes.**

⁹The fear of the LORD is clean and endures forever; the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.

¹⁰**More to be desired are they than gold, more than much fine gold, sweeter far than honey, than honey in the comb.**

¹¹By them also is your servant enlightened, and in keeping them there is great reward.

¹²**Who can detect one's own offenses? Cleanse me from my secret faults.**

¹³Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins; let them not get dominion over me; then shall I be whole and sound, and innocent of a great offense.

¹⁴**Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O LORD, my strength and my redeemer.**

GATHERING HYMN: *“Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer”* **ELW #618**

Guide me ever, great Redeemer, pilgrim through this barren land.

I am weak, but you are mighty; hold me with your pow'ful hand.

Bread of heaven, bread of heaven, feed me now and evermore, feed me now and evermore.

Open now the crystal fountain where the healing waters flow;

let the fire and cloudy pillar lead me all my journey through.

Strong deliv'rer, strong deliv'rer, shield me with your mighty arm, shield me with your mighty arm.

When I tread the verge of Jordan, bid my anxious fears subside;

death of death and hell's destruction, land me safe on Canaan's side.

Songs and praises, songs and praises, I will raise forevermore, I will raise forevermore.

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

Held in God's mercy, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Holy God,

We confess that we are caught in snares of sin and cannot break free. We hoard resources while our neighbors are hungry and cold. We speak in ways that silence others. We are silent when we should speak up. We keep score in our hearts. We let hurts grow into hatred. For all these things and for sins only you know, forgive us, Lord. Amen.

Here is a flood of grace: Out of love for the whole world, God draws near to us, breaks every snare of sin, washes away our wrongs, and restores the promise of life through Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Kyrie Setting Ten - "Have Mercy on Us"

pg. 203 ELW

Hymn of Praise - "Glory be to God"

pg. 204a ELW

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Holy God, through your Son you have called us to live faithfully and act courageously. Keep us steadfast in your covenant of grace, and teach us the wisdom that comes only through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Exodus 20:1-17

¹God spoke all these words: ²I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; ³you shall have no other gods before me. ⁴You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. ⁵You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me, ⁶but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments. ⁷You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not acquit anyone who misuses his name. ⁸Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. ⁹Six days you shall labor and do all your work. ¹⁰But the seventh day is a sabbath to the LORD your God; you shall not do any work—you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. ¹¹For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it. ¹²Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you. ¹³You shall not murder. ¹⁴You shall not commit adultery. ¹⁵You shall not steal. ¹⁶You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. ¹⁷You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

L) Word of God, Word of Life. All) Thanks be to God.

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON 1 Corinthians 1:18-25

¹⁸The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart." ²⁰Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. ²²For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, ²³but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, ²⁴but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.
L) Word of God, Word of Life. All) Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN'S INVITATION SONG: "Jesus Loves The Little Children"

Jesus loves the little children, All the children of the world.
Red and yellow, black and white, They are precious in His sight.
Jesus loves the little children of the world.

CHILDREN'S WORD

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION "Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil" ELW #512

Lord, let my heart be good soil, open to the seed of your word.
Lord, let my heart be good soil, where love can grow and peace is understood.
When my heart is hard, break the stone away.
When my heart is cold, warm it with the day. When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.
Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart be good soil.

GOSPEL John 2:12-22

³The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. ¹⁴In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables. ¹⁵Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. ¹⁶He told those who were selling the doves, "Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a marketplace!" ¹⁷His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me." ¹⁸The Jews then said to him, "What sign can you show us for doing this?" ¹⁹Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." ²⁰The Jews then said, "This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?" ²¹But he was speaking of the temple of his body. ²²After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

L) Word of God, Word of Life All) Thanks be to God.

SERMON – Pastor Lon Kvanli