

LENTEN EVENING SERVICE

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FEBRUARY 25, 2026



Bethlehem  
Lutheran Church & Preschool

# Order of Worship

Lenten Morning Service | February 25, 2026 | 6:30pm

## Welcome

## Call to Worship & Invocation

P: Turn away from the calls of worldly success.

C: **Repent, and turn back to God.**

P: Turn away from the desire to have what everyone else has.

C: **Repent, and turn back to God.**

P: Turn away from the greed and the race for power.

C: **Repent, and turn back to God.**

P: As we walk through this Lenten season, may we turn back to God.

C: **May we seek forgiveness, may we seek healing, may we seek God's presence in this time of worship.**

P: We make our beginning then, in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

## Opening Hymn: *But For the Cross of Christ*

What is the truth that ever anchors me  
Amidst the waves of all my guilt?  
That Christ has shed His blood and pardoned me  
At the cross, at the cross.

He bore my sin, I bear His righteousness.  
Oh what a glorious exchange.  
The wrath of God laid on the spotless Lamb.  
Oh what grace, oh what grace.

**Chorus:** Behold the cross,  
There is no greater love.  
Heaven's Son  
Laid down His life for us.  
Oh my soul would be lost  
With no hope to find,  
But for the cross of Christ.

How do I walk with humble confidence?  
I look to Christ Who is my peace.  
He sealed my hope and my inheritance  
At the cross, at the cross.

When I am weak and stumble into sin,  
There is an ever-flowing stream.  
His cleansing blood revives my soul again.  
Oh what grace, oh what grace. **(chorus)**

One day I'll stand before the King of Kings.  
One day I'll see Him face to face.  
For Jesus rose, death lost its bitter sting.  
Christ has won, Christ has won. **(chorus 2 times)**

Oh my soul would be lost  
With no hope to find,  
But for the cross of Christ,  
But for the cross of Christ.

### **Psalmody** (Psalm 118:1, 4-9)

P: Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;

**C: for his steadfast love endures forever!**

P: Let those who fear the LORD say,

**C: "His steadfast love endures forever."**

P: Out of my distress I called on the LORD;

**C: the LORD answered me and set me free.**

P: The LORD is on my side; I will not fear.

**C: What can man do to me?**

P: The LORD is on my side as my helper;

**C: I shall look in triumph on those who hate me.**

P: It is better to take refuge in the LORD

**C: than to trust in man.**

P: It is better to take refuge in the LORD

**C: than to trust in princes.**

### **Confession & Absolution**

P: Let us confess our sins to God our Father.

**C: Gracious God, in this season of Lent, we come to You with humble hearts. We confess that we have turned away from Your love in our thoughts, words, and deeds. Forgive us. Create in us clean hearts and renew a right spirit in us. Amen.**

*(Silence for personal reflection and confession.)*

P: O most merciful God,

C: since You have given Your only-begotten Son to die for us, have mercy on us sinners, and for His sake grant us forgiveness of all our sins; and by Your Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of You and of Your will. We come before You in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

P: God was reconciling the world to Himself in Christ, not counting our sins against us. Therefore, I tell you that all your sins are forgiven for His sake in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. To all who by faith call upon His name, He gives the power of the Holy Spirit to grow in grace and obedience. And for this reason we can know joy, even in our struggles.

C: Thanks be to God. Amen.

### Hymn of Response: *I Will Glory in the Cross*

I will glory in the cross where my Jesus was crucified.  
Through His blood I stand forgiven,  
Cleansed from sin and justified.  
I will glory in the cross.  
I will ever lift it high as a banner for salvation,  
As the standard for my life. (repeat)

### The First Reading

### *Hebrews 13:1-21*

Let brotherly love continue. <sup>2</sup>Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares. <sup>3</sup>Remember those who are in prison, as though in prison with them, and those who are mistreated, since you also are in the body. <sup>4</sup>Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterous. <sup>5</sup>Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." <sup>6</sup>So we can confidently say,

"The Lord is my helper;  
I will not fear;  
what can man do to me?"

<sup>7</sup>Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God. Consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. <sup>8</sup>Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. <sup>9</sup>Do not be led away by diverse and strange teachings, for it is good for the heart to be strengthened by grace, not by foods, which have not benefited those devoted to them. <sup>10</sup>We have an altar from which those who serve the tent have no right to eat. <sup>11</sup>For the bodies of those animals whose blood is brought into the holy places by the high priest as a sacrifice for sin are burned outside the camp. <sup>12</sup>So Jesus also suffered outside the gate in order to sanctify the people through his own blood. <sup>13</sup>Therefore let us go to him outside the camp and bear the reproach he endured. <sup>14</sup>For here we have no lasting city, but we seek the city that is to come. <sup>15</sup>Through him then let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his name. <sup>16</sup>Do not neglect to do good and to share what you

have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

<sup>17</sup> Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you.

<sup>18</sup> Pray for us, for we are sure that we have a clear conscience, desiring to act honorably in all things. <sup>19</sup> I urge you the more earnestly to do this in order that I may be restored to you the sooner.

<sup>20</sup> Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, <sup>21</sup> equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

## The Holy Gospel

*John 15:9-17*

<sup>9</sup> As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. <sup>10</sup> If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. <sup>11</sup> These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.

<sup>12</sup> "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. <sup>13</sup> Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. <sup>14</sup> You are my friends if you do what I command you. <sup>15</sup> No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you. <sup>16</sup> You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you. <sup>17</sup> These things I command you, so that you will love one another.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord!

C: **Thanks be to God!**

## Apostles' Creed

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

And 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 sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence 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 of the Day: *Yet Not I But Through Christ in Me***

What gift of grace is Jesus, my Redeemer.  
There is no more for heaven now to give.  
He is my joy, my righteousness and freedom,  
My steadfast love, my deep and boundless peace.  
To this I hold: my hope is only Jesus  
For my life is wholly bound to His.  
Oh how strange and divine, I can sing: all is mine!  
Yet not I, but through Christ in me.

No fate I dread, I know I am forgiven.  
The future sure, the price, it has been paid.  
For Jesus bled and suffered for my pardon  
And He was raised to overthrow the grave.  
To this I hold: my sin has been defeated.  
Jesus now and ever is my plea.  
Oh the chains are released, I can sing: I am free!  
Yet not I, but through Christ in me.

**Sermon: *For the Joy of Life Together***

Pastor Kevin Fenster  
*Living Savior Lutheran in Tualatin*

**Song of Response: *How Deep the Father's Love For Us***

How deep the Father's love for us, how vast beyond all measure,  
That He should give His only Son to make a wretch His treasure.  
How great the pain of searing loss; the Father turns His face away,  
As wounds which mar the Chosen One bring many sons to glory.

Behold the Man upon a cross, my sin upon His shoulders;  
Ashamed, I hear my mocking voice call out among the scoffers.  
It was my sin that held Him there until it was accomplished;  
His dying breath has brought me life—I know that it is finished.

I will not boast in anything, no gifts, no pow'r, no wisdom;  
But I will boast in Jesus Christ, His death and resurrection.  
Why should I gain from His reward? I cannot give an answer.  
But this I know with all my heart; His wounds have paid my ransom.

**Prayers of the Church**

- P: Lord Jesus, we bring before You our fears and our failures. When preoccupations with our weaknesses diminish our praise of Your name,  
C: **fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith.**

P: When we place our own careers, agendas, and opportunities ahead of Your will, Your Word, and Your desire for our lives,

C: **fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith.**

P: When self-centeredness consumes us and we lose sight of what is honorable, just, and good,

C: **fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith.**

P: When we try to manipulate and intimidate others to get our way,

C: **fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith.**

P: When we ignore the evil being perpetrated around us and refuse to boldly stand against Satan and his deceitful traps,

C: **fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith.**

P: As we gaze upon the cross and see the crucified innocent Lamb of God preserve our hearts and minds and

C: **fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith.**

P: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

### **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.

### **Benediction**

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord look upon you with His favor and give you peace.

C: **Amen.**

### **Closing Hymn: *Yet Not I But Through Christ in Me***

With every breath I long to follow Jesus.  
For He has said that He will bring me home.  
And day by day I know He will renew me  
Until I stand with joy before the throne.  
To this I hold, my hope is only Jesus.  
All the glory evermore to Him.  
When the race is complete, still my lips shall repeat:  
Yet not I, but through Christ in me!  
When the race is complete, still my lips shall repeat:  
Yet not I, but through Christ in me!

## Announcements

**P:** Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**C:** Thanks be to God.



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