



Sing with All the Saints in Glory:

2023 Lenten Midweek Series

Third Wednesday. 7 p.m. March 15, 2023

Prelude – Bell

Lent is a time of renewal. We focus on the death and resurrection of Jesus—and in turn focus on our own death and resurrection found in baptism.

*We who have been baptized into Christ have died to sin and are the righteous saints of God. At the same time, we know that we struggle daily with sin as we seek to follow Jesus. This is the wonderful **Lutheran** understanding of being both saint and sinner simultaneously.*

Greeting

P- The love of God poured into our hearts,
the saving grace of Jesus,
and the abundant life of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C- And also with you.

Gathering Song – Borning Cry, ELW 732

*John Carl Ylvisaker is perhaps best known for his song **I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry**. For more than fifty years John's words and music have been a powerful influence on the development of worship materials for the church, with his compositions appearing in hundreds of worship resources.*

1. I was there to hear your borning cry,
I'll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized,
to see your life unfold.
I was there when you were but a child,
with a faith to suit you well;
In a blaze of light you wandered off
to find where demons dwell.

2. When you heard the wonder of the Word
I was there to cheer you on;
You were raised to praise the living Lord,
to whom you now belong.
If you find someone to share your time
and you join your hearts as one,
I'll be there to make your verses rhyme
from dusk 'till rising sun.

3. In the middle ages of your life,
not too old, no longer young,
I'll be there to guide you through the night,
complete what I've begun.
When the evening gently closes in,
and you shut your weary eyes,
I'll be there as I have always been
with just one more surprise.

4. I was there to hear your borning cry,
I'll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized,
to see your life unfold.

Confession & Forgiveness

As you are able, please stand. All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins:

P- Blessed is the Holy Trinity, + one God,
who journeys with us these forty days,
and sustains us with the gift of grace.

C- Amen

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

P- Holy God,

C- 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;

we choose fear over compassion.

Forgive us, renew us, lead us,

as we seek to follow in your way of life. Amen

P- Hear the good news:

God so loved the world that God gave his only Son,
so that all may receive life.

This promise is for you!

God embraces you with divine mercy,

+ forgives you in Christ's name,

and revives you in the Spirit's power.

C- Amen

Opening Prayer

P- O God, ancient and eternal,
in Christ you make all things new.
In baptism we have been buried with Christ
and made citizens with the saints.
Keep us faithful all our days,
and at length bring us into glory.
Through the same Jesus Christ,
our life, our strength, and our hope.

C- Amen

Please be seated.

Song – Be Thou My Vision ELW 793

*The story behind **Be Thou My Vision** begins with St. Patrick. When he was just sixteen years old, pirates kidnapped Patrick and sold him into slavery in Ireland. This caused him to enter adulthood knowing the Gaelic language and Irish customs. He also became a Christian during this time. Years later, he managed to escape and return home to his family in England. While most would've stayed home forever, Patrick chose to go back to Ireland and become a missionary!*

1 Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
naught be all else to me, save that thou art:
thou my best thought both by day and by night,
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

2 Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word;
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord.
Thou my soul's shelter, and thou my high tow'r,
raise thou me heav'n ward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.

3 Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise,
thou mine inheritance, now and always:
thou and thou only, the first in my heart,
great God of heaven, my treasure thou art.

4 Light of my soul, after victory won,
may I reach heaven's joys, O heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

Word

The Word includes two hymns and two readings associated with the specific commemorations and theme of each week.

Isaiah 55:6-12

Ephesians 1:15-23

Faithful in Prayer: Gregory the Great & Patrick

Gregory the Great was a sixth century pope who is often remembered as one of the "fathers of Christian worship" because of his work revising the liturgy and making developments in church music. Patrick was a missionary to Ireland. Called by God to carry the good news of Jesus to the Irish, he became one of the founders of the great Celtic tradition of Christianity.

Offering Song – Love Divine, Love Excelling ELW 631

*Over the course of life, Charles Wesley wrote over 6,000 hymns and **Love Divine, Love Excelling** is considered one of his finest. The hymn first appeared in Wesley's **Hymns for Those Who Seek** published in 1747.*

1 Love divine, all loves excelling,
Joy of heav'n, to earth come down!
Fix in us thy humble dwelling,
all thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, thou art all compassion,
pure, unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation,
enter ev'ry trembling heart.

2 Breathe, oh, breathe thy loving Spirit
into ev'ry troubled breast;
let us all in thee inherit;
let us find thy promised rest.
Take away the love of sinning;
Alpha and Omega be;
end of faith, as its beginning,
set our hearts at liberty.

3 Come, Almighty, to deliver;
let us all thy life receive;
suddenly return, and never,
nevermore thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray, and praise thee without ceasing,
glory in thy perfect love.

4 Finish then thy new creation,
pure and spotless let us be;
let us see thy great salvation
perfectly restored in thee!
Changed from glory into glory,
till in heav'n we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee,
lost in wonder, love and praise!

Offering Prayer

P- God of good gifts,
**receive these and our offerings
as we present them in faithful service
for the sake of your gospel. Amen**

A Prayer for Open Doors for Missionaries

P- Dear God,
we lift up our missionaries domestic and overseas. You have called them away from their homeland to follow You for Your purpose in their lives and to the lives of those they come into contact. We pray protection over them. We pray that the hearts they come into contact with would be open and willing to hear and receive the beautiful and life-altering truth of Your Son, Jesus Christ. We pray for open doors and victory in Your Name so that more of Your children would come to the table of the Lord. May doors that have been long since closed to visitors swing wide open by Divine influence in order that Your call to all of Your followers may be carried out by Your Holy plan.

C- In Jesus' name, 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.**

Concluding Prayer

P- Into your wide embrace, O God,
we place all our prayers spoken and unspoken,
trusting that you will receive them into your heart of mercy,
Jesus Christ, your Son and our Savior.

C- Amen

Sending Song – I Love to Tell the Story ELW 661

1 I love to tell the story
of unseen things above,
of Jesus and his glory,
of Jesus and his love.
I love to tell the story,
because I know it's true;
it satisfies my longings
as nothing else would do.

Refrain:

I love to tell the story;
'twill be my theme in glory
to tell the old, old story
of Jesus and his love.

2 I love to tell the story:
how pleasant to repeat
what seems, each time I tell it,
more wonderfully sweet!
I love to tell the story,
for some have never heard
the message of salvation
from God's own holy word. [Refrain]

3 I love to tell the story,
for those who know it best
seem hungering and thirsting
to hear it like the rest.
And when, in scenes of glory,
I sing the new, new song,
I'll sing the old, old story
that I have loved so long. [Refrain]

Sending

P- Christ Jesus dwell in our hearts through faith,
as we are being rooted and grounded in love,
strengthened by the Spirit,
and filled with all the fullness of God.

C- Amen

P- Go in peace. Serve in love.

C- Thanks be to God.

People to keep in your prayers this week:

The family of Dean Thornburg – His funeral is Saturday the 18th at 1:00 pm at The First Christian Church in Beatrice. Keep Kim & Connie in your prayers.

Joyce Jurgens

Marilyn Folkerts

Cora Church

Ernest Zimmerman

Brianna Podtburg

Dorothy Parde

And anyone else on your heart and in your minds!