

Suburban Bethlehem Lutheran Church & School
Fourth Sunday in Lent
March 19, 2023 – 10:30am Worship Service

Welcome to Worship!

Food For The Poor does much more than feed two million individuals six days a week. We drill life-giving water for those who otherwise wouldn't have clean drinking water; we provide lifesaving medical care; we build homes for families without adequate shelter; we provide skills training and micro-enterprise opportunities that enable the poor to work; and we give children an education that will enable them to break free from the cycle of poverty that has ensnared generations. Today Pastor Gerald Kovac will deliver the message "Being the Hands, The Feet, and The Heart of Jesus in Today's World". You will be invited to participate in this ministry through a special offering.

Information about the Worship Service.

✠ *Out of respect for our Lord, His house and those worshipping here today, please silence your cell phones and limit the use of your smart phones to something that will not distract those around you. Looking up a Bible passage is always welcomed!*

Pre-Service Music

Ringing of the Bell

Welcome & Greeting

Opening Song

Love Moved First

Verse 1 This is the story of a runaway
With no way home and no way out
I threw the best of me away
I had my chance, it's too late now
Too far gone and too ashamed
To think that You'd still know my name
But love refused to let my story end that way

Chorus You didn't wait for me to find my way to You
I couldn't cross that distance even if I wanted to
You came running after me
When anybody else would've turned and left me at my worst
Love moved first
Oh-oh-ohh, oh-oh-ohhh, oh-oh-ohh

Verse 2 What kind of grace, relentless grace
Would chase this rebel down
Crawl into this prisoner's cage
Take my hand and pull me out
You knew I couldn't make the change
So You became the change in me
And now I live to tell the story
Of the God who rescues **Chorus**

Bridge From the throne to the manger
From a manger to the grave
Your cross is the proof
Love made the first move
From a grave meant to keep You
To a stone rolled away
Your cross is the proof
Love made the first move
I remember where You found me
I'm amazed by where I stand
Your cross is the proof
That love made the first move **Chorus**

Invocation

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

C **Amen.**

Opening Sentences

P Teach me, O LORD, the way of Your statutes; and I will keep it to the end.

C **Give me understanding, that I may keep Your law and observe it with my whole heart.**

P Lead me in the path of Your commandments, for I delight in it.

C **Behold, I long for Your precepts; in Your righteousness give me life!**

Let Your steadfast love come to me, O LORD, Your salvation according to Your promise.

Confession and Absolution

P Let us make confession of our sins to God, our gracious, heavenly Father.

C **Eternal God, we confess that we all have sinned and need forgiveness. By nature, we are sinful from the very beginnings of our lives. Through our thoughts, words, and deeds, we continually sin against You. We have lived for ourselves in many ways, breaking Your commands that direct us not to lie, steal, or transgress Your holy will. We have walked in the darkness of bad choices and have left unfulfilled opportunities to do good and be blessings to others. O God, in Your mercy forgive our sin and free us from selfishness and indifference, that we may joyfully follow Your will and gladly obey Your commandments. Graciously forgive our sins and direct us in ways of compassion and love.**

P God promises to hear those who turn to Him with repentant hearts. Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us and has given His only Son to die for us and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To those who believe on His name He gives power to become the children of God and has promised them His Holy Spirit. He that believes and is baptized shall be saved. Grant this, Lord, unto us all.

C **Amen.**

Song of Praise

Greater

Verse 1

Bring your tired and bring your shame
Bring your guilt and bring your pain
Don't you know that's not your name
You will always be much more to me

Pre-Chorus

Every day I wrestle with the voices
That keep telling me I'm not right
But that's alright

Chorus

'Cause I hear a voice and He calls me redeemed
When others say I'll never be enough
And greater is the One living inside of me
Than he who is living in the world
In the world in the world
And greater is the One living inside of me
Than he who is living in the world

Verse 2

Bring your doubts and bring your fears
Bring your hurt and bring your tears
There'll be no condemnation here
You are holy righteous and redeemed

Pre-Chorus

Every time I fall
There'll be those who will call me a mistake
Well that's ok **Chorus**

Interlude

He's greater He's greater

Bridge

There'll be days I lose the battle
Grace says that it doesn't matter
'Cause the cross already won the war
He's greater He's greater
I am learning to run freely
Understanding just how He sees me
And it makes me love Him more and more
He's greater He's greater **(REPEAT)**

Chorus & Bridge

Ending

Than he who is living in the world

Old Testament Reading

¹⁴For a long time I have held my peace;
I have kept still and restrained myself;
now I will cry out like a woman in labor;
I will gasp and pant.

¹⁵I will lay waste mountains and hills,
and dry up all their vegetation;
I will turn the rivers into islands,
and dry up the pools.

¹⁶And I will lead the blind
in a way that they do not know,

Isaiah 42:14–21

in paths that they have not known

I will guide them.

I will turn the darkness before them into light,
the rough places into level ground.

These are the things I do,
and I do not forsake them.

¹⁷They are turned back and utterly put to shame,
who trust in carved idols,
who say to metal images,
“You are our gods.”

¹⁸Hear, you deaf,
and look, you blind, that you may see!

¹⁹Who is blind but my servant,
or deaf as my messenger whom I send?
Who is blind as my dedicated one,
or blind as the servant of the LORD?

²⁰He sees many things, but does not observe them;
his ears are open, but he does not hear.

²¹The LORD was pleased, for his righteousness' sake,
to magnify his law and make it glorious.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle Reading

Ephesians 5:8–14

⁸For at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light ⁹(for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), ¹⁰and try to discern 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 speak of the things that they do in secret. ¹³But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, ¹⁴for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,

“Awake, O sleeper,
and arise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you.”

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel

John 9:1–7, 13–17, 34–39

¹As [Jesus] passed by, he saw a man blind from birth. ²And his disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” ³Jesus answered, “It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed 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.” ⁶Having said these things, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva. Then he anointed the man’s eyes with the mud ⁷and said to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). So he went and washed and came back seeing. . . .

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. ¹⁵So the Pharisees again asked him how he had received his sight. And he said to them, “He put mud on my eyes, and I washed, and I see.” ¹⁶Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath.” But others said, “How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?” And there was a division among them. ¹⁷So they said again to the blind man, “What do you say about him, since he has opened your eyes?” He said, “He is a prophet.” . . .

³⁴They answered him, “You were born in utter sin, and would you teach us?” And they cast him out.

³⁵Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” ³⁶He answered, “And who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?” ³⁷Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and it is he who is speaking to you.” ³⁸He said, “Lord, I believe,” and he worshiped him. ³⁹Jesus said, “For judgment I came into this world, that those who do not see may see, and those who see may become blind.”

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Children's Message

Message Song

By His Wounds

Message

Matthew 25:40

“Being the Hands, the Feet, and the Heart of Jesus in Today’s World”

(See back page of bulletin announcements for message notes)

Apostles' Creed

C **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.**

Offering Song

Were You There



You may place your offering in the plate as it is passed through your pew. If you prefer you may also place it in the back of church after the service. If you would like to be part of our online giving community, feel free to scan this QR code for access to our app and giving portal. You may also text "Suburbanblc" to 833-418-8983.

Prayers of God's People

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.**

Blessing

Closing Song

Sing Wherever

Entering the Mission Field

P Go in peace; serve the Lord.

G **Thanks be to God.**

Post-Service Music

Acknowledgments

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