

Thank you for worshipping with us this day.

If you are visiting with us today, please sign the guest book located in the Narthex.

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### Calendar of Events

Mon. (3/17) 7:00PM Board Meeting

Wed. **12 Noon Lenten Lunch Worship at Bern Lutheran**  
3/19 **(820 W Leesport Rd, Leesport, PA 19533)**

5:30PM Hand bell Rehearsal

6:30PM Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

Sun. **9:00AM Sunday School**

3/23 **9:00AM Coffee Talk Adult Discussion Group**

(Chapter 29 – Your Secret Life, Matthew 6: 1-18)

**10:00AM Worship Service**

Wed. **12 Noon Lenten Lunch Worship at Belleman's Hall**

3/26 5:30PM Hand bell Rehearsal

6:30PM Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

Sat. (3/29) 1:00PM Cemetery Board Meeting in the Chapel

Sun. **9:00AM Sunday School**

3/30 **9:00AM Coffee Talk Adult Discussion Group**

(Chapter 30 - Why We Worry, Why We Judge, Matthew 6:19-7:12)

**10:00AM Worship Service with the Faithful Men**

*Christian Ed Meeting after Worship*

Wed. **12 Noon Lenten Lunch Worship at Bern UCC**

4/2 **(3196 Bernville Road, Leesport PA 19533)**

5:30PM Hand bell Rehearsal

6:30PM Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

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Acknowledgements:

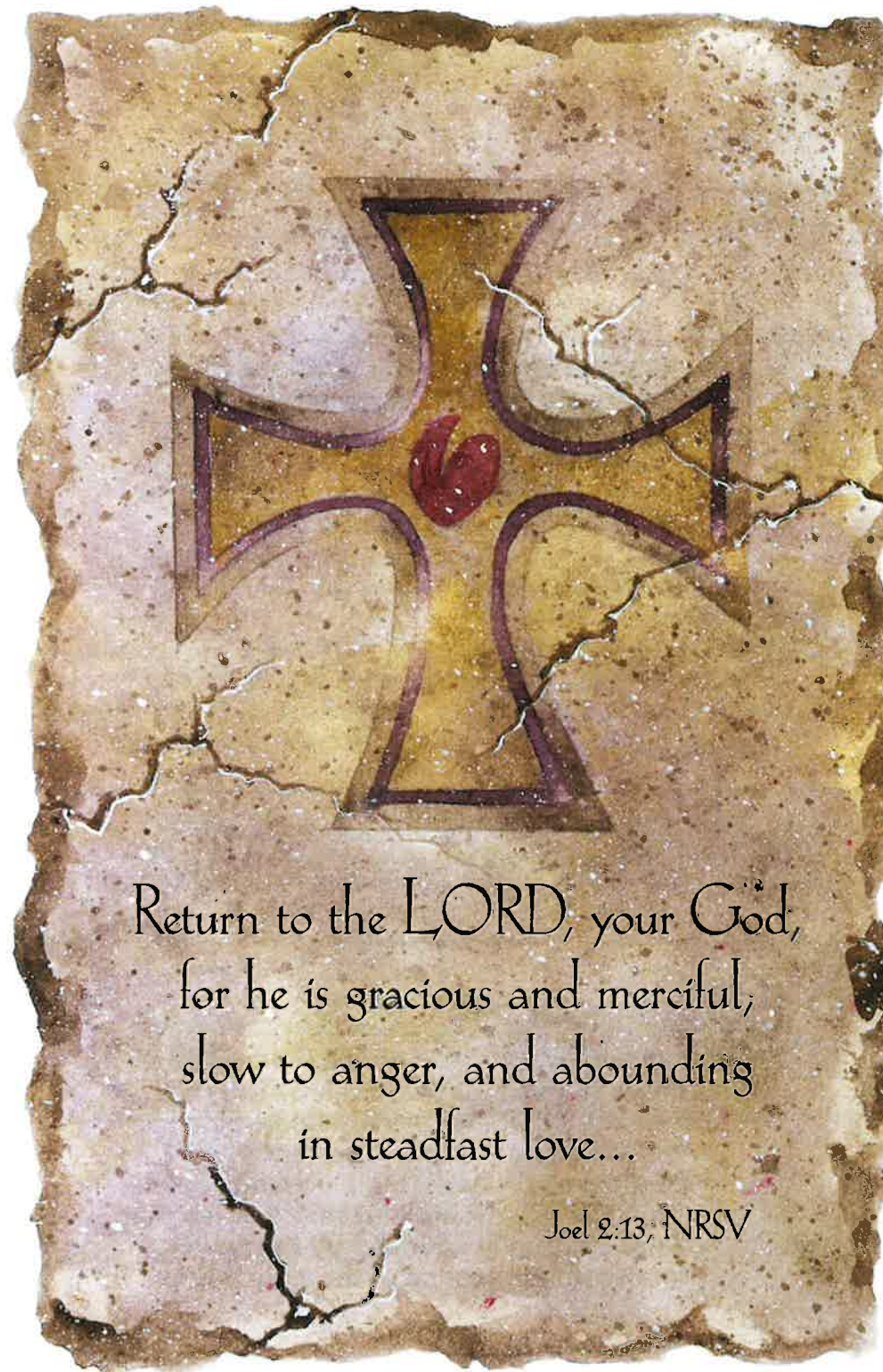
Permission by CCLI license #2391601

The Lutheran book of Worship—Augsburg Publishing, 1978

Book of Worship, United Church of Christ, Office for Church Life and Leadership, 1986

The Worship Sourcebook of CRC Publications, 2004

www.ministrymatters.org



Return to the LORD, your God,
for he is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger, and abounding
in steadfast love...

Joel 2:13, NRSV

We welcome you to Salem (Belleman's) Church.

We are a shared ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America and the United Church of Christ.

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Rev. Kevin Fruchtl, Pastor  
Oliver Blatt, Director of Music Ministry  
James Fitterling, Administrator  
Joe and Bobbie Jo King, Sextons (484-671-2531)

Church email: salembellemans@frontiernet.net  
Web Site: www.bellemanschurch.org

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Church: 610-926-0461
Church Office: Mon.-Thurs. 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Sunday School at 9:00 a.m. and Worship at 10:00 a.m. weekly

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*Children's Bulletins are available in the pink crate in the entrance of the church.*

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Mission Statement:

**With the strength of our combined traditions
We strive to be unified through CHRIST as...
A community that reaches out and welcomes
individuals of various ages and faith
backgrounds... offering a diversity of
opportunities in worship and service... so that
we are spiritually enriched by the power,
promise and presence of the Holy Spirit.**

Second Sunday in Lent

March 16, 2025

Though we sometimes doubt and often resist God's desire to protect and save us, our God persists. In holy baptism, God's people have been called and gathered into a God-initiated relationship that will endure. Lent provides the church with a time and a tradition in which to seek the face of the Lord again. Lent provides another occasion to behold the God of our salvation in the face of the Blessed One who "comes in the name of the Lord."

Welcome and Announcements

Prayers for Healing (As of March 9)

Payton Shaffer, Mark Zipp, Nancy James, Ron Burkhardt,
Richard and June Dautrich, Maya Hein,
Lloyd and Ruth Barnett, Janet Weaver, Megan Snyder,
Bobbie Jo King, Riley Rejniak, Charles Werley, Peggy Hartman,
Bridget Hoffert, Mike Hoffert, Nancy Rickert,
Dorothy Dougherty, Steve Rentschler, Karen Himmelberger,
Kelly Schoellkopf, Robert Eisenhower, Terry Martzall

Note: Please know that not all hospitals notify the church when a parishioner has been admitted. Please make the office or Pastor Kevin aware if anyone from our Belleman's family has been hospitalized. Thank you!

Military

Alfred Cross, Bradley Hoppes, John R. Wesner,
Phillip Spatz, Cydney Lawrence, CWO2 Josh Linderman,
Andrew Cichowicz, J. Michael Fluck, David Peterman,
MSGt Kevin Mohn, Nathan P. Stump, Andrew D. Potts,
Anthony Butt, Alex Hoffman, Dakotah Dailey,
SSgt. Matthew Wurster, Dustin Spatz and all men and
women serving our country.

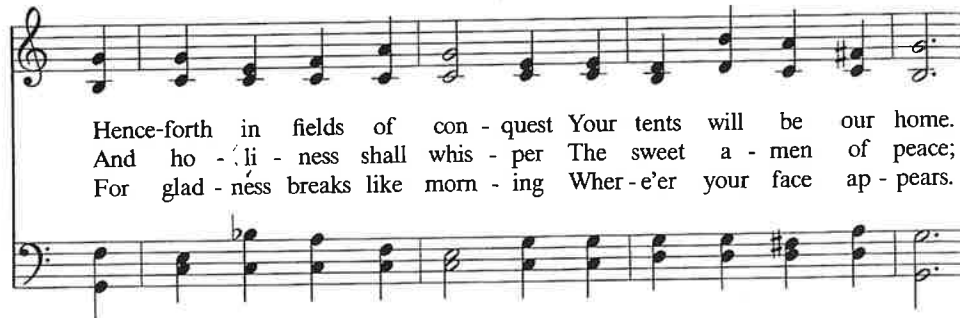
Prelude

** Please stand if you are able.*

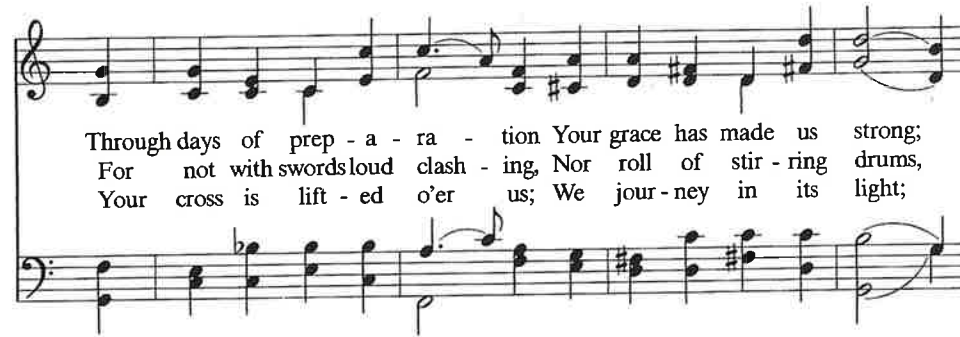
**Gathering Hymn*



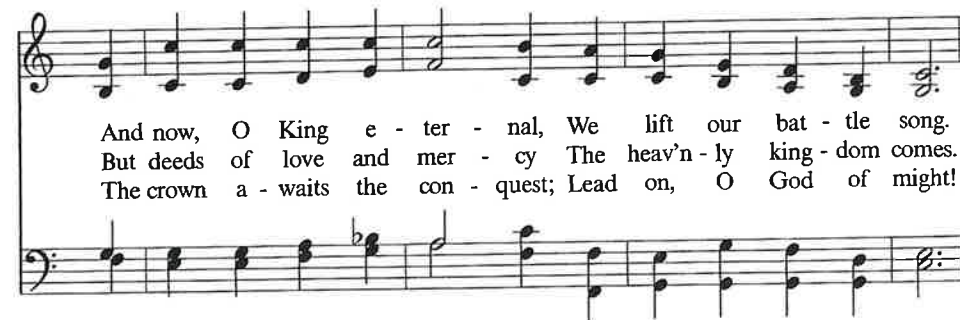
1 Lead on, O King e - ter - nal! The day of march has come;
2 Lead on, O King e - ter - nal, Till sin's fierce war shall cease,
3 Lead on, O King e - ter - nal: We fol - low, not with fears,



Hence-forth in fields of con - quest Your tents will be our home.
And ho - li - ness shall whis - per The sweet a - men of peace;
For glad - ness breaks like morn - ing Wher - e'er your face ap - pears.



Through days of prep - a - ra - tion Your grace has made us strong;
For not with swordsloud clash - ing, Nor roll of stir - ring drums,
Your cross is lift - ed o'er us; We jour - ney in its light;



And now, O King e - ter - nal, We lift our bat - tle song.
But deeds of love and mer - cy The heav'n - ly king - dom comes.
The crown a - waits the con - quest; Lead on, O God of might!

Grace and peace from God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Praised be God, Father of all mercies, God of all consolation.

We gather in the presence of God our creator,
Who sets before us the ways of life and death.
We gather in the presence of Jesus the Christ,
Who has called us to take up our Cross.
We gather in the presence of the Spirit
Who sustains us in our joys and in our sorrows.

Prophets and apostles have come to call the people of God to repentance and newness of life. We too are called to admit our sin and commit ourselves anew to follow in God's way. Let us confess our sin before God and one another.

(Silence for reflection and self examination)

Gracious God,
We confess that we do not deserve your love for us. You come to us in Jesus, revealing your love for all people, your suffering pain when we go astray. Still we do not turn to You in love and dedication. Forgive us, Lord, receive us in your mercy, and give us courage to serve you with renewed hearts through the grace of Jesus Christ. Amen.

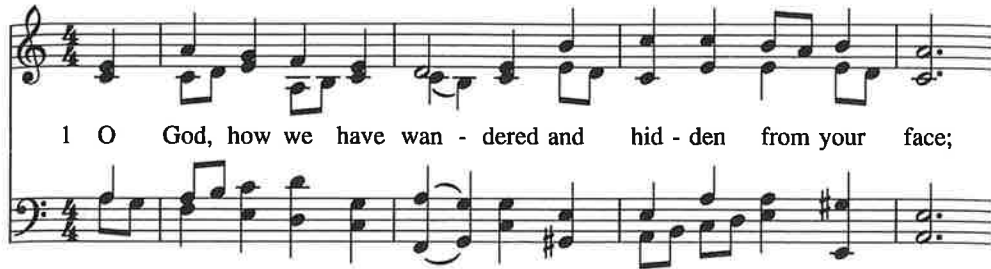
Assurance of God's Forgiveness

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!

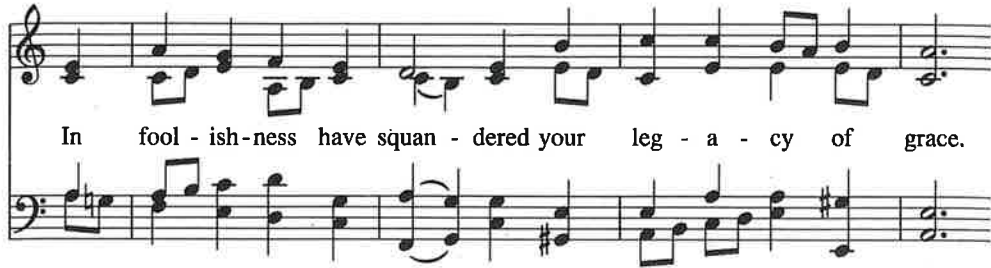
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.
And also with you.

Share a sign of God's peace with those around you!
(Sharing hands/hugs are optional during the Flu season.)

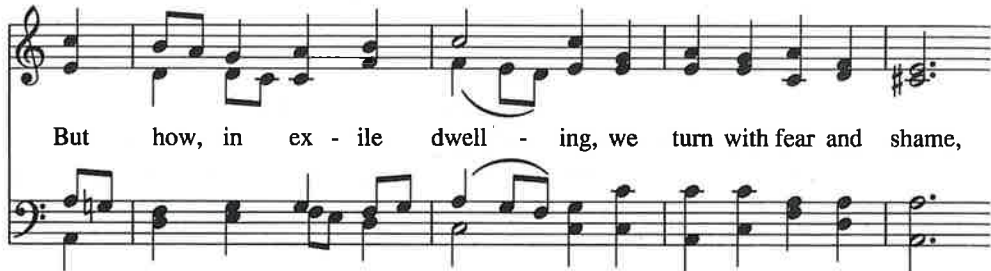
**Lenten Hymn*



1 O God, how we have wan - dered and hid - den from your face;



In fool - ish - ness have squan - dered your leg - a - cy of grace.



But how, in ex - ile dwell - ing, we turn with fear and shame,



As dis - tant but com - pell - ing, you call us each by name.

**PRAYER OF THE DAY*

Let us pray...

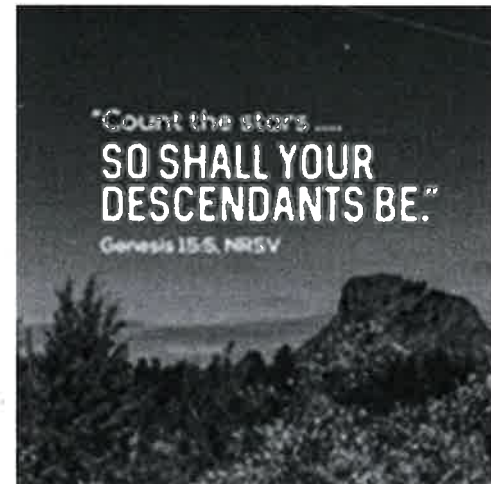
God of the covenant, in the mystery of the cross you promise everlasting life to the world.

Gather all peoples into your arms, and shelter us with your mercy, that we may rejoice in the life we share in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Proclaiming The Word

FIRST READING: Genesis 15:1-6

After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great."² But Abram said, "O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?"³ And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir."⁴ But the word of the LORD came to him, "This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir."⁵ He brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your descendants be."⁶ And he believed the LORD; and the LORD reckoned it to him as righteousness.



PSALM 27

¹ The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

² **When evildoers assail me to devour my flesh— my adversaries and foes— they shall stumble and fall.**

³ Though an army encamp against me, my heart shall not fear; though war rise up against me, yet I will be confident.

⁴ **One thing I asked of the LORD, that will I seek after: to live in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to inquire in his temple.**

⁵ For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble; he will conceal me under the cover of his tent; he will set me high on a rock.

⁶ **Now my head is lifted up above my enemies all around me, and I will offer in his tent sacrifices with shouts of joy; I will sing and make melody to the LORD.**

⁷ Hear, O LORD, when I cry aloud, be gracious to me and answer me!

⁸ **“Come,” my heart says, “seek his face!” Your face, LORD, do I seek.**

⁹ Do not hide your face from me. Do not turn your servant away in anger, you who have been my help. Do not cast me off, do not forsake me, O God of my salvation!

¹⁰ **If my father and mother forsake me, the LORD will take me up.**

¹¹ Teach me your way, O LORD, and lead me on a level path because of my enemies.

¹² **Do not give me up to the will of my adversaries, for false witnesses have risen against me, and they are breathing out violence.**

¹³ I believe that I shall see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living.

¹⁴ **Wait for the LORD; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the LORD!**

SECOND READING: *Philippians 3:17 – 4:1*

¹⁷ Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us. ¹⁸ For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of

them, and now I tell you even with tears. ¹⁹ Their end is destruction; their god is the belly; and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things. ²⁰ But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. ²¹ He will transform the body of our humiliation that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself. ¹ Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

The Word of God for the People of God.

Thanks be to God.



Re-tun to the Lord, your God, for he is gra-cious and mer-ci-ful,



slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

**The Holy Gospel*

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 13th Chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: *Luke 13:31-35*

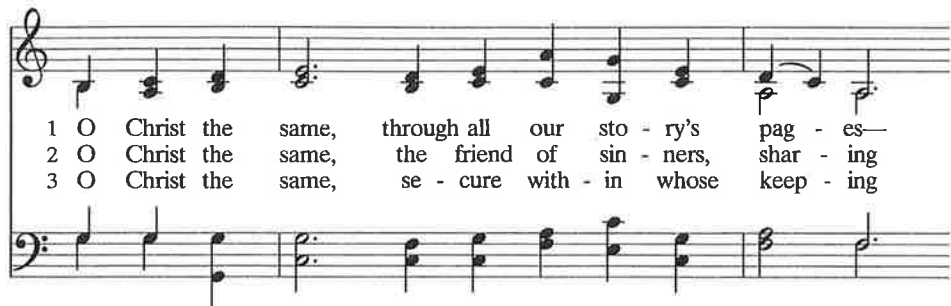
³¹ At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to him, “Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you.” ³² He said to them, “Go and tell that fox for me, ‘Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. ³³ Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.’ ³⁴ Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! ³⁵ See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, ‘Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.’”

The Gospel of the Lord.

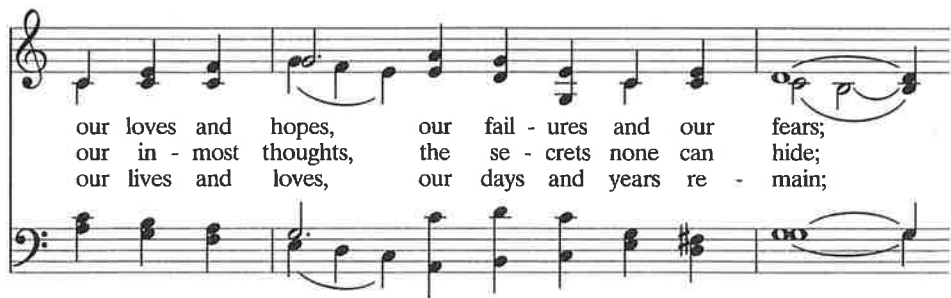
Praise to you, O Christ.

Children's Message

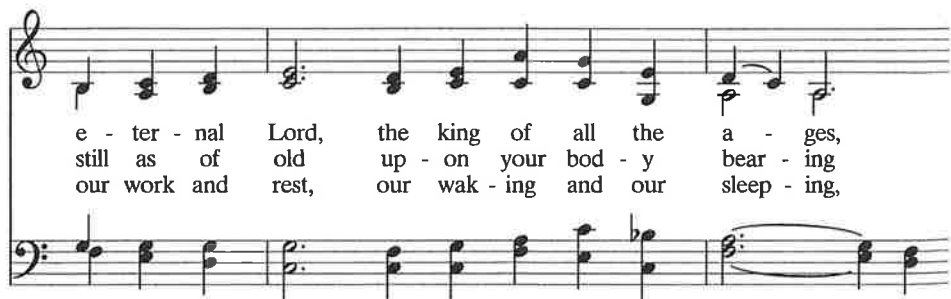
Jingle Offering: Blessing Bag Service Project



1 O Christ the same, through all our sto - ry's pag - es—
2 O Christ the same, the friend of sin - ners, shar - ing
3 O Christ the same, se - cure with - in whose keep - ing



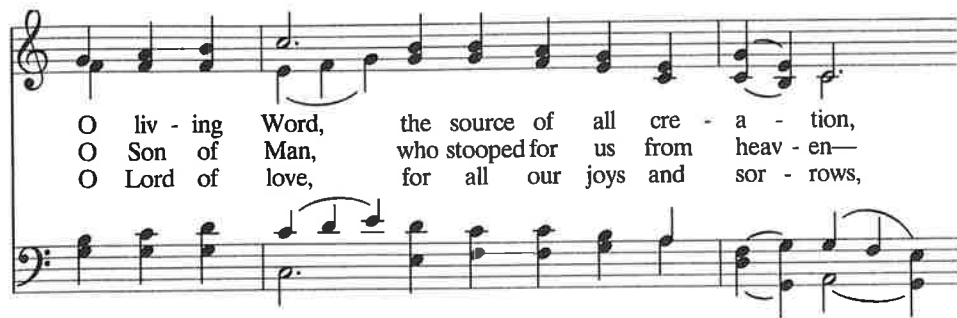
our loves and hopes, our fail - ures and our fears;
our in - most thoughts, the se - crets none can hide;
our lives and loves, our days and years re - main;



e - ter - nal Lord, the king of all the a - ges,
still as of old up - on your bod - y bear - ing
our work and rest, our wak - ing and our sleep - ing,



un - chang - ing still a - mid the pass - ing years:
the marks of love in tri - umph glo - ri - fied:
our calm and storm, our plea - sure and our pain:



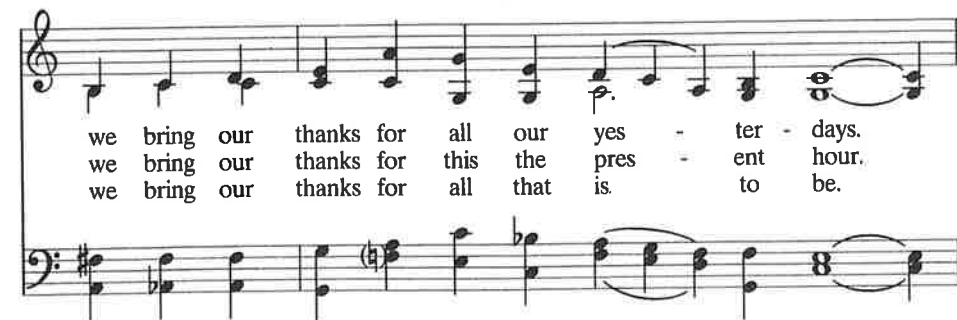
O liv - ing Word, the source of all cre - a - tion,
O Son of Man, who stooped for us from heav - en—
O Lord of love, for all our joys and sor - rows,



who spread the skies and set the stars a - blaze;
O Prince of life, in all your sav - ing power;
for all our hopes when earth shall fade and flee;



O Christ the same, who wrought our whole sal - va - tion,
O Christ the same, to whom our hearts are giv - en:
O Christ the same, be - yond our brief to - mor - rows,



we bring our thanks for all our yes - ter - days.
we bring our thanks for this the pres - ent hour.
we bring our thanks for all that is to be.

Sermon

(Silence for Meditation)

Response to the Word

**The Apostles' Creed*

In response to hearing God's word for us, we confess our faith.

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell.

On the third day He rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again 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

Choir Anthem

**Offering Response (Sung)*

Create in me a clean heart, O God

And renew a right spirit within me.

Cast me not away from thy presence,

And take not your Holy Spirit from me.

Restore unto me the joy of your salvation,

And uphold me with your free Spirit.

**Pastoral Prayer*

**The 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 sins, as we forgive those who sin 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. Amen.

**The Benediction*

**3-Fold Amen (Sung)*



**Sending Hymn*



1. God of grace and God of glo - ry, On Thy peo - ple pour Thy power;
 2. Lo! the hosts of e - vil round us Scorn Thy Christ, as - sail His ways!
 3. Cure Thy chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness, Bend our pride to Thy con - trol;
 4. Set our feet on loft - y pla - ces; Gird our lives that they may be



Crown Thine an - cient church's sto - ry; Bring her bud to glo - rious flower.
 From the fears that long have bound us Free our hearts to faith and praise:
 Shame our wan - ton, sel - fish glad - ness, Rich in things and poor in soul.
 Ar - mored with all Christ - like gra - ces In the fight to set men free.



Grant us wis - dom, Grant us cour - age, For the fac - ing of this hour.
 Grant us wis - dom, Grant us cour - age, For the liv - ing of these days.
 Grant us wis - dom, Grant us cour - age, Lest we miss Thy king - dom's goal.
 Grant us wis - dom, Grant us cour - age, That we fail not man nor Thee! A - MEN.



Go in peace. Love and serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Assisting in Worship

Acolyte: 10:00AM Logan Henne
 Lector: 10:00AM Carla Rozsitch
 Greeters/Ushers 10:00AM Jason and Rowan Gilmer



Belleman's Church day at the Pines

When: April 5, 2025, dinner at 12:30 p.m., show at 1:30 p.m.

Where: Pines Dinner Theatre
 (315 S. Cedar Crest Blvd, Allentown PA 18103)

We will plan to organize a car pool for anyone interested.

Cost: \$65 per person due to the Church Office
 Please sign up in the narthex to assure yourself a ticket!



Don't forget to direct Choice Dollars®

Grant funding from Thrivent Financial through its Thrivent Choice® program can help support organizations you care about. Don't let Choice Dollars expire.

Eligible Thrivent Financial members who have Choice Dollars available can help support Belleman's. Go to Thrivent.com/thriventchoice to learn more. Or call 800-847-4836 and say "Thrivent Choice" after the prompt.



Remember the Coffee Talk Adult Discussion group meets every Sunday at 9 a.m. in the Chapel. The topic for the group is Brian McLaren's book, ***We Make the Road by Walking***. Anyone can participate in this guided study by engaging in weekly Bible readings, devotions & prayer. **Connect on Facebook by following "Belleman's Walkers"** See Eileen Fruchtl (in person or text 610-858-2053) for a book.



The Primary Department requests donations of small wrapped candies for the Egg Hunt. Please drop them off in the Primary department with Brenda Kelly or with James in the office. Thank You!