

**BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH**

Rev. Molly Wills, Pastor | Jan Smith, Accompanist

Transfiguration of Our Lord | Sunday, March 2, 2025

ACS Holy Communion Setting 11

**SPIRIT ART**

**A meditative study of scripture through art.**

**Luke 9: 28-43a**

**GATHERING**

**The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.**

Meditation time Prelude on "Crusaders' Hymn" arr. by Edward L. Good

Beautiful Savior arr. by Dale Wood and Glorify Thy Name arr. by Stan Pethel (Bethel Brass)

Welcome & Announcements

Confession, Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, our creator, our protector, our wellspring of life. **Amen.** Trusting that God receives our words and the meditations of our hearts, let us confess our sin. Merciful God, **you speak blessing and compassion into the world. Forgive us for the ways we act with judgment, cruelty, or indifference. We ignore the needs of our neighbors; we resist your call to oppose injustice; we give in to scarcity and fear; we assume the worst about one another. Cleanse us from our faults** **and release us from their grasp. Show us your loving kindness. Restore our hearts and repair your world, that we may live in Christ’s ways. Amen.**

God proclaims these words of assurance…beloved children of God. **Amen.**

**GATHERING HYMN** *Beautiful Savior* (red hymnal #838)

Greeting (purple ACS p. 12)

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.**

**KYRIE (ACS p. 12) O Lord, have mercy…**

**CANTICLE OF PRAISE (ACS p. 12) Glory to God…**

Prayer of the Day

**Holy God, mighty and immortal, you are beyond our knowing, yet we see your glory in the face of Jesus Christ. Transform us into the likeness of your Son, who renewed our humanity so that we may share in his divinity as beloved children of God.  We pray in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

**WORD**

**God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.**

FIRST Reading: Exodus 34:29-35

29 Moses came down from Mount Sinai. As he came down from the mountain with the two tablets of the covenant in his hand, Moses did not know that the skin of his face shone because he had been talking with God. 30 When Aaron and all the Israelites saw Moses, the skin of his face was shining, and they were afraid to come near him. 31 But Moses called to them, and Aaron and all the leaders of the congregation returned to him, and Moses spoke with them. 32 Afterward all the Israelites came near, and he gave them in commandment all that the Lord had spoken with him on Mount Sinai. 33 When Moses had finished speaking with them, he put a veil on his face, 34 but whenever Moses went in before the Lord to speak with him, he would take the veil off until he came out, and when he came out and told the Israelites what he had been commanded, 35 the Israelites would see the face of Moses, that the skin of his face was shining, and Moses would put the veil on his face again until he went in to speak with him. Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm: Psalm 99

1 The Lord is king; let the people tremble. The Lord is enthroned upon the cherubim; let the earth shake.
2 **The Lord, great in Zion,** **is high above all peoples.**
3 Let them confess God’s name, which is great and awesome; God is the Holy One.
4 **O mighty king, lover of justice, you have established equity;** **you have executed justice and righteousness in Jacob.**
5 Proclaim the greatness of the Lord and fall down before God’s footstool; God is the Holy One.
6 **Moses and Aaron among your priests, and Samuel among those who call upon your name, O Lord,** **they called upon you, and you answered them,**
7 you spoke to them out of the pillar of cloud; they kept your testimonies and the decree that you gave them.
8 **O Lord our God, you answered them indeed;** **you were a God who forgave them, yet punished them for their evil deeds.**
9 Proclaim the greatness of the Lord and worship upon God’s holy hill; for the Lord our God is the Holy One.

SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 3:12—4:2

12 Since, then, we have such a hope, we act with complete frankness, 13 not like Moses, who put a veil over his face to keep the people of Israel from gazing at the end of the glory that was being set aside. 14 But their minds were hardened. Indeed, to this very day, when they hear the reading of the old covenant, the same veil is still there; it is not unveiled since in Christ it is set aside. 15 Indeed, to this very day whenever Moses is read, a veil lies over their minds, 16 but when one turns to the Lord, the veil is removed. 17 Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. 18 And all of us, with unveiled faces, seeing the glory of the Lord as though reflected in a mirror, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another, for this comes from the Lord, the Spirit. 4:1 Therefore, since it is by God’s mercy that we are engaged in this ministry, we do not lose heart. 2 We have renounced the shameful, underhanded ways; we refuse to practice cunning or to falsify God’s word, but by the open statement of the truth we commend ourselves to the conscience of everyone in the sight of God. Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation (purple ACS p. 14) **Alleluia, alleluia…**

Gospel: Luke 9:28-36 [37-43a] The holy gospel according to Luke. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

28 Now about eight days after these sayings Jesus took with him Peter and John and James and went up on the mountain to pray. 29 And while he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became as bright as a flash of lightning. 30 Suddenly they saw two men, Moses and Elijah, talking to him. 31 They appeared in glory and were speaking about his exodus, which he was about to fulfill in Jerusalem. 32 Now Peter and his companions were weighed down with sleep, but as they awoke they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him. 33 Just as they were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, “Master, it is good for us to be here; let us set up three tents: one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah,” not realizing what he was saying. 34 While he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them, and they were terrified as they entered the cloud. 35 Then from the cloud came a voice that said, “This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!” 36 When the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent and in those days told no one any of the things they had seen. [ 37 On the next day, when they had come down from the mountain, a great crowd met him. 38 Just then a man from the crowd shouted, “Teacher, I beg you to look at my son; he is my only child. 39 Suddenly a spirit seizes him, and all at once he shrieks. It convulses him until he foams at the mouth; it mauls him and will scarcely leave him. 40 I begged your disciples to cast it out, but they could not.” 41 Jesus answered, “You faithless and perverse generation, how much longer must I be with you and put up with you? Bring your son here.” 42 While he was being brought forward, the demon dashed him to the ground in convulsions. But Jesus rebuked the unclean spirit, healed the boy, and gave him back to his father. 43a And all were astounded at the greatness of God.]

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**CHILDREN’S SERMON**

**SERMON**

Hymn of the Day *Shine, Jesus, Shine* (red hymnal #671)

apostles’ Creed (purple ACS p. 17-18)

Prayers of intercession God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Peace The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

**MEAL**

**God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.**

offering Our Great Savior arr. by Patricia Sanders Cota (Chime Choir)

OfferING Prayer

**God of grace, your love reaches to the heavens, and your abundance to the depths of the seas. Bless what we offer to your service: our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts. Let us overflow with gratitude and generosity, now and always. Amen.**

**GREAT THANKSGIVING**

**The Lord be with you. And also with you. Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.**

**Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

**PREFACE**

**HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (**purple **ACS p. 20)**

Thanksgiving at the Table

Hymn The Lord’s Prayer (green binder #134)

COMMUNION

COMMUNION SONG (purple ACS p. 25)

hymn during communion All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly (red hymnal #461)

Prayer after Communion

**SENDING**

**God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.**

Blessing

Sending HYMN *I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light* (red hymnal #815)

Dismissal Go in peace. Live in hope. **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude Shine Jesus Shine arr. by Peggy Bettcher

From sundaysandseasons.com. Copyright © 2025 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.

NEXT SUNDAY’S READINGS: Deut 26:1-11; Ps 91:1-2, 9-16; Rom 10:8b-13; Lk 4:1-13

**WELCOME TO BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH! WE’RE GLAD YOU’RE HERE!**

***If you are new to Bethel, here is some helpful worship information****: We use the ELW (red hymnal) and the supplement ACS (purple hymnal), which contain liturgy and hymns. Liturgy pages are at the front of each hymnal, with the page numbers at the bottom and in the bulletin as (red ELW p.) or (purple ACS p.) Hymn pages are in the back two-thirds of the hymnals, with the page numbers at the top and in the bulletin as (red hymnal #) or (purple hymnal #). The songs from the Green Book are in the bulletin as (green binder #).*

***Hearing assist devices are available;*** *speak to an usher for assistance.*

**MISSION STATEMENT**

Vibrantly open to the Spirit, Bethel Lutheran Church seeks to serve God

 and its neighbors by joyfully living into the good news of Jesus Christ.

**THIS WEEK AT BETHEL**

Today, March 2

* Sunday school and Confirmation class: after worship
* *The Chosen*: 10:15 a.m.

Monday, March 3

* Bible study: 1:30 p.m.
* WELCA meeting: 6:30 p.m.

Ash Wednesday, March 5

* Lenten meal: 5:00 p.m.-6:15 p.m. (serving beef and chicken tacos and bars)
* Choir practice: 5:45 p.m.
* Ash Wednesday worship: 6:30 p.m.

Sunday, March 9

* Worship: 9:00 a.m.
* Sunday school: after worship
* BLTs ice skating event in Waconia: 11:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

**QUESTIONS OR REQUESTS?** Contact the church office at 320-395-2125 or bethellutheranlp@gmail.com. Call Pastor Molly Wills at 320-339-8169 or email pastor@lpbethel.org for emergency pastoral care needs.

**ADDRESS:** 77 Lincoln AVE N, Lester Prairie, MN 55354, (Mailing USPS: PO Box 207)

**WEBSITE**: [www.lpbethel.org](http://www.lpbethel.org)

**FACEBOOK:** www.facebook.com/lpbethel

**BULLETIN SUBMISSION DEADLINE:** Wednesdays at noon

**NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:** 25th of the month

**ONLINE GIVING:** scan the QR code

**TEXT GIVING:** To give, text dollar amount to **866-298-7547**

**SIMPLY GIVING** offers convenience for you and much-needed consistency for Bethel! For more information, contact Stacy Meyer, Financial Secretary, at finsec@lpbethel.org.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS**

* **LENT BEGINS ON ASH WEDNESDAY:** Join us for worship on Ash Wednesday, March 5 at 6:30 p.m. Mid-week Holden Evening Prayer will be at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesdays Mar. 12-Apr. 9. There is an opportunity to share your faith story during a mid-week Lenten worship service! The sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board by the offices. Meals will be served each week from 5:00 p.m.-6:15 p.m. There is a meal sign-up sheet in the narthex if you want to take a turn to organize, prepare, and serve a meal for 35-45 people. Thrivent Action grants will cover the meal expenses. You can also sign up to bring bars or clean up. Ask Diane Horsman if you have any questions. Sign up to bring soup for the Maundy Thursday Agape meal!
* **WELCA LENTEN PROJECT:**During Lent,WELCA will collect items for Personal Care Kits for Lutheran World Relief. We ask that you bring a specific item to each mid-week Lenten worship service. The first item to bring on Wednesday, March 12, is a new metal nail clipper (an attached file is optional), please remove the packaging. If you cannot attend on Wednesdays, please note that donations will be accepted anytime during Lent.
* **2025 HUTCHINSON EMPTY BOWLS:**Please join us as we celebrate community with food and handmade bowls in Hutchinson. The event will be on Saturday, March 8, from 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., at Hutchinson High School. Empty Bowls will feature handmade bowls made by professionals, hobbyists, and students. The cost of a bowl is a suggested donation of $20.00, but no one will be turned away if they cannot pay. Proceeds will be given to Common Cup Ministry, Inc. and McLeod Emergency Food Shelf. The bowl becomes a keepsake and a reminder of those whose bowls are empty. We are partnering with the Harvest of the Month program, through the school, to offer a soup made with seasonally, locally available ingredients. A few soups will be available for everyone’s enjoyment. Everyone is welcome to this event. There will be a small Silent Auction and a table of items for sale.
* **BLTs ICE SKATING:** Sunday, March 9, from noon to 1:30 p.m. We will leave the church at 11:30 a.m. and return around 2:00 p.m. Attendance is free for BLTs! A participation form is required, but if you attended the Big Stone event, you can use the same form. Please sign up in the narthex or email Terri Helland at terrihelland@gmail.com. This will be an outdoor rink, and skates will be available to rent there. Remember to dress warmly!
* ***“IS PRAYER YOUR STEERING WHEEL OR YOUR SPARE TIRE?”-Corrie Ten Boom***

 The Bethel WELCA group is sponsoring and welcoming **all** women to a Bible study focusing on **“Discovering the Power of Prayer”** during March. The study will be held on Tuesdays (March 11, 18, and 25) from 6:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m. at Diane Horsman’s house**.** (The location of the second and third dates will be announced. If you have questions, please ask Jan Smith.

* **BOOK CLUB:** *Murder on the Red River* by Marcie Rendon, Discussion: 3/19, 7:30 p.m. This gripping mystery follows the life of a young Ojibwe woman as she struggles to come to terms with the callous murder of a Native American stranger, bringing to life the gritty, dark reality of a flawed foster care system and the oppression of Indigenous people.
* **TOOL COLLECTION***:* We are working with River of Life Church, Winsted, to collect non-electric hand tools (new or gently used) suitable for reconstruction without electricity. The tools are for the victims of Hurricane Helene in North Carolina. The collection box is at the juncture of the stairs in the entryway. If you have questions, ask Pastor Molly.