

**BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH**

Rev. Molly Wills, Pastor | Jan Smith, Accompanist

Second Sunday in Lent | Sunday, March 16, 2025

ELW Holy Communion Setting 10

**SPIRIT ART**

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

Luke 13:31-35 +

**GATHERING**

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

Meditation time Everlasting God by Brenton Brown and Ken Riley

Blessed Be Your Name by Matt Redman and Beth Redman

Welcome & Announcements

call to worship song *Jesus, We Are Gathered* (red hymnal #529)

Confession, Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever. **Amen.** Let us return to God, confessing our sin in the assurance of God’s abiding love. Compassionate One, **you are slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, but our lives do not always reflect you and your love for the world. We do not show others the tender compassion you have shown to us. We do not welcome others with the radical hospitality you grant on all people. We oppress others, even though you have set us free again and again. We squander the abundant gifts of the earth. Transform our lives and guide us again in the way of the cross. Amen.**

Beloved in Christ, God’s arms are always stretched open wide to welcome the wandering ones home. In + Christ your sins are forgiven. You have a place in God’s house forever. **Amen.**

SONG OF PRAISE Great Are You, Lord (green binder # 41)

Greeting (red ELW p. 203)

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.**

Prayer of the Day

**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.**

**SONG OF PRAISE** In the Lord Alone (green binder #24)

**WORD**

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

FIRST Reading: Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18

1 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, 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. 7 Then he said to him, “I am the Lord who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess.” 8 But he said, “O Lord God, how am I to know that I shall possess it?” 9 He said to him, “Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon.” 10 He brought him all these and cut them in two, laying each half over against the other, but he did not cut the birds in two. 11 And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away. 12 As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him.
17 When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. 18 On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, “To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the River Euphrates.” The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm: Psalm 118:1-9, 21-29

1 Give thanks to the Lord, for the Lord is good; God's mercy endures forever.
**2 Let Israel now declare, "God's mercy endures forever."**3 Let the house of Aaron declare, "God's mercy endures forever."
**4 Let those who fear the Lord declare, "God's mercy endures forever."**
5 In distress I called to the Lord, who answered by setting me free.
**6 The Lord is with me; I shall not fear; what can anyone do to me?**7 The Lord is with me as my helper; I will look in triumph on those who hate me.
**8 It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in mortals.**9 It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in rulers.
**21 I give thanks to you, for you have answered me and you have become my salvation.**22 The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.
**23 By the Lord has this been done; it is marvelous in our eyes.**24 This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.
**25 Hosanna! O Lord, save us! We pray to you, Lord, prosper our days!**
26 Blessed is the one who comes in the name **|** of the Lord; we bless you from the house of the Lord.
**27 The Lord is God and has given us light. Form a procession with branches up to the corners of the altar.**28 You are my God, and I will thank you; you are my God, and I will exalt you.
**29 Give thanks to the Lord, for the Lord is good; God's mercy endures forever.**

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. 4:1 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 the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation *Open My Heart to Your Love* (verse 1) (insert)

Gospel:  Luke 13:31-35 The holy gospel according to Luke. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

31 At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to [Jesus], “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 SERMON**

**SERMON**

Hymn of the Day *We Fall Down*(green binder #114)

apostles’ Creed (red ELW p. 206)

Prayers of intercession God in your mercy, **receive 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 Open My Heart to Your Love (verses 2-3) (insert)

OfferING Prayer

**Gracious Provider, you set your immense treasures among us, opening your heart to the world. As we prepare to feast on your bountiful love, deepen our commitment to sharing those treasures with others, through our Savior, Jesus Christ**. **Amen.**

Thanksgiving at the Table

God of our weary years… we proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.

**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

Remembering, therefore, his death and resurrection… now and forever. **Amen.**

lord’s prayer (red ELW p. 208)

COMMUNION

SONG during communion Fear Not (I Love You This Much) (green binder #68)

Prayer after Communion

**SENDING**

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

BENEDICTION SONG Blessing

**May God bless you and keep you. May God's face shine upon you. May God look upon you with favor and give you peace, and give you peace, and give you peace. Amen.**

Blessing

God our tender parent, God the crucified one, God the reconciling Spirit, + bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

Sending SONG *Lead Me, Guide Me* (red hymnal #768)

Dismissal Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you. **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude You Are Holy arr. by Nancy M. Raabe

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NEXT SUNDAY’S READINGS: Isa 55:1-9; Ps 63:1-8; 1 Cor 10:1-13 Luke 13:1-9

**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 16

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

Monday, March 17

* Bible study: 1:30 p.m.

Tuesday, March 11

* WELCA Bible study: 6:45 p.m., Jean Hallberg’s home

Wednesday, March 19

* Lenten meal: 5:00 p.m.-6:15 p.m. (serving BBQs and pulled pork sandwiches & bars)
* Choir practice: 5:45 p.m.
* Holden Evening Prayer: 6:30 p.m. (Personal Care Kit item: one sturdy comb w/o pkg.)
* Book club discussion: 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, March 23

* Worship: 9:00 a.m.
* Sunday school, BLTs, and Community garden planning meeting: after worship
* *The Chosen*: 10:15 a.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 pastoral emergency 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**

* **WELCA LENTEN PROJECT:**During Lent,WELCA will collect Personal Care Kit items for Lutheran World Relief. We encourage you to bring a specific item to each mid-week Lenten worship service. This week, please bring a sturdy comb without any packaging. (Donations will be accepted anytime during Lent.)
* ***“IS PRAYER YOUR STEERING WHEEL OR YOUR SPARE TIRE?”-Corrie Ten Boom***

The Bethel WELCA group is sponsoring a March Bible study titled **“Discovering the Power of Prayer”** on Tuesdays, March 18 and 25, from 6:45 p.m. to 7:45 p.m. We welcome ***all***women to join us! If you have questions, please ask Jan Smith.

**COMMUNITY GARDEN PLANNING MEETING:** Join us onSunday, March 23, immediately following the worship service. Everyone interested in helping with the garden or sharing ideas to expand our outreach to the community is welcome to attend. If you have questions, please ask Emily Koehler or Pete Hallberg.

* **EASTER FLOWERS:** The sign-up sheet for ordering Easter flowers is postedon the bulletin board. Please sign up and indicate your preferred flower type and designation by April 13. Write checks payable to Bethel Lutheran and give them to Judy Angvall.
* **PAINT FACTORY EVENT:**Ladies aged 15 years and older are invited to a private event at the Paint Factory in Hutchinson on Monday, April 21, at 6:30 p.m. You do not need to be a member of Bethel to participate. Cost: The Early Bird special is $25 for the first 15 people who sign up and pay by April 1. After 15 people have signed up, the cost will increase to $35. Please make your checks payable to “Bethel WELCA” and give them to Jill Duncan. Supplies included: 16 x 20 canvas, paint, easel, brushes, an apron, and an instructor. Thanks to the Thrivent Action Team grant and WELCA for making this fun outing affordable. (regular fee = $40 per painter)
* **CROW RIVER CONFERENCE WELCA SPRING GATHERING-SATURDAY, APRIL 26:** “Rejoicing in the Lord Always.” For more information and the sign-up sheet, go to the WELCA area on the bulletin board. Please, give your $12 fee to Jill Duncan by April 13.
* **MCLEOD EMERGENCY FOOD SHELF MARCH CAMPAIGN:**The Minnesota March FoodShare Campaign continues through April 6. With your help, McLeod Emergency Food Shelf can continue to provide vital services and support those in need. Every little bit helps, so please consider donating today. Go to mcleodemergencyfoodshelf.org to donate or mail your donation to 719 13th ST E, Glencoe, MN 55336, or 498 Hwy 7 E, Hutchinson, MN 55350.
* **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.
* **KRULL’S FAREWELL PARTY-FRIDAY, MARCH 21**: We invite you to join in celebrating Matt’s retirement from Jerry’s Transmission and allowing us to say farewell to our friends in Lester Prairie and our Bethel family as we prepare our move to Grand Rapids, MN. Join us for pulled pork sandwiches and cake, served in the front room at Longhorn’s from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. until we run out. We hope to see you there!