A drawing of a flower

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**BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH**

Rev. Molly Wills, Pastor | Jan Smith, Accompanist

Third Sunday in Lent | Sunday, March 23, 2025

ELW Holy Communion Setting 10

**SPIRIT ART**

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

**Luke 13:1-9**

**GATHERING**

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

Meditation time Be Thou My Vision arr. by Marianne Kim

There is a Fountain arr. by John E. Coates

Welcome & Announcements

call to worship song *Jesus, We Are Gathered*(red hymnal #529, sing 2X)

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.**

**GATHERING SONG**  *Wash, O God, Our Sons and Daughters*(red hymnal #445)

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.**

**KYRIE (red ELW p. 203) Have mercy on us, Lord…**

**CANTICLE OF PRAISE (red ELW p. 204) Glory be to God in heaven…**

Prayer of the Day

**Eternal God, your kingdom has broken into our troubled world through the life, death, and resurrection of your Son. Help us to hear your word and obey it. Bring your saving love to fruition in our lives, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.**

**CHOIR** A New Heart by Melissa Dunphy

**WORD**

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

FIRST Reading: Isaiah 55:1-9

1 Hear, everyone who thirsts; come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. 2 Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread and your earnings for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. 3 Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live. I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David. 4 See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. 5 Now you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you. 6 Seek the Lord while he may be found; call upon him while he is near; 7 let the wicked forsake their way and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. 8 For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord. 9 For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm: Psalm 63:1-8

1 O God, you are my God; eagerly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you, my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.  
2 **Therefore I have gazed upon you in your holy place,** **that I might behold your power and your glory.**  
3 For your steadfast love is better than life itself; my lips shall give you praise.  
4 **So will I bless you as long as I live** **and lift up my hands in your name.**   
5 My spirit is content, as with the richest of foods, and my mouth praises you with joyful lips,  
6 **when I remember you upon my bed,** **and meditate on you in the night watches.**  
7 For you have been my helper, and under the shadow of your wings I will rejoice.  
8 **My whole being clings to you;** **your right hand holds me fast.**

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 10:1-13

1 I do not want you to be ignorant, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under *the cloud, and all passed through the sea, 2 and all were baptized into Moses in the* cloud and in the sea, 3 and all ate the same spiritual food, 4 and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ. 5 Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness. 6 Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did. 7 Do not become idolaters as some of them did, as it is written, “The people sat down to eat and drink, and they rose up to play.” 8 We must not engage in sexual immorality, as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. 9 We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents.10 And do not complain, as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. 11 These things happened to them to serve as an example, and they were written down to instruct us, on whom the ends of the ages have come. 12 So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall. 13 No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it. The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation (red ELW p. 205) **We are turning, Lord…**

Gospel:  Luke 13:1-9 The holy gospel according to Luke. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

1 At that very time there were some present who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices.2 [Jesus] asked them, “Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans?3 No, I tell you, but unless you repent you will all perish as they did. 4 Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the other people living in Jerusalem? 5 No, I tell you, but unless you repent you will all perish just as they did.” 6 Then he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. 7 So he said to the man working the vineyard, ‘See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?’ 8 He replied, ‘Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. 9 If it bears fruit next year, well and good, but if not, you can cut it down.’ ” The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**CHILDREN’S SERMON SERMON**

Hymn of the Day *Beautiful Things*(purple hymnal #925)

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 Take My Life and Let It Be arr. by Patricia Sanders Cota (Chime Choir)

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.**

**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 (**red ELW **p. 207)**

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

COMMUNION SONG God Extends and Invitation (red hymnal #486)

SONG during communion *Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me*(red hymnal #623)

Prayer after Communion

**SENDING**

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

Blessing

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

Sending SONG *Light Dawns on a Weary World*(red hymnal #726)

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

Postlude Cry of My Heart arr. by Carol Tornquist

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NEXT SUNDAY’S READINGS: Josh 5:9-12; Ps 32; 2 Cor 5:16-21; Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

**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 23

* Sunday school and BLTs: after worship
* *The Chosen Season 4*: 10:15 a.m. (wrapping up today, no viewing on April 6)

Monday, March 24

* WELCA Bible study “Discovering the Power of Prayer: 6:45 p.m., at J. Hallberg’s home

Wednesday, March 26

* Lenten meal: 5:00 p.m.-6:15 p.m. (serving stir fry, rice, egg rolls, and bars)
* Choir practice: 5:45 p.m.
* Holden Evening Prayer: 6:30 p.m. (Personal Care Kit item: adult toothbrush in pkg.)

Sunday, March 30

* Worship: 9:00 a.m.
* Sunday school & Confirmation class: after worship
* Bethel Breakfast: 10:30 a.m.

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

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

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

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Description automatically generatedFACEBOOK:** 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 an adult toothbrush in its 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 one more March Bible study titled **“Discovering the Power of Prayer”** on Monday, March 24, from 6:45 p.m. to 7:45 p.m. at Jean Hallberg’s

home. We welcome ***all***women to join us! If you have questions, please ask Jan Smith.

* **JOIN US! BETHEL BREAKFAST:** Sunday, March 30, at 10:30 a.m., Longhorn’s Burger House
* **COMMUNITY GARDEN PLANNING MEETING:** TODAY, March 23, immediately following the worship service. Anyone interested in helping with the garden or has ideas to expand our outreach to the community is welcome to attend. Please, contact Emily Koehler or Pete Hallberg with any questions.
* **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 15 years and older, please join us for 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: 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 be $35. Please make your checks payable to “Bethel WELCA” and give them to Jill Duncan. Supplies included are a 16 x 20 canvas, paint, an easel, brushes, an apron, & an instructor. Thanks to a Thrivent Action Team grant and WELCA for making this fun outing affordable. (The regular fee is $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.
* **FIRST COMMUNION CLASS & CELEBRATION:**A First Communion class will be offered for first graders and older whose parents feel they are ready and want to learn. The class will take place on Sunday, April 27, following the service. We will celebrate their First Communion on Sunday, May 4, during worship.
* ***THE CHOSEN: LAST SUPPER*** will be in theaters in the coming weeks. Part 1: March 27 through April 3, Part 2: April 3 through April 10, Part 3: April 10 through April 17. All parts will be shown nightly at 6:00 p.m. at the Waconia Theater. Bethel members are encouraged to attend and invite others to join them.
* **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.