

**BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH**

Rev. Molly Wills, Pastor | Jan Smith, Accompanist

Fourth Sunday in Lent | Sunday, March 30, 2025

ELW Holy Communion Setting 10

 **SPIRIT ART**

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

**Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32**

 **GATHERING**

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

Meditation time *O Sacred Head, Now Wounded* arr. by Michael Larkin

*The Old Rugged Cross/I Come to the Cross/Open Our Eyes* arr. by Don Wyrtzen

*Joyful Joyful, We Adore Thee* by Ludwig van Beethoven (Piano Solo-Livie Serum)

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**  *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*(red hymnal #807)

 (Guitar Accompaniment- Avery Burchett and Mia Serum)

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

**God of compassion, you welcome the wayward, and you embrace us all with your mercy. By our baptism clothe us with garments of your grace, and feed us at the**

**table of your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.**

**WORD**

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

FIRST Reading: Joshua 5:9-12

9 The Lord said to Joshua, “Today I have rolled away from you the disgrace of Egypt.” And so that place is called Gilgal to this day. 10 While the Israelites were camped in Gilgal, they kept the Passover in the evening on the fourteenth day of the month in the plains of Jericho. 11 On the day after the Passover, on that very day, they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and roasted grain. 12 The manna ceased on the day they ate the produce of the land, and the Israelites no longer had manna; they ate the crops of the land of Canaan that year.

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

Psalm: Psalm 32

1 Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, and whose sin is put away!
2 **Happy are they to whom the Lord imputes no guilt,** **and in whose spirit there is no guile!**
3 While I held my tongue, my bones withered away, because of my groaning all day long.
4 **For your hand was heavy upon me day and night;** **my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.**
5 Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not conceal my guilt. I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the Lord.” Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.
6 **Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of trouble;** **when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them.**
7 You are my hiding-place; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with shouts of deliverance.
8 **“I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go;** **I will guide you with my eye.**
9 Do not be like horse or mule, which have no understanding; who must be fitted with bit and bridle, or else they will not stay near you.”
10 **Great are the tribulations of the wicked;** **but mercy embraces those who trust in the Lord.**
11 Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the Lord; shout for joy, all who are true of heart.

SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

16 From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we no longer know him in that way. 17 So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; look, new things have come into being! 18 All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; 19 that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. 20 So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ: be reconciled to God. 21 For our sake God made the one who knew no sin to be sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

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

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

Gospel:  Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32 The holy gospel according to Luke. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

1 Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to [Jesus.] 2 And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.” 3 So he told them this parable: 11b “There was a man who had two sons. 12 The younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of the wealth that will belong to me.’ So he divided his assets between them. 13 A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant region, and there he squandered his wealth in dissolute living. 14 When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that region, and he began to be in need. 15 So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that region, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. 16 He would gladly have filled his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, and no one gave him anything. 17 But when he came to his senses he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! 18 I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; 19 I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.” ’ 20 So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. 21 Then the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ 22 But the father said to his slaves, ‘Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. 23 And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate, 24 for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!’ And they began to celebrate. 25 “Now his elder son was in the field, and as he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. 26 He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. 27 He replied, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf because he has got him back safe and sound.’ 28 Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. 29 But he answered his father, ‘Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command, yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. 30 But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your assets with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!’ 31 Then the father said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. 32 But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.’ ”

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

**SPIRITUAL PRACTICE**

Hymn of the Day *Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling* **(**red hymnal #608) (Guitar Accompaniment- Avery Burchett and Mia Serum)

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 *Give Thanks*arr. by Carol Tornquist

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 (red ELW p. 208) **O Lamb of God…**

SONG during communion *Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound*(red hymnal #779)

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 *My Life Flows On In Endless Song* (red hymnal #763)

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

Postlude *Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)* arr. by Carol Tornquist

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**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 assistive 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 30

* Sunday school and Confirmation class: following worship

Monday, March 31

* Pastor Molly will be on vacation through April 7.

Wednesday, April 2

* Lenten meal: 5:00 p.m.-6:15 p.m. (soup, homemade bread by Leon Krone, and bars)
* Choir practice: 5:45 p.m.
* Holden Evening Prayer: 6:30 p.m. (Personal Care item: 2 bath-size bars of soap in original pkg.)

Sunday, April 6

* Worship: 9:00 a.m. (Pastor Susan Engholm)
* Sunday school & BLTs: following worship

**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)

**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 an adult size toothbrush in its packaging. (Donations will be accepted anytime during Lent.)
* **JOIN US! BETHEL BREAKFAST:** TODAY, March 30, at 10:30 a.m., Longhorn’s Burger House
* **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.
* **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.
* **PAINT FACTORY EVENT:**Ladies 15 years and up, 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. The cost is $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.)
* **CEMETERY CLEAN-UP, SATURDAY, APRIL 26:** Please come to help rake and clean up debris in our cemeteries. We will start cleaning up at the old Bergen Church site and cemetery at 9:00 a.m. Many hands make light work!
* **FIRST COMMUNION CLASS & CELEBRATION:**A First Communion class will be offered for first graders and older children 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.
* ***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 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.