**BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH**

Rev. Susan Engholm, Supply Pastor | Jan Smith, Accompanist

Fifth Sunday in Lent | Sunday, April 6, 2025

ELW Holy Communion Setting 10

A person and person getting a foot massage

AI-generated content may be incorrect.

**GATHERING**

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

Meditation time It's About the Cross by Jamison Statema

El-Shaddai (God Almighty) arr. by Howard Hill

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**  *When It Seems the Day Will End*(purple hymnal #1034)

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

**Creator God, you prepare a new way in the wilderness, and your grace waters our desert. Open our hearts to be transformed by the new thing you are doing, that our lives may proclaim the extravagance of your love given to all through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and 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: Isaiah 43:16-21

16 Thus says the Lord, who makes a way in the sea, a path in the mighty waters, 17 who brings out chariot and horse, army and warrior; they lie down; they cannot rise; they are extinguished, quenched like a wick: 18 Do not remember the former things or consider the things of old. 19 I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth; do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. 20 The wild animals will honor me, the jackals and the ostriches, for I give water in the wilderness, rivers in the desert, to give drink to my chosen people, 21 the people whom formed for myself so that they might declare my praise.

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

Psalm: Psalm 126

1 When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, then were we like those who dream.  
2 **Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy.**  
**Then they said among the nations, “The Lord has done great things for them.”**  
3 The Lord has done great things for us, and we are glad indeed.  
4 **Restore our fortunes, O Lord,** **like the watercourses of the Negeb.**

5 Those who sowed with tears will reap with songs of joy.  
6 **Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed,** **will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.**

SECOND READING: Philippians 3:4b-14

[Paul writes:] 4b If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: 5 circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; 6 as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless. 7 Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. 8 More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ 9 and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. 10 I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, 11 if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.  12 Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal, but I press on to lay hold of that for which Christ has laid hold of me. 13 Brothers and sisters, I do not consider that I have laid hold of it, but one thing I have laid hold of: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, 14 I press on toward the goal, toward the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

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

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

Gospel:  John 12:1-8 The holy gospel according to John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

1 Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. 2 There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those reclining with him. 3 Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus’s feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. 4 But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, 5 “Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?” 6 (He said this not because he cared about the poor but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) 7 Jesus said, “Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. 8 You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me.”

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

**CHILDREN’S SERMON SERMON**

Hymn of the Day *Take My Life, That I May Be*(red hymnal #583)

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 Variations on "Hendon" arr. by David Lasky

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 (red ELW p. 206)**

**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)

SONG during communion *In This Feast of Love*(purple hymnal #962)

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 *As the Sun with Longer Journey* (red hymnal #329)

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

Postlude Take My Life (Holiness) arr. by Carol Tornquist

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NEXT SUNDAY’S READINGS: Zech 9:9-17; Ps 95:1-7; Phil 2:5-11; Lk 19:28-40

**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, April 6

* Welcome, Pastor Susan! Thank you for leading our worship today!
* Sunday school and BLTs: after worship

Monday, April 7

* WELCA meeting: 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, April 9

* Worship and Music committee meeting: 12:30 p.m.
* Lenten meal: 5:00 p.m.-6:15 p.m. (ham n’cheese sliders, BBQ, beans, chips, and bars)
* Choir practice: 5:45 p.m.
* Holden Evening Prayer: 6:30 p.m. (Personal Care Kit item: dark colored bath towel)

Sunday, April 13, Palm Sunday

* Worship: 9:00 a.m.
* Sunday school & Confirmation class: after 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)

**A qr code with a few black squares

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 a dark colored Bath towel. (Donations will be accepted anytime during Lent.)
* **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.
* **HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE:**

Palm Sunday, April 13- Worship at 9:00 a.m.

Maundy Thursday, April 17- Foot Washing (optional) and Agape Meal at 6:30 p.m.

Good Friday, April 18- Worship at 6:30 p.m.

Easter Sunday, April 20- Worship at 9:00 a.m. Easter Brunch at 10:00 a.m.

* **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*** is in theaters- **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.