

Bethel Evangelical Lutheran Church
2nd Sunday in Lent, March 16, 2025, Year C



Worship Assistants

Assisting Minister: Charlie Hilla

Reader: Sharon Hilla

Altar Guild: Karen Hervas

Communion Assistant: Sheila Greenwood

Ushers: Rick Johnson & Howard Schroeder

Video Tech: Yvonne Pamperin

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

GATHERING

Welcome

Call to Worship

Come as you are.

If you have deep faith

or your faith has run dry,

if you know every scripture

or none at all,

if you have calloused hands

and live your faith through good works,

or if you kneel at God's feet,

with a million hungry questions,

come as you are.

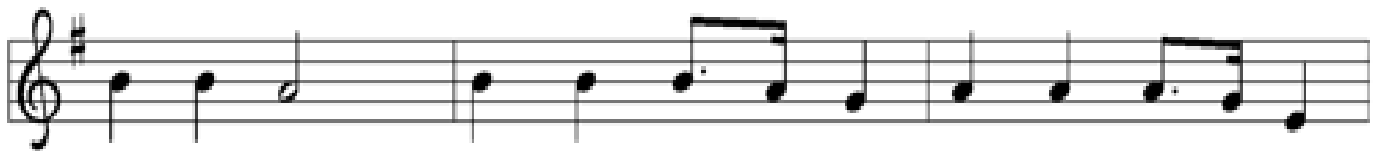
This is God's house.

None are turned away.

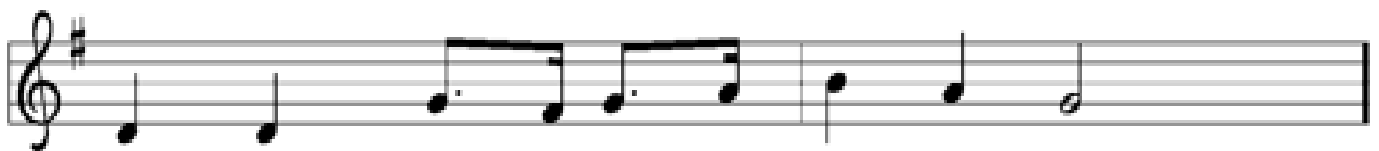
All are welcome here.



1 What a fel - low-ship, what a joy di - vine, lean - ing on the ev - er -
2 Oh, how sweet to walk in this pil - grim way, lean - ing on the ev - er -
3 What have I to dread, what have I to fear, lean - ing on the ev - er -

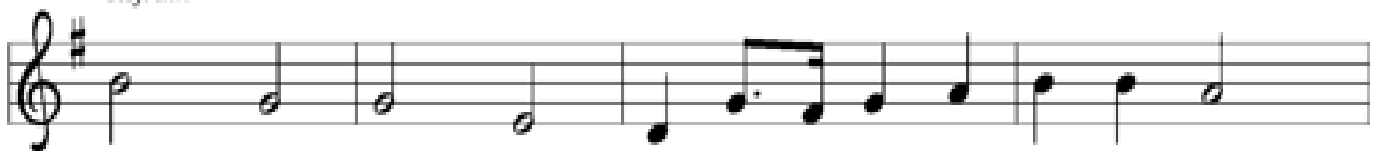


last - ing arms; what a bless - ed - ness, what a peace is mine,
last - ing arms; oh, how bright the path grows from day to day,
last - ing arms? I have bless - ed peace with my Lord so near,



lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.
lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.
lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.

Refrain



Lean - ing, lean - ing, safe and se - cure from all a - larms;



lean - ing, lean - ing, lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.

Confession and Forgiveness

The story of Mary and Martha is often painted as a story where one does right and one does wrong.

We know that life is often more complicated than that.

We know that faith is embodied through being present *and* taking action—and everything in between.

Knowing this, like Mary and Martha, let us draw near to God. Let us be honest about our lives, our hopes, and our mistakes. For even in our messy middle, God meets us with grace. Let us pray:

God of Grace,

We long to do the “right” thing.

We long to make the “right” choice.

We long to stand on the “right” side of the dividing line.

In our earnestness, we sometimes miss the sacred right in front of us. In our earnestness, we sometimes miss opportunities to show love.

Show us how to hold our heart’s desire for perfection loosely.

Show us how to lead with grace and love, over anything else.

For even more than our desire to be right, we desire to be close to you. Show us the way.

Amen.

Faithful friends, God knows your heart.

When you mean well and lose your way, God knows.

When you try to do the right thing and miss the point, God knows.

When you long to be close to God, and doubt your worth, God knows. You are seen. You are loved. You are forgiven. You have been sent to serve. This is the good news of the gospel!

Nothing can separate you from God’s love.

Thanks be to God! Amen.



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



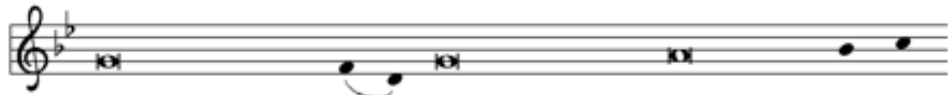
Lord, have mer - cy.



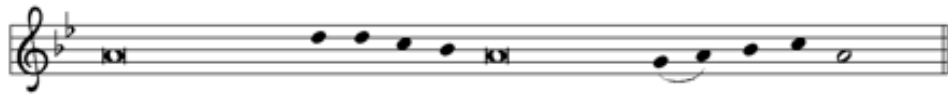
For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



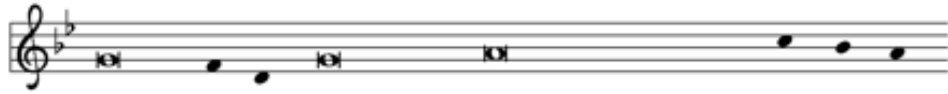
For the peace of the whole world, for the well - being of the church of



God, and for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this ho - ly house, and for all who offer here their wor - ship and



praise, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray, Loving God,

**When our anxiety hovers close,
when fear clings to our bones,
when our stress rises like the tide,
see us.**

Speak to us.

Call us by name.

**See us in the kitchen, in the classroom, in the hospital waiting room. Speak to us
in the quiet, in the crowd, in the inky black of night. Call us beloved. Call us by
name. Call us your child.**

**Whatever you do, speak to us,
for we cannot live on bread alone.**

Amen.

Tone Chimes

*Come into God's Court with Praise
More Precious than Silver*

Hymn after Tone Chimes

My Lord of Light

WOV 796



- 1 My Lord of light who made the worlds, in wis - dom you have spo - ken;
- 2 My Lord of love who knew no sin, a sin - ner's death en - dur - ing:
- 3 My Lord of life who came in fire when Christ was high as - cend - ed:
- 4 My Lord of lords, one Trin - i - ty, to your pure name be giv - en



but those who heard your wise com-mands your ho - ly law have bro - ken.
for us you wore a crown of thorns, a crown of life se - cur - ing.
your burn - ing love is now re - leased, our days of fear are end - ed.
all glo - ry now and ev - er - more, all praise in earth and heav-en.

Text: Christopher Idle, b. 1938

Music: BARBARA ALLEN, English folk tune

Text © 1980 by Jubilate Hymns, admin. Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

Psalm 27

¹The LORD is my light and my salvation;
whom shall I fear?

**The LORD is the stronghold of my life;
of whom shall I be afraid?**

²When evildoers assail me
to devour my flesh —
my adversaries and foes —
they shall stumble and fall.

**³Though an army encamp against me,
my heart shall not fear;
though war rise up against me,
yet I will be confident.**

⁴One thing I asked of the LORD,
that will I seek after:
to live in the house of the LORD
all the days of my life,
to behold the beauty of the LORD,
and to inquire in his temple.

**⁵For he will hide me in his shelter
in the day of trouble;
he will conceal me under the cover of his tent;
he will set me high on a rock.**

⁶Now my head is lifted up
above my enemies all around me,
and I will offer in his tent
sacrifices with shouts of joy;
I will sing and make melody to the LORD.

**⁷Hear, O LORD, when I cry aloud,
be gracious to me and answer me!**

⁸"Come," my heart says, "seek his face!"
Your face, LORD, do I seek.

**⁹Do not hide your face from me.
Do not turn your servant away in anger,
you who have been my help.
Do not cast me off, do not forsake me,
O God of my salvation!**

¹⁰If my father and mother forsake me,

the LORD will take me up.

**¹¹Teach me your way, O LORD,
and lead me on a level path
because of my enemies.**

¹²Do not give me up to the will of my adversaries,
for false witnesses have risen against me,
and they are breathing out violence.

**¹³I believe that I shall see the goodness of the LORD
in the land of the living.**

¹⁴Wait for the LORD;
be strong, and let your heart take courage;
wait for the LORD!

Word for All Ages

Gospel Acclamation (setting 9)

Pg. 198



Let your stead - fast love come to us, O Lord.



Save us as you prom - ised; we will trust your word.

Gospel Luke 10:38-42

The Holy Gospel according to Luke. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

³⁸Now as they went on their way, he entered a certain village, where a woman named Martha welcomed him into her home. ³⁹She had a sister named Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to what he was saying. ⁴⁰But Martha was distracted by her many tasks; so she came to him and asked, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her then to help me." ⁴¹But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things; ⁴²there is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her."

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

Sermon

Hymn of the Day *Ministry and Presence* **Sanctified Art**
(To the tune of *A Mighty Fortress is Our God*)

**When Jesus passed near Martha's home
She had no hesitation
"Please treat my house like it's your own,"
She gave the invitation
She wanted all the best
To serve her honored guest
Her checklist grew and grew
Her time was all consumed
With ministry abounding**

**Her sister Mary took a seat
To spend time with the teacher
Intently list'ning at his feet
His words drew her in deeper
But Martha took offense
At Mary so content
With all there was to do
She needed Mary, too
And asked for Jesus' backing**

**He said, "You are both gifts to me
With different ways of being
I won't take that from Mary
Whose place is right here with me**

**You have nothing to prove
So let your heart be moved
Just one thing do I need:
To feel your love in deeds
Of ministry and presence**

Affirmation of Faith

**We believe in a Christ who
teaches, sees, affirms, and celebrates all of who we are. We believe in a Christ
who
invites us to use our gifts for good
and celebrates every step we take in that direction.
We believe in a Christ who
understands our anxieties
and is gentle with our concerns.
And we believe in a Christ who
looks at us with undiluted love.
The world will try to rank, rate, and declare winners, but we know love has no
limit.
So with God's help,
may we nurture our faith
and do good work. Amen.**

Prayers of the People

Led by the Spirit, let us turn to God in prayer for the church, the world, and all those in need.

Holy God, you long to gather your church under your wings. Bless the churches of Jerusalem, and all persecuted churches, that your people may take heart and stand firm as they witness and minister in your name. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Holy God, you give shelter to living things as numerous as the stars. Strengthen the voice of prophets who call humanity to faithful care for the planet, that they would not be silenced but heeded as your messengers. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Holy God, you raised up leaders like Abram, Sarai, and Paul to show your people what it means to rely on your promises. Guide today's leaders to work for justice

and safeguard the world for future generations. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Holy God, you are the stronghold of our life. Care tenderly for those who are ill in body or mind, and for people living in fear or need. May all know they are not alone. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Holy God, you offer us citizenship in heaven. Unite communities of faith who are divided over earthly things, that following the way of your Son, they may set aside grudges and serve their neighbors with generosity and love. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Holy God, you are our light and our salvation. We give thanks for the saints who have gone before us. Help us to trust in you as they did and to live according to their example. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Receive the prayers of your people and draw all things together in your love, in the name of Jesus, who leads us from death to life.

Amen.

Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **Add also with you.**

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

MEAL

Offering Prayer

Let us pray, **We offer you these gifts, O God, Knowing that nothing can compare with the gift of life you offer us through Jesus Christ our Lord. Use these gifts and use our lives to proclaim the saving power of Christ's death and resurrection as we press on toward the goal for the prize of your heavenly call; in Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

Words of Institution

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.

On the night in which he was betrayed

Which is to say, on the night *before* he was sentenced to death by those who didn't like him challenging their power and disturbing their status quo,

Which is to say, on the night *before* he was subjected to an unjust trial, torture and humiliation,

On *that* night, with the heart of God on full display, as feet were washed, a meal was shared and encouragement to carry on ministry was given,

On *that* night, Jesus took bread and gave thanks. He broke it and shared it among them saying:

Take, eat; this is my body given for you. Do this, and remember me.

In the same way after supper,

In the *same* way, which is to say, with those same *incredibly imperfect and fallible* people there,

His closest friends, the ones who knew him the best, the ones who had watched him heal, heard him teach and yet would doubt, deny and betray him,

In the *same* way, among those same *flawed and forgiven* people, with their fear and confusion on full display,

In the same way, after supper, Jesus took the cup and he gave thanks. He gave it to his friends, (his deeply loved, fully human friends), each of them in turn, saying:

Drink. This cup is poured out for you and for all people. It is the promise of God. Drink it, and remember me.

We remember Jesus' death and resurrection, our hope and our life. We break the bread and share the one cup.

Thanks be to God.

Lord's Prayer

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit let us pray as Jesus taught us.

Our Father, who art in heaven,

hallowed be thy name,

thy kingdom come,

thy will be done,

on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread;
 and forgive us our trespasses,
 as we forgive those
 who trespass against us;
 and lead us not into temptation,
 but deliver us from evil.
 For thine is the kingdom,
 and the power, and the glory,
 forever and ever. Amen.

Lamb of God (setting 9)

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
 world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you
 take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.
 Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
 world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

1 O Christ the same, through all our sto - ry's pag - es—
 2 O Christ the same, the friend of sin - ners, shar - ing
 3 O Christ the same, se - cure with - in whose keep - ing

our loves and hopes, our fail - ures and our fears;
 our in - most thoughts, the se - crets none can hide;
 our lives and loves, our days and years re - main;

e - ter - nal Lord, the king of all the a - ges,
 still as of old up - on your bod - y bear - ing
 our work and rest, our wak - ing and our sleep - ing,

un - chang - ing still a - mid the pass - ing years;
 the marks of love in tri - umph glo - ri - fied;
 our calm and storm, our plea - sure and our pain;

O liv - ing Word, the source of all cre - a - tion,
 O Son of Man, who stooped for us from heav - en—
 O Lord of love, for all our joys and sor - rows,

who spread the skies and set the stars a - blaze;
 O Prince of life, in all your sav - ing power;
 for all our hopes when earth shall fade and flee;

O Christ the same, who wrought our whole sal - va - tion,
 O Christ the same, to whom our hearts are giv - en:
 O Christ the same, be - yond our brief to - mor - rows,

we bring our thanks for all our yes - ter - days.
 we bring our thanks for this the pres - ent hour,
 we bring our thanks for all that is to be.

Text: Timothy Dudley-Smith, b. 1926
 Music: LONDONDERRY AIR, Irish tune

Text © 1984 Hope Publishing Co. All rights reserved.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrators.



1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
 2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;
 3 Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise,
 4 Light of my soul, af - ter vic - to - ry won,



naught be all else to me, save that thou art;
 I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord,
 thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways;
 may I reach heav - en's joys, O heav - en's Sun!



thou my best thought by day and by night,
 Thou my soul's shel - ter, thou my high tow'r,
 thou, and thou on - ly, first in my heart,
 Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,



wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light,
 raise thou me heav'n - ward, O Pow'r of my pow'r,
 great God of heav - en, my trea - sure thou art,
 still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

Text: Irish 8th-10th cent.; n. Mary E. Byrne, 1880-1931; vers. Eleanor H. Hull, 1860-1935, alt.
 Music: SLANE, Irish tune

Prayer after Communion

Let us pray, Lord God, **we give thanks for your mercy-**

welcoming us home from wandering,

clothing us with your loving-kindness,

and feeding us from your abundant table.

Prepare a place for us in your holy realm,

where the lost are found,

Heaven and earth embrace, and the dead are raised to new life;

through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

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

SENDING

Announcements

Blessing

As you leave this place,
may you find God in every messy middle.
May you know that the world is bigger than two sides.
May you trust that you are made in the image of God,
and therefore, you contain multitudes.
So may you move through this world with an open heart,
with a curious mind, and with the confidence that you do not go alone. God is
with you in the mountains,
in the valleys,
and everywhere in between.

Almighty God,
motherly, majestic, and mighty,
✠ bless you this day and always.

Amen.

Sending Hymn *Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ* **WOV 754**



1 Let us tal - ents and tongues em - ploy, reach - ing out with a shout of joy:
2 Christ is a - ble to make us one, at the ta - ble he sets the tone,
3 Je - sus calls us in, sends us out bear - ing fruit in a world of doubt,



bread is bro - ken, the wine is poured, Christ is spo - ken and seen and heard.
teach - ing peo - ple to live to bless, love in word and in deed ex - press.
gives us love to tell, bread to share: God (Im - man - u - el) ev - 'ry - where!

Refrain



Je - sus lives a - gain, earth can breathe a - gain, pass the Word a - round: loaves a - bound!

Text: Fred Kaan, b. 1929

Music: LINSTEAD, Jamaican folk tune; adapt. Doreen Potter, 1925-1980

Text and music © 1975 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

Dismissal

Bethel: Marked with the cross of Christ, go peaceably,
looking upon the hearts of others with the same compassion
Christ has shown you. **Thanks be to God.**

Funding for Mission & Budget

Monthly Receipts through 3/11/25: \$ 13,128.30
Monthly Budget Expenses: \$20,033.00
YTD Receipts through 2/28/25: \$ 45,662

The Bethel Weekly

Fellowship Hour: Please, if you are able to help on a future date in March and April, sign up in the hallway.

Easter Flowers: Lilies and Tulips are \$14 each this year. Orders need to be received by April 6th. Order forms can be found in the office and lounge.

Midweek Lenten Services: Continue this Wednesday, March 19th at Resurrection at 6:30pm. The theme this season is *Be Transformed*.

Baby Shower: Is today after worship for Loius and Roberto. Please join us for fellowship and fun!

Now Hiring - Administrative Assistant: We give thanks for the gifts that Dawn has brought to the position but wish her well as she plans to retire. Do you know someone who might want to apply? The part-time position (up to 20 hours/week) offers flexible Monday-Thursday work hours in a comfortable and caring environment and includes paid vacation and sick leave. Position potential start date is May 1st and will be trained by Dawn. More information can be found at: <https://bethelonbond.org/now-hiring-admin-assistant/>

Handbags for Hope: In conjunction with the Resurrection Food Pantry, we are asking all the ladies to bring in any unwanted purses. Donations are also needed of travel size hygiene items such as toothbrushes, shampoo, lip balm, etc. to fill the purses prior to distribution. Suggestions can be found on the front of the bin in the lounge.

Augsburg Fortress Liturgies License #22041
CCLI License #2623795
One License #734715-A

Adapted from a prayer by Rev. Sarah A. Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.
Prayers adapted from Connections Worship Companion Year C, Volume 1 | David Gamrell, editor