

Bethel Evangelical Lutheran Church  
4th Sunday in Lent, March 30, 2025, Year C



**Worship Assistants**  
**Assisting Minister: Kay Zastrow**  
**Reader: Michael Zastrow**  
**Altar Guild: Linda Wery**  
**Communion Assistant: Marilyn Meister**  
**Ushers: Todd & Sue Keckhaver**  
**Video Tech: Cindy Michalski**

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

**GATHERING**

## **Welcome**

### **Call to Worship**

Our God is a shepherding God.

**Our God knows us by name.**

Our God will never stop searching for us. So if you feel lost,  
**then know that God is seeking you.**

If you feel found,

**then know that God will never leave.**

This is the promise of scripture.

**This is the promise of God's love.**

Let us worship our with-us God.

Opening Hymn    *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*    Cranberry 807



1 Come, thou Fount of ev - 'ry bless-ing, tune my heart to sing thy grace;  
2 Here I raise my Eb - en - e - zer: "Hith-er by thy help I've come";  
3 Oh, to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I'm con-strained to be;



streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas - ing, call for songs of loud - est praise.  
and I hope, by thy good plea - sure, safe - ly to ar - rive at home.  
let that grace now like a fet - ter bind my wan-d'ring heart to thee.



While the hope of end-less glo - ry fills my heart with joy and love,  
Je - sus sought me when a strang - er, wan-d'ring from the fold of God;  
Prone to wan - der, Lord, I feel it; prone to leave the God I love.



teach me ev - er to a - dore thee; may I still thy good-ness prove.  
he, to res - cue me from dan - ger, in - ter - posed his pre - cious blood.  
Here's my heart, oh, take and seal it; seal it for thy courts a - bove.

Text: Robert Robinson, 1735–1790, alt.

Music: NETTLETON, J. Wyeth, *Repository of Sacred Music*, Part II, 1813

## **Confession and Forgiveness**

Friends, in the Christian tradition many have used “lost” and “found” labels to describe people “out there” versus people “in here.” Many have used “lost” and “found” language to create a damaging dichotomy that Christians are found and non-Christians are lost.

But the truth is, each and every one of us is a little bit lost and a little bit found from time to time. Each and every one of us needs the love of the Good Shepherd.

So join me in the prayer of confession, as people who know both ends of that spectrum. Join me as we go to God in prayer:

If God is a painter,

**let us be the brush.**

If God is a musician,

**let us be the song.**

If God is an architect,

**let us be the tools.**

**Let us be the hands.**

**Let us be the builders.**

But if God is a shepherd,  
who never stops seeking,

**let us be willing to be found,  
no matter how lost we feel.**

Our God is never far away.

**Forgive us for forgetting this good news. Amen.**

Family of faith, we are all a little bit lost and a little bit found.

We grumble. We push back. We doubt God. We doubt ourselves.

We leave the flock and lose our way.

But fortunately for us, our God is a shepherding God who is always by our side.

So hear and believe the good news of the gospel:

**No matter how far we wander,**

**we can never wander from the bounds of God’s grace. We are loved. We are forgiven. We are not alone. Thanks be to God! Amen.**



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



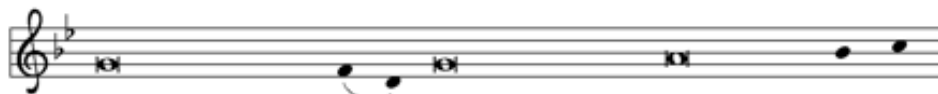
Lord, have mer - cy.



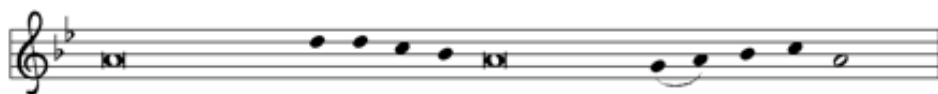
For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



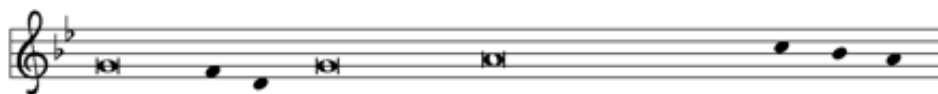
For the peace of the whole world, for the well - being of the church of



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, Shepherding God,

**You look for us.**

**You search for us.**

**You turn every corner  
and climb every mountain.**

**You call our name until your voice is hoarse. When we lose our way,  
you never stop seeking after us. So once again we pray,  
find us in this moment.**

**Look for us.**

**And then surround us with your presence,  
so that we might feel you near.**

**With hope we pray, with hope we listen. Amen.**

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

**WORD**

## Psalm 32 (read responsively by verse)

<sup>1</sup>Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven,  
whose sin is covered.

**<sup>2</sup>Happy are those to whom the LORD imputes no iniquity,  
and in whose spirit there is no deceit.**

<sup>3</sup>While I kept silence, my body wasted away  
through my groaning all day long.

**<sup>4</sup>For day and night your hand was heavy upon me;  
my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.**

<sup>5</sup>Then I acknowledged my sin to you,  
and I did not hide my iniquity;

I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD,"  
and you forgave the guilt of my sin.

**<sup>6</sup>Therefore let all who are faithful  
offer prayer to you;  
at a time of distress, the rush of mighty waters  
shall not reach them.**

<sup>7</sup>You are a hiding place for me;  
you preserve me from trouble;  
you surround me with glad cries of deliverance.

**<sup>8</sup>I will instruct you and teach you the way you should go;**

**I will counsel you with my eye upon you.**

<sup>9</sup>Do not be like a horse or a mule, without understanding, whose temper must be curbed with bit and bridle, else it will not stay near you.

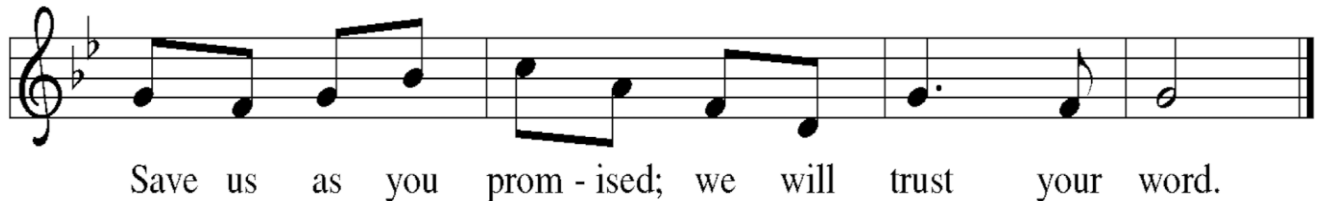
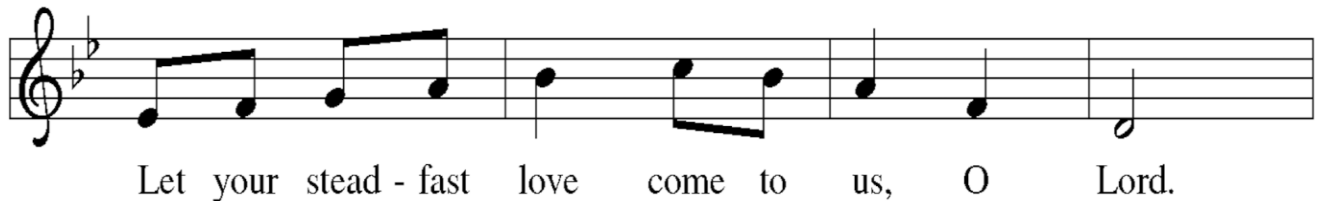
**<sup>10</sup>Many are the torments of the wicked, but steadfast love surrounds those who trust in the LORD.**

<sup>11</sup>Be glad in the LORD and rejoice, O righteous, and shout for joy, all you upright in heart.

### Word for All Ages

#### Gospel Acclamation (setting 9)

Pg. 198



#### Gospel Luke 15:1-7

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

<sup>1</sup>Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. <sup>2</sup>And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them."

<sup>3</sup>So he told them this parable: <sup>4</sup>Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? <sup>5</sup>When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. <sup>6</sup>And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.' <sup>7</sup>Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

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

## Sermon

### Hymn of the Day

*Lost and Found*

### Sanctified Art

(To the tune of: *Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service*)

In the flock I am surrounded  
By my siblings and my friends  
Safe at home and feeling grounded  
With my shepherd to defend  
But an aching, longing feeling  
As the stars shine late at night  
Draws me in, my dreams revealing  
And I know I'm not quite right

The horizon starts to brighten  
As I quietly slip away  
I can feel my spirit lighten  
With each cautious step I take  
Unfamiliar paths unfolding  
As excitement blends with fear  
All creation now enfolds me  
Like the flock I hold so dear

As I wander down the quarry  
A familiar voice cries out  
It's my shepherd searching for me  
Reckless love has tracked me down  
Though I left my place of refuge  
He has followed all along  
But I had to lose myself to  
Find myself where I belong

### Affirmation of Faith

**We believe in a seeking God,  
a with-us and before-us God,  
a chasing-after-us God.**

**We believe that no matter where we wander or what mountains we climb, *this*  
God—**

**the God who walked the streets of Jerusalem, shook hands with lepers,  
patted children on the head,  
and told stories of love—  
is always close at hand.**

**So on the good days and the hard days,**

**on the mountains and in the valleys,  
we believe that we are always being found.  
Thanks be to God for a love like that. 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.

God of faithful promise, make your church a new creation in Christ. As you reconcile us to yourself, guide us also in your way of reconciliation, that through confession and forgiveness, repentance and reparations, your church may bear witness to your love. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

God of new beginnings, restore balance to the earth. Send rain to places of drought and sunshine to places of flooding, that the produce of the land may again support life. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

God of prodigal grace, unite the nations as fellow members of the human family. Give leaders the courage to put aside pride and ego, to cease squandering lives and time, and to work for the well-being of all. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

God of boundless love, receive with open arms any in need of compassion. Embrace all who are far from home or estranged from loved ones, and all who live with regret. Embolden your people to offer and to seek forgiveness. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

God of radical inclusion, widen human circles to welcome all who are excluded. Bless the work of disability ministries, ministries by and with neurodivergent people, and multicultural and ethnic-specific ministries; that the welcome of Jesus be extended to all. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

God of resurrection life, welcome home all who have died. We thank you for their lives and entrust them into your keeping, where true reconciliation and eternal peace are found. 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.**

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*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, 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.



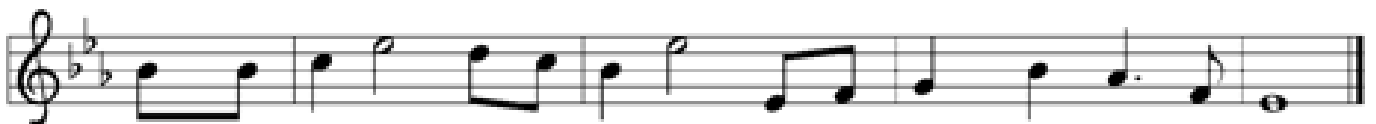
1 Sav - ior like a shep-herd lead us; much we need your ten - der care.  
2 We are yours; in love be - friend us, be the guard-ian of our way;  
3 You have prom-ised to re - ceive us, poor and sin - ful though we be;  
4 Ear - ly let us seek your fa - vor, ear - ly let us do your will;



In your pleas-ant pas-tures feed us, for our use your fold pre-pare.  
keep your flock, from sin de - fend us, seek us when we go a - stray.  
you have mer - cy to re - lieve us, grace to cleanse, and pow'r to free.  
bless - ed Lord and on - ly Sav - ior, with your love our spir - its fill.



Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, you have bought us; we are yours.  
Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, hear us chil - dren when we pray.  
Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, ear - ly let us turn to you.  
Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, you have loved us, love us still.



Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, you have bought us; we are yours.  
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Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, ear - ly let us turn to you.  
Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, you have loved us, love us still.

Text: arr. Dorothy A. Thrupp, 1779–1847  
Music: BRADBURY, William B. Bradbury, 1816–1868



1 Oh, that the Lord would guide my ways to keep his stat - utes still!  
2 Or - der my foot-steps by your word and make my heart sin - cere;  
3 As - sist my soul, too apt to stray, a strict - er watch to keep;  
4 Make me to walk in your com-mands, 'tis a de-light - ful road;



Oh, that my God would grant me grace to know and do his will!  
let sin have no do - min - ion, Lord, but keep my con - science clear.  
and should I e'er for - get your way, re - store your wan - d'ring sheep.  
nor let my head or heart or hands of - fend a - gainst my God.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt.

Music: EVAN, William H. Havergal, 1793–1870

### 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.**

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*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**      *God Be with You Till We Meet Again*      **Cranberry 536**



1 God be with you till we meet a - gain; by good coun-sels guide, up - hold you,  
2 God be with you till we meet a - gain; ho - ly wings se - cure - ly hide you,  
3 God be with you till we meet a - gain; when life's per - ils thick con - found you,



with a shep-herd's care en - fold you;  
dai - ly man - na still pro - vide you; God be with you till we meet a - gain.  
put un - fail - ing arms a - round you;

*Refrain*



Till we meet, till we meet, till we meet at Je - sus' feet;



till we meet, till we meet, God be with you till we meet a - gain.

Text: Jeremiah E. Rankin, 1828–1904

Music: GOD BE WITH YOU, William G. Tomer, 1833–1896

## **Dismissal**

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.**

## **The Bethel Weekly**

**OUR MISSION:** By God's power, we will serve as Jesus' disciples, embracing traditions and growing ministries.

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

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

**Midweek Lenten Services:** Continue this Wednesday, April 2nd at Resurrection at 6:30pm. The theme this season is *Be Transformed*.

**Special Congregational Meeting:** Sunday, April 13<sup>th</sup> after worship. This is to discuss the Pew Refresh.

**Palm Sunday Brunch:** Is Sunday, April 13<sup>th</sup>. Please see the sign-up sheet in the hallway if you can help out by picking up the cinnamon rolls or fruit platter, baking, set-up or clean-up.

**Holy Week:** Worship volunteers are needed for Maudy Thursday and Good Friday. Please see the sign-up sheets in the hallway.

**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.

**Funding for Mission & Budget**

Monthly Receipts through 3/25/25:	\$ 18,312.50
Monthly Budget Expenses:	\$ 20,033.00
YTD Receipts through 2/28/25:	\$ 45,662

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Adapted from a prayer by Rev. Sarah A. Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC |  
[sanctifiedart.org](http://sanctifiedart.org).

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David Gamrell, editor.