

Bethel Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Palm/Passion Sunday, April 13, 2025, Year C



Worship Assistants  
Assisting Minister: Charlie Hilla  
Reader: Peggy Hansen  
Altar Guild: Peggy Hansen  
Communion Assistant: Dar Schuurmans  
Ushers: Gayle Peot & Sharon Hilla  
Video Tech: Yvonne Pamperin

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

**GATHERING**

**Welcome**

**Call to Worship**

On this day, Jesus marched

**in between the city walls and the Temple,**

**in between joyful Hosannas and doubtful whispers,**

**in between oppressive poverty and greedy power,**

**in between rampant fear and hope unfurled.**

On this day, Jesus marched in between what had been and what could be.  
**So may we meet Christ in that liminal space.**

**May we lay down our coats in that messy middle.**

Hosanna in the highest!

**Hosanna in between!**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray, **We praise you, O God, for redeeming the world through our Savior Jesus Christ. Today he entered the holy city in triumph and was proclaimed messiah and king by those who spread garments and branches along his way. Bless these branches and those who carry them. Grant us grace to follow our Lord in the way of the cross, so that, joined to his death and resurrection, we enter into life with you; through the same Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

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

**WORD**

## **ENTRY INTO THE HOLY CITY**

*text adapted from "The Cry of the Whole Congregation," by Walt Wangerin*

**Narrator:** When Jesus drew near to Bethphage and Bethany, at the mount that is called Olivet, he sent ahead two of his disciples, saying,

**Jesus:** "Go into the village opposite. There you will find a colt tied, on which no one has ever yet sat; untie it and bring it here. If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' you shall say, 'The Lord has need of it.'"

**Narrator:** So those who were sent went away and found it as he had told them. And as they were untying the colt, its owners said to them,

**All:** "Why are you untying the colt?"

**Peter:** "The Lord has need of it."

**Narrator:** And they brought it to Jesus, and throwing their garments on the colt, they set Jesus upon it. And as he rode along, they spread their garments on the

road. As he was now drawing near, at the descent of the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to rejoice and to praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works that they had seen, saying:

**All: "Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!  
Peace in heaven, and glory in the highest heaven!"**

**Hymn**

*All Glory, Laud, and Honor*

**Cranberry 344**

***Refrain***

**All glory, laud, and honor  
to you, redeemer, king,  
to whom the lips of children  
made sweet hosannas ring.  
You are the king of Israel  
and David's royal Son,  
now in the Lord's name coming,  
our King and Blessed One. *Refrain***

**The company of angels  
are praising you on High.  
Creation and all mortals  
in chorus make reply. *Refrain***

**The multitude of pilgrims  
with palms before you went;  
our praise and prayer and anthems  
before you we present. *Refrain***

**Narrator:** And some of the Pharisees in the multitude cried to him

**All: Teacher, rebuke your disciples! They're calling you the Christ. Tell them to stop!**

**Narrator:** He answered,

**Jesus:** I tell you, if these were silent the very stones themselves would cry out.

All glory, laud, and honor  
to you, redeemer, king,  
to whom the lips of children  
made sweet hosannas ring.

To you, before your passion,  
they sang their hymns of praise.  
To you, now high exalted,  
our melody we raise. *Refrain*

Their praises you accepted,  
Accept the prayers we bring.  
Great author of all goodness,  
O good and gracious King. *Refrain*

#### **Affirmation of Faith**

We believe that many years ago  
a peaceful parade wove its way through the streets of Jerusalem.  
We believe that on that day  
the people cried out,  
longing and praying for a better world.  
We believe that these longings  
came from a place of deep hope,  
and we believe  
that hope cannot be silenced.  
We listen for the Spirit.  
We sing Hosanna.  
We pay attention.  
For in between the silence and the song,  
we believe the Spirit is speaking. Amen.

**Bethel Choir**      *Remember Me*

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*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

**MEAL**

**THE LAST SUPPER**

**Narrator:** Now, the feast of Unleavened Bread drew near, which is called the Passover. And the Temple Priests were seeking how to put Jesus to death; for they feared the people.

Then Satan entered into Judas called Iscariot, who was of the number of the twelve; he went away and conferred with the temple priests and officers how he might betray him to them. And they were glad and engaged to give him money. So, he agreed, and sought an opportunity to betray him to them in the absence of the multitude.

Then came the day of Unleavened Bread, on which the Passover Lamb had to be sacrificed. So Jesus sent Peter and John, saying,

**Jesus:** "Go and prepare the Passover for us, that we may eat it."

**All:** "But where Lord? Where will you have us prepare it, and what are we to do?"

**Jesus:** "Behold, when you have entered the city, a man carrying a jar of water will meet you; follow him into the house which he enters, and tell the householder, 'The Teacher says to you, where is the guest room, where I am to eat the Passover with my disciples?' And he will show you a large upper room furnished; there make ready."

**Narrator:** And they went and found it as he had told them; and they prepared the Passover. And when the hour came, he sat at the table, and the apostles with him. And he said to them,

**Jesus:** "I have earnestly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. For I tell you, I shall not eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God." And he took the cup, and when he had given thanks he said, "Take this and divide it among yourselves; for I tell you that from now on I shall not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes."

**Narrator:** And he took bread and when he had given thanks he broke it and gave it to them, saying,

**Jesus (& Pastor):** "This is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

**Narrator:** And likewise, the cup after supper, saying,

**Jesus (& Pastor):** "This cup which is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood."

### Invitation to Communion

Come to the table prepared for you.

Taste the overflowing grace of God.

### Lamb of God (setting 9)

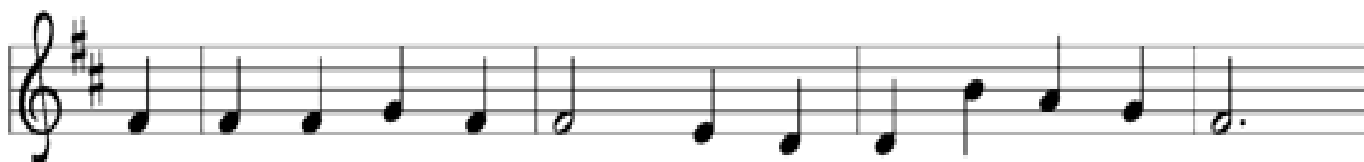
Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the

world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you

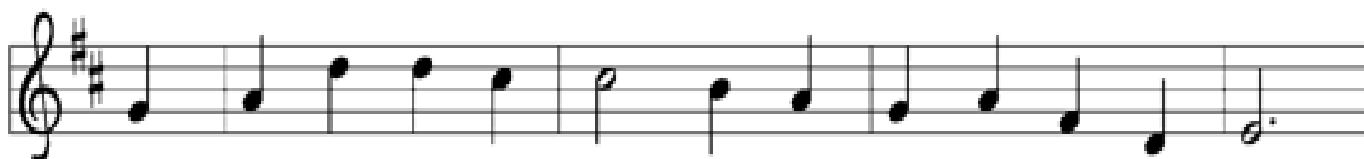
take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the

world; grant us peace, grant us peace.



- 1 O liv - ing Bread from heav - en, how well you feed your guest!
- 2 My Sav - ior, you have led me with - in your ho - liest place,
- 3 You gave me all I want - ed; this food can death de - stroy.
- 4 Oh, grant me then, well - strength - ened with heav'n - ly food, while here



The gifts that you have giv - en have filled my heart with rest.  
and here your - self have fed me with trea - sures of your grace;  
And you have free - ly grant - ed the cup of end - less joy.  
my course on earth is length - ened, to serve you, free from fear;



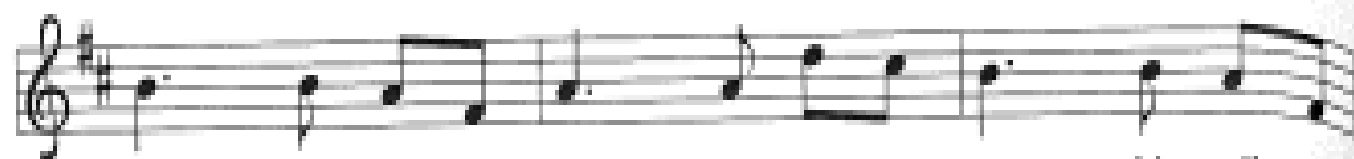
O won - drous food of bless - ing! O cup that heals our woes!  
for you have free - ly giv - en what earth could nev - er buy,  
My Lord, I do not mer - it the fa - vor you have shown,  
and bring me home to praise you where none can peace de - stroy,



My heart, this gift pos - sess - ing, in thank - ful song o'er - flows!  
the bread of life from heav - en, that now I shall not die.  
and all my soul and spir - it bow down be - fore your throne.  
where I will ev - er raise you glad songs in end - less joy.



1 Your on - ly Son, no sin to hide, but you have  
 2 Your gift of love we cru - ci - fied. We laughed and  
 3 I was so lost, I should have died, but you have



sent him from your side to walk up - on this guilt - y  
 scorned him as he died. The hum - ble king we named a  
 brought me to your side to be led by your staff and



sod and to be - come the Lamb of God.  
 fraud and sac - ri - ficed the Lamb of God. O Lamb of  
 rod and to be called a lamb of God.



God, sweet Lamb of God, I love the ho - ly Lamb of God. Oh, wash me



in your pre - cious blood, my Je - sus Christ, the Lamb of God.



## **JUDAS' BETRAYAL AND PETER'S DENIAL FORETOLD**

**Jesus:** "But behold the hand of him who betrays me is with me on the table. For the Son of Man goes as it has been determined: but woe to that man by whom he is betrayed!"

**All:** "Who, Lord? Who is to betray you? Is it I? Is it I?"

**Jesus:** "He who has dipped his hand in the dish with me will betray me. Oh, it would have been better for that man if he had not been born."

**Judas:** "Is it I, Master?"

**Jesus:** "You have said so."

**Peter:** "But not I! Though they all fall away from you, I will never leave you."

**Jesus:** "Peter, truly I say to you, this very night, before the cock crows, you will deny me three times."

**Peter:** "Even if I must die with you, I will never deny you!"

**All:** "I will never deny you!" And so said all of the disciples, over and over again.

Hymn

*Go to Dark Gethsemane*

**Cranberry 347**

**Go to dark Gethsemane, Ye that feel the tempter's power;  
Your redeemer's conflicts see, watch with him one bitter hour;  
Turn not from his grief's away: learn of Jesus Christ to pray.**

## **AGONY IN THE GARDEN**

**Narrator:** And Jesus came out and went, as was his custom, to the Mount of Olives; and the disciples followed him. And when he came to the place he said to them,

**Jesus:** "Pray that you may not enter into temptation."

**All:** Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us, deliver us.

**Narrator:** And he withdrew from them about a stone's throw, and knelt down and prayed,

**Jesus:** "Father, if thou art willing, remove this cup from me; nevertheless, not my will, but thine be done."

**All: Our Father in Heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come; your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven -**

**Narrator:** And when he rose from prayer, he came to the disciples and found them sleeping because of grief, and he said to them,

**Jesus:** "Why do you sleep? Rise and pray that you may not enter into temptation."

**All: Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, even the evil within ourselves.**

**Narrator:** While he was still speaking, there came a crowd, and the man called Judas, one of the twelve, was leading them. He drew near to Jesus to kiss him,

**Jesus:** "Judas, would you betray the Son of Man with a kiss?"

**Judas:** "Hail, Teacher"

**All: When the disciples saw what would follow, they said, "Lord, shall we strike with the sword?"**

**Narrator:** And one of them struck the slave of the high priest and cut off his right ear.

**Jesus:** "No more of this!"

**Narrator:** And he touched his ear and healed him.

**All: Forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.**

**Narrator:** Jesus said to those who had come out against him,

**Jesus:** "When I was with you day after day in the temple, you did not lay hands on me. But this is your hour, and the power of darkness."

**All:** Then they seized him –

**Follow to the judgment hall, view the Lord of life arraigned.  
Oh, the wormwood and the gall! Oh the pangs his soul sustained!  
Shun not suffering, shame or loss; learn from him to bear the cross.**

## **THE JUDGMENT**

**Narrator:** Then they seized him and led him away, bringing him to the high priest's house. Peter followed at a distance; and when they had kindled a fire in the middle of the courtyard and sat down together, Peter sat among them.

**All:** A maid, seeing him in the firelight, said, "This man also was with him."

**Peter:** "I do not know him."

**All:** And a little later someone else saw him and said, "You also are one of them."

**Peter:** "I am not."

**All:** An hour later another insisted, saying, "Certainly this man also was with him; for he is a Galilean."

**Peter:** "I do not know what you are saying!"

**Narrator:** And immediately, while he was still speaking, the cock crowed. And the Lord turned and looked at Peter, and Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said to him, "Before the cock crows today, you will deny me three times." And he went out and wept bitterly. Now those who were holding Jesus mocked him and beat him; they blindfolded him and demanded:

**All:** "Prophecy! Who is it that struck you?"

**Narrator:** And they spoke many other words against him, reviling him. When the day came, the assembly of the elders of the people gathered together and led him to their council

**All: "If you are the Christ, tell us."**

**Jesus:** "If I tell you, you will not believe; and if I ask you now, you will not answer. But

from now on the Son of Man shall be seated at the right hand of the power of God—"

**All: "Are you the Son of God, then?"**

**Jesus:** "You say that I am."

**All: "Blasphemy! What further testimony do we need? We have heard it ourselves from his own lips. Blasphemy! Oh, Blasphemy!"**

#### **JESUS BEFORE PILATE**

**Narrator:** Then the whole company of them arose and brought him before Pontius Pilate. And they began to curse him, saying,

**All: "We found this man perverting our nation, and forbidding us to give tribute to Caesar, and saying that he himself is Christ the King!"**

**Pilate:** "Are you the King of the Jews?"

**Jesus:** "You have said so."

**Narrator:** And Pilate said to the Chief Priests and the multitudes,

**Pilate:** "I find no crime in this man."

**All: "He stirs up the people, teaching throughout Galilee even to this place."**

**Narrator:** And when Pilate heard that he was a Galilean, of Herod's jurisdiction, he sent him to Herod, where he was vehemently accused, and treated with contempt and mocked, and arrayed in gorgeous purple, and then sent back again.

**Pilate:** "You brought me this man as one who was perverting the people; and after examining him, behold, I did not find him guilty of any of the charges

against him. Behold, nothing deserving death has been done by him. I will therefore chastise him and release him."

**All: "Away with this man! Away! Away! Release to us Barabbas"**

**Narrator:** Barabbas! A man who had been thrown into prison for insurrection and for murder. Pilate addressed them once more, desiring to release Jesus.

**All: "Crucify Him! Crucify him!"**

**Pilate:** "Why?" what evil has he done? I've found no crime in him deserving death. I'll chastise him. I'll release him.

**All: "Crucify Him! Crucify him!"**

**Narrator:** And their voices prevailed. So Pilate gave sentence that their demand should be granted. He released the man who had been jailed for murder. But Jesus he delivered up to their will.

**Calvary's mournful mountain climb. There adoring at his feet,  
mark that miracle of time, God's own sacrifice complete.  
"It is finished!" Hear him cry, learn from Jesus Christ to die.**

## **CRUCIFIXION**

**Narrator:** But Jesus Pilate delivered over to their will. And as they led him away, they seized one Simon of Cyrene, who was coming in from the country, and laid on him the cross, to carry it behind Jesus.

**All: And there followed him a great multitude who bewailed and lamented him.**

**Jesus:** "Children of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. For behold, the days are coming when they will say, 'Blessed are the barren, and the wombs that never bore, and the breasts that never gave suck!' For if they do this when the wood is green, what will happen when it dries!"

**Ah, holy Jesus, how hast thou offended  
that we to judge thee have in hate pretended?  
By foes derided, by thine own rejected,  
O most afflicted.**

**Narrator:** Two others also, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. And when they came to the place which is called the Skull, there they crucified him, and the criminals, one on the right and one on the left.

**Who was the guilty? Who brought this upon thee?  
Alas, my treason, Jesus, hath undone thee.  
'Twas I, Lord Jesus, I it was denied thee;  
I crucified thee.**

**Jesus:** "Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do."

**All: Forgive us our sins.**

**Narrator:** And they cast lots to divide his garments.

**All: Forgive us our sins.**

**Narrator:** And the people stood by, watching. But the rulers scoffed at him, saying, "He saved others; Let him save himself, if he is the Christ of God!"

**All: Forgive us our sins.**

**Narrator:** The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him vinegar. There was an inscription over him: "This is the King of the Jews."

**All: Forgive us our sins, forgive us, O Lord, our sins!**

**Judas:** One of the criminals who were hanged with him railed at him, saying, "Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us!"

**Peter:** But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence, and we justly? But this man has done nothing wrong." And he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom."

**All: For the kingdom**

**Narrator:** And Jesus said to him

**All: and the power**

**Jesus:** "Truly, truly, I say to you - "

**All: and the glory are yours**

**Jesus:** "Today you will be with me in Paradise."

**All: Now and forever. Amen!**

**For me, kind Jesus, was thine incarnation,  
thy mortal sorrow, and thy life's oblation;  
thy death of anguish and thy bitter passion,  
for my salvation.**

**Narrator:** It was now about the sixth hour and there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour, while the sun's light failed.... And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from the top to the bottom.... Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said,

**Jesus:** "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit!"

**Narrator:** And having said this, he breathed his last. And all the multitudes who had assembled to see the sight, when they saw what had taken place, returned home beating their breasts. And all his acquaintances and the women who had followed him from Galilee stood at a distance and saw these things.

**Therefore, kind Jesus, since I cannot pay thee,  
I do adore thee and will ever pray thee.  
Think on thy pity, and thy love unswerving,  
Not my deserving.**

**BURIAL**

**Narrator:** Now there was a man named Joseph from the town of Arimathea, a good man, a righteous man, one looking for the kingdom of God. This man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then he took it down and wrapped it in a linen shroud, and laid him in a rock-hewn tomb, where no one had ever yet been laid. It was the day of Preparation and the sabbath was beginning. The women who had come with him from Galilee followed and saw the tomb and how his body was laid. Then they returned and prepared spices and ointments. On the Sabbath they rested according to the commandment.

### **Prayers of the People**

Led by Christ in our journey of repentance and moved by his compassion, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

We pray for the nations that worship power and might  
may they be ruled by humility and peace.

**The stone the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.**

We pray for the church and its leaders, that we may have the mind of Christ.

**The stone the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.**

We pray for the victims of human tragedies and disasters of nature.

**The stone the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.**

We pray for those who are ill or infirmed  
or are rejected because they are seen to be weak.

**The stone the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.**

God of compassion, through Jesus Christ you have come to us and shared our common lot. Mold us into people who show mercy and keep us obedient to him whose name is above all other names, Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray.

**Amen.**

### **Peace**

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

### **Offering**

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

**SENDING**

### **Announcements**



## Blessing & Dismissal

We have gathered with the crowds crying Hosanna!

**Because even if we were silent the stones themselves would have called out.**

We have shared the hope for a world about to be changed, and then it changed.

**We have walked with another crowd.**

**One that called words of scorn and condemnation.**

And now we follow the crowd as it leads out to the cross,

and yet even as the world grows dark, we cannot lose hope.

Go forward, knowing that you do not go this way alone. **Thanks be to God.**

Almighty God, Father, Son, + and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen**

## Closing Hymn

*Christ, the Life of All the Living*

**Cranberry 339**



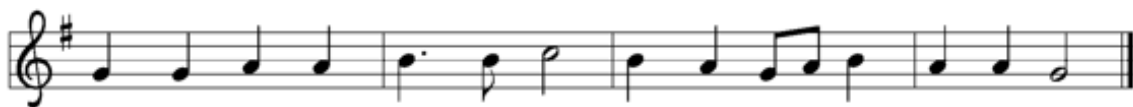
1 Christ, the life of all the liv - ing, Christ, the death of death, our foe,  
2 You have suf - fer'd great af - flic - tion and have borne it pa - tient - ly,  
3 Then, for all that bought my par - don, for the sor - rows deep and sore,



Christ, your - self for me once giv - ing to the dark - est depths of woe:  
e - ven death by cru - ci - fix - ion, ful - ly to a - tone for me;  
for the an - guish in the gar - den, I will thank you ev - er - more;



through your suf - f'ring, death, and mer - it life e - ter - nal I in - her - it.  
for you chose to be tor - ment - ed that my doom should be pre - vent - ed.  
thank you for the groan - ing, sigh - ing, for the bleed - ing and the dy - ing,



Thou - sand, thou - sand thanks are due, dear - est Je - sus, un - to you.  
Thou - sand, thou - sand thanks are due, dear - est Je - sus, un - to you.  
for that last tri - um - phant cry, praise you ev - er - more on high.

Text: Ernst Christoph Homburg, 1605–1681; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.  
Music: JESU, MEINES LEBENS LEBEN, *Das grosse Cantional*, Darmstadt, 1687

### **Funding for Mission & Budget**

|                                  |             |
|----------------------------------|-------------|
| Monthly Receipts through 4/8/25: | \$ 6,862.30 |
| Monthly Budget Expenses:         | \$20,033.00 |
| YTD Receipts through 3/31/25:    | \$ 65,367   |

### **The Bethel Weekly**

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

**Special Congregational Meeting:** Is today, immediately following worship. This is to discuss the Pew Refresh.

**Palm Sunday Brunch:** Is today after the Congregational meeting. Please join us for cinnamon rolls and fellowship downstairs in the fellowship hall.

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

**Stamp Out Hungar Food Drive:** Is Saturday, May 10<sup>th</sup>. There are many ways to volunteer. Please see Charlie Hilla if you are interested in helping.

**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.

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From the book RAGMAN AND OTHER CRIES OF FAITH,

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