

**Bethel Lutheran Church  
Third Sunday in Lent, Year A  
March 8, 2026**



Rev. Diane Martinson  
Music & Choir Director: Rowen Erickson

**Worship Volunteers**

**Assisting Minister:** Roland Christian

**Reader:** Doris Brack

**Altar Guild:** Linda Wery

**Communion Assistant:** Linda Wery

**Ushers:** Kay Smith & Sharon Hilla

**Video Tech:** Rick Johnson

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

**GATHERING**

**WELCOME**

**OPENING HYMN**

O Jesus, Joy of Loving Hearts

**Cranberry 658**



1 O Je - sus, joy of lov - ing hearts, the fount of  
 2 We taste you, ev - er - liv - ing bread, and long to  
 3 For you our rest - less spir - its yearn, wher - e'er our  
 4 O Je - sus, ev - er with us stay! Make all our



life, the light of all: from ev - 'ry bliss that earth im -  
 feast up - on you still; we drink of you, the foun - tain -  
 chang - ing lot is cast; glad, when your smile on us you  
 mo - ments fair and bright! Oh, chase the night of sin a -



parts we turn, un - filled, to hear your call.  
 head; our thirst - ing souls from you we fill.  
 turn, blest, when by faith we hold you fast.  
 way! Shed o'er the world your ho - ly light.

Text: attr. Bernard of Clairvaux, 1091–1153; tr. Ray Palmer, 1808–1887, alt.  
 Music: WALTON, W. Gardiner, *Sacred Melodies*, 1815

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
 who forgives all our sin,  
 whose mercy endures forever. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt  
 and blots out all offenses.

Gracious God,

**have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you:

Gracious God,

**have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word:

Gracious God,

**have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For failing to recognize your coming reign,

and for hindering the work of the Spirit: Gracious God,

**have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition,

and for disdaining the living water Christ offers: Gracious God,

**have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For disregarding voices from the margin,

and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world:

Gracious God,

**have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent,

and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life:

Gracious God,

**have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound.

Through faith, the free gift of God,

you have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ.

In the name of ☩ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.

The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead

dwells in you, pours God's love into your hearts,

and gives you life and peace. **Amen.**

### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray, **Merciful God, the fountain of living water, you quench our thirst and wash away our sin. Give us this water always. Bring us to drink from the well that flows with the beauty of your truth through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.. Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

**FIRST READING: Exodus 17:1-7**

1 From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. 2 The people quarreled with Moses and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?" 3 But the people thirsted there for water, and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" 4 So Moses cried out to the LORD, "What shall I do for this people? They are almost ready to stone me." 5 The LORD said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile and go. 6 I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. 7 He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the LORD, saying, "Is the LORD among us or not?"

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM: Psalm 95** (read responsively by verse)

1 O come, let us sing to the LORD;

let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

**2 Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;**

**let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!**

3 For the LORD is a great God

and a great King above all gods.

**4 In his hand are the depths of the earth;**

**the heights of the mountains are his also.**

5 The sea is his, for he made it,

and the dry land, which his hands have formed.

**6 O come, let us worship and bow down;**

**let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker!**

7 For he is our God,

and we are the people of his pasture  
and the sheep of his hand.

O that today you would listen to his voice!

**8 Do not harden your hearts, as at Meribah,  
as on the day at Massah in the wilderness,**

9 when your ancestors tested me

and put me to the proof, though they had seen my work.

**10 For forty years I loathed that generation**

**and said, "They are a people whose hearts go astray,  
and they do not regard my ways."**

11 Therefore in my anger I swore,

"They shall not enter my rest."

### **SECOND READING: Romans 5:1-11**

1 Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, 2 through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand, and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. 3 And not only that, but we also boast in our afflictions, knowing that affliction produces endurance, 4 and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, 5 and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

6 For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. 7 Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. 8 But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. 9 Much more surely, therefore, since we have now been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. 10 For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. 11 But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

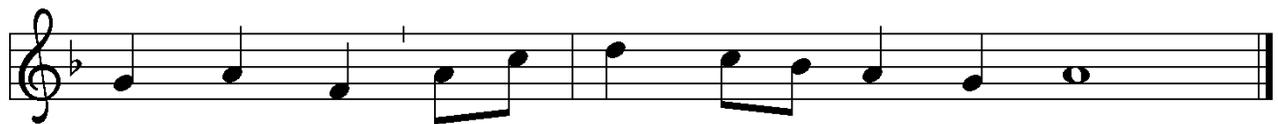
## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and



mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in



stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

## GOSPEL: John 4:5-42

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

5 [Jesus] came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph.<sup>6</sup> Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon.

7 A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." 8 (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) 9 The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) 10 Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." 11 The woman said to him, "Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? 12 Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?" 13 Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, 14 but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life." 15 The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water."

16 Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come back." 17 The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband,' 18 for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not

your husband. What you have said is true!" 19 The woman said to him, "Sir, I see that you are a prophet. 20 Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem." 21 Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. 22 You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. 23 But the hour is coming and is now here when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. 24 God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." 25 The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming" (who is called Christ). "When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us." 26 Jesus said to her, "I am he, the one who is speaking to you."

27 Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, "What do you want?" or, "Why are you speaking with her?" 28 Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, 29 "Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?" 30 They left the city and were on their way to him.

31 Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, "Rabbi, eat something." 32 But he said to them, "I have food to eat that you do not know about." 33 So the disciples said to one another, "Surely no one has brought him something to eat?" 34 Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work. 35 Do you not say, 'Four months more, then comes the harvest'? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting. 36 The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. 37 For here the saying holds true, 'One sows and another reaps.' 38 I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor."

39 Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me everything I have ever done." 40 So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them, and he stayed there two days. 41 And many more believed because of his word. 42 They said to the woman, "It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Savior of the world."

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

**SERMON**

**Rev Diane Martinson**



1 My song is love un - known, my Sav - ior's love to  
 2 He came from his blest throne sal - va - tion to be -  
 3 Some - times we strew his way and his sweet prais - es  
 4 We cry out, we will have our dear Lord made a -



me, love to the love - less shown that they might  
 stow; the world that was his own would not its  
 sing; re - sound - ing all the day ho - san - nas  
 way, a mur - der - er to save, the prince of



love - ly be. Oh, who am I that  
 Sav - ior know. But, oh, my friend, my  
 to our king. Then "Cru - ci - fy!" is  
 life to slay. Yet cheer - ful he to



for my sake my Lord should take frail flesh and die?  
 friend in - deed, who at my need his life did spend!  
 all our breath, and for his death we thirst and cry.  
 suf - f'ring goes that he his foes from thence might free.

5 In life no house, no home  
 my Lord on earth might have;  
 in death no friendly tomb  
 but what a stranger gave.  
 What may I say? Heav'n was his home  
 but mine the tomb wherein he lay.

6 Here might I stay and sing—  
 no story so divine!  
 Never was love, dear King,  
 never was grief like thine.  
 This is my friend, in whose sweet praise  
 I all my days could gladly spend!

Text: Samuel Crossman, 1624–1683, alt.  
 Music: John Ireland, 1879–1962  
 Music © 1924 John Ireland, admin. The John Ireland Trust

LOVE UNKNOWN  
 6 6 6 6 4 4 8

Alternate tune: RHOSYMEDRE

## **APOSTLES'S CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.\*  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen**

## **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, let us pray for the world and its needs.

O God, when suffering arises, preserve your church. Give to pastors, deacons, bishops, and all servants of your gospel the endurance that produces character and the hope that will never disappoint. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

When the waters run dry, sustain this earth. Send water to places languishing with drought, and bring relief to places damaged by floods. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

When quarrels ensue, soften our hearts. Quell hostilities between nations and peoples, and reconcile all humans across the lines of race, class, nationality, moral conviction, religion, and all else that divides or oppresses. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

When your people thirst, satisfy their needs. Send water and food to all who need nourishment. Grant welcome to all who are excluded. Show your mercy to any in need. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

When we gather to worship, send us your Spirit. Renew our hearts through the joyful noise we make and bless the work of our church musicians and musical ensembles. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

For what else do the people of God pray?

O God, when death draws near, we rejoice in the promise of life with you. We remember all who have entered eternal rest, and we pray that you bring us the hope of sharing in your glory. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Receive our prayers, O God, through Jesus Christ, our strength and salvation.

**Amen.**

## **PEACE**

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

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

**MEAL**

## **OFFERING**

### **OFFERING PRAYER**

O God, **maker of heaven and earth,**  
**your steadfast love embraces all creation.**  
**You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth**  
**and bring forth its bounty.**  
**Through these gifts of bread and wine,**  
**draw us into the death and life of your Son,**  
**who calls us to bear witness to his saving work.**  
**We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.**

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

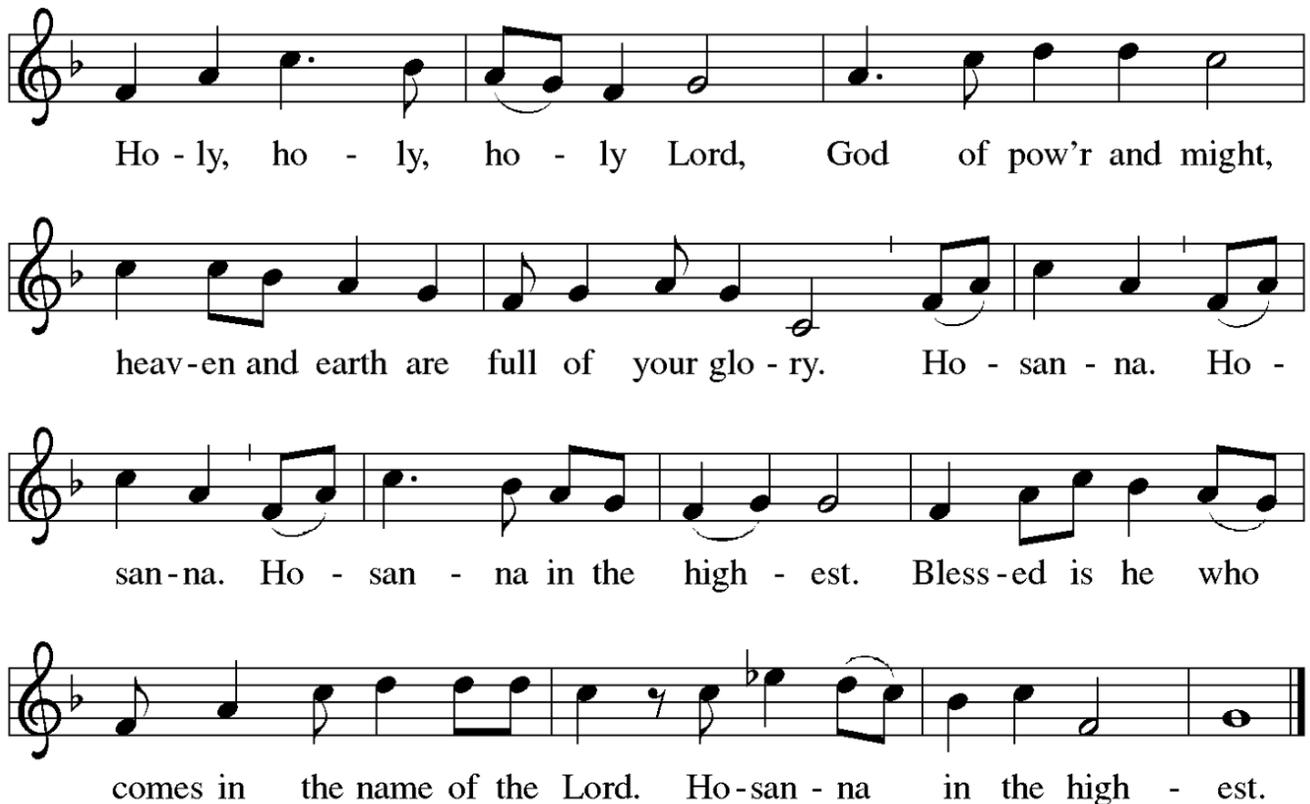
The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

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.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You call your people to cleanse their and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



The musical score is written on four staves in a single system. The key signature has one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho - san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

On that night when he gave himself up for us, as he sat at the table and broke bread with his friends, he said: "Take and eat; this is my body which is broken for you.

Remember me each time you do this."

After they had eaten, he took the cup, and said: "Remember me as you drink from this, for it is my life, poured out for you—the beginning of a new relationship with God."

Send the power of your Holy Spirit upon these gifts of bread and wine, O God, that we may experience the presence of the Word-made-flesh—Jesus Christ. Breathe your

Spirit in us that we may be one body with him—living out his ministry in the world today and every day. This we pray in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

### **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**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



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.



1 O bread of life from heav - en, O food to pil - grims  
 2 O fount of grace re - deem - ing, O riv - er ev - er  
 3 We love you, Je - sus, ten - der, in all your hid - den



giv - en, O man - na from a - bove: feed  
 stream - ing from Je - sus' wound - ed side: come  
 splen - dor with - in these means of grace. Oh,



with the bless - ed sweet - ness of your di - vine com -  
 now, your love be - stow - ing on thirst - ing souls, and  
 let the veil be riv - en, and our clear eye in



plete - ness the souls that want and need your love.  
 flow - ing till all are ful - ly sat - is - fied.  
 heav - en be - hold your glo - ry face to face.

Text: Latin hymn, c. 1661; tr. Hugh T. Henry, 1862–1946, sts. 1, 3; tr. Philip Schaff, 1819–1893, st. 2  
 Music: O WELT, ICH MUSS DICH LASSEN, Heinrich Isaac, 1450–1517

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray, **God of our salvation,**  
**we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls,**  
**reconciles us to you, and strengthens us for the journey.**  
**Through the body and blood of your Son,**  
**may we become Christ's body in the world,**  
**bearing witness to your love for all creation,**  
**through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**  
**Amen.**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**BLESSING**

Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity:  
God, who calls all things into existence,  
Jesus Christ, who redeems us,  
and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation,  
✠ bless you now and always.

**Amen.**

**SENDING HYMN** We Give Thee but Thine Own **Cranberry 686**



1 We give thee but thine own, what - e'er the gift may be;  
2 May we thy boun - ties thus as stew - ards true re - ceive,  
3 The cap - tive to re - lease, to God the lost to bring,  
4 And we be - lieve thy word, though dim our faith may be:



all that we have is thine a - lone, a trust, O Lord, from thee.  
and glad - ly, as thou bless - est us, to thee our first - fruits give.  
to teach the way of life and peace—it is a Christ - like thing.  
what - e'er we do for thine, O Lord, we do it un - to thee.

Text: William W. How, 1823–1897, alt.  
Music: HEATH, L. Mason and G. Webb, *Cantica Lauda*, 1850

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Believe the good news.

**Thanks be to God.**

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### Funding for Mission & Budget

Monthly Receipts through 3/02/26	\$ 6,540.50
Monthly Budget Expenses:	\$18,843.00
YTD Receipts through 2/28/26:	\$ 34,928.00

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### The Bethel Weekly

**Lenten Midweek Worship:** Holden Evening Prayer services are at 6:30pm Wednesdays through Lent. We still need Worship Leaders, Ushers and Video Tech for these services. Please see the sign-up sheet in the hallway.

**Easter Flowers:** Order forms are now available in the lounge for ordering Easter Lilies or Tulips. Please note that the deadline for ordering is **TODAY**. There are a few large print order forms available.

**Palm Sunday:** Please see the sign up sheet in the hallway to volunteer for Palm Sunday Brunch and delivery to in-home members.

**Easter Choir Practice:** Mark your calendars, Easter Choir practice will be Saturday April 4th at 11:00am.

**Woodside Donations:** We have started collecting donations for woodside. The red wagon is for Resurrection Food Pantry and the metal basket is for Woodside. They are needing the following items:

- \*Markers & Colored Pencils
- \*Figurines to paint
- \*New Nail Polish
- \*Hygiene products (deodorant, toothbrushes, toothpaste)
- \*Socks with grips
- \*Full size candy bars
- \*Seasonal Décor/ Trinkets

**Bethel History:** Linda Wery is writing a history of Bethel to help with updating the Ministry Site Profile. Please let her know if you can assist her with this project.

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