



BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Good Shepherd
THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

MARCH 8TH, 2026
8:30 AM & 10:30 AM

+ indicates to stand in body or spirit;
bold print indicates congregational responses

✠ GATHERING ✠

PRELUDE (8:30) *"Shepherd Me, O God"* arr. Mark Hayes
(10:30) *"TBD"* arr. RING FORTH

WORDS OF WELCOME

+ CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

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

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Most merciful God,
we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves.
We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us.
Forgive us, renew us, and lead us,
so that we may delight in your will
and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us,
and for his sake God forgives us all our sins.
As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority,
I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins,
in the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Lord, we know your voice: help us to follow you
and lead us to life abundant.

+ **GATHERING HYMN** “*Abide with Me*” ELW #629 stanzas 1, 3, & 4

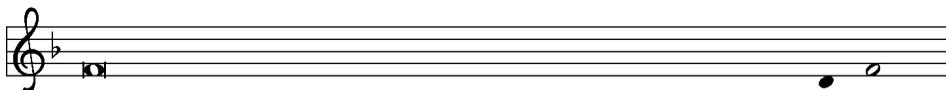
+ **APOSTOLIC GREETING**

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**



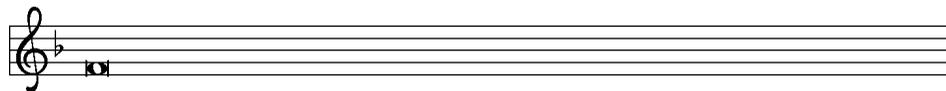
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



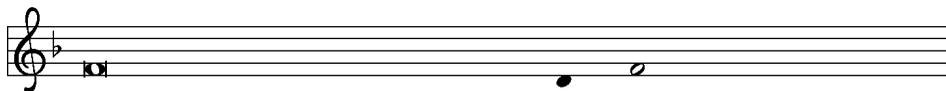
For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



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



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,
 let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.
 Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. A - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God our shepherd, you know your sheep by name and lead us to safety through the valleys of death. Guide us by your voice, that we may walk in certainty and security to the joyous feast prepared in your house. Make us one with you, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

(10:30) At this time, children age 3 to grade 5 are invited to go to Sunday School. They will return to the sanctuary before communion.

✠ WORD ✠

PSALM PSALM 23 “Shepherd Me, O God” ELW #780

The congregation is invited to sing on the verses.

+ 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.

+ HOLY GOSPEL *JOHN 10:1-18*

The Gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ “Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. ² The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. ³ The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴ When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. ⁵ They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.” ⁶ Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

⁷ So again Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. ⁸ All who came before me are thieves and bandits, but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹ I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved and will come in and go out and find pasture. ¹⁰ The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.

¹¹ “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹² The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. ¹³ The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. ¹⁴ I am the good shepherd. I know my own, and my own know me, ¹⁵ just as the Father knows me, and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶ I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. ¹⁷ For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. ¹⁸ No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.”

The Gospel of our Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

HOMILY

+ HYMN OF THE DAY *“In the Heart of God”* Music that Makes Community

I am here in the heart of God (*echo*);
God is here in the heart of me. (*echo*)
Like the wave in the water and the water in the wave. (*echo*)
I am here in the heart of God (*echo*).

I am here in the breath of God;
God is here in the breath of me.
Like the wind in the springtime and the springtime in the wind.
I am here in the breath of God.

I am here in the soul of God;
God is here in the soul of me.

Like the flame in the fire and the fire in the flame.
I am here in the soul of God.

I am here in the mind of God;
God is here in the mind of me.

Like the earth in my body and my body in the earth.

Like the flame in the fire and the fire in the flame.

Like the wind in the springtime and the springtime in the wind.

Like the wave in the water and the water in the wave.

We are here in the heart of God.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

+ SHARING OF THE PEACE

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

OFFERING



Guests

Generosity is part of who we are as God's people. Guests can use their QR code to give via Breeze, Bethel's trusted online giving platform. Select "Member Faith Giving" to give to the general budget. Members can use their QR code to sign into Breeze to give a one-time gift or to schedule an automated donation. Online giving cards (at the name tag stations), checks, or cash may be placed in the offering plates as they are passed.



Members

ANTHEM (8:30) *"Elegy for Flute and Organ, Op. 21"* Michael Conway Baker

ANTHEM (10:30) *"Shepherd of Souls"* arr. Scott Atwood

+ OFFERTORY "Fill Us with Your Feast" VT #309



Wea - ry and tempt - ed we en - ter the des - ert,
Seek - ing and trust - ing, we turn from de - struc - tion,



des - p'rate-ly seek - ing your face; lives that are thirst - y and
won - der - ing what you will bring. God of the pres - ent, the



hearts that are lone - ly, we will seek your em - brace.
past, and the fu - ture, come and do a new thing.

Refrain



Find us emp - ty and wan - der - ing: we, the lost and the



least. Find us in the wil - der - ness then fill us with_ your feast.

+ OFFERTORY PRAYER

O God who gave us life, and in whose arms we die,
you know us as we are, understand what we have been, and see what we shall become.
We give you back our lives that you may make them new:
generous, committed to hope, and fearless to do your will;
that your whole creation may live to praise your name now and forever. **Amen.**

✠ MEAL ✠

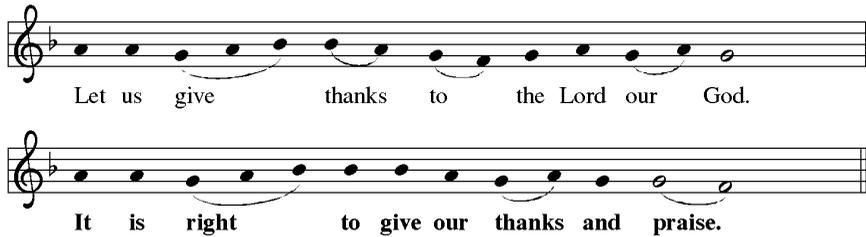
+ GREAT THANKSGIVING



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.



Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.



+ EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

Holy God, we sing the praise of your creations: wheat and donkey, perfume and palms. You wash the mud from our eyes when focus falters; you abide with us in doubt and darkness; you comfort us in the places where the stench of death still lingers. Mighty and merciful God, unbind our apathy. Call us from our graves of certainty and ambition. Teach us to counter cruelty with tenderness.

The Words of Institution / Las Palabras de la Institución

You are the grain of wheat, bearing fruit in death. You are the shepherd who laid down his life. You passed through the gate of death so that we could graze with you in eternal life. As we eat this bread and drink this wine, may the Spirit that passes all understanding grant us the courage to see that your body still walks among us: in the patient, the prisoner, the immigrant, and the stranger. May this meal strengthen us to love others as you have loved us. **Amen.**

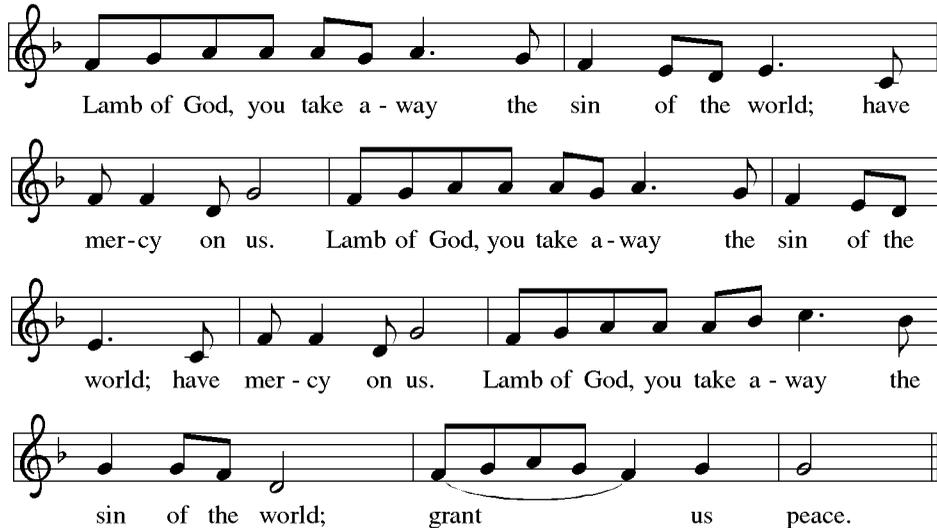
+ THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven,
 hallowed be your name,
 your kingdom come,
 your will be done,
 on earth as in heaven.
 Give us today our daily bread.
 Forgive us our sins
 as we forgive those
 who sin against us.
 Save us from the time of trial
 and deliver us from evil.
 For the kingdom,
 the power, and the glory
 are yours, now and forever. Amen.

+ EL PADRE NUESTRO

Padre nuestro que estás en los cielos,
 santificado sea tu nombre;
 venga a nos tu reino;
 hágase tu voluntad,
 así en la tierra como en el cielo;
 el pan nuestro de cada día, dánoslo hoy;
 y perdónanos nuestras deudas
 así como nosotros perdonamos
 a nuestros deudores;
 y no nos dejes caer en la tentación;
 mas líbranos del mal.
 Porque tuyo es el reino,
 el poder y la gloria,
 por los siglos de los siglos. Amén.

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.

HOLY COMMUNION HYMN (8:30) *“You Satisfy the Hungry Heart”* ELW #484

ANTHEM (10:30) *“Elegy for Flute and Organ, Op. 21”* Michael Conway Baker

+ TABLE BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

+ PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

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.

✠ SENDING ✠

+ BENEDICTION

May God who has called us forth from the dust of the earth,
and claimed us as children of the light,
strengthen you on your journey to life renewed.
Almighty God, motherly, majestic, and mighty,
✠ bless you this day and always. **Amen.**

+ **SENDING HYMN** *“My Shepherd, You Supply My Need”* ELW #782

+ DISMISSAL

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE “*Abide with Me*” arr. Eleanor Whitsett

WORSHIP LEADERS

Pastor Inger Hanson

Guest Preacher: Seminarian Karla Leitzman

Acolytes: (8:30) Connor Dahl (10:30) Michael Pollington

Assisting Minister: (8:30) Janice Lehmkuhl (10:30) Joanna McLees

Ushers: (8:30) Greg Bussler, Craig Grunzke, Cal Feine, Harley Foster
(10:30) Denise Halvorson, Marie Halvorson

Readers: (8:30) Jill Fisher (10:30) Janice Lehmkuhl

Sacramental Ministers: (8:30) Judy Code, Maryann Kaul, Phyllis Larson, Phil Ruud
(10:30) Cindy Kreis

Altar Care: (set) Carol Lysne (clean) Margaret Grunzke, Carol Lysne (cups) Mary Loven

Flute: Jill Mahr

Director of Ring Forth: Jill Mahr

Church Choir Director: Peter Schleif

Keyboards: Megan Engel

A/V Technicians: Sam Dwyer, Asher Engle, Nathan Broughton, Nathan Hoekstra

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We are using ELW Setting Three for our liturgy.

The Prayer of the Day is adapted from ELW Year B & C prayers for the 4th Sunday of Easter.

“*In the Heart of God*” (*Music that Makes Community*) by Erin McGaughan; arr. Chanda Rule. From *Singing in Community: Paperless Music for Worship* © 2019 Augsburg Fortress.

“*Fill Us With Your Feast*” Text and Music: Phil Campbell-Enns, © 2005.

The Offering prayer is written by Janet Morley, as found in her book
All Desires known © 2006 Moorhouse Publishing; New York.

The Eucharistic prayer for Lent 2026 is by Kaethe Schwehn.

The benediction is modified from *Sundays & Seasons* 2018 and 2022.

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SUNDAY ATTENDANCE

March 1	in person attendance
8:30	178
10:30	91
Total	269

NEXT SUNDAY...

The text of the day will be **John 11:1-44**
(with Psalm 104:27-30),
with Pastor Ben preaching.

TODAY!

- **A staffed nursery for little ones is available during and between worship services.**
- **9:40—10:25 am Coffee Fellowship (CLC) and Faith Formation opportunities:**
 - Kids' and Youth Fellowship** (Center Pod & Youth Room)
 - Bethel Presents: *Global Refuge* with Karla Leitzman**
- **Sunday School** is offered during the 10:30 am worship service (*children grades age 3—Grade 5 are invited to go with Kristi after the prayer of the day and will rejoin parents prior to communion.*)
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Global Refuge

formerly known as

Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service

Global Refuge, formerly Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS), is a nonprofit serving newcomers seeking safety, support, and a share in the American dream. For 85 years, we have welcomed those seeking refuge, upholding a legacy of compassion and grace for people in crisis.

We walk alongside individuals, families, and children as they begin their new lives in the United States through our work in refugee resettlement, welcome and respite services, economic empowerment and employment, and family unification for unaccompanied children. To date, we have served over 800,000 people from around the globe.

5 learnings from Global Refugees' **Myth vs. Fact** Debunking Common Misconceptions about Immigrants and Refugees in the U.S.

Myth: Most immigrants are coming to the United States illegally.

Fact: Regardless of someone's manner of entry, seeking asylum is a legal right – and more than that, it's a cornerstone of U.S. and international law. Each year, tens of thousands of people migrate to the U.S. via the refugee resettlement program, through work visas, to reunite with family, and more. Of those who come through the Southern border, approximately 92% were apprehended or turned themselves in to Border Control to begin their asylum cases.

Myth: Refugees and immigrants take American jobs.

Fact: With nearly 10 million unfilled jobs nationwide and at a time of record-low unemployment, immigrants are essential to filling in the gaps in the American workforce. Immigrants are also more likely to contribute to job creation than displacement, with more than 55% of the country's billion-dollar startups founded by immigrants.

Myth: Refugees and immigrants don't pay taxes and are a drain on our nation's resources.

Fact: Refugees and asylees contribute significantly to U.S. communities at the federal, state, and local level—both economically and culturally. Refugees and asylees contributed an estimated \$581 billion in revenue to the U.S. economy from 2005 to 2019, and, in some cases, they pay into Social Security without reaping its benefits. Most importantly, they are our doctors and nurses, our well-known chefs, our favorite musicians, our overnight construction workers, our local shop owners, our neighbors, and so much more.

Myth: Refugees and immigrants are responsible for bringing drugs into the country.

Fact: The vast majority of immigrants who cross the border immediately present themselves to authorities to seek asylum. There is virtually no reason for someone seeking asylum to simultaneously be attempting to smuggle in drugs, thereby threatening their asylum status. What's more, according to the U.S. Sentencing Commission, 86% of those caught smuggling drugs into the U.S. from 2017 through were U.S. citizens.

Myth: Refugees and immigrants commit more crimes and make the country more dangerous.

Fact: Research has proven time and again that there is no link between immigration and increased crime rates and that immigrants are 60% less likely to be incarcerated than their native-born peers. In fact, some studies show that increased immigration results in lower crime rates—meaning immigrants make the United States safer for all.

THIS WEEK—MARCH 8—13

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS: MONDAY—THURSDAY 9 AM - 3 PM

MONDAY

12:00 pm



Bible Study @ the Vault (1520 Clinton Lane)

6:30 pm



Resonance Bell Choir (Adults) / **ISAIAH Rice County Chapter**

8:30 pm

Creation Care

TUESDAY

9:00 am

Quilting Group

9:45 am

Bethel Staff

WEDNESDAY

11:30 am

Lenten Midday Worship & Soup Lunch

3:30 pm

Limitless

5:20 pm

Bethel Garage Sale Planning

5:30 pm

Lenten Soup Supper *Chicken Enchilada & Tomato Basil Bisque*

6:15 pm

Ring Forth Youth Bell Choir

6:30 pm



Joyous Light Lenten Evening Prayer *with harp beginning at 6:15 pm, and following the service. Please enter and depart quietly for those taking part in the extended worship option.*

7:00 pm

6th Grade Connections/Confirmation 7th—9th Grades/Hangtime

Church Choir Rehearsal

8:05 pm



Brio Youth Bell Choir

THURSDAY

8:30 am

MoB (Men of Bethel) (Room 54)

9:30 am

FaB (Faith & Books) (Youth Room)

10:30 am

Projects with Purpose

5:00 pm

Worship & Arts Planning (Room 61 A/B)

5:45 pm

Active Befriender Ministry Support (Room 55)

7:00 pm

Finance

FRIDAY

9:15 am



WoW (Women of the Word) via zoom

