



# BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

*Mary Anoints Jesus*  
FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

MARCH 22ND, 2026  
8:30 AM & 10:30 AM

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

## ✠ GATHERING ✠

PRELUDE *"Take My Life, That I May Be"* arr. Kristina Rizzotto

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  $\text{†}$  Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Lord, we set our sights on your cross  
**and know we, too, are anointed for costly service. Amen.**

+ **GATHERING HYMN** “*As We Gather at Your Table*” ELW #522

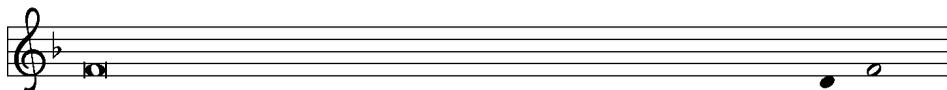
+ **APOSTOLIC GREETING**

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.**



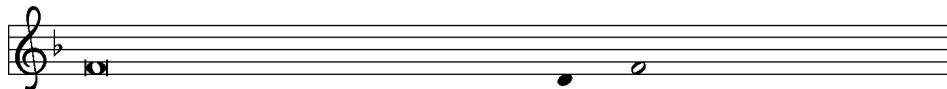
For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



**Lord, have mer - cy.**



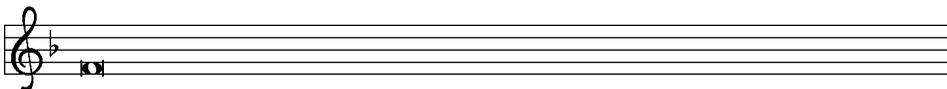
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



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

Shepherding God who called to Mary, met her in her grief, and then raised her brother to abundant life—may gratitude also open our hearts, that our lives may proclaim the extravagance of your love given to all through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you 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 ✠

### + 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 12:1-8

The gospel according to John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup> Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. <sup>2</sup> There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those reclining with him. <sup>3</sup> Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus's feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. <sup>4</sup> But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, <sup>5</sup> "Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?" <sup>6</sup> (He said this not because he

cared about the poor but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) <sup>7</sup> Jesus said, "Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. <sup>8</sup> You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me."

The gospel of our Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

## HOMILY

### + HYMN OF THE DAY *"The Lord Went to a Dinner"*



1. The\_ Lord went to a din - ner, and Mar - y\_\_\_ took per -
2. Soon\_ Ju - das was com - plain - ing, "This gift could have been
3. Her\_ gift was her ex - pres - sion of thank - ful - ness and
4. O\_\_\_ Lord, to - day we of - fer the best that\_ we can



fume. As\_\_\_ she an - oint - ed Je - sus, the  
 sold; We\_\_\_ could have helped the poor here-- the  
 praise, and\_\_\_ so it makes us won - der, in  
 bring-- our\_\_\_ wor - ship as a frag - rance, our



frag - rance\_ filled the room. She'd sat as a dis -  
 young ones\_ and the old." Yet Je - sus said, "My  
 these long\_ Len - ten days: What would we give to  
 love, an\_\_\_ of - fer - ing. And now, as we're re -



ci - ple, she'd been a faith - ful friend, and  
 peo - ple will al - ways help the poor, but  
 Je - sus if he sat at our meal? What  
 mind - ed the poor are with us still, we



now, with cost - ly frag - rance, she hon - ored Christ a - gain.  
 Ma - ry chose to give this-- to me, her dy - ing Lord.  
 gift would be our kind - ness and what would it re - veal?  
 pray that we may serve them-- to hon - or you, as well.

## 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)** *"The Gift of Love"* arr. Hal Hopson  
**ANTHEM (10:30)** *"What Wondrous Love is This"* arr. K.L. Phillips

## + 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



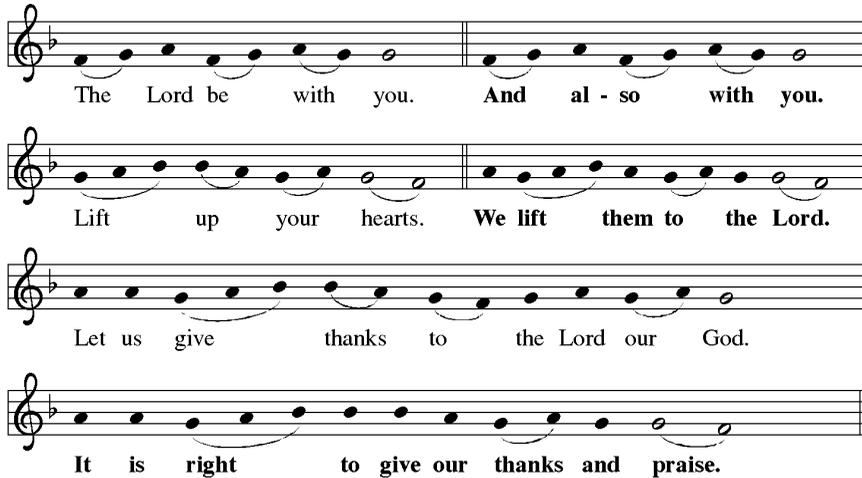
least. Find us in the wil - der - ness then fill us with\_ your feast.

## + 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.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

### + 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.**

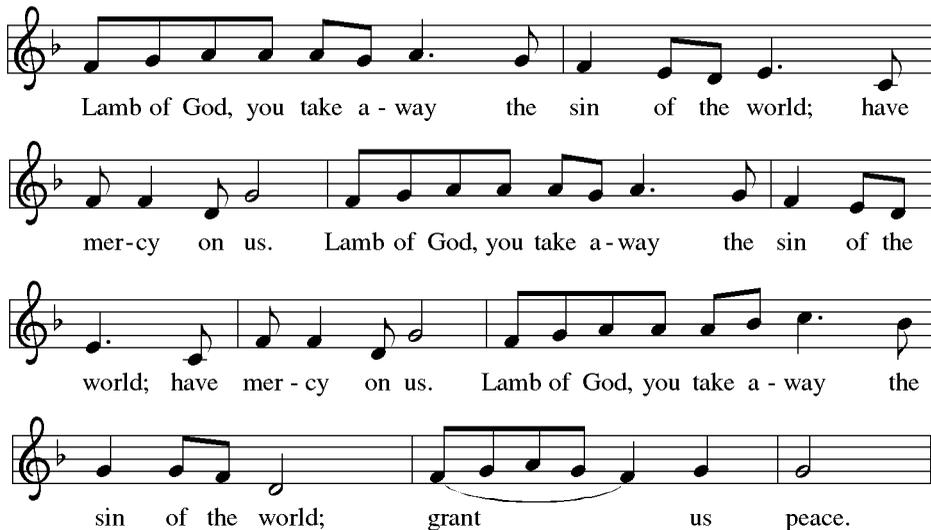
+ THE LORD'S PRAYER

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 "In the Singing" ELW #466

+ 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 "O God of Love, This is a Time of Turning"

1. O God of love, this is a time of turn - ing—  
2. O God of peace, we hear your gra - cious prom - ise:  
3. O God of all, of im - mi - grant and neigh - bor,  
4. O God of love, have mer - cy on your chur - ches;

a time of change, with con - flict in the news. For in our  
Your love can heal the hearts of hu - man - kind. May we stand  
of those in power—and of the re - fu - gee, You give us  
Take from our hearts our pa - ra - lyz - ing fear. Give us new

land, some mighty winds are churning;      There's much at stake that  
 firm for truth and peace and justice;      May we leave fear and  
 all our common life and labor—      our common hope, the  
 faith! Make us courageous workers.      Help us to labor

we could gain or lose.      Love sings out strong, yet fires of hate are  
 hatred far behind.      May we sing out, and—sing—be a  
 peace we long to see.      God, may we turn and be made strong to—  
 on from year to year.      When other voices call out to dis-

burning;      O God of all, you call us all to choose.  
 witness,      and show resolve to work for what is kind.  
 together.      May we seek justice, love and unity.  
 tract us,      May we choose well and seek your kingdom here.

+ DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE "Finlandia" arr. Greg Bottomley

## WORSHIP LEADERS

Pastor Inger Hanson & Pastor Ben Schori

Assisting Minister: (8:30) Eric Lundin (10:30) Yvonne Roesel

Ushers: (8:30) Bruce Dueffert, Craig Grunzke, Kitty Runzheimer, Harley Foster  
(10:30) Jeff Kreis

Readers: (8:30) Maryann Kaul (10:30) Yvonne Roesel

Sacramental Ministers: (8:30) Clark Cary, Judy Code, Maryann Kaul, Kitty Runzheimer, Phil Ruud  
(10:30) Yvonne Roesel

Altar Care: (set) and (clean) Phyllis Larson (cups) Cynthia Carau (clear) Phyllis Larson

Church Choir Director: Peter Schleif

Flute Solo: Krista Middlebrooks

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 C prayers for Lent V.

“*The Lord Went to a Dinner*” Text: Carolyn Winfrey Gillette, © 2019 carolynshymns.com

Tune: MUNICH, *Neuermehrtes Gesangbuch*, Meiningen, 1693.

“*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.

“*O God of Love, This is a Time of Turning*” Text by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette, © 2026

Tune: FINLANDIA, Jean Sibelius, © 1899

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## SUNDAY ATTENDANCE

March 15	in person attendance
8:30	N/A
10:30	N/A
Total	

### NEXT SUNDAY...

The text of the day  
will be **John 12:12-27;**  
**John 19:16b-22** with Psalm 24.  
Pastor Phil will preach.

# PALM SUNDAY FAITH ACTION



**SCAN CODE TO REGISTER.**

**VISIT [PALMSUNDAY2026.COM](https://palmsunday2026.com) TO  
LEARN MORE.**

## RECLAIMING CHRISTIANITY IN THE PUBLIC SQUARE

**MARCH  
29**

Join thousands of Christians on Palm Sunday to celebrate the call of our faith to love our neighbors: healing the sick, feeding the hungry, and welcoming the stranger.

**2:00PM**

Procession launching from several churches at University and Dale

**2:30PM**

Worship and Program at Minnesota State Capitol Mall



On Palm Sunday, March 29th 2026, Christians across denomination, race and place will stand up to the rise of authoritarianism and white Christian nationalism as we affirm the core of our faith: to love God and love our neighbors as ourselves. On the day Christians celebrate as the first “Palm Sunday”, Jesus entered Jerusalem in opposition to the greed, cruelty, and oppression of the Roman Empire on a donkey, a symbol of a just, humble leader who cares for the poor, the hungry, the sick, and the stranger. Through these last couple of months, the people of Minnesota have powerfully embodied our call to love our neighbors, and as Christian faith leaders, we are called to proclaim love over cruelty and hatred in the public square!

## THIS WEEK—MARCH 22-28

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)

### TUESDAY

9:00 am  Quilting Group

9:45 am Staff Meeting

### WEDNESDAY

11:30 am Lenten Midday Worship (No Soup Lunch; Spring Break)

6:30 pm  Joyous Light Lenten Evening Prayer

### THURSDAY

8:30 am MoB (Men of Bethel) (Room 54)

9:30 am FaB (Faith & Books) (Youth Room)

10:30 am Projects with Purpose

### FRIDAY

9:15 am  WoW (Women of the Word) via zoom

