



Blessed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord.

BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

PALM SUNDAY
MARCH 29TH, 2026
8:30 & 10:30 AM

*+ indicates to stand in body or spirit; **bold print** indicates con-*

✘ GATHERING ✘

PRELUDE “*Ride On, Ride On in Majesty*” arr. David N. Johnson

WORDS OF WELCOME

+ CALL TO WORSHIP

Hosanna! **Hosanna!**

Blessed is the One who comes in the name of God!

Blessed are we, for we have been created by that same God.

Blessed is the sound of our voices, lifted up in praise.

**Blessed are the bodies that move and wave and march and dance in a tapestry of motion,
embodying God’s love among us.**

Blessed is the breath that enlivens us, animates us, and sustains us in song.

Hosanna! **Hosanna!**

+ BLESSING OF PALMS

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.**

+ GATHERING HYMN "Pave the Way with Branches" ACS #928

The children process with palms down all aisles as the congregation sings.

The musical score is written in G major (one flat) and 4/4 time. It consists of four systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The lyrics are: "Je - sus is com - ing. Pave the way with branch - es. Je - sus is com - ing. Ho - san - na. san - na. Ho - san - na, Je - sus is com - ing. Ho - san - na to the Prince of peace. Prince of peace." The score includes first and second endings for the final phrase.

+ PRAYER OF THE DAY

Sovereign God, you have established your rule in the human heart through the servanthood of Jesus Christ. By your Spirit, keep us in the joyful procession of those who with their tongues confess Jesus as Lord and with their praise him as Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

✠ WORD ✠

PSALM *Psalm 24*

Lift up your heads, O gates, that the
King of glo - ry may come in.

¹The earth is the LORD's and all | that is in it,
the world and those who | dwell therein.

²**For the LORD has founded it up- | on the seas
and established it up- | on the rivers. R**

³Who may ascend the mountain | of the LORD,
and who may stand in God's | holy place?

⁴**Those of innocent hands and puri- | ty of heart,
who do not swear on God's being, nor do they pledge by | what is false.**

⁵They shall receive blessing | from the LORD
and righteousness from the God of | their salvation.

⁶**Such is the generation of those who seek | you, O LORD,
of those who seek your face, O | God of Jacob. R**

⁷Lift up your heads, O gates; and be lifted up, O ever- | lasting doors,
that the King of glory | may come in.

⁸**Who is this | King of glory?**

The LORD, strong and mighty, the LORD, might- | y in battle!

⁹Lift up your heads, O gates; and be lifted up, O ever- | lasting doors,
that the King of glory | may come in.

¹⁰**Who is this | King of glory?**

Truly, the LORD of hosts is the | King of glory. R

+ 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 12:12-27*

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

¹²The next day the great crowd that had come to the festival heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. ¹³So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, shouting, “Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord—the King of Israel!”

¹⁴Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it, as it is written:

¹⁵“Do not be afraid, daughter of Zion.

Look, your king is coming, sitting on a donkey’s colt!”

¹⁶His disciples did not understand these things at first, but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things had been written of him and had been done to him. ¹⁷So the crowd that had been with him when he called Lazarus out of the tomb and raised him from the dead continued to testify. ¹⁸It was also because they heard that he had performed this sign that the crowd went to meet him. ¹⁹The Pharisees then said to one another, “You see, you can do nothing. Look, the world has gone after him!”

²⁰Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. ²¹They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, “Sir, we wish to see Jesus.”

²²Philip went and told Andrew, then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus.

²³Jesus answered them, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. ²⁴Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain, but if it dies it bears much fruit. ²⁵Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. ²⁶Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

²⁷“Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say: ‘Father, save me from this hour’? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour.”

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

HOMILY

+ HYMN OF THE DAY "Sing the World God Imagines"

Verses



1. Can you im - ag - ine a world filled with peace,___ where
2. Can we en - vi - sion a plan - et that thrives,___ where
3. Can we em - bod - y God's love on this earth,___ by



bro - ken are mend - ed and cap - tives re - leased,___ where
all of crea - a - tion is ful - ly a - live,___ where
serv - ing our neigh - bor, up - hold - ing their worth,___ by



jus - tice re - plac - es op - pres - sion and greed___ and
crea - ture and cli - mate are tend - ed with care___ and
find - ing God's im - age in each one re - vealed?_ With

Refrain



all have what they need?___ Let us
ac - tion grows from prayer.___
love, this world is healed.___



sing the world_ God im - ag - ines, lift this



dream as bea - con and call. May



we, by Love___ im - pas - sioned,



fash - ion this world for all.____



(all.) a world of love for all.____

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

+ 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 *"Ach Herr, Mich Armen Sünder, BuxWV 178"* Dietrich Buxtehude

+ OFFERTORY



1 Lord, whose love in hum-ble ser-vice bore the weight of hu-man need,
3 As we wor-ship, grant us vi-sion, till your love's re-veal-ing light



who up-on the cross, for-sak-en, worked your mer-cy's per-fect deed:
in its height and depth and great-ness dawns up-on our quick-ened sight,



we, your ser-vants, bring the wor-ship not of voice a-lone, but heart;
mak-ing known the needs and bur-dens your com-pas-sion bids us bear,



con-se-crat-ing to your pur-pose ev-'ry gift which you im-part.
stir-ring us to ar-dent ser-vice, your a-bun-dant life to share.

+ OFFERTORY PRAYER

O God of mercy and might, we know too well how fleeting human welcome can be, how it can turn to rejection and betrayal. In the mystery of the passion of your Son, you offer your infinite love to us anyway.

Silence.

**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.**

THE CRUCIFIED MESSIAH

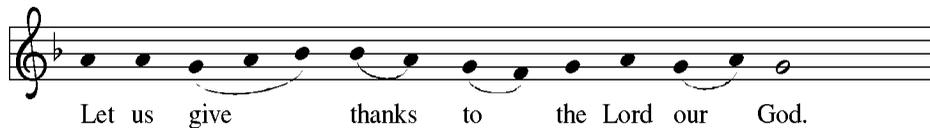
John 19:16b-22

¹⁶Then he handed him over to them to be crucified.

So they took Jesus, ¹⁷and carrying the cross by himself he went out to what is called the Place of the Skull, which in Hebrew is called Golgotha. ¹⁸There they crucified him and with him two others, one on either side, with Jesus between them. ¹⁹Pilate also had an inscription written and put on the cross. It read, "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews." ²⁰Many of the Jews read this inscription because the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city, and it was written in Hebrew, in Latin, and in Greek. ²¹Then the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, "Do not write, 'The King of the Jews,' but, 'This man said, I am King of the Jews.'" ²²Pilate answered, "What I have written I have written."

✠ MEAL ✠

+ THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



+ EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

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 hearts 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:

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.

+ 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

Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

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 "My Song is Love Unknown" ELW #343

+ TABLE BLESSING

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

+ **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

**Embodied God, at your table, we have tasted the goodness of Jesus.
With the eyes of our hearts open to your promise, empower us to hear the needs
of our neighbors and touch the world with your love. Amen.**

✠ **SENDING** ✠

+ **BENEDICTION**

Go, embraced by the Source of life, love and hope;
following in the way of ✠ Jesus, just and compassionate;
encouraged by the Spirit of grace and wisdom. **Amen.**

+ **SENDING HYMN** “*Holy God, Holy and Glorious*” ELW 637

+ **DISMISSAL**

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

POSTLUDE “*Holy God, Holy and Glorious*” arr. James Biery

WORSHIP LEADERS

Pastor Inger Hanson, & Pastor Ben Schori

Preacher: Pastor Phil Ruud

Assisting Ministers: (8:30) Ellen Haefner (10:30) Rolf Kragseth

Ushers: (8:30) Bob Vanderhoof, Dale Turnacliff, Greg Bussler, Scott Broughton

(10:30) Nancy Sparby, Michael Sparby

Readers: (8:30) Paula Mathison (10:30) Yvonne Roesel

Sacramental Ministers: (8:30) Rose Turnacliff, Ben Schori, Phyllis Larson, Catherine Engle, Judy Code

(10:30) Yvonne Roesel

Altar Care: (set) and (clean) Lois Cary (cups) Michelle Vosejpka, Dwayne Vosejpka

Trumpet: Gerry Hoekstra

Keyboards: Megan Engel

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

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

“Pave the Way with Branches” Text and music by Bret Hesla. © 1999 Bret Hesla, admin. Augsburg Fortress.
Psalm 24 Refrain by Robert Buckley Farlee, from *ELW Psalter for Worship: Year B*. © 2008, admin. Augsburg Fortress.
“Sing the World God Imagines” Text & Music by Carol Meier, © 2022 The Hymn Society in the United States and Canada, admin. By Hope Publishing Company

The Offering prayer is a modification of a prayer 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 from the Mennonite Church’s 2020 hymnal *Voices Together*.

We are using ELW Setting Three for our liturgy.

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TODAY!

Join us for a Pancake Breakfast 9:30—10:30 am in the Christian Life Center (CLC).

**Children & families—after you enjoy some yummy pancakes,
please come to the Center Pod at 10:00 am
for the Holy Week & Easter EGG-ceptional Story Event**

*We will retell the stories of Holy Week and Easter through the fun of an egg hunt.
All children 5th grade and younger are welcome to participate and will receive some yummy candy treats!*

A staffed nursery for little ones is available during and between worship services.

SUNDAY ATTENDANCE

March 22	in person attendance
8:00	156
10:30	65
Total	221

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

April 2: Maundy Thursday Services — 11 am and 7 pm

April 3: Good Friday Services — 11 am and 7 pm

April 4: Easter Vigil @ All Saints— 8pm

April 5: Easter Sunday Services — 8, 9:30, and 11 am



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