

# BETHEL LUTHERAN

E.L.C.A.

G R O V E C I T Y

FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT  
April 6, 2025

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Worship Services 8:30 A.M. & 10:30 A.M.

## Welcome to Bethel Lutheran

We extend special greetings to all our guests who are with us today. Your presence, along with our members and friends, is truly valued. Know that all of God's people are always welcome here at Bethel.

**Never been to a “Lutheran” or “liturgical” church? It might at first seem strange with all the singing and sitting down and standing up. Know all we do has meaning and function. Pastor Ray is happy to explain any confusing things for you. 🤔**

If you would like to know more about Bethel Lutheran, her pastor, the Rev. Peter I. Ray, or any of the parish's programs and activities, please contact the church office (875-0510). You may also check out our website by scanning the QR code below. Again, welcome; and may you have a blessed week!

## Worship and young children

All children are welcome in worship. They are a valued part of this faith community.

In addition, Bethel's Nursery (for children up to approximately four years of age) has paid staff at both services. This is available to meet the needs of your family and the worshiping needs of the congregation.

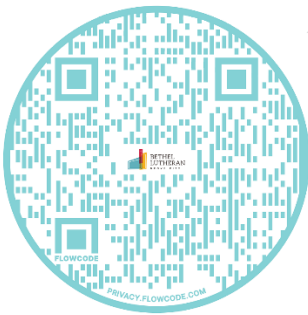
We have a “Parentseeker” paging system for optimal communication between nursery and parents worshiping in the sanctuary.

Children's bulletins are also available in the narthex for younger children to help them make age-appropriate connections with our weekly themes.

Bethel has video monitors in the narthex and hallways if your child gets restless.



***Our God makes all things new. In the first reading God promises it. In the gospel Mary anticipates it, anointing Jesus' feet with costly perfume in preparation for the day of his burial. In the second reading Paul recalls his transformation from the persecutor Saul into an apostle. In baptism, God's new person (you!) rises daily from the deadly mire of trespasses and sins.***



*Scan to be directed to our website*

- ❖ Quiet reverence before the liturgy allows prayer and meditation
- ❖ Please do not bring food or drinks into the Sanctuary during Worship
- ❖ Throughout the service, **C** means the congregation responds as the **bold print** indicates.
- ❖ As a worship courtesy, **please silence or turn off** all cellular phones and other communication devices during the service.

# Gathering

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Peter Ray

## PRELUDE

*(please stand and face the baptismal font)*

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

**C Amen..**

P Let us return to God, confessing our sin in the assurance of God's abiding love.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P Compassionate One,

**C you are slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love,  
but our lives do not always reflect you  
and your love for the world.**

**We do not show others the tender compassion  
you have shown to us.**

**We do not welcome others with the radical hospitality  
you grant to all people.**

**We oppress others,  
even though you have set us free again and again.**

**We squander the abundant gifts of the earth.**

**Transform our lives**

**and guide us again in the way of the cross.**

**Amen.**

P Beloved in Christ,  
 God's arms are always stretched open wide  
 to welcome the wandering ones home.  
 In + Christ your sins are forgiven.  
 You have a place in God's house forever.  
**C Amen.**

## PROCESSIONAL HYMN

*Restore in Us, O God*

ELW# 328



- 1 Re - store in us, O God, the splen - dor of your love; re -
- 2 O Spir - it, wake in us the won - der of your pow'r; from
- 3 Bring us, O Christ, to share the full - ness of your joy; bap -
- 4 Three-per - soned God, ful - fill the prom - ise of your grace, that



new your im - age in our hearts, and all our sins re - move.  
 fruit-less fear un - furl our lives like spring-time bud and flow'r.  
 tize us in the ris - en life that death can - not de - stroy.  
 we, when all our search-ing ends, may see you face to face.

## APOSTOLIC GREETING

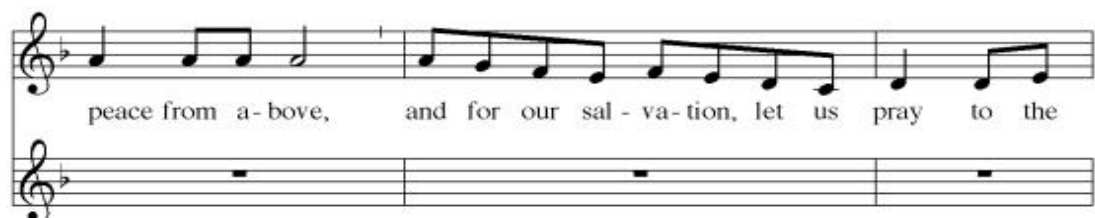
P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
 and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C And also with you.**

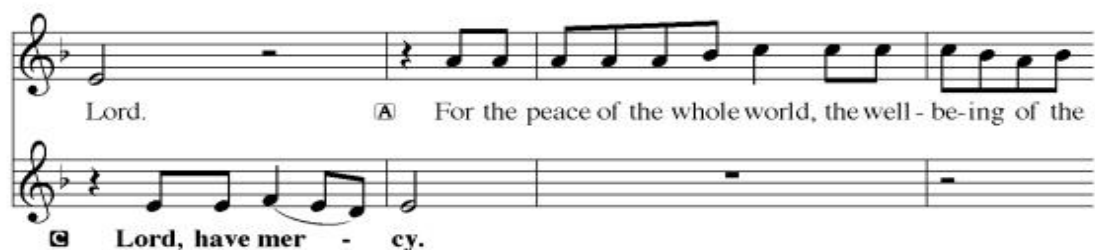
## KYRIE



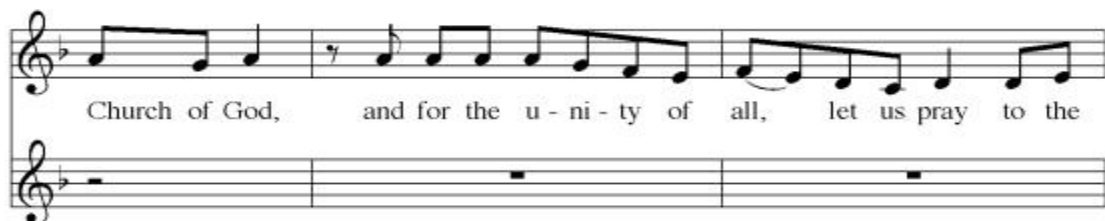
**A** In peace, in peace let us pray to the Lord. **A** For the  
**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



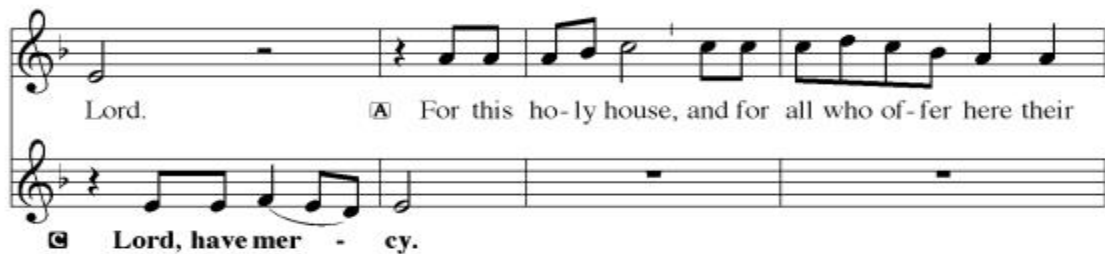
peace from a - bove, and for our sal - va - tion, let us pray to the



Lord. **A** For the peace of the whole world, the well - be - ing of the  
**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



Church of God, and for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the



Lord. [A] For this ho-ly house, and for all who of-fer here their

[C] Lord, have mer - cy.



wor - ship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

[C] Lord, have mer - cy.



[A] Help, save, com-fort, and de-fend us, gra-cious Lord.

[C] A - men

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Creator God, you prepare a new way in the wilderness, and your grace waters our desert. Open our hearts to be transformed by the new thing you are doing, 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.

**C Amen.**

(please be seated)

## WELCOME THE CHILDREN

Gathering • Word • Meal • Sending

# Word

## FIRST READING

Isaiah 43:16-21

*The prophet declares that long ago God performed mighty deeds and delivered Israel from Egyptian bondage through the waters of the sea. Now, God is about to do a new thing, bringing the exiles out of Babylon and through the wilderness in a new Exodus.*

- <sup>16</sup> Thus says the Lord,  
    who makes a way in the sea,  
    a path in the mighty waters,  
<sup>17</sup> who brings out chariot and horse,  
    army and warrior;  
they lie down, they cannot rise,  
    they are extinguished, quenched like a wick:  
<sup>18</sup> Do not remember the former things,  
    or consider the things of old.

<sup>19</sup> I am about to do a new thing;  
now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?

I will make a way in the wilderness  
and rivers in the desert.

<sup>20</sup> The wild animals will honor me,  
the jackals and the ostriches;  
for I give water in the wilderness,  
rivers in the desert,

to give drink to my chosen people,

<sup>21</sup> the people whom I formed for myself  
so that they might declare my praise.

P The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

## PSALM

Psalm 126

<sup>1</sup> When the Lord restored the for- | tunes of Zion,  
then were we like | those who dream.

<sup>2</sup> Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with | shouts of joy.  
Then they said among the nations, "The Lord has done great | things for  
them."

<sup>3</sup> The Lord has done great | things for us,  
and we are | glad indeed.

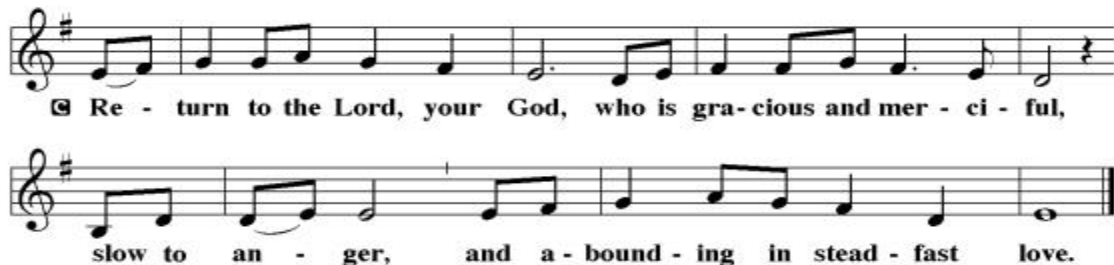
<sup>4</sup> Restore our for- | tunes, O Lord,  
like the watercourses | of the Negeb.

<sup>5</sup> Those who | sowed with tears  
will reap with | songs of joy.

<sup>6</sup> Those who go out weeping, carry- | ing the seed,  
will come again with joy, shoulder- | ing their sheaves.

(please stand, as able)

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



P The Holy Gospel according to John.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

## GOSPEL

John 12:1-8

*Judas willfully misinterprets as waste Mary's extravagant act of anointing Jesus' feet with costly perfume. Jesus recognizes that her lavish gift is both an expression of love and an anticipation of his burial.*

<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 at the table with him. <sup>3</sup> Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' 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."

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

(please be seated)

## SERMON

Rev. Peter Ray

(please stand, as able)

## HYMN OF THE DAY

*Holy Woman, Graceful Giver*

ACS#1002



1 Ho - ly wom - an, grace - ful giv - er, proph - et,  
2 How the fra - grance filled the dwell - ing! How the  
3 Lov - ing - ly Christ stilled the scoff - er who would  
4 Though dis - dained or though con - test - ed, acts of



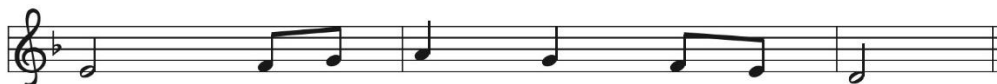
ser - vant, and be - liev - er, Mar - y with the oint - ment  
act of beau - ty well - ing blest all those with - in the  
grasp - ing guard the cof - fer, point - ing to a hid - den  
love are nev - er wast - ed: beau - ty is a face of



jar, sought by Christ, by scorn un - daunt - ed, knelt in  
place! How the act of pure de - vo - tion, whis - p'ring  
trove: not all trea - sures gain and pro - fit, feed the  
God. Grace - ful Mar - y, by your giv - ing, you have



love, his feet a - noint - ed for his com - ing bur - ial  
of his com - ing pas - sion, blest the heart of Christ with  
poor, and feed the spir - it acts of beau - ty, acts of  
shown a way of liv - ing: acts of beau - ty, love, and



hour, for his com - ing bur - ial hour.  
grace, blest the heart of Christ with grace!  
love, acts of beau - ty, acts of love.  
good, acts of beau - ty, love, and good.

## APOSTLES CREED (10:30 A.M.)

C 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 INTERCESSION

P Led by the Spirit, let us turn to God in prayer for the church, the world, and all those in need.

*A brief silence.*

*P The church declares your praise, O God. Guide us in the example of Isaiah's imagination, Paul's transformed identity, and Mary's faith and devotion; that our lives, too, may be poured out in love as we trust in your promises. God, in your mercy,*

**C receive our prayer.**

*P The earth declares your praise, O God. Make a way for the planet's future in the sea and the wilderness, the mountains and plains, the tundra and wetlands. Repair habitats and sustainable ecosystems on, above, and beneath the ground. God, in your mercy,*

**C receive our prayer.**

*P The nations declare your praise, O God. Where religious differences divide, bring together those who worship you in the name of Jesus Christ and those who call to you with different names. Guide interreligious dialogue, that faith may unite rather than divide communities. God, in your mercy,*

**C receive our prayer.**

*P The people declare your praise, O God. Restore those whose hope has been dampened through a health diagnosis, job or home loss, divorce, or death. Bring healing to those in need (especially). May all who weep now sing songs of joy again. God, in your mercy,*

**C receive our prayer.**

*P The gifts of the Spirit declare your praise, O God. We thank you for artists who proclaim the gospel (especially Albrecht Dürer, Matthias Grünewald, and Lucas Cranach). Inspire music, poetry, and images that proclaim the new thing you are doing. God, in your mercy,*

**C receive our prayer.**

*P The communion of saints declares your praise, O God. Giving thanks for those who have died, we trust in the one who has made them his own: Christ Jesus, our crucified and risen Savior. God, in your mercy,*

**C receive our prayer.**

*P Receive the prayers of your people and draw all things together in your love, in the name of Jesus, who leads us from death to life.*

**C Amen.**

Gathering • Word • Meal • Sending

# Meal

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

## SHARING OF THE PEACE

**P** The peace of Christ be with you always.

**C** And also with you.

*(You may share a sign of God's peace such as a handshake, wave, hug or other appropriate greeting.)*

*(please be seated)*

## **OFFERING**

*An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, and the care of those in need. If you are a first-time visitor, it is our privilege to have you worship with us. Please do not feel the need or obligation to give a financial offering. Your presence is gift enough to God and to us.*

Our members and friends have the privilege to participate in faithful financial stewardship. They share their gifts by envelope, direct deposit and other electronic means. Scan the QR Code below where you can give a gift electronically.



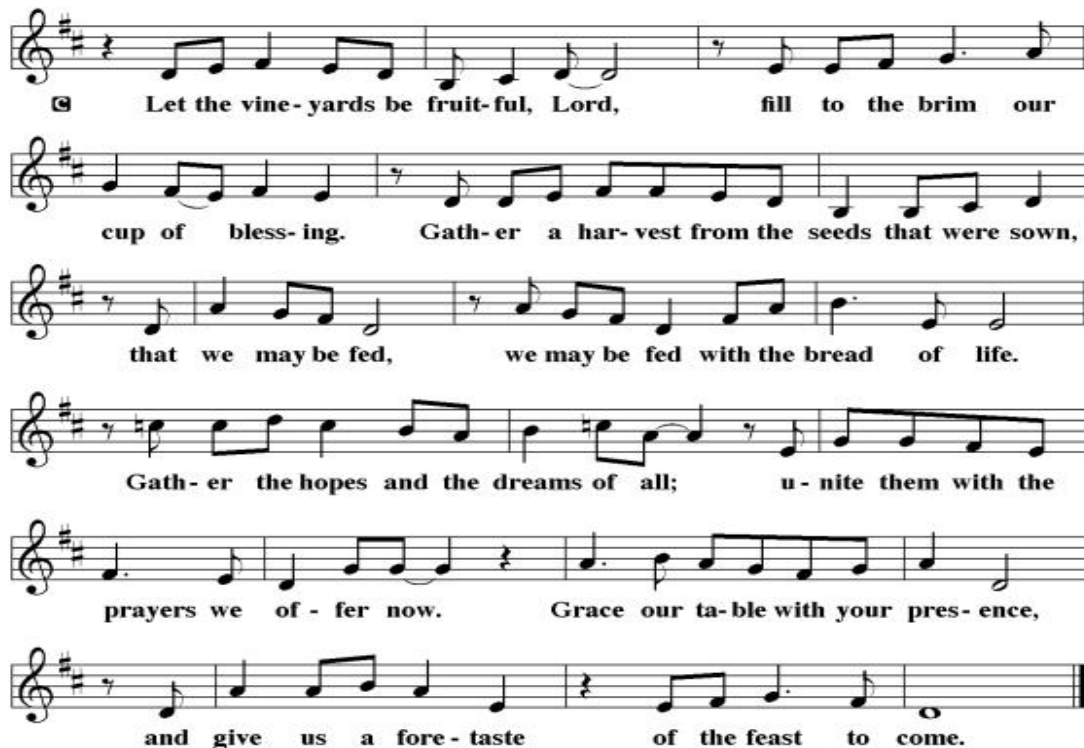
**OFFERTORY ANTHEM**

*Who Is This King*

Chancel Choir

*(please stand, as able)*

## OFFERTORY MUSIC



Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, fill to the brim our  
cup of bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown,  
that we may be fed, we may be fed with the bread of life.  
Gath-er the hopes and the dreams of all; u-nite them with the  
prayers we of-fer now. Grace our ta-ble with your pres-ence,  
and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

## OFFERTORY PRAYER

A Gracious Provider,  
you set your immense treasures among us,  
opening your heart to the world.  
As we prepare to feast on your bountiful love,  
deepen our commitment to sharing those  
treasures with others,  
through our Savior, Jesus Christ.

C Amen.

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give our thanks and praise.

## THE PREFACE

P It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord. You bid your people cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast. Renew our zeal in faith and life, and bring us to the fullness of grace that belongs to the children of God. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## SANCTUS *Holy, Holy, Holy*

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,  
Lord God of pow'r and might, heav-en and earth are  
full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.  
Bless - ed, bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the  
Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

## **EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER**

P You are indeed holy, O God, the fountain of all holiness;  
you bring light from darkness, life from death, speech from silence.  
We worship you for our lives and for the world you give us.  
We thank you for the new world to come  
and for the love that will rule all in all.

We praise you for the grace shown to Israel, your chosen,  
the people of your promise:  
the rescue from Egypt, the gift of the promised land,  
the memory of the ancestors, the homecoming from exile,  
and the prophets' words that will not be in vain.  
In all this we bless you for your only-begotten Son,  
who fulfilled and will fulfill all your promises.

In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's  
death until he comes.

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

Therefore, O God, with this bread and cup  
we remember the incarnation of your Son:  
his human birth and the covenant he made with us.  
We remember the sacrifice of his life:  
his eating with outcasts and sinners,  
and his acceptance of death.  
But chiefly we remember his rising from the tomb,  
his ascension to the seat of power,  
and his sending of the holy and life-giving Spirit.  
We cry out for the resurrection of our lives,  
when Christ will come again in beauty and power  
to share with us the great and promised feast.  
**Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit,  
that we and all who share in this bread and cup  
may be united in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,  
may enter the fullness of the kingdom of heaven,  
and may receive our inheritance with all your saints in light.  
**Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.**

Join our prayers with those of your servants  
of every time and every place, and unite them  
with the ceaseless petitions of our great high priest  
until he comes as victorious Lord of all.  
Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.  
**Amen.**

P Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

C 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.

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P All who are hungry, come!  
The feast of grace is spread.

C Amen.

*(please be seated)*

## COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

Bethel welcomes to the Lord's table all baptized Christians who believe that Christ is truly present in the bread and wine of this meal. Children and adults who want to receive a blessing instead of bread and wine may cross their arms over their chest as they come forward. All are welcome!

## AGNUS DEI (Lamb of God)

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

have mer-cy on us, have mer-cy on us, have mer - cy.

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

have mer-cy on us, havemer-cy on us, have mer - cy.

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; grant us peace.

**DISTRIBUTION***On My Heart Imprint Your Image*

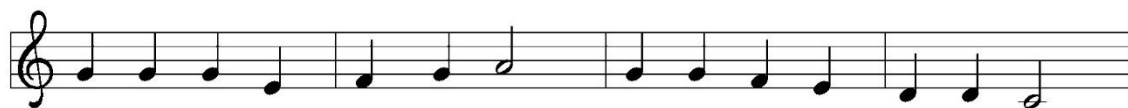
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On my heart im - print your im - age, bless - ed Je - sus, king of grace,



that life's trou - bles nor its plea - sures ev - er may your work e - rase.



Let the clear in - scrip - tion be: Je - sus, cru - ci - fied for me,



is my life, my hope's foun - da - tion, all my glo - ry and sal - va - tion!

*(please stand, as able)***PASTORAL COMMENDATION**

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

C Amen.

## POST COMMUNION PRAYER

A Generous Host,  
you have shared your feast with us and made us new.  
Send us now to set tables of love and grace in our communities,  
that your liberating love might nourish the world into freedom,  
in the name of the crucified one, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

Gathering • Word • Meal • Sending

# Sending

God blesses us and sends us in mission out into the world.

## BLESSING

P God our tender parent,  
God the crucified one,  
God the reconciling Spirit,  
✠ bless you now and forever.

C Amen.

## CLOSING HYMN

## God's Work, Our Hands

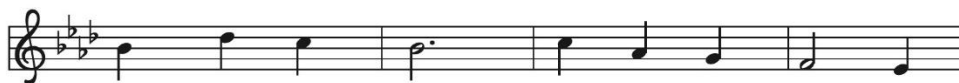
ACS #1000



1 God's work, our hands: work - ing to - geth - er,  
 2 God's work, our feet: trav - 'ling to - geth - er,  
 3 God's work, our voice: sing - ing to - geth - er,  
 4 God is at work in and a - round us:



build - ing a fu - ture, re - pair - ing the world,  
 fol - low - ing Je - sus to plac - es un - known,  
 prais - ing, pro - claim - ing to all who will hear,  
 seed - lings are sprout - ing and bread's on the rise!



rais - ing up homes, plant - ing new gar - dens,  
 walk - ing as friends, march - ing for free - dom,  
 pray - ing for peace, shout - ing for jus - tice,  
 Washed and set free, hum - bled and hon - ored,



feed - ing the hun - gry and shelt - 'ring the cold.  
 run - ning the race with God's fu - ture the goal.  
 claim - ing God's love for the lost and the least.  
 gift - ed by grace, we re - spond in God's love.



Bless, God, our hands as we work in your name,  
 Bless, God, our feet as we fol - low your way,  
 Bless, God, our voice as we speak in your name,  
 Bless, God, our lives as we an - swer your call,



shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.  
 shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.  
 shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.  
 shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.

**DISMISSAL**

**A** Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you.

**C** Thanks be to God.

**POSTLUDE**

**SPECIAL EVENT**

**MAY 4<sup>TH</sup>**

**ONE SERVICE AT 10:00 A.M.**

**“Illuminati” will perform at Bethel with a reception to follow.**

**Illuminati is the sacred music ensemble of the  
Columbus Men’s Gay Chorus**

## Bethel's Staff

**Lead Pastor: The Rev. Peter I. Ray**

**Organist/Director of Music: Ward Matthias**

**Pianist/Associate Musician: Ruth Hiles**

**Director of Choirs: Bree Johnson**

**Youth Coordinator: Jennifer Bueter**

**Nursery Director: Crystal Smith**

**Pre-School Directors: Kelley Valentine & Cathy Tallman**

**Church Administrator: Cathy Tallman**

**Custodian: Jennifer Horvath**

**Care & Visitation Pastor: The Rev. Jeffrey N. Wise**

**Retired Visitation Pastor: The Rev. Wil Hallman**

**Retired/Resource Pastors:**

**The Rev. Andrew Mazak**

**The Rev. Joe Stark**

**The Rev. Joy Miller**

### A Land Statement

*"We acknowledge that we gather as Bethel Lutheran Church on the traditional land of the Shawnee and Ofo and Kaskaskia Peoples past and present, including the Adena/Hopewell Cultures, and honor with gratitude the land itself and the people who have stewarded it throughout the generations. This calls us to commit to continuing to learn how to be better stewards of the land we inhabit as well."*

# **LENTEN SCHEDULE**

Mid-Week Lenten Simple Supper  
6-7 p.m.

Mid-Week Lenten Worship (Night Prayer)  
7 p.m.

**NEXT SUNDAY - PALM/PASSION SUNDAY**



**PRAYER TIMES IN THE SANCTUARY/OPEN CHURCH**

**Tuesday, Thursday & Saturday**

**9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.**