

# First Sunday in Lent

ELW Holy Communion Setting Four  
Sunday, February 22, 2026

Faith-Bethany Partnership

One partnership, two campuses within the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



**WORSHIP  
THE LORD  
YOUR GOD**

**MATTHEW 4:10**

## **Introduction to the day**

Today's gospel tells of Jesus' temptation in the desert. His forty-day fast becomes the basis of our Lenten pilgrimage. In the early church Lent was a time of intense preparation for those to be baptized at the Easter Vigil. This catechetical focus on the meaning of faith is at the heart of our Lenten journey to the baptismal waters of Easter. Hungry for God's mercy, we receive the bread of life to nourish us for the days ahead.

[www.bethanyishpeming.org](http://www.bethanyishpeming.org) | [www.faithishpeming.weebly.com](http://www.faithishpeming.weebly.com)

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# Faith-Bethany Partnership — One Partnership, Two Campuses

*Serving Ishpeming | ELCA, Northern Great Lakes Synod*

## *WELCOME*

We are **one partnership, worshipping across two campuses** – Bethany Lutheran Church and Faith Lutheran Church – serving Ishpeming and its surrounding neighborhoods. Rooted in Jesus Christ and guided by the Holy Spirit, we believe God’s grace is for all people and all creation, calling us into lives of compassion, justice, service, and hope.

**You are welcome here.**

Whoever you are, whatever your story or questions, you are free to listen, to join in as you are able, and to be met by the living presence of God.

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## *ONE PARTNERSHIP, ONE BODY*

From the earliest days of the Church described in Acts, God’s people gathered in different places while sharing one faith, one mission, and one Spirit. We claim that same invitation today.

**Our life together as one partnership is not something entirely new.** In the early decades of the 20th century, Lutheran congregations in this region often lived as shared or multi-point ministries, shaped by geography, population, and mutual care. Within that wider pattern, Bethany and Faith share a remembered history of cooperation and pastoral connection, reflecting a long-standing trust that the Spirit’s work was not limited to a single building or neighborhood. What we are living into now is a faithful renewal of a way of being church that has served this place before.

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## *SERVING THE EDGES TOGETHER*

As one partnership with two campuses, we serve the edges of Ishpeming; east and west, long-established neighborhoods and changing communities. We understand these “edges” not as margins to be forgotten, but as holy places where God is already at work.

Across both campuses, we seek to be present with our neighbors, attentive to local needs, and open to partnership; trusting that Christ’s body grows not by centralizing power, but by sharing life.

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## *OUR SHARED CALLING*

Together, we live a simple and faithful commitment:

### **Serving God, Community, and Individuals**

by developing, strengthening, and sharing a **witness to the message of the Gospel**; through an increased understanding of **our ministry and our daily living**, both individually and as a congregation.

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## *ROOTED IN PLACE, OPEN TO THE WORLD*

Our partnership is shaped by generations of people who built lives, families, and faith in Ishpeming; across changing industries, cultures, and seasons of challenge and renewal. As part of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and the Northern Great Lakes Synod, we also join the wider church in ministries of mercy, justice, and accompaniment both within, and beyond, our local context.

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## *A PLACE FOR YOU*

Whether you are new to church, returning after time away, carrying faith or doubt, or seeking community; there is space for you here.

One partnership.

Two campuses.

Many gifts.

One body in Christ.

**Grace and peace to you: welcome.**

*HONORING THE LAND*

With gratitude and humility, we acknowledge that we gather on the ancestral lands of the Anishinaabeg — the Ojibwe, Odawa, and Potawatomi peoples — who have stewarded this region since time immemorial. We honor their enduring presence and commit ourselves to walk gently on the earth and seek right relationship with all our neighbors.

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**WELCOME**

**PRELUDE**

*You Are My Hiding Place*  
by Michael Ledner

**GATHERING**

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

*Please stand, as you're willing and able, in body or in spirit.*

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

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

*Our confession is that we have forgotten  
whose we are and therefore who we are  
– created and lovingly made to walk in  
God's way of peace and live in God's  
peace; we confess as an opportunity to  
begin reconciliation, with one another  
and with God.*

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

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

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 disdain 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.

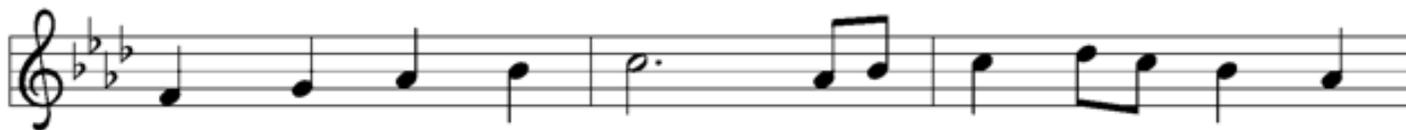
In the name of + Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead dwells in you, pours God's love into your hearts, and gives you life and peace. **Amen.**

### GATHERING SONG

*O Lord, throughout These Forty Days (ELW 319)*



1 O Lord, through - out these for - ty days you  
2 You strove with Sa - tan, and you won; your  
3 Though parched and hun - gry, yet you prayed and  
4 Be with us through this sea - son, Lord, and



prayed and kept the fast; in - spire re - pen - tance  
faith - ful - ness en - dured; lend us your nerve, your  
fixed your mind a - bove; so teach us to de -  
all our earth - ly days, that when the fi - nal



for our sin, and free us from our past.  
skill and trust in God's e - ter - nal word.  
ny our - selves that we may know God's love.  
Eas - ter dawns, we join in heav - en's praise.

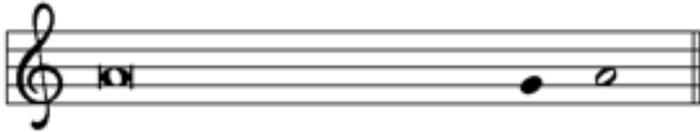
## GREETING

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.**

*This greeting, based on 2 Corinthians 13:13, is a call-and-response between the worship leader (often the pastor) and the congregation. This greeting is more than a simple salutation; it is a blessing and a recognition of God's presence, here and now, and of God's grace.*

*The Kyrie, from the Greek "Kyrie eleison" (meaning "Lord, have mercy"), is a prayer of supplication, a plea for God's grace and forgiveness. In many ELCA traditions, the Kyrie is a threefold repetition of "Lord, have mercy" (Kyrie eleison), often followed by "Christ, have mercy" (Christe eleison) and then "Lord, have mercy" (Kyrie eleison) again.*

## KYRIE



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



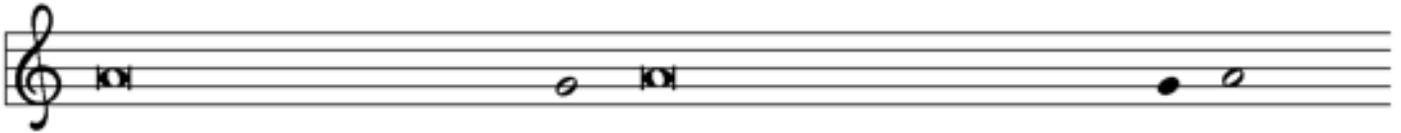
Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, 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 wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.

Lord have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra-cious Lord. A - men.

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray, together.

Lord God, our strength, **the struggle between good and evil rages within and around us, and the devil and all the forces that defy you tempt us with empty promises. Keep us steadfast in your word, and when we fall, raise us again and restore us 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.**

*The Prayer of the Day is born out of the lectionary (texts), and is the primary invitation to the radical love offered through the Gospel of the day, focused on the primary themes we might experience together, across the church and traditions.*

*Please, be seated.*

## **SERMON FOR THE YOUNG, AND YOUNG AT HEART**

*The People are invited forward for an invitation to see themselves in God's story with us anew.*

## **SUNDAY SCHOOL**

*Our youth are invited to depart the sanctuary for a time of learning dedicated to them, returning for communion.*

## **WORD**

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.*

### **FIRST READING**

Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7

A reading from Genesis.

<sup>15</sup> The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. <sup>16</sup> And the LORD God commanded the man, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden, <sup>17</sup> but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die."

<sup>3:1</sup> Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat from any tree in the garden'?" <sup>2</sup> The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, <sup>3</sup> but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.' " <sup>4</sup> But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die, <sup>5</sup> for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." <sup>6</sup> So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food and that it was a delight to the eyes and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. <sup>7</sup> Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked, and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM

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Spoken responsively, with the congregation following the lector, in the bold print, until the sung refrain.



Mer-cy em - brac - es those who trust in the LORD.

<sup>1</sup> Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven,  
and whose sin is put away!

<sup>2</sup> **Happy are they to whom the LORD imputes no guilt,  
and in whose spirit there is no guile!**

<sup>3</sup> While I held my tongue, my bones withered away,  
because of my groaning all day long.

<sup>4</sup> **For your hand was heavy upon me day and night;  
my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer. Refrain**

<sup>5</sup> Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not conceal my guilt.

I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD." Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.

<sup>6</sup> **Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of trouble;  
when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them.**

<sup>7</sup> You are my hiding-place; you preserve me from trouble;  
you surround me with shouts of deliverance.

<sup>8</sup> **"I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go;  
I will guide you with my eye. Refrain**

<sup>9</sup> Do not be like horse or mule, which have no understanding;  
who must be fitted with bit and bridle, or else they will not stay near you."

<sup>10</sup> **Great are the tribulations of the wicked;  
but mercy embraces those who trust in the LORD.**

<sup>11</sup> Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the LORD;  
shout for joy, all who are true of heart. **Refrain**

## ANTHEM

*I want Jesus to Walk with Me*

## SECOND READING

Romans 5:12-19

A reading from Romans.

<sup>12</sup> Just as sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, and so death spread to all because all have sinned <sup>13</sup> for sin was indeed in the world before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law. <sup>14</sup> Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those who did not sin in the likeness of Adam, who is a pattern of the one who was to come.

<sup>15</sup> But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died through the one man's trespass, much more surely have the grace of God and the gift in the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for the many. <sup>16</sup> And the gift is not like the effect of the one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the gift following many trespasses brings justification. <sup>17</sup> If, because of the one man's trespass, death reigned through that one, much more surely will those who receive the abundance of grace and the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.

<sup>18</sup> Therefore just as one man's trespass led to condemnation for all, so one man's act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all. <sup>19</sup> For just as through the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so through the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

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.

## GOSPEL

Matthew 4:1-11

The holy gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup> Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tested by the devil. <sup>2</sup> He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterward he was famished. <sup>3</sup> The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread."

<sup>4</sup> But he answered, “It is written,

‘One does not live by bread alone,  
but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’ ”

<sup>5</sup> Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple,

<sup>6</sup> saying to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written,

‘He will command his angels concerning you,’  
and ‘On their hands they will bear you up,  
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’ ”

<sup>7</sup> Jesus said to him, “Again it is written, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’ ”

<sup>8</sup> Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory, <sup>9</sup> and he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.” <sup>10</sup> Then Jesus said to him, “Away with you, Satan! for it is written,

‘Worship the Lord your God,  
and serve only him.’ ”

<sup>11</sup> Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

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

**SERMON**

## HYMN OF THE DAY

*When We Are Tested (ACS 922)*



1 When we are test - ed and wres - tle a - lone,  
2 When in the des - ert we cry for re - lief,  
3 When we are tempt - ed to bar - ter our souls,  
4 When we have strug - gled and searched through the night,



fam - ished for bread when the world of - fers stone,  
plead - ing for paths marked by cer - tain be - lief,  
trad - ing the truth for the pow'r to con - trol,  
sort - ing and sift - ing the wrong from the right,



nour - ish us, God, by your word and your way,  
lift us to love you be - yond sign and test,  
teach us to wor - ship and praise on - ly you,  
Sav - ior, sur - round us with cir - cles of care,



food that sus - tains us by night and by day.  
trust - ing your pres - ence, our on - ly true rest.  
seek - ing your will in the work that we do.  
an - gels of heal - ing, of hope, and of prayer.

## CREED

*We join together in speaking these words, inviting the beginning of an understanding of our faith; across time and space, we join the saints of our past, and Siblings of our present, in these words that have offered comfort, confusion, curiosity and wonder through many centuries.*

**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.**

## **PEACE**

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

*Please, be seated.*

*"Passing the peace" is a ritual where members share God's peace with one another, typically through a handshake or other gesture, symbolizing unity and reconciliation before receiving communion. The practice of "passing the peace" is rooted in scripture, where Jesus greets his disciples with "Peace be with you" and the apostle Paul begins his letters with "Grace and peace be with you".*

## **MEAL**

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

## **OFFERING**

Ways to support the ministry here at in Ishpeming with either Faith, or Bethany, or both:

- Certainly, you are welcome to take part in our “noisy offering” collection, by placing your gifts **in the containers passed** by our Usher Team, each Sunday during this time. Noisy Offering supports the work and outreach of the Social Ministry Team.
- You are invited to set up a one-time or recurring donation by **texting ASSIST to 844-920-4105**; be sure to have your preferred method of sharing ready.
- Use this **QR Code** (to the right). Open your camera app on your phone, place the QR code in the center of your camera’s view-field, and select the Vanco link that appears!



- Offerings will be assigned to the campus you name, or by the affiliated envelope you use. You may designate a specific partnership building online; or designate offerings by applying a note of intent, or reaching out to the office, by phone or email, and expressing your intent with your name and amount offered.

*We give thanks for your sharing of gifts and generosity!*

*Please stand, as you're willing and able, in body or in spirit.*

*Create in Me (ELW 186)*

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right  
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your pres - ence, and take  
not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store to me the joy of  
your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

**OFFERING PRAYER**

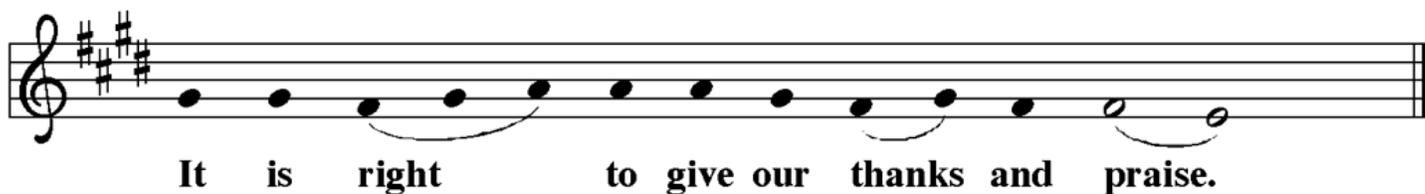
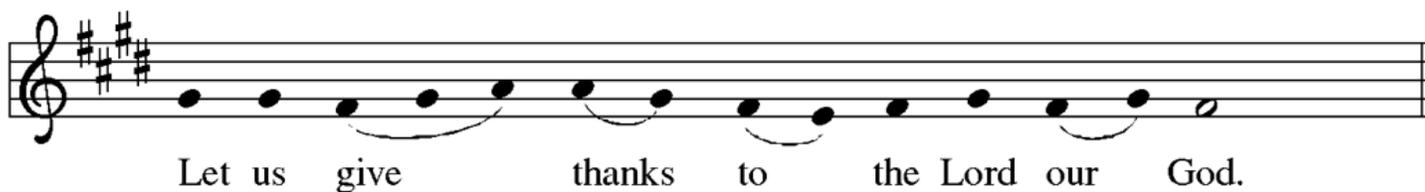
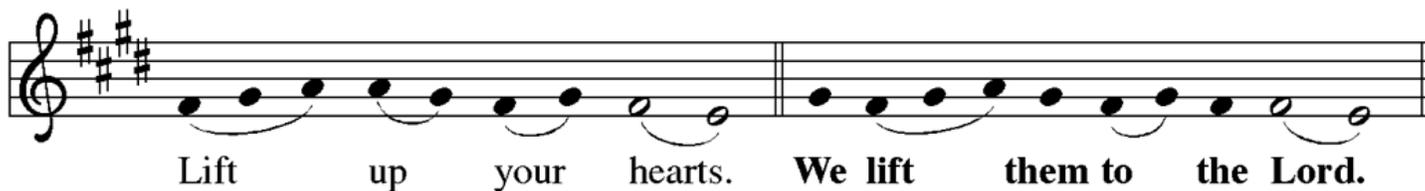
Let us pray, together.

God our provider, **you have not fed us with bread alone, but with words of grace and life. Bless us and these your gifts, which we receive from your bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*The service of Holy Communion is at the heart of Christian faith and life. In this sacrament, two essential realities occur for the benefit of God's people. First, God gives us his Son's true body and blood, through which we receive the forgiveness of sins. Second, the people of God's church are joined with one another as we share a mysterious and intimate bond as fellow members of Christ's body. This sacrament, together with the proclamation of God's Word, lies at the core of Christian worship. We Lutherans often describe our ministry as "Word and Sacrament". Both elements of worship are essential. There have been periods in the history of the Lutheran church where the frequency of Holy Communion waxed and waned. In the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, a liturgical renewal began, and one of the results was the restoration of weekly Communion. At Bethany, we follow that cadence.*

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

### DIALOGUE



*The Preface introduces us to the next part of the service, where we are invited into God's presence for the sharing of the meal. It is an ancient aspect of Christian liturgy. St. Hippolytus mentions that in the early 3<sup>rd</sup> century, Christians were using a preface in worship. This exchange has survived for centuries almost word-for-word in our liturgy!*

## PREFACE



It is indeed right, our du - ty and our joy,



that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you,



al-mighty and merciful God, through our Sav - ior Je - sus Christ.



You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the



pas - chal feast, that re - newed in the gift of bap - tism,



we may come to the full - ness of your grace.



And so, with all the choirs of an - gels,

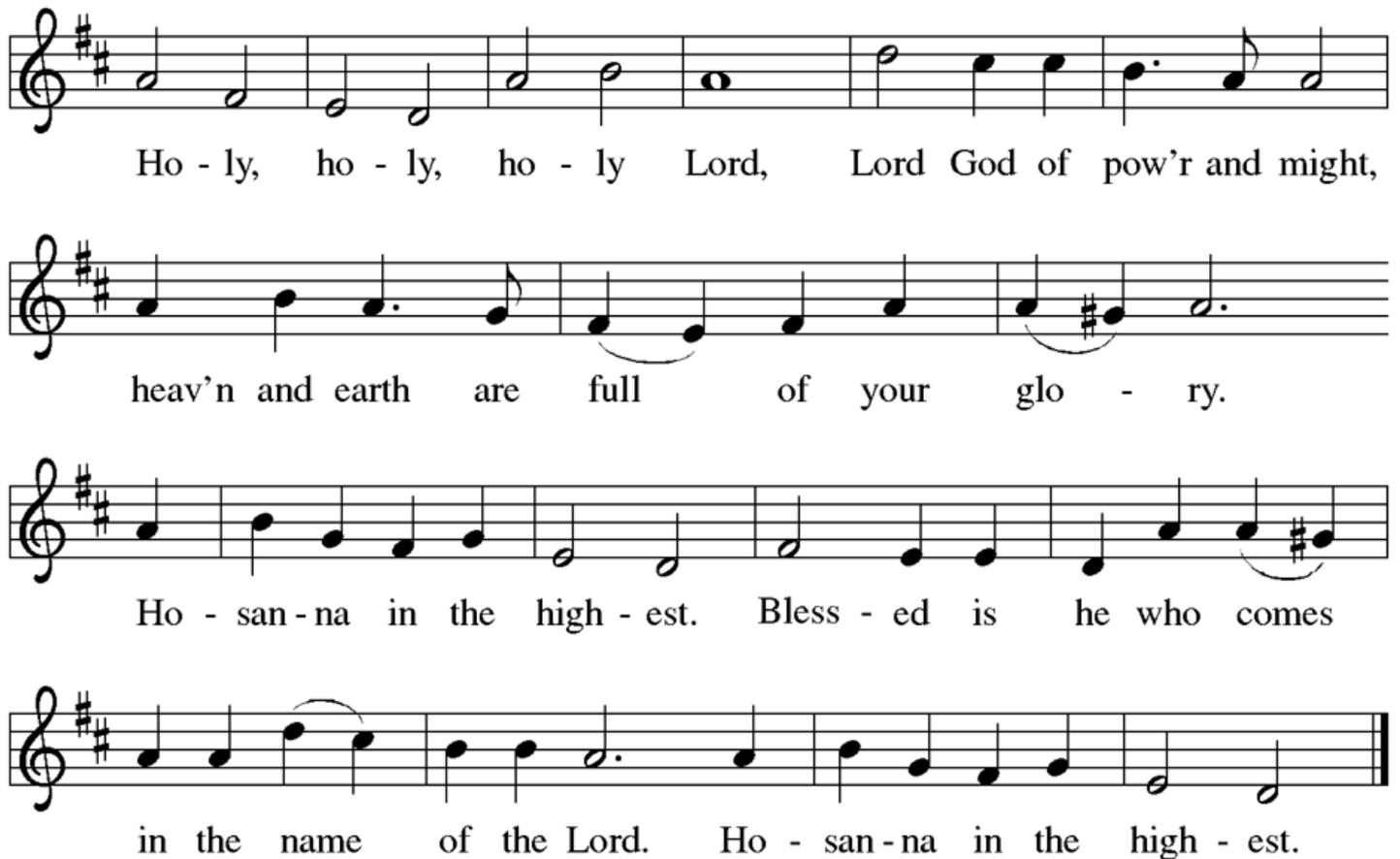


with the church on earth and the hosts of heav - en,



we praise your name and join their un - end - ing hymn:

## HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,  
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.  
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.

## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

O God most mighty,  
O God most merciful,  
O God our rock and our salvation,  
hear us as we praise,  
call us to your table,  
grant us your life.

When the earth was a formless void,  
you formed order and beauty.  
When Abraham and Sarah were barren,  
you sent them a child;  
When the Israelites were enslaved,  
you led them to freedom.  
Ruth faced starvation, David fought Goliath,  
and the psalmists cried out for healing,  
and full of compassion, you granted the people your life.

You entered our sorrows in Jesus our brother.  
He was born among the poor,

he lived under oppression,  
he wept over the city.  
With infinite love, he granted the people your life.

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.

Remembering his death, we cry out Amen. **Amen.**  
Celebrating his resurrection, we shout Amen. **Amen.**  
Trusting his presence in every time and place, we plead Amen. **Amen.**

O God, you are Breath: send your Spirit on this meal.  
O God, you are Bread: feed us with yourself.  
O God, you are Wine: warm our hearts and make us one.  
O God, you are Fire: transform us with hope.

O God most majestic, O God most motherly,  
O God our strength and our song,  
you show us a vision of a tree of life  
with fruits for all and leaves that heal the nations.  
Grant us such life,  
the life of the Father to the Son,  
the life of the Spirit of our risen Savior,  
life in you, now and forever.  
**Amen.**

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

We invite you to use the words of the Lord's Prayer that speak loudest to you, and experiencing the rhythms of the Spirit that speak to each of us, creating both dissonance and resonance. Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray:

**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.**

**Isä meidän, joka olet taivaissa  
Pyhitetty olkoon sinun nimesi  
Tulkoon sinun valtakuntasi  
Tapahtukoon sinun tahtosi  
Myös maan päällä niin kuin taivaassa  
Anna meille tänä päivänä  
Meidän jokapäiväinen leipämme  
Ja anna meille meidän syntimme anteeksi,  
Niin kuin mekin anteeksi annamme niille  
Jotka ovat meitä vastaan rikkoneet  
Äläkä saata meitä kiusaukseen  
Vaan päästä meidät pahasta  
Sillä sinun on valtakunta  
ja voima ja kunnia  
iankaikkisesti. Amen.**

**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.**

**O Great Spirit, our Father from above,  
we honor your name as sacred and holy.  
Bring your good road to us, where the  
beauty of your ways in the spirit-world  
above is reflected in the earth below.  
Provide for us day by day—the elk, the  
buffalo, and the salmon. The corn, the  
squash, and the wild rice. All the things  
we need for each day. Release us from the  
things we have done wrong, in the same  
way we release others for the things done  
wrong to us. Guide us away from the  
things that tempt us to stray from your  
good road, and set us free from the evil  
one and his worthless ways. Aho! May it  
be so!<sup>1</sup>**

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<sup>1</sup> Wildman, Terry M.. First Nations Version: An Indigenous Bible Translation of the New Testament (p. 10). InterVarsity Press. Kindle Edition.



## SONG DURING DISTRIBUTION

*Lord Jesus, Think on Me (ELW 599)*



- 1 Lord Je - sus, think on me, and purge a - way my sin;
- 2 Lord Je - sus, think on me, by anx - ious thoughts op - pressed;
- 3 Lord Je - sus, think on me, nor let me go a - stray;
- 4 Lord Je - sus, think on me, that, when the flood is past,



from self - ish pas - sions set me free and make me pure with - in.  
let me your lov - ing ser - vant be and taste your prom - ised rest.  
through dark - ness and per - plex - i - ty point out your cho - sen way.  
I may the e - ter - nal bright - ness see and share your joy at last.

*Please stand, as you're willing and able, in body or in spirit.*

## POST-COMMUNION COMMENDATION

May the body and blood of Christ, God with Us, strengthen ✝ and keep us. **Amen.**

**POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE**

Now Lord (S135b, ELW)



Now, Lord, you let your ser-vant go in peace: your word has been ful-



filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which you have pre -



pared in the sight of ev-'ry peo - ple: a light to re-veal you to the



na - tions and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Let us pray, together.

Compassionate God, you have fed us with the bread of heaven. Sustain us in our Lenten pilgrimage: may our fasting be hunger for justice; our alms, a making of peace; and our prayer, the song of grateful hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

**SENDING**

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

**Amen.**

## SENDING SONG

*Jesus, Still Lead On (ELW 624)*



1 Je - sus, still lead on, till our rest be won; and, al - though the  
2 If the way be drear, if the foe be near, let no faith - less  
3 When we seek re - lief from a long - felt grief, when temp - ta - tions  
4 Je - sus, still lead on, till our rest be won; heav'n - ly lead - er,



way be cheer - less, we will fol - low, calm and fear - less;  
fears o'er - take us, let not faith and hope for - sake us;  
come al - lur - ing make us pa - tient and en - dur - ing;  
still di - rect us, still sup - port, con - sole, pro - tect us,



guide us by your hand to the prom - ised land.  
safe - ly past the foe to our home we go.  
show us that bright shore where we weep no more.  
till we safe - ly stand in the prom - ised land.

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace-filled partnership; sharing the good news in all you are!

**Thanks be to God!**

## Upcoming Commemorations

### **Polycarp, Bishop of Smyrna, martyr, died 156**

**Monday, February 23, 2026**

Because he is said to have been known by John, the author of Revelation, as well as the important early church fathers Irenaeus and Ignatius, Polycarp serves as a vital link in church history. He was burned at the stake at age 86 for refusing to renounce his faith.

### **Elizabeth Fedde, deaconess, died 1921**

**Wednesday, February 25, 2026**

Born in Norway and trained there as a deaconess, Fedde was asked to come and minister to the poor and to seamen in New York City. She established the Deaconess House in Brooklyn as well as Deaconess Hospital in Minneapolis.

From sundaysandseasons.com

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## COMMUNITY EVENTS



### **Easter is April 5-Donations Appreciated**

We will offer over 160 Easter bags to offer to registered Free Store families.

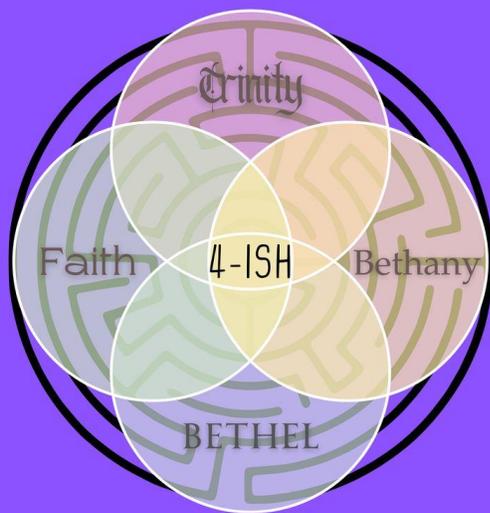
Please consider donating:

- Crayons and coloring books for the younger children
- Colored pencils or markers for the older children
- Beanie baby size Easter “stuffies” and other small toys
- Wrapped Easter candy
- Small gift items of interest to teens

Donations are accepted every Tuesday from 11:00 – 3:00 and during open shopping hours first 3 Wednesdays (12-4) and the fourth Monday (5-7pm) of each month.

**Social Ministry** – Interested in being part of the outreach ministries of this partnership? Looking for a way to make our gifts work to the benefit of our home-bound, neighbors in need, or collecting resources to make that manifestation of God’s Call to us happen? Have we got a deal for you! The Social Ministry Team meets on the second Tuesday of each month, 10:30AM, at the Bethany Campus and is always looking for additional voices to assist in ministry that loves our neighbor. Join us whenever you can *and* get coffee and sweet treats with the quilters if you arrive early! 😊

**Fortune Lake “Camperships”** – Interested in attending camp this year? Need some financial assistance? We’re proud to announce that “camperships” are available starting at 50% assistance for children or families that would like to attend FLLC this year. The Spiritual Education Team is fielding requests and can be reached via email at [FaithSpiritualEducation@BethanyIshpeming.org](mailto:FaithSpiritualEducation@BethanyIshpeming.org). When you register for camp, before the summer deadline (5Mar), you will be prompted to submit a campership form (available on the kiosk, or by email). After the registration deadline, we can offer assistance on a case by case basis. We celebrate our Partnered Leaders’ affirmation through action the opportunity for everyone to experience the joy and spirituality of the Fortune Lake gift.



## Lenten Midweek

Wednesdays beginning February 25th

March 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, and 25<sup>th</sup>

**4-ISH ELCA Partnership**

Home at Bethel Lutheran Church  
333 E. Ridge St., Ishpeming MI

Soup Supper and Labyrinth

Soup served from 5:30 to 6:45PM

Labyrinth open from 5:45 to 7:30PM

*a forty-day journey toward Easter with days of fellowship and meditation*

There is a sign-up sheet for the **Lenten Soup Supper** on the kiosk. Lenten Soup Supper, 5:30 PM, on Wednesday, February 25th at the Bethel Campus, and all following Wednesdays, through Lent (March 25<sup>th</sup>).

The 2-ISH partners will rotate serving, providing food, and cleaning up. Bethany and Faith will serve and provide food on March 4 & 18.



# COMMUNITY BLOOD DRIVE

Proudly Hosted By:

**BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH**

333 E RIDGE ST.

TUESDAY **24** 2026  
FEBRUARY

WALK-INS WELCOME | 2:00 pm – 6:00 pm

CONTACT: LAURA 869-0970 OR LINDA 284-6652

Help save lives in the Upper Peninsula (UP) by donating blood. All donations made with the UP Regional Blood Center stay in the UP by supplying blood to patients in need at all 12 UP hospitals.

UPHealthSystem.com

soul  shop  
Saturday, February 28th  
10AM-3PM

**Lunch and materials provided**

**Cost waived through grant from the Faith-Bethany Lutheran Church Partnership**

*Seats limited to 30 participants*

## THE MINISTERS OF THE DAY

Presiding Minister: Pastor J. Michael Mills

Communion Assistant:

Music Director: Tonya Perry

Coffee Host: Social Ministry Team

Lector: Denise Kaukola Mason

Organist(s): Carol Cox, Linda Hurrell

## CALENDAR

Today

### First Sunday in Lent

9:00A Choir practice

10:00A Partnership Worship/Online – Faith campus

12:00P Lenten Choir Practice, Bethany campus

Tuesday

9:00A Quilters, Bethany campus

11:00A Quilters, Faith campus

11:00A Bible Study at Bethel campus

2:00-6:00P Community Blood Drive – Bethel Lutheran Church

Wednesday

9:30A Weight O'Watcher Support Group, Bethany campus

5:30-6:45P Lenten Soup Supper, Bethel campus

5:45-7:30P Labyrinth open, Bethel campus

Thursday

6:00P Negaunee Male Chorus rehearsal, Bethany campus

Sunday

### Second Sunday in Lent

9:00A Choir practice, Faith campus

10:00A Partnership Worship/Online at Bethany campus

12:00P Lenten Choir Practice, Bethany campus

### Church office hours Bethany Campus

Monday 10:00A – 4:00P

Tuesday 10:00A – 2:00P

Wednesday 10:00A – 11:45A, 1:45P – 4:00P

Thursday 10:00A – 4:030P

### Church Office hours Faith Campus

Tuesday 10:00A – 2:00P

Thursday 10:00A – 2:00P

*Please contact the office if you would like to make an appointment to see Pastor J.*