

BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH

4500 East Hampden Avenue | Cherry Hills Village, CO 80113 | www.Bethany-Denver.org | 303.758.2820

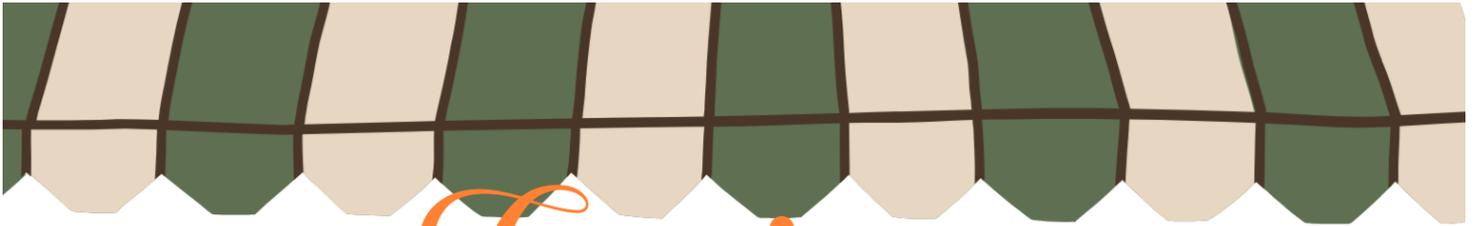
Second Sunday in Lent
Reconciled and Restored



Restored by Promise
Traditional Worship Service

March 1, 2026

8:30am



Cocina Libre

Let's travel on a culinary journey together!



You are invited to enjoy an international meal, prepared by local, immigrant chefs on **Sunday, March 8th from 11:30am-1:00pm** in Bethany's Fellowship Hall.

Join Bethany Lutheran Church and the Cocina Libre team, led by DU Associate Professor of Psychology, Dr. Julia Roncoroni.



Together we will...



Sign up here by February 26th!



The cost of the meal is \$25 and childcare will be available.

We hope you'll join in this nourishing experience for your body, mind and spirit!
For more information please contact Deacon Debra at debra@bethany-denver.org

✠ GATHERING ✠

PRELUDE

Prière

Léon Boëllmann

WELCOME

Pastor Gary Sandberg

RECONCILIATION AND RESTORATION

We are but clay pots, easily fractured. In our brokenness we reach out to God, joining in a confession of our sins.

God of Reconciliation,

we confess that our good intentions don't always become faithful actions.

We turn inward and are more attentive to our own needs than the needs of our neighbors.

We cling to burdens you never asked us to carry alone, instead of bringing them into your care.

Open our hearts to your ways of mercy, truth, and shared life, so that we may be reconciled to you, to one another, and to the world you love.

Jesus says, "Come to me, all you who are weary and carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest."

Beloved of God, hear this Good News: by God's abundant grace your sins are forgiven. You are held, restored, and made whole.

As we are reconciled to God, we are drawn into reconciliation with one another. So let that reconciling love settle among us now, and let it shape the way we live, as we share a greeting of peace with one another.

BLESSING OF PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

Please share a blessing of peace with others around you. After sharing the Peace, please be seated.



1 Bless-ed as-sur-ance, Je-sus is mine! Oh, what a fore-taste of glo-ry di-vine!
 2 Per-fect sub-mis-sion, per-fect de-light, vi-sions of rap-ture now burst on my sight;
 3 Per-fect sub-mis-sion, all is at rest; I in my Sav-ior am hap-py and blest,



Heir of sal-va-tion, pur-chase of God, born of his Spir-it, washed in his blood.
 an-gels de-scend-ing bring from a-bove ech-oes of mer-cy, whis-pers of love.
 watch-ing and wait-ing, look-ing a-bove, filled with his good-ness, lost in his love.

Refrain



This is my sto-ry, this is my song, prais-ing my Sav-ior all the day long:



this is my sto-ry, this is my song, prais-ing my Sav-ior all the day long.

Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820–1915
 Music: ASSURANCE, Phoebe P. Knapp, 1830–1908

GREETING

Pastor Nate Preisinger

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 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 u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



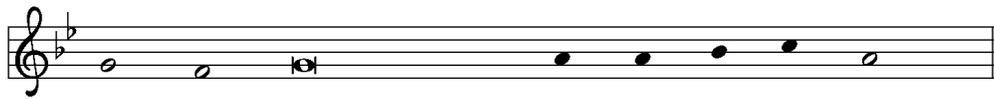
For this ho - ly house, and for all who offer here their wor - ship and



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

Pastor Nate Preisinger

O God, our leader and guide, in the waters of baptism you bring us to new birth to live as your children. Strengthen our faith in your promises, that by your Spirit we may lift up your life to all the world 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.**

LENTEN PSALM

Psalm 121

My help comes from the Lord, the mak - er of heav'n and earth.

¹I lift up my eyes to the hills; from where is my help to come?
²My help comes from the LORD, the maker of heaven and earth.
³The LORD will not let your foot be moved
nor will the one who watches over you fall asleep.

My help comes from the Lord, the mak - er of heav'n and earth.

⁴Behold, the keeper of Israel will neither slumber nor sleep;
⁵the LORD watches over you; the LORD is your shade at your right hand;
⁶the sun will not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.

My help comes from the Lord, the mak - er of heav'n and earth.

⁷The LORD will preserve you from all evil and will keep your life.
⁸The LORD will watch over your going out and your coming in,
from this time forth forevermore.

My help comes from the Lord, the mak - er of heav'n and earth.

✠ WORD ✠

As we prepare to hear God’s Word proclaimed, you are invited to listen with an open heart and notice where reconciliation is needed in your life. In your pew you’ll find a “Reconciled and Restored” sheet. If you’d like, anonymously write down what you are asking God to mend, or where you are committing to take a step toward reconciliation. Later in the service, you will be invited to place it in the offering plate as a quiet, personal offering to God.

FIRST LESSON

Genesis 12:1-4a

Jean Scott

God’s call of Abram and Sarai has a clear purpose—that through them all the families of the earth would gain a blessing. As they set out on their journey, they are accompanied by promises of land, nation, and a great reputation.

¹ The LORD said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. ² I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³ I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

^{4a} So Abram went, as the LORD had told him, and Lot went with him.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND LESSON

Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

In the person and example of Abraham we discover that a right relationship with God does not involve earning a reward from God but entails trusting God’s promises. Abraham is the forebear and model for both Jews and Gentiles, because we too trust that ours is a God who gives life to the dead.

¹ What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? ² For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. ³ For what does the scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness.” ⁴ Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. ⁵ But to one who does not work but trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

¹³ For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. ¹⁴ For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. ¹⁵ For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law, neither is there transgression.

¹⁶ For this reason the promise depends on faith, in order that it may rest on grace, so that it may be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (who is the father of all of us, ¹⁷ as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”), in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Let your stead - fast love come to us, O Lord.



Save us as you prom - ised; we will trust your word.

GOSPEL

John 3:1-17

A curious Pharisee visits Jesus by night to learn from the teacher his friends reject. Jesus speaks to him about life in the Spirit and the kingdom of God.

The Holy Gospel according to John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹ Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. ² He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with that person.” ³ Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.” ⁴ Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?” ⁵ Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. ⁶ What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷ Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’ ⁸ The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” ⁹ Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” ¹⁰ Jesus answered him, “Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

¹¹ “Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen, yet you do not receive our testimony. ¹² If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? ¹³ No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴ And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵ that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶ “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

¹⁷ “Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you O Christ.**

SERMON*Deacon Debra Alba***HYMN OF THE DAY**

Blessed Be the God of Israel

ELW #552



1 Blessed be the God of Is - rael, who comes to set us free,
2 Now from the house of Da - vid a child of grace has come,
3 On all by death im - pris - oned the sun be - gins to rise,



who vis - its and re - deems us, and grants us lib - er - ty.
a Sav - ior who will lead us to our e - ter - nal home.
the dawn - ing of for - give - ness up - on the sin - ner's eyes,



The proph - ets spoke of mer - cy, of free - dom and re - lease;
Be - fore him goes the her - ald, fore - run - ner in the way,
to guide the feet of pil - grims a - long the paths of peace;



God shall ful - fill the prom - ise to bring our peo - ple peace.
the proph - et of sal - va - tion, the har - bin - ger of day.
oh, bless our God and Sav - ior with songs that nev - er cease!

✠ Offering ✠

ABUNDANTLY BETHANY

Pastor Nate Preisinger

To fill out your digital connection card, go to www.tinyurl.com/BethanyConnect.

- ◆ Scout Troop 712 Pancake Breakfast: TODAY
- ◆ Cocina Libre: Register by Mar 3
- ◆ Bethany Retreat: May 1-3
- ◆ Welcome Addison Andrix

OFFERING

You can give in the following ways; Thank you for your gifts!

- On our **website**, find the GIVE button in the header or under the Get Involved tab at **Bethany-Denver.org**
- Through **SubSplash** - Use your phone's camera to scan this **QR Code**
- **Mail** in your check to the office (4500 E. Hampden Ave. Cherry Hills Village, CO 80113)
- Sunday mornings, drop your offering in the silver plate at the doors as you exit
- Unlock your phone, hold near NFC card (on pew back), and wait for the notification to appear



OFFERING MUSIC

Abundant Joy

Craig Lauman

Carillons, dir. Nolan Oltjenbruns

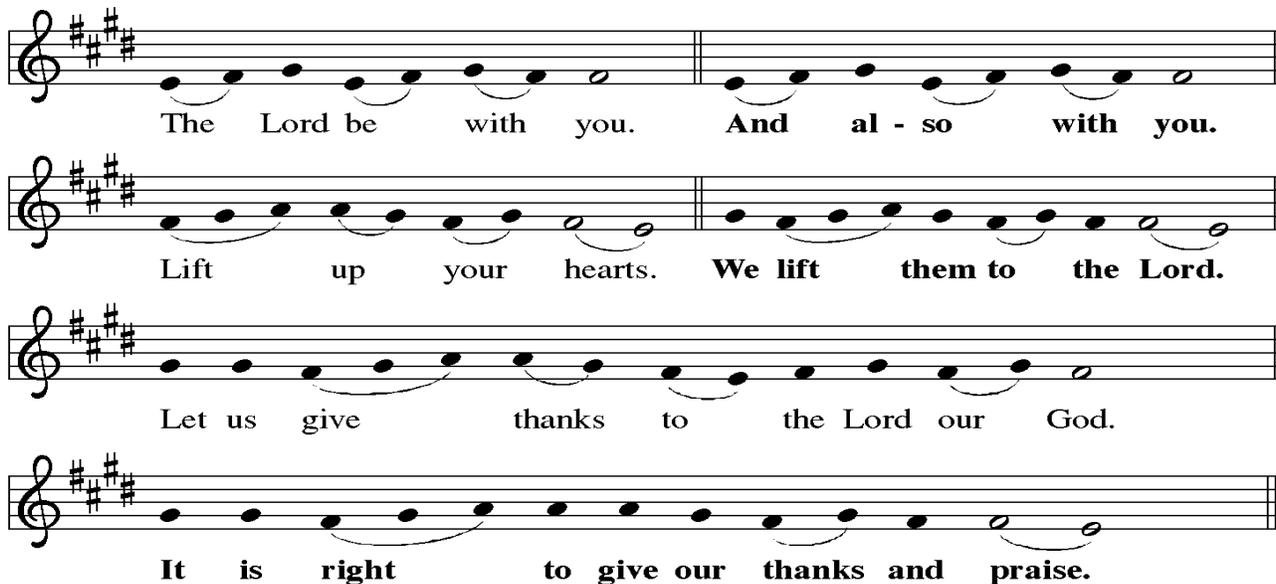
✠ Meal ✠

PRAYERS

WELCOME TO THE LORD'S TABLE

Pastor Gary Sandberg

CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION



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.

PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...
...we praise your name and join in their unending hymn:

SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and
might, heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high - est, 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, ho - san - na in the high - est.

BLESSING OF THE BREAD AND WINE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

Receive communion by dipping the bread into the wine. Pre-packaged communion sets are alcohol free; gluten-free options are available. Groups are welcome to visit a communion station together. Those who are not receiving communion are invited to cross their arms across their chest to receive a blessing.

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, grant us peace.

COMMUNION MUSIC

Brethren, We Have Met to Worship

arr. Kevin McChesney

Carillons, dir. Nolan Oltjenbruns

COMMUNION HYMN

Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound

ELW #779

1 A - maz - ing grace!— how sweet the sound— that
 2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and
 3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I
 4 The Lord has prom - ised good to me; his
 5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright

saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but
 grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that
 have al - read - y come; 'tis grace has brought me
 word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and
 shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to

now am found; was blind, but now I see.
 grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!
 safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
 por - tion be as long as life en - dures.
 sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

POST COMMUNION RESTORATION

God of Restoration, at this altar you have provided a meal that transforms, unites, and heals us. Allow us to live as your forgiven people. We are but shattered clay pots; yet by your grace we are restored. **Amen.**

✠ Sending ✠

BENEDICTION

Deacon Debra Alba

SENDING HYMN

How Firm a Foundation

ELW #796

You are invited to face the cross as it recesses to the center.



1 How firm a foun - da - tion, O saints of the Lord,
2 "Fear not, I am with you, oh, be not dis - mayed,
3 "When through fi - 'ry tri - als your path - way shall lie,
4 "Through - out all their life - time my peo - ple shall prove



is laid for your faith in Christ Je - sus, the Word!
for I am your God and will still give you aid;
my grace, all - suf - fi - cient, shall be your sup - ply.
my sov - 'reign, e - ter - nal, un - change - a - ble love;



What more can he say than to you he has said
I'll strength - en you, help you, and cause you to stand,
The flames shall not hurt you; I on - ly de - sign
and then, when gray hairs shall their tem - ples a - dorn,



who un - to the Sav - ior for ref - uge have fled?
up - held by my righ - teous, om - nip - o - tent hand."
your dross to con - sume and your gold to re - fine."
like lambs they shall still in my bo - som be borne."

Text: J. Rippon, *A Selection of Hymns*, 1787, alt.
Music: FOUNDATION, Early American

DISMISSAL

Deacon Debra Alba

As we go forth into the week ahead we remember our calling as the people of Bethany.

Together we will:

**Worship and encounter a God who loves us;
Embrace healthy dialogue that promotes unity over division;
Respond to the needs of the world through generosity and action.**

With this as our mission, go in peace, serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Toccata

Léon Boëllmann



Things To Know About - News & Events

- ◆ **Pancake Breakfast: TODAY, 9:15am-11:30am** - Everyone is invited - Have breakfast and help Bethany's Boy Scout Troop 712 raise funds for Troop activities including Winter Camping, Rock Climbing, Rafting, Mountain Biking, Back Packing, Summer Camp and High Adventure trips. Free will offering.
- ◆ **All Lent Long - Walk the Labyrinth:** As part of your Lenten Spiritual Practice, you are invited to walk the labyrinth downstairs in in the Big Room - 412. Hours are posted at www.bethany-denver.org/Lent. Note that the start time is when the doors will be opened and the end time is when the doors will be locked. Please check in and out at the log at the top of the steps. If the SE doors are locked, enter the building through the office door. Call the office (303-758-2820) with any questions.
- ◆ **Winter Food Bank Collection Drive:** The food item for collection through February will be boxes of cereal but Sunday, **Mar 1-Apr 12** it will change to canned tuna or chicken. Please place your items in the crates on the table in the Fellowship Hall. If you'd prefer to make a cash donation, these can be made by using the GIVE button on Bethany's website and choosing Integrated Family Community Services in the drop down menu.
- ◆ **Middle School event - Sunday Night Live: Mar 1, 5:00-7:00pm** at Bethany. Special guest - Addison Andrix! 6th-8th graders are invited. There will be pizza, snacks, bounce houses, pickleball, Video Games and more! Come for a great evening of fun and fellowship and the chance to meet Addison, our new Youth Director! Cost: \$5
- ◆ **Family Promise volunteers needed: Week of Mar 1** at Christ the Savior Lutheran Church in Aurora. The purpose of Family Promise is to hold families together in times of need. A group from Bethany will be preparing dinner the night of Mar 3. Volunteers are also needed for driving the van to transport, serving as overnight hosts, and moving beds at the end of the stay. If you would like to volunteer or have any questions, call Jean Scott at 303 519-7061.
- ◆ **Cocina Libre International Meal: Sunday, Mar 8, 11:30am-1:00pm**, Fellowship Hall. This meal is prepared by local, immigrant chefs. The Cocina Libre team, lead by DU Associate Professor of Psychology, Dr. Julia Roncoroni will lead us in viewing a documentary highlighting a few of their stories and participating in guided discussions as we share our stories of Identity, Purpose, and Belonging. The cost of the meal is \$25 and childcare will be available in the Nursery. Not recommended for children under the age of 12. Sign up with this QR code or at the event ad on Bethany News **by Mar 3** to secure your seat!
- ◆ **Women of Bethany (WOB): Lunch, Friday, Mar 13, 12:00pm**, Seasons 52, 8325 Park Meadows Center Dr., Lone Tree. Please join in! Reservations can be made through Bethany-denver.org at the ad for this event under News. Any questions, contact Barb at pomeroy4sum@aol.com.
- ◆ **Lost & Found Claim Day:** Have you lost a water bottle? Glasses? Come to the Fellowship Hall on **Sunday, Mar 15** and check out everything that is in our Lost & Found. Take home what's yours. The rest will be donated.
- ◆ **Habitat for Humanity Metro Denver/Holy Hammers Volunteers Needed:** Saturday, **Mar 21, 10:00am-2:00pm**, Arvada ReStore, 5045 N Robb St, Wheat Ridge; Saturday, April 18, 8:50 am – 4:30 pm, Griffith Station Homes, 8407 W 52nd Ave, Arvada. Register to volunteer at <https://vhub.at/HolyHammers>. Contact Kevin Dempsey for questions at kmdmpsy@aol.com.
- ◆ **Outreach:** Looking for a service opportunity to be the hands and feet of Jesus? Bethany will work the Food Bank of the Rockies on **Apr 17, 8:45am-12:00pm**. Please contact Maren Diercks at Marenjdiercks@gmail.com or 720-238-2333 if you are interested. You will be required to make an account at the Food Bank and be sent those directions.
- ◆ **Save the Date!** All-ages Bethany Retreat will be held at Rainbow Trail Lutheran Camp, **May 1-3**, and everyone is invited! Pack your bags for a weekend of faith, fun, and community! We'll explore our faith formation theme of identity, belonging, and purpose through worship, Bible study, large group games, special music, and camp-style activities for every age. It's a chance to experience all the best parts of camp with your Bethany church family. We don't want cost to keep anyone away: if money is tight, simply pay the minimum. If you're able, you're invited to give a little extra to help make the retreat possible for someone else. Register on the Bethany Connect app or Bethany News on the website.
- ◆ **Outreach:** Save the date! A Volunteer Food Packing Event, with Feed My Starving Children will be held on Saturday, **May 2** at the Jefferson County Fairgrounds in Golden. Ages 4-100 are welcome to help! A sign-up link will soon be available. Please contact Bethany member, Nick Wellen at n.wellen@mac.com or coloradofeedinggodskids@gmail.com for more details.
- ◆ **Day Camp registration: June 22-26.** Children (Pre School through 5th grade) and Helpers (6th grade - adult) are invited to join in the fun! Cost is \$90 for Pre School age children and \$120 for elementary children. Register <https://subsplash.com/bethany-denver/lb/ev/+wb3sbhv>.



Lent at Bethany: Reconciled & Restored

Finding healing, hope, and rest in God.

Prayer Labyrinth

Throughout Lent, our indoor Prayer Labyrinth (in room 412) will be open for personal reflection. Walk slowly, breathe deeply, and use this quiet time to pray, think, or simply rest. (Dates and times are printed at bethany-denver.org/lent)

Lenten Bible Study

Wednesdays in Lent • 6:00–7:00 p.m.
A relaxed, open conversation around Scripture and real life. No homework, no prior Bible experience needed—just come as you are.
Drop in any week during Lent.

Services of Lament

This Lent, we're creating space to bring our heavy hearts before God. You're invited to two Services of Lament and Prayer for Our Nation and World on **February 22 and March 22, from 11:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m.** in the Chapel. These simple, quiet services will offer scripture, silence, and guided prayer as we lift up the pain of the world and the burdens we're carrying personally.

Holy Week

Mark your calendar for our upcoming Holy Week services and events.

3/29	8:30 AM, 10 AM	Palm Sunday
4/2	7 PM	Maundy Thursday
4/3	12 PM, 7 PM	Good Friday
4/4	4:15 PM	Easter Egg Hunt
4/4	5 PM	Early Easter Service
4/5	8 AM, 9:30 AM, 11 AM	Easter Worship



All are welcome.
Come with questions, with faith, or with none at all. There is space for you here.
www.bethany-denver.org

THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT WORSHIP

- ◆ **Welcome to Bethany!** If you have questions or would like to consider making Bethany your church home, visit our website, Bethany-Denver.org, or stop by the Newcomer Nook after worship. The pastoral team, consisting of Pastor Gary Sandberg (he/him), Pastor Nate Preisinger (he/him), Deacon Debra Alba (she/her) and Director of Pastoral Care Janet Mortinsen (she/her), is available to speak with you.
- ◆ Bethany Lutheran Church values people of diverse race, sexual identity, ethnicity, and political affiliation. **All are welcome at Bethany Lutheran Church** and this community is enriched because you are here. We are together for good!
- ◆ **Sunday Worship services:** 8:30am Traditional - worship follows traditional Lutheran liturgy.
10:00am Casual Blended – a flow of worship that includes the elements of Lutheran worship with music that spans multiple genres and brings some creative ways to engage the theme of the day. Worship leaders are generally dressed more casually.
- ◆ **Participating in Worship:** There will be times during worship when you are invited to stand, but if it is more comfortable or more meaningful for you to remain seated, please feel free to do so.
- ◆ **Communion Statement:** Everyone gathered for worship is invited to take part in Communion. Jesus did not place any barriers around who received communion and neither does Bethany.
- ◆ **Safety:** Bethany Lutheran Church is committed to maintaining a safe and welcoming environment for everyone. If at any time you feel uncomfortable, unsafe or have concerns, please speak with one of our staff or designated leaders. We are here to listen and to support you.
- ◆ **Hearing Assistance Device:** Please see the Sound Tech in the A/V booth at the rear of the Sanctuary if you need a hearing assistance device.
- ◆ **Worship Servants:** Thank you to all the A/V team, Ushers, Communion Servers, Altar Guild, Musicians, Embrace Volunteers and Sacristans for your work to greet people and make worship happen. We always welcome Worship Servants - go to www.signupschedule.com/Bethany to sign up!
- ◆ You are welcome to bring beverages into the Sanctuary but please use a covered container. And enjoy your food outside the Sanctuary (although we understand small children may need snacks!).
- ◆ **Children at Bethany:** Children and youth are a blessing from God and we love having children in the Sanctuary! Additionally, we offer several options for children and families to feel comfortable in a variety of spaces on Sunday mornings:
 - ⇒ **Fidget Station:** We know that all of God's children (young and old) are wonderfully and fearfully made in the image of God. And, at Bethany, ALL are welcome to worship. Available outside the Sanctuary's north doors is a Fidget Station. Children and adults are invited to use these fidgets and art supplies to aid in your spiritual growth and presence in worship. Please return items to the station when you are finished.
 - ⇒ **Busy Bags:** Near the Sanctuary doors you will find premade bags perfect for littles. Grab one on the way in and return it on the way out.
 - ⇒ **Nursery:** For directions to our staffed Nursery, please speak with an usher.