BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH

4500 EAST HAMPDEN AVENUE | CHERRY HILLS VILLAGE, CO 80113 | WWW.BETHANY-DENVER.ORG | 303.758.2820

Fourth Sunday in Lent

Restored to New Sight

10:00am March 15, 2026

Holy Week at Bethany:

Journey with Jesus

Jesus Enters Jerusalem
Palm Sunday 3/29
8:30am and 10am
Festival Worship with Palms

The Last Supper
Maundy Thursday 4/2
7pm Worship Service
First Communion Milestone

The Crucifixion of Our Lord
Good Friday 4/3
12pm Tenebrae Service
7pm Tenebrae Service
Dubios' Seven Last Words

Resurrection of Our Lord
Easter Saturday 4/4, 5pm
Easter Sunday 4/5
8am, 9:30am, 11am
Festival Worship Service

We invite you to join Bethany's Holy Week worship services as we walk with Jesus through his final days. Each service adds a new part of the story, drawing us deeper into the mercy God gives in Christ. Come and follow the story step by step, so that Easter might meet you not as an idea, but as God's promise for you.

+ We Prepare Our Hearts +

Gathering Music Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound Robert A. Hobby

Welcome to Worship *Pastor Gary Sandberg*

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

Song of Praise Beautiful Things ACS 925

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 settle among us now, and let it shape the way we live, as we share a greeting of peace with one another.

We Share God's Peace

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

Please share a blessing of peace with others around you.

Opening Song

Be Thou My Vision

ELW 793

You are invited to face the cross as it enters.

Text: Irish, 8th cent.; vers. Eleanor H. Hull, 1860–1935, alt.; tr. Mary E. Byrne, 1880–1931
Music: SLANE, Irish traditional

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.

Prayer of the Day

Bend your ear to our prayers, Lord Christ,

and come among us. By your gracious life and death for us, bring light into the darkness of our hearts, and anoint us with your Spirit. Amen.

Children's Sermon

Pastor Gary Sandberg

Children's Worship

We Prepare to Hear God's Word Beautiful Things ACS 925

+ We Encounter God's Word +

As we prepare to hear God's Word proclaimed, you are encouraged during this time to consider places in your life where you need, or desire, to engage in Reconciliation, whether in your own spirit, or in a relationship. You are invited to write this down on a Reconciled and Restored sheet in your pew. You may then place your sheet in the offering plate later in the service. Do not sign them. They will not be read by staff. This is for your personal offering to God.

This week you might consider how you wish to be reconciled when you admit to what you have chosen to not see in yourself, or others.

Today's Sermon is based on readings from:

Ephesians 5:8-14 *Vicky Daub*

8 Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Walk as children of light, 9 for the fruit
of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. 10 Try to find out what is pleasing to the
Lord. 11 Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness; rather, expose them. 12 For it is shameful
even to mention what such people do secretly, 13 but everything exposed by the light becomes
visible, 14 for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,
"Sleeper, awake! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."

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

John 9

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

[1] As Jesus walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. He spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, [7] saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see.

[13] They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. [14] Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. [15] Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see." [16] Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not observe the Sabbath." Others said, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And they were divided. [17] So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened." He said, "He is a prophet."

[24] A second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, "Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner." [25] He answered, "I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." [26] They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" [27] He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?" [28] Then they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. [29] We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." [30] The man answered, "Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes. [31] We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. [32] Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. [33] If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." [34] They answered him, "You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?" And they drove him out.

[35] Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him he said, "I came into this world for judgment, so that those who do not see may see and those who do see may become blind." [40] Some of the Pharisees who were with him heard this and said to him, "Surely we are not blind, are we?"
[41] Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, 'We see,' your sin remains."

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

Sermon

Pastor Gary Sandberg

Sermon Notes

Song of the Day

Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways — ELW 772

1 Oh, that the Lord would guide my ways to keep his stat - utes still!
2 Or - der my foot - steps by your word and make my heart sin - cere;
3 As - sist my soul, too apt to stray, a strict - er watch to keep;
4 Make me to walk in your com - mands, 'tis a de - light - ful road;

Oh, that my God would grant me grace to know and do his will!
let sin have no do - min - ion, Lord, but keep my con - science clear.
and should I e'er for - get your way, re - store your wan - d'ring sheep.
nor let my head or heart or hands of - fend a - gainst my God.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt.
Music: EVAN, William H. Havergal, 1793–1870

Campaign Moment

Jeff Finnin

Dear Heavenly Father, as a congregation united in faith, guide us through this campaign, inspiring us to share our gifts of generosity. You bless us with these gifts, a church community, and a wondrous ministry. With a firm foundation in place, guide us to wield these tools to build Bethany's future as we reflect your image of bountiful love, kindness, and strength. **Amen.**

+ We Worship God With Our Offerings +

Offering

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

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, place your offering in the silver plate as they are passed
- Unlock your phone, hold near NFC card (on pew back), & wait for notification to appear

Offering Music Call It Grace Unspoken
Don & Kara Heilman

It's the light that pierces through you to the darkest hidden place.
It knows your deepest secrets, but it never looks away.
It's the gentle hand that pulls you from the judgment of the crowd.
When you stand before them guilty, and you got no way out.
Some may call it foolish and impossible, but for every heart it rescues, it's a miracle.
It's nothing less than scandalous, this love that took our place.
Just call it what it is, call it grace. Call it grace.
It's the breath that's breathing new life into what we thought was dead.
It's the favor that takes orphans, placing crowns upon their heads.
It's the hope for our tomorrows, the rock on which we stand.
It's a strong and mighty fortress, even hell can't stand against.
Amazing, unshaking; this is grace, this is grace.
Unchanging, unfailing; this is grace, this is grace.

Prayers of the People

Children Return to the Sanctuary

+ The Community Meal +

Invitation to The Communion Table *Pastor Nate Preisinger*

Celebration of Holy Communion

The Lord be with you. **And also 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.**

Blessing of the Bread and Wine

The Lord's Prayer *(Ecumenical translation)*

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.

Communion Instruction

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.

Communion Distribution

Communion Music

Me on Your Mind — Anne Wilson & Matthew West

Don & Kara Heilman

I've read the words in red, how You leave the 99 to find the one missing.
Feels like that was written with me on Your mind.
And the prodigal son who ran, leaving his home behind,
The part where the father came running to meet him; did You say that with me on Your mind?
Who am I that the King of the world would give one single thought about my broken heart?
Who am I that the God of all grace wipes the tears from my face and says come as you are?
You paid the price, You took the cross, You gave Your life and You did it all
With me on Your mind; me on Your mind.
Just knowing You're mindful of me, just knowing You call me Your child,
It's flooding my soul with unspeakable hope. Thank You, Lord, that it's me on Your mind.
You paid the price, You took the cross, You gave Your life and You did it all
With me on Your mind. It was me on Your mind.
I've read the words in red, of a Heavenly home on high.
You're preparing a place where the sorrow's erased, and when I stand before You, I'll find
All along, it was me on Your mind.

Communion Song

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light — ELW 815

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.**

Post Communion Song

+ God Sends Us to Serve +

Benediction *Pastor Gary Sandberg*

Song of Sending Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound ELW 779

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

Text: John Newton, 1725–1807, alt., sts. 1–4; anonymous, st. 5
Music: NEW BRITAIN, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony,* 1835

Dismissal *Pastor Gary Sandberg*

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 Be Thou My Vision Austin C. Lovelace

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Things To Know About - News & Events

- **Town Hall Meeting: TODAY,** 11:20am, Room 312 (rehearsal room). All are invited to join in to hear what is happening at Bethany. Updates on finances, engagement and the campaign.
- **Lost & Found Claim Day:** Have you lost a water bottle? Glasses? Come to the Fellowship Hall **TODAY** and check out everything that is in our Lost & Found. Take home what's yours. The rest will be donated.
- **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 for now - Apr 12 is 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.
- **Rejoicing Spirits: TODAY,** Lord of the Hills Lutheran Church, 21755 E Smoky Hill Rd. Aurora, 4:00-6:00pm. Dinner and worship! Rejoicing Spirits is an inclusive worship space for people with cognitive and intellectual disabilities, their caregivers, families and anyone who seeks an open, joyful and creative worship experience. Please RSVP to pastor@lordofthehills.org. For more information regarding the Rejoicing Spirits experience or volunteering, please contact: Pastor Margot at pastor@lordofthehills.org.
- **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.
- **Rejoicing Spirits:** You are invited to join in for World Down Syndrome Day at the "Lots of Socks" Sock Hop! This is a celebration of everything that makes us different, and yet the same. **Saturday, Mar 21**, 3:00pm–5:00pm, Fellowship Hall, FREE. The event will feature snacks, a photo booth, a DJ, and plenty of dancing. We encourage everyone to join the fun by wearing odd, unusual, or mismatched socks. When someone asks about your socks, it's a great opportunity to share facts about Down Syndrome and World Down Syndrome Day.
- **Vitalant Blood Drive:** Bethany will be hosting a blood drive for Vitalant on **Wednesday, March 25**, in the Fellowship Hall from 9:00am–12:30pm. To schedule an appointment, visit www.donors.vitalant.org and use blood drive code 0377 or call 877-258-4825. Please contact Janet Mortinsen if you have questions.
- **First Communion Milestone Class: Sunday, Mar 29,** 11:20am-1:00pm, Great Hall. Open to children in 2nd-5th grades who have not yet celebrated their first Communion. Children and adult caregivers are invited to enjoy a light lunch together and to participate in engaging and creative cross-generational learning activities. The children will receive their first Communion at the 7:00pm Maundy Thursday service on Apr 2. Register at the event ad in Bethany News. Contact Deacon Debra Alba at Debra@Bethany-Denver.org for more information.
- **Easter flowers:** Help decorate the worship spaces for Easter by donating for flowers in honor or in memory of your loved ones. Find envelopes at the Mission Center desk or go to the giving platforms (www.Bethany-Denver.org under Give or via Bethany Connect app). Flowers are $25. Deadline is **Mar 29.** Be sure to let the Office know what you want printed in the Easter bulletins! For help contact Office@Bethany-Denver.org or call 303.758.2820.
- **Easter decorating help needed:** If you like to decorate, please sign up to help decorate the Sanctuary for Easter on **Saturday, Apr 4** at 9:30am. Go to the website and click on the "Sign Up Schedule" bubble. Thank you!
- **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. Reservations can be made through Bethany-denver.org at the ad for this event under News. You will be required to make an account at the Food Bank and will be sent directions.

For more information and to see other announcements, please sign up for the email blasts by contacting the office - 303.758.2820, or visit www.Bethany-Denver.org/Bethany-news/

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 ***friendly staffed Nursery***, please speak with an usher.

Bethany Retreat

Registration now open!

Pack your bags for a weekend of faith, fun, and community! Our all-ages Bethany Retreat will be held at **Rainbow Trail Lutheran Camp, May 1–3,** and everyone is invited. 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 here!

UNITED IN FAITH

BUILDING BETHANY'S FUTURE

Dear Bethany Family,

We find ourselves at an exciting moment in our shared life. Our church and eleven-acre campus have served us faithfully for decades, even as ministry has grown, changed, and expanded. Today, signs of aging are as evident as new opportunities for connection, learning, and service emerge. Thankfully, God is active at Bethany! We are embarking on a capital campaign to address our most pressing needs and to optimize our campus and facilities, and thereby our ministries, well into the future.

United in Faith: Building Bethany's Future is an invitation. It is not only about updating spaces and addressing long-deferred needs, it is equally about stewardship—about expanding the ministries entrusted to us. It is about cultivating spaces that better reflect our values and support those ministries: a campus-wide **Welcome,** places for Spirit-filled **Worship,** spaces for intergenerational **Faith Formation,** and **Outreach** that springs from our campus with impacts well beyond it.

We look forward with gratitude and hope. Gratitude for those whose faithfulness and hard work over the years still serve as our foundation; hope for lives to be transformed in years to come as an outcome of this initiative.

We ask you to engage this initiative with openness and prayer. Consider what Bethany means in your life. Reflect upon how God is inviting you to support Bethany's future. And trust that, as we move forward together, God will remain faithful to this community we love.

United in Christ,

Pastor Gary Sandberg

Jeff Finnin, President

Stephanie Davy, Campaign Chair

PASTORAL TEAM

Pastor Nate Preisinger
Deacon Debra Alba
Janet Mortinsen,
Director of Pastoral Care

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Mary Brook, ***President Elect***
Alison Biever, ***Past President***
Pam Menter, ***VP Personnel***
Aaron Walter, ***Treasurer***
Mary Knowles, ***Secretary***

STEERING COMMITTEE

Terry Jeddeloh, ***Gifts Co-Chair***
Tom Brook, ***Gifts Co-Chair***
Leo Bruederle, ***Events Chair***
Tracy Frombach, ***Inspiration Chair***

To learn more, scan the QR code or visit
www.Bethany-Denver.org/UnitedInFaith

RECOGNIZE YOUR NEED TO GIVE

In a world focused on getting more, the Christian call to generosity invites us to see giving in a new light. Generosity begins with recognizing that all we have—time, skills, and resources—is a gift from God. This awareness frees us from fear of scarcity and helps us view what we hold not as possessions to protect, but as tools for building God's reign of love and justice.

Scripture paints a clear picture of this joy. In 2 Corinthians 9:7 we read, "God loves a cheerful giver." The heart of generosity is not the size of the gift but the spirit in which it's given. When we share freely, we reflect Christ's love, strengthen relationships, and nurture a spirit of unity.

Giving also shapes our hearts. It builds gratitude and reminds us that we need one another. This connection blesses those who receive and deepens our own walk of faith.

Our call to give is not about buildings or budgets—it is about who God made us to be. We are created in the image of the generous One. Each act of generosity reflects the character of God within us and draws us closer to the life God longs for all people.