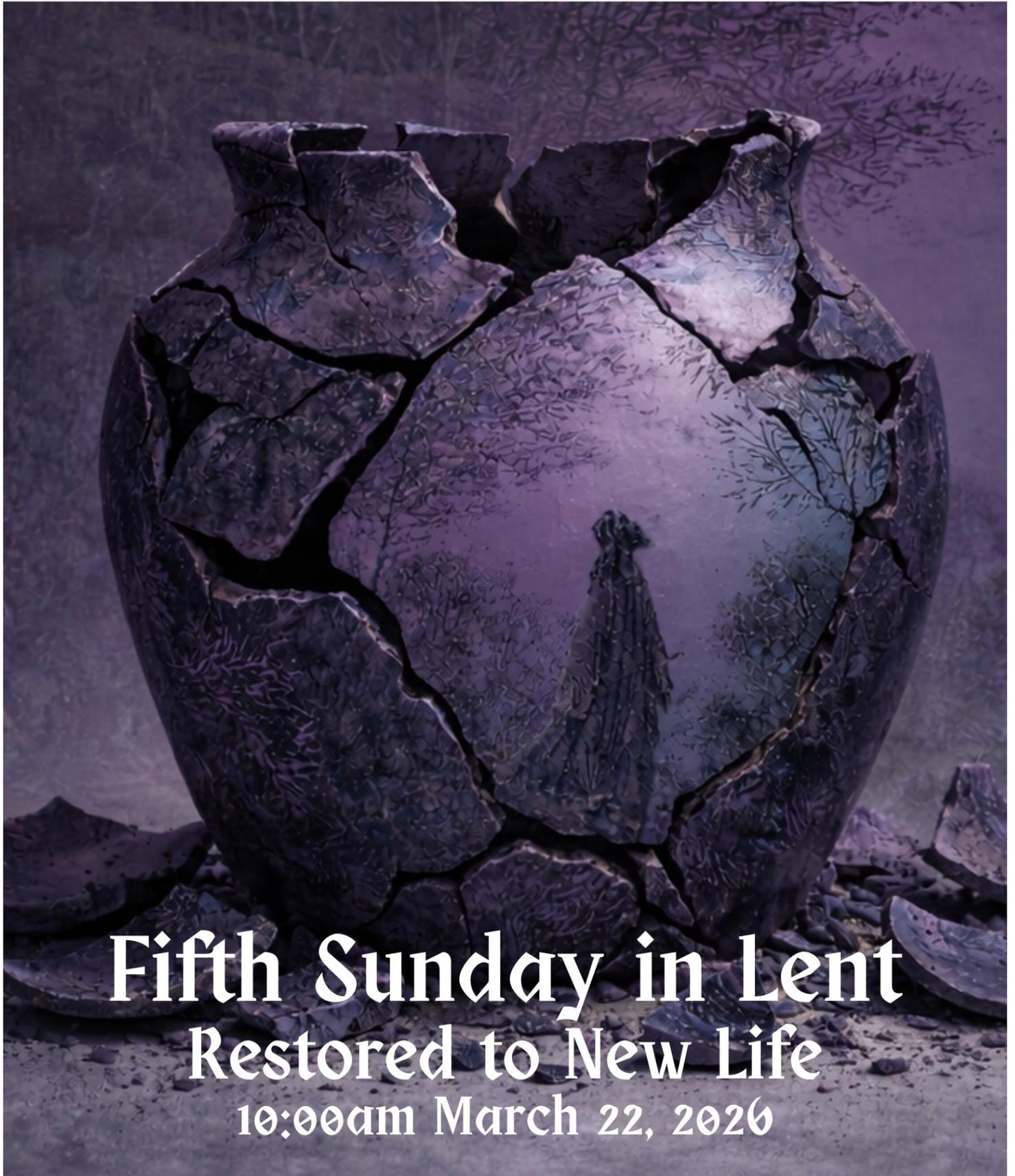


# BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH

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



**Fifth Sunday in Lent**  
**Restored to New Life**  
10:00am March 22, 2026

Holy Week at Bethany:

# Journey with Jesus

**Jesus Enters Jerusalem**

**Palm Sunday 3/29**

8:30am and 10am

Festival Worship with  
Palms

**The Crucifixion of Our Lord**

**Good Friday 4/3**

12pm Tenebrae Service

7pm Tenebrae Service

Dubios' Seven Last Words

**The Last Supper**

**Maundy Thursday 4/2**

7pm Worship Service

First Communion Milestone

**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

Sonata II  
I. Grave II. Adagio

Felix Mendelssohn

## Welcome to Worship

To fill out your digital connection card, go to [www.tinyurl.com/BethanyConnect](http://www.tinyurl.com/BethanyConnect).

Pastor Nate Preisinger



## Song of Praise

Beautiful Things

ACS 925



1. All this pain, I wonder if I'll ever find my way;  
I wonder if my life could really change at all.  
You make beautiful things, You make beautiful things out of the dust.  
You make beautiful things, You make beautiful things out of us.

## 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 this forgiveness 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

In the Cross of Christ I Glory

ELW 324

*You are invited to face the cross as it enters.*



1 In the cross of Christ I glo - ry, tow'r - ing  
2 When the woes of life o'er - take me, hopes de -  
3 When the sun of bliss is beam - ing light and  
4 Bane and bless - ing, pain and plea - sure, by the



o'er the wrecks of time. All the light of  
ceive, and fears an - noy, nev - er shall the  
love up - on my way, from the cross the  
cross are sanc - ti - fied; peace is there that



sa - cred sto - ry gath - ers round its head sub - lime.  
cross for - sake me; lo, it glows with peace and joy.  
ra - diance stream - ing adds more lus - ter to the day.  
knows no mea - sure, joys that through all time a - bide.

Text: John Bowring, 1792–1872

Music: RATHBUN, Ithamar Conkey, 1815–1867

## Greeting

*Deacon Debra Alba*

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

Almighty God,

**your Son came into the world to free us all from sin and death. Breathe upon us the power of your Spirit, that we may be raised to new life in Christ and serve you in righteousness all our days, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

## Children's Sermon

## Children's Worship



You make beau-ti-ful things, — You make — beau - ti - ful things out of the dust. —



You make beau-ti-ful things, — You make — beau - ti - ful things out of us. —

## + 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 restore what you have pushed aside or put off.

*Today's Sermon is based on readings from:*

### Psalm 130

Tom Mroch

<sup>1</sup> Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord;

<sup>2</sup> **O Lord, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplication.**

<sup>3</sup> If you were to keep watch over sins, O Lord, who could stand?

<sup>4</sup> **Yet with you is forgiveness, in order that you may be feared.**

<sup>5</sup> I wait for you, O Lord; my soul waits; in your word is my hope.

<sup>6</sup> **My soul waits for the Lord more than those who keep watch for the morning, more than those who keep watch for the morning.**

<sup>7</sup> O Israel, wait for the Lord, for with the Lord there is steadfast love; with the Lord there is plenteous redemption.

<sup>8</sup> **For the Lord shall redeem Israel from all their sins.**

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

<sup>1</sup> Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. <sup>2</sup> Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. <sup>3</sup> So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." <sup>4</sup> But when Jesus heard it, he said, "This illness does not lead to death; rather, it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it." <sup>5</sup> Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, <sup>6</sup> after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

<sup>7</sup> Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." <sup>8</sup> The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?" <sup>9</sup> Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble because they see the light of this world. <sup>10</sup> But those who walk at night stumble because the light is not in them." <sup>11</sup> After saying this, he told them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him." <sup>12</sup> The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right." <sup>13</sup> Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. <sup>14</sup> Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead. <sup>15</sup> For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." <sup>16</sup> Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him."

<sup>17</sup> When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. <sup>18</sup> Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, <sup>19</sup> and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. <sup>20</sup> When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. <sup>21</sup> Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. <sup>22</sup> But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him." <sup>23</sup> Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." <sup>24</sup> Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." <sup>25</sup> Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, <sup>26</sup> and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" <sup>27</sup> She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world."

<sup>28</sup> When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary and told her privately, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you." <sup>29</sup> And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. <sup>30</sup> Now Jesus had not yet come to the village but was still at the place where Martha had met him. <sup>31</sup> The Jews who were with her in the house consoling her saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. <sup>32</sup> When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." <sup>33</sup> When Jesus saw her weeping and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. <sup>34</sup> He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." <sup>35</sup> Jesus began to weep. <sup>36</sup> So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" <sup>37</sup> But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?"

<sup>38</sup> Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. <sup>39</sup> Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days." <sup>40</sup> Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?" <sup>41</sup> So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me. <sup>42</sup> I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me." <sup>43</sup> When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" <sup>44</sup> The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."

<sup>45</sup> Many of the Jews, therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did believed in him.

Song of the Day

God Weeps with Us Who Weep and Mourn

ACS 1054



1 God weeps with us who weep and mourn; God's  
 2 Through tears and sor - row, God, we share a  
 3 And yet be - cause, like us, you weep, we



tears flow down with ours, and God's own heart is  
 sense of your vast grief: the weight of bear - ing  
 trust you will re - ceive and in your ten - der



bruised and worn from all the heav - y hours  
 ev - 'ry prayer for heal - ing and re - lief,  
 heart will keep the ones for whom we grieve,



of watch - ing while the soul's bright fire burned  
 the bur - den of our ques - tions why, the  
 while with your tears our hearts will taste the



low - er day by day, and pulse and breath and  
 doubts that they en - gage, and as our friends and  
 deep, dear core of things from which both life and



love's de - sire dimmed down to ash and clay.  
 loved ones die, our hope - less - ness and rage.  
 death are graced by love's re - new - ing springs.

## Campaign Moment

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](http://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

*Carillons, dir. Nolan Oltjenbruns*

Carillons of Praise

Cathy Moglebust

### Prayers of the People

*Pastor Gary Sandberg*

### Children Return to the Sanctuary

## + THE COMMUNITY MEAL +

### Invitation to The Communion Table

*Pastor Gary Sandberg*

### 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

Brethren, We Have Met to Worship

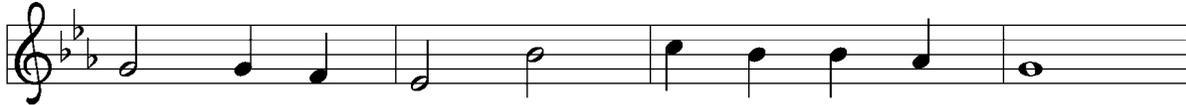
arr. Kevin McChesney

Carillons, dir. Nolan Oltjenbruns

### Communion Song

Abide With Me

ELW 629



1 A - bide with me, fast falls the e - ven - tide.  
2 Swift to its close ebbs out life's lit - tle day;  
3 I need thy pres - ence ev - 'ry pass - ing hour;  
4 I fear no foe, with thee at hand to bless;  
5 Hold thou thy cross be - fore my clos - ing eyes,



The dark - ness deep - ens; Lord, with me a - bide.  
earth's joys grow dim, its glo - ries pass a - way;  
what but thy grace can foil the tempt - er's pow'r?  
ills have no weight, and tears no bit - ter - ness.  
shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies;



When oth - er help - ers fail and com - forts flee,  
change and de - cay in all a - round I see;  
Who like thy - self my guide and stay can be?  
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy vic - to - ry?  
heav'n's morn - ing breaks, and earth's vain shad - ows flee;



help of the help - less, oh, a - bide with me.  
O thou who chang - est not, a - bide with me.  
Through cloud and sun - shine, oh, a - bide with me.  
I tri - umph still, if thou a - bide with me!  
in life, in death, O Lord, a - bide with me.

Text: Henry F. Lyte, 1793–1847

Music: EVENTIDE, William H. Monk, 1823–1889

## 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



3.All a - round\_\_\_ hope is spring-ing up from this old ground.



4 Out of cha-os, life is be-ing found\_\_\_ in\_\_\_ You.---



9 You make beau-ti-ful things,\_\_\_ You make\_\_\_beau-ti-ful things out of the dust.---



13 You make beau-ti-ful things,\_\_\_ You make\_\_\_beau-ti-ful things out of us.---

## + GOD SENDS US TO SERVE +

Benediction

Pastor Nate Preisinger

# Song of Sending

Christ, the Life of All the Living

ELW 339

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



1 Christ, the life of all the liv - ing, Christ, the death of death, our foe,  
2 You have suf - fered great af - flic - tion and have borne it pa - tient - ly,  
3 Then, for all that bought my par - don, for the sor - rows deep and sore,



Christ, your - self for me once giv - ing to the dark - est depths of woe:  
e - ven death by cru - ci - fix - ion, ful - ly to a - tone for me;  
for the an - guish in the gar - den, I will thank you ev - er - more;



through your suf - f'ring, death, and mer - it life e - ter - nal I in - her - it.  
for you chose to be tor - ment - ed that my doom should be pre - vent - ed.  
thank you for the groan - ing, sigh - ing, for the bleed - ing and the dy - ing,



Thou - sand, thou - sand thanks are due, dear - est Je - sus, un - to you.  
Thou - sand, thou - sand thanks are due, dear - est Je - sus, un - to you.  
for that last tri - um - phant cry, praise you ev - er - more on high.

Text: Ernst Christoph Homburg, 1605–1681; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.  
Music: JESU, MEINES LEBENS LEBEN, *Das grosse Cantional*, Darmstadt, 1687

## Dismissal

Pastor Nate Preisinger

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

Trumpet Tune No. 2

Aaron David Miller

## Things To Know About - News & Events

- ◆ **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 the Big Room - 412. Hours are posted at [www.bethany-denver.org/Lent](http://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. 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.
- ◆ **Habitat for Humanity Metro Denver/Holy Hammers Volunteers Needed: Saturday, April 18, 8:50 am – 4:30 pm, Griffith Station Homes, 8407 W 52nd Ave, Arvada; Saturday, May 30, 8:50am–4:30pm, 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](mailto:kmdmpsy@aol.com).
- ◆ **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](http://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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto: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!
- ◆ **Bethany's Social Justice Team:** Meets **Sunday, Apr 12, 11:20am-12:30pm, Room 210.** If you have an interest in social justice issues we'd love to have you participate! Suggestions for upcoming events and book studies will be discussed.
- ◆ **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 [Marendiercks@gmail.com](mailto:Marendiercks@gmail.com) or 720-238-2333 if you are interested. Reservations can be made through [Bethany-denver.org](http://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.
- ◆ **Women of Bethany (WOB) Fellowship: Saturday, Apr 18, 10:00am, New York Deli News at 7105 E. Hampden Ave, Denver.** Sign up on the Bethany Connect app or Bethany News on the website. All are welcome.
- ◆ **Synod Assembly help needed:** Bethany is hosting this year's Synod Assembly **Apr 23-25** and we need you! Current slots are for helping with food and helping guide people around our building. See shifts and sign up at the Sign Up Schedule bubble on the website home page.
- ◆ **All-ages Bethany Retreat:** Rainbow Trail Lutheran Camp, **May 1–3.** 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. 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](mailto:n.wellen@mac.com) or [coloradofeedinggodskids@gmail.com](mailto:coloradofeedinggodskids@gmail.com) for more details.
- ◆ **Rainbow Trail Lutheran Camp Work Weekend:** Bethany's annual work weekend is **May 29–31.** Register on the Bethany Connect app or Bethany News on the website. Contact Susan Pfabe-Wiggans- [susanpw4@gmail.com](mailto:susanpw4@gmail.com).

## 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](http://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](http://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

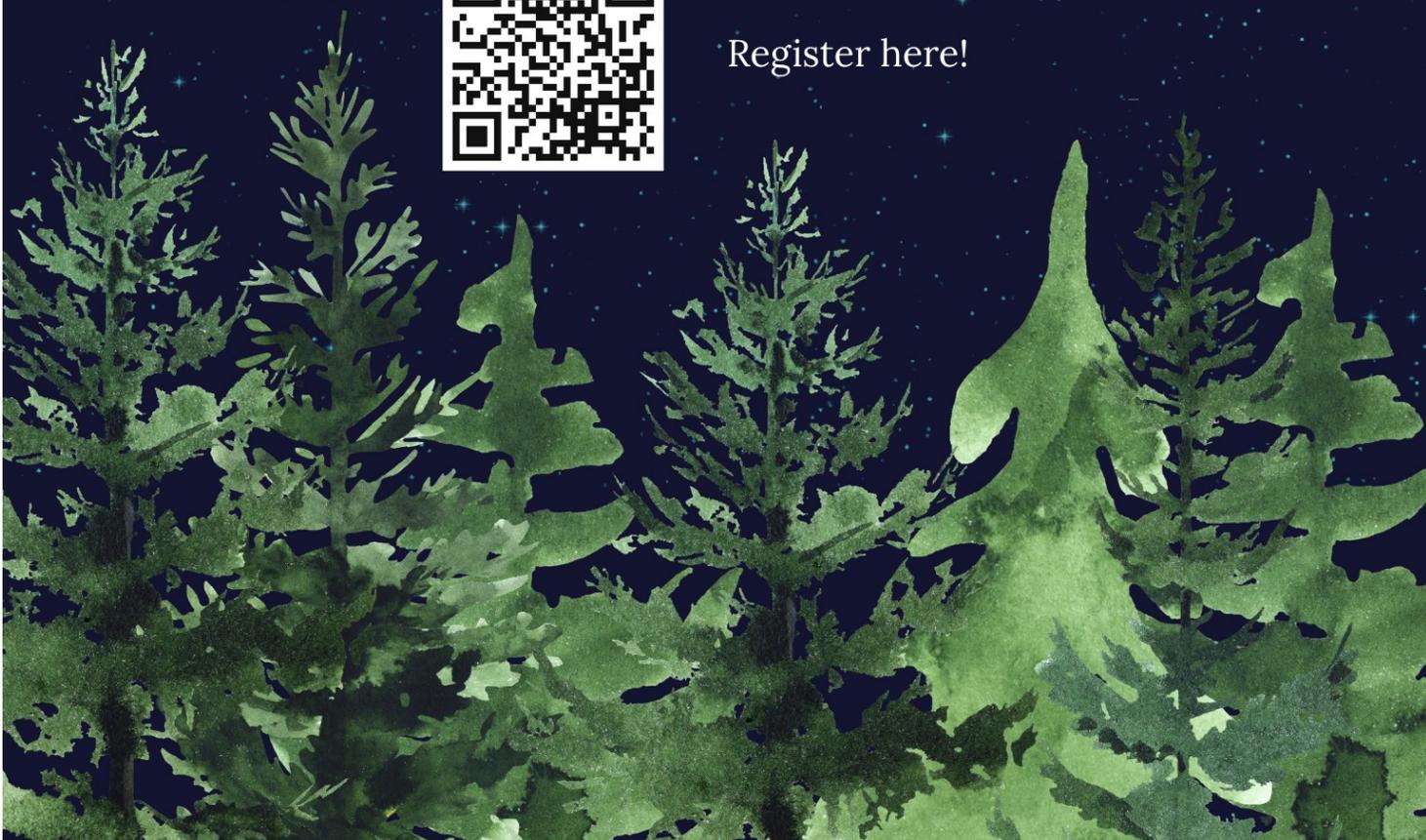
*Registration now open!*

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** is a comprehensive initiative to steward what God has given us into the decades ahead. This campaign synthesizes overdue facility renewal with strategic improvements that will strengthen ministry, welcome new generations, and support deeper engagement.

At its heart, this plan is guided by three commitments. The commitment we will focus on this weekend is **CARING FOR CRITICAL SYSTEMS**. Roofing, mechanical systems, lighting, and infrastructure have served well beyond their expected lifespan. Bethany will repair and strengthen essential systems proactively, reducing long-term risk and creating stability for ministries to continue without disruption. We will establish proactive maintenance planning and increase our maintenance reserves to ensure our resources are optimally used.

**ADDRESSING NECESSARY INFRASTRUCTURE AND MAINTENANCE** **\$500,000-\$700,000**  
Faithful stewardship includes caring for critical systems that support everything Bethany does. Roofing, HVAC control systems, and security infrastructure have exceeded their intended lifespan and require proactive attention. Addressing these needs with an integrated multi-year work plan is more cost-effective, reduces long-term risk, prevents costly emergency repairs, and provides operational stability.

**ENSURING FACILITIES STEWARDSHIP** **\$500,000-\$1,000,000**  
In keeping with best practices for facilities management, Bethany will materially increase its Deferred Maintenance account in order to better provide for the proactive upkeep of its facilities. Bethany will establish a rolling capital maintenance and improvement schedule to optimize use of our resources and better provide for large capital items.

**CREATING SUSTAINABLE AND RESPONSIBLE ENVIRONMENTS** **\$500,000-\$600,000**  
Bethany is committed to caring for creation and stewarding resources wisely. This portion of the campaign focuses on improving energy efficiency and long-term operational sustainability. Improvements include continued replacement of lighting with energy-efficient LED fixtures. The installation of solar panels designed to significantly reduce annual energy costs is being explored.

To learn more, scan the QR code or visit [www.Bethany-Denver.org/UnitedInFaith](http://www.Bethany-Denver.org/UnitedInFaith)





## GENEROSITY THAT STARTS WITH GOD

When our church invites us to give, our first instinct may be to check with our spouse, our budget, our bills, or our financial advisor. These are wise steps—but for people of faith, they are not the first step.

God is alive, active, and deeply engaged with us. God is our Maker, Redeemer, Sustainer, and Friend. Our giving grows out of our relationship with God. As we spend time in prayer, scripture, and worship, we begin to see our lives and resources through God's eyes.

John 3:16 offers the clearest picture of divine generosity: "For God so loved the world that God gave..." God's giving flows from God's love and connection with the world. When we draw near to God, that love shapes our hearts. We give not from pressure, but from gratitude and compassion.

The closer we walk with God, the more we notice the needs around us. Our priorities shift, and generosity becomes a natural response. We share our time,



talents, and treasures because they reflect the heart of God alive in us.

So before deciding what to give, begin with prayer. Ask God to guide you into generosity that comes from a living, growing relationship—and watch how that relationship transforms your giving and your life.

For more information, visit [www.Bethany-Denver.org/UnitedInFaith](http://www.Bethany-Denver.org/UnitedInFaith)