

BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH

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The Last Supper



Maundy Thursday

7:00pm April 2, 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.

✠ Gathering ✠

PRELUDE

Chimes will sound to indicate the beginning of worship.

WELCOME

Deacon Debra Alba

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Friends in Christ, in this Lenten season we have heard our Lord's call to be reconciled and restored. Within the community of the church, God never wearies of forgiving sin and giving the peace of reconciliation. On this night let us confess our sin against God and our neighbor, and enter the celebration of the great Three Days reconciled with God and with one another.

You may kneel as you are able or remain standing. Silence is kept for reflection.

Most merciful God,

we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

Amen.

APOSTLES' CREED

The Great Three Days of Holy Week are seen as the core of our spirituality. In these stories and rituals we encounter the very heart of our Christian faith. And yet, our questions and doubts still persist as we walk this earthly pilgrimage. Let us confess our faith together now, trusting that the Holy Spirit carries us even in our unbelief.

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.

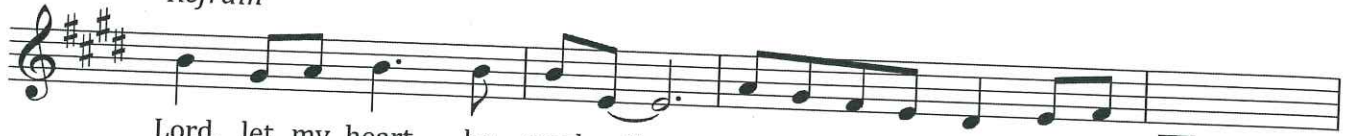
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil

Refrain



Lord, let my heart be good soil, o - pen to the seed of your word.



Lord, let my heart be good soil, where love can grow and peace is un - der - stood.



1. When my heart is hard,	break the stone a - way.	When my heart is cold,
2. Take and eat, He said,	bro - ken in my stead,	Drink and be made new,
3. Bo - dy giv - en whole,	bread to feed my soul,	Cup is raised on high,



warm it with the day.	When my heart is lost,	lead me on your way.
cov - e - nant so true;	Bread is torn and shared,	love be - yond com - pare.
grace will nev - er die.	Sin is washed a - way,	night turns in - to day.



Lord, let my heart,	Lord, let my heart,	Lord, let my heart	be good soil.
Lord, let my heart,	Lord, let my heart,	Lord, let my heart	be good soil.
Lord, let my heart,	Lord, let my heart,	Lord, let my heart	be good soil.

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.

Pastor Nate Preisinger

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Holy God, source of all love, on the night of his betrayal, Jesus gave us a new commandment, to love one another as he loves us. Write this commandment in our hearts, and give us the will to serve others as he was the servant of all, your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

ANTHEM

Laura Tribby, soprano

Lead Me, Lord

G. F. Handel, arr. Carl Fredrickson

Lead me, Lord, lead me evermore. Lead me in thy righteousness now and evermore.
 Let thy love, thy tender mercies be upon me, for thy law is my delight.
 Quicken me in thy lovingkindness.
 Teach me, Lord, the way of thy statutes.
 Teach me, Lord, all thy commandments, for thy law is my delight.
 I shall praise thee now and evermore.

✠ Word ✠

READING

Psalm 116: 1-2, 12-19

Deacon Debra Alba

- ¹ I love the LORD, who has heard my voice, and listened to my supplication,
² **for the LORD has given ear to me whenever I called.**
- ¹² How shall I repay the LORD for all the good things God has done for me?
¹³ **I will lift the cup of salvation and call on the name of the LORD.**
- ¹⁴ I will fulfill my vows to the LORD in the presence of all God's people.
¹⁵ **Precious in your sight, O LORD, is the death of your servants.**
- ¹⁶ O LORD, truly I am your servant;
I am your servant, the child of your handmaid; you have freed me from my bonds.
¹⁷ **I will offer you the sacrifice of thanksgiving and call upon the name of the LORD.**
- ¹⁸ I will fulfill my vows to the LORD in the presence of all God's people,
¹⁹ **in the courts of the LORD's house, in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.**

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

GOSPEL

Matthew 26:26-29

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

- ²⁶ While they were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to the disciples, and said "Take, eat; this is my body." ²⁷ Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; ²⁸ for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. ²⁹ I tell you, I will never again drink of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom."

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

SERMON

Pastor Gary Sandberg

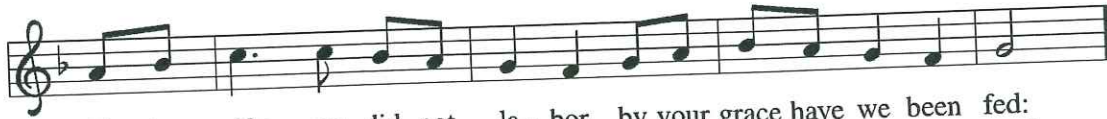
HYMN OF THE DAY

By Your Hand You Feed Your People

ELW #469



1 By your hand you feed your peo - ple, food of an - gels, heav-en's bread.
2 In this meal we taste your sweet-ness, bread for hun - ger, wine of peace.
3 Send us now with faith and cour - age to the hun - gry, lost, be - reaved.



For these gifts we did not la - bor, by your grace have we been fed:
Ho - ly word and ho - ly wis - dom sat - is - fy our deep - est needs.
In our liv - ing and our dy - ing, we be - come what we re - ceive:



Christ's own bod - y, blessed and bro - ken, cup o'er - flow - ing, life out - poured,



giv - en as a liv - ing to - ken of your world re - deemed, re - stored.

Text: Susan R. Briehl, b. 1952
Music: CAMROSE, Marty Haugen, b. 1950
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Pastor Nate Preisinger

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

SHARING OF THE PEACE

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

Please share a sign of peace with others around you.

✠ Meal ✠

SONG OF PREPARATION

Come to the Table

ELW #481



Come to the ta - ble of mer - cy, pre - pared with the wine and the bread.



All who are hun - gry and thirst - y, come, and your souls will be fed.



Come at the Lord's in - vi - ta - tion; re - ceive from his nail - scarred hand.



Eat of the bread of sal - va - tion; drink of the blood of the Lamb.

CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

Pastor Nate Preisinger

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 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.

THE 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. A - men.

COMMUNION MUSIC

Laura Tribby, soprano

Panis Angelicus

César Franck

*Panis Angelicus fit panis hominum
Dat panis coelicus figuris terminum
O res mirabilis! Manducat Dominum
Pauper, pauper, servus et humilis*

The angel's bread becomes the bread of men
The heavenly bread ends all symbols
Oh, miraculous thing! The body of the Lord will nourish
The poor and humble servant



1 Here is bread, here is wine, Christ is with us, he is with us.
 2 Here is grace, here is peace, Christ is with us, he is with us.
 3 Here we are, joined in one, Christ is with us, he is with us.



Break the bread, taste the wine, Christ is with us here.
 Know his grace, find his peace, feast on Je - sus here.
 We'll pro - claim till he comes Je - sus cru - ci - fied.



In this bread there is heal - ing, in this cup is life for - ev - er.



In this mo - ment, by the Spir - it, Christ is with us here.

Text: Graham Kendrick, b. 1950

Music: Graham Kendrick

Text and music © 1991 Make Way Music, admin. by Music Services in the Western Hemisphere

HERE IS BREAD

33 4 4 33 5 and refrain

TABLE BLESSING

READING

Matthew 26:30-39

Pastor Gary Sandberg

³⁰When they had sung the hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. ³¹Then Jesus said to them, "You will all become deserters because of me this night; for it is written, 'I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.'" ³²But after I am raised up, I will go ahead of you to Galilee."

³³Peter said to him, "Though all become deserters because of you, I will never desert you." ³⁴Jesus said to him, "Truly I tell you, this very night, before the cock crows, you will deny me three times." ³⁵Peter said to him, "Even though I must die with you, I will not deny you." And so said all the disciples. ³⁶Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples, "Sit here while I go over there and pray." ³⁷He took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be grieved and agitated. ³⁸Then he said to them, "I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and stay awake with me." ³⁹And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed, "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet not what I want but what you want."

POSTLUDE

The service continues on Good Friday at 12:00pm and 7:00pm.

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!



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.