



# TURNING TO SPRING

## FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

March 31, 2019

### Welcome to Bethel Lutheran Church

#### YOUR PASTORS

**Pastor Christine Core**

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**Pastor Terry Moe**

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We are glad you are here and we pray God will be real to you as you worship. Bethel is a Reconciling in Christ congregation. Knowing God loves all creation and holds us all, we welcome you who walk through our doors and you who are outside those doors. We welcome everyone and honor the rich diversity and giftedness that age, sexual orientation, race, belief, emotional and physical health, gender identity, marital status and station in life bring to the Bethel family and our relationships.

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## Prelude

# WE GATHER TOGETHER

## Welcome

## Call to Worship

## Prayer of Confession and Forgiveness

God has set before us life and death. The choice is ours.  
Let us acknowledge our misuse of the liberty of choice. Let us pray.

—*silent prayer*—

Let us ask to be forgiven for the times when we have chosen badly,  
opting for the easy way of habit and social convention,  
rather than the higher and harder ways of Jesus.

**Let us confess that sometimes our choices have been made  
from rank selfishness, with scant concern for those around us,  
even for those who love us dearly.**

Let us ask to be forgiven for putting off decisions,  
for dithering and avoiding choice until opportunity has gone by.

**Let us confess that we have at times made outwardly good decisions for the wrong reasons,  
driven by selfish motives.**

Holy God, Savior and Friend, we thank you that long before we face up to ourselves  
and frame our confessions, your mercy in Jesus is here waiting for us.

We rest our mortal lives in your immortal Life, allowing your grace, mercy and peace  
to cleanse, refresh and straighten us.

Restrooms are located in the basement on the east side of the building. A gender neutral restroom located behind the worship space next to the church office. Please ask the Usher or Greeter for assistance. There is also a rocking chair in the rear of the Sanctuary. Please use it as you wish.

**Breathe into our humanity, loving God, that we may fully live.**

Please breathe your Spirit in our brains,  
that our decision making may be pure and wise.

**Breathe your Spirit on our lips,  
that our speech may witness to life and light and holy joy.**

Breathe your Spirit on our hands,  
that in their busyness they may serve you before all else.

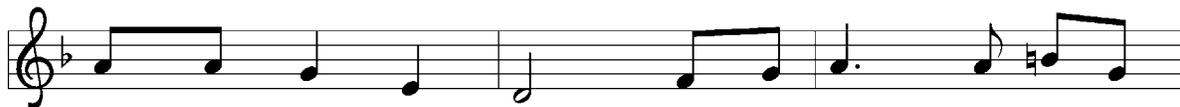
**Breathe your Spirit on our feet, that we may tread this earth with gentleness and respect.  
Through Christ Jesus, our liberator.  
Amen**

## Opening Hymn

## Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery



1 Tree of Life and awe - some mys - t'ry, in your  
2 We re - mem - ber truth once spo - ken, love passed  
3 Christ, you lead and we shall fol - low, stum - bling



death we are re - born; though you die in all of  
on through act and word; ev - 'ry per - son lost and  
though our steps may be; one with you in joy and



his - t'ry, still you rise with ev - 'ry morn, still you  
bro - ken wears the bod - y of our Lord, wears the  
sor - row, we the riv - er, you the sea, we the



rise with ev - 'ry morn.  
bod - y of our Lord.  
riv - er, you the sea.

### *Lent 4*

Give us eyes to see you clearly;  
make us children of your light.  
Give us hearts to live more nearly  
as your gospel shining bright.

## Greeting

The grace of Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.  
**And also with you.**

## Hymn

### *As the Sun with Longer Journey*



1 As the sun with long - er jour - ney melts the win - ter's snow and ice,  
2 Through the days of wait - ing, watch - ing, in the des - ert of our sin,  
3 Praise be giv - en to the mak - er of the sea - sons' year - ly round:



with its slow - ly grow - ing ra - diance warms the seed be - neath the earth,  
search - ing on the far ho - ri - zon for a sign of cloud or wind,  
Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Spir - it—Source, Sus - tain - er, Lord of life,



may the sun of Christ's up - ris - ing gent - ly bring our hearts to life.  
we a - wait the heal - ing wa - ters of our Sav - ior's vic - to - ry.  
as the ev - er turn - ing a - ges roll to their e - ter - nal rest.

## Prayer of the Day

**Father in Heaven,  
the light of your truth bestows sight  
to the darkness of sinful eyes.  
May this season of repentance  
bring us the blessing of Your forgiveness  
and the gift of Your light.  
Grant this through Christ our Lord.**

*International Committee on English in the Liturgy (ICEL)*

# WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

## First Reading

*Joshua 5:9-12*

The Lord said to Joshua, "Today I have rolled away from you the disgrace of Egypt." And so that place is called Gilgal to this day.

While the Israelites were camped in Gilgal they kept the passover in the evening on the fourteenth day of the month in the plains of Jericho. On the day after the passover, on that very day, they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. The manna ceased on the day they ate the produce of the land, and the Israelites no longer had manna; they ate the crops of the land of Canaan that year.

P: Hear the Word of God.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

## Second Reading

*In Just Spring, by e.e. cummings*

in Just-  
spring when the world is mud-  
luscious the little  
lame balloonman  
  
whistles far and wee  
  
and eddieandbill come  
running from marbles and  
piracies and it's  
spring  
  
when the world is puddle-wonderful  
  
the queer  
old balloonman whistles  
far and wee  
and bettyandisbel come dancing  
  
from hop-sotch and jump-rope and  
  
it's  
spring  
and  
  
the  
  
goat-footed  
  
balloonMan whistles  
far  
and  
wee



## Gospel Acclamation



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and mer - ci - ful,



slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

## The Holy Gospel according to John the ninth chapter.

### **True Blindness**

**John 9:1-41**

#### **Narrator:**

Walking down the street, Jesus saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked, "Rabbi, who sinned: this man or his parents, causing him to be born blind?"

#### **Men:**

Jesus said, "You're asking the wrong question. You're looking for someone to blame. There is no such cause-effect here. Look instead for what God can do. We need to be energetically at work for the One who sent me here, working while the sun shines. When night falls, the workday is over. For as long as I am in the world, there is plenty of light. I am the world's Light."

#### **Narrator:**

He said this and then spit in the dust, made a clay paste with the saliva, rubbed the paste on the blind man's eyes, and said, "Go, wash at the Pool of Siloam" (Siloam means "Sent"). The man went and washed—and saw.

#### **Women:**

Soon the town was buzzing. His relatives and those who year after year had seen him as a blind man begging were saying, "Why, isn't this the man we knew, who sat here and begged?"

Others said, "It's him all right!"

#### **Men:**

But others objected, "It's not the same man at all. It just looks like him."

He said, "It's me, the very one."

They said, "How did your eyes get opened?"

#### **Women:**

"A man named Jesus made a paste and rubbed it on my eyes and told me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' I did what he said. When I washed, I saw."

"So where is he?"

#### **Men:**

"I don't know."

**Narrator:**

They marched the man to the Pharisees. This day when Jesus made the paste and healed his blindness was the Sabbath. The Pharisees grilled him again on how he had come to see. He said, "He put a clay paste on my eyes, and I washed, and now I see."

**Men:**

Some of the Pharisees said, "Obviously, this man can't be from God. He doesn't keep the Sabbath."

**Women:**

Others countered, "How can a bad man do miraculous, God-revealing things like this?" There was a split in their ranks.

**Narrator:**

They came back at the blind man, "You're the expert. He opened your eyes. What do you say about him?"

**Women:**

He said, "He is a prophet."

**Narrator:**

The Jews didn't believe it, didn't believe the man was blind to begin with. So they called the parents of the man now bright-eyed with sight. They asked them, "Is this your son, the one you say was born blind? So how is it that he now sees?"

**Men:**

His parents said, "We know he is our son, and we know he was born blind. But we don't know how he came to see—haven't a clue about who opened his eyes. Why don't you ask him? He's a grown man and can speak for himself." (His parents were talking like this because they were intimidated by the Jewish leaders, who had already decided that anyone who took a stand that this was the Messiah would be kicked out of the meeting place. That's why his parents said, "Ask him. He's a grown man.")

**Narrator:**

They called the man back a second time—the man who had been blind—and told him, "Give credit to God. We know this man is an impostor."

**Women:**

He replied, "I know nothing about that one way or the other. But I know one thing for sure: I was blind . . . I now see."

**Narrator:**

They said, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?"

**Men:**

"I've told you over and over and you haven't listened. Why do you want to hear it again? Are you so eager to become his disciples?"

**Women:**

With that they jumped all over him. "You might be a disciple of that man, but we're disciples of Moses. We know for sure that God spoke to Moses, but we have no idea where this man even comes from."

**Men:**

The man replied, "This is amazing! You claim to know nothing about him, but the fact is, he opened my eyes! It's well known that God isn't at the beck and call of sinners, but listens carefully to anyone who lives in reverence and does his will. That someone opened the eyes of a man born blind has never been heard of—ever. If this man didn't come from God, he wouldn't be able to do anything."

**Women:**

They said, "You're nothing but dirt! How dare you take that tone with us!" Then they threw him out in the street.

**Men:**

Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, and went and found him. He asked him, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?"

**Narrator:**

The man said, "Point him out to me, sir, so that I can believe in him."

**Women:**

Jesus said, "You're looking right at him. Don't you recognize my voice?"

**Men:**

"Master, I believe," the man said, and worshiped him.

**Women:**

Jesus then said, "I came into the world to bring everything into the clear light of day, making all the distinctions clear, so that those who have never seen will see, and those who have made a great pretense of seeing will be exposed as blind."

**Narrator**

Some Pharisees overheard him and said, "Does that mean you're calling us blind?"

**Men:**

Jesus said, "If you were really blind, you would be blameless, but since you claim to see everything so well, you're accountable for every fault and failure."

*The Message (MSG)*

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## Children's Story Sermon

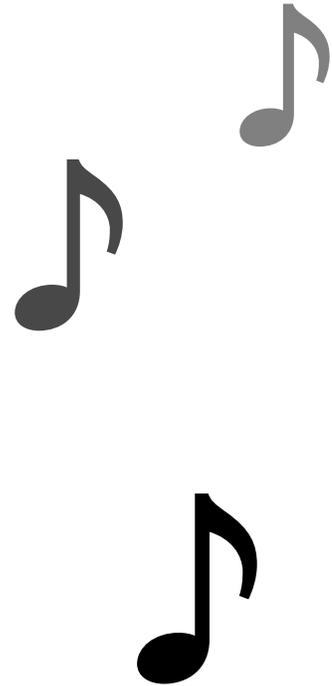
## Presentation of the Word:

*“You”re Calling Us Blind?, Pastor Moe*

## Hymn of the Day

- 1 Amazing grace! how sweet the sound  
that saved a wretch like me!  
I once was lost, but now am found;  
was blind, but now I see.
- 2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,  
and grace my fears relieved;  
how precious did that grace appear  
the hour I first believed!
- 3 Through many dangers, toils, and snares  
I have already come;  
'tis grace has brought me safe thus far,  
and grace will lead me home.
- 4 The Lord has promised good to me;  
his word my hope secures;  
he will my shield and portion be  
as long as life endures.
- 5 When we've been there ten thousand years,  
bright shining as the sun,  
we've no less days to sing God's praise  
than when we'd first begun.

## Amazing Grace



*Text: John Newton, 1725-1807, alt., sts. 1-4; anonymous, st. 5*

## Prayers of the People

- Candles
- Baptismal Font
- Rocks (areas of blindness)
- Prayer with Another (at chairs pulpit side)
- Prayers for the World (at icon of Archbishop Romero)
- Anointing (front in center aisle)
- Intentions (Blindness we confess, roll up and place in chickenwire)

## Prayer Stations

## Sharing of the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you**

Our welcome extends to the Communion Table. We recognize that this is Christ's Table and Christ's invitation. Please come forward as you are invited. If you prefer not to receive Communion at this time, you are welcome to come forward for a blessing – just fold your arms across your chest so that we know you prefer a blessing. Wine is served from the first chalice; grape juice is served from the second. We also offer gluten-free bread and individual cups of wine.

# WE CELEBRATE THE MEAL

## Offering

## Offering Music

## Offering Prayer

God of the wilderness, We give these offerings in gratitude,  
**rejoicing in the abundance of your gifts to us.**

We give these offerings in faith,  
**trusting that you will provide for our needs.**

We give these offerings in hope,  
**knowing you can use them to spread your love in this world.**

And with these offerings, we give ourselves;  
**May we live with generous hearts, with open hands.**  
**Amen**

## Words of Institution

## 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.



# Lamb of God

*Congregation:* *Congregation or Assistant:*

Lamb of God,      you take a - way the sin of the  
\* you break the chains of ha - tred and  
you are the way of jus - tice and  
you are the way of mer - cy and

*Congregation:*

world:  
fear:            have mer - cy on us,      mer - cy on us,  
peace:  
love:

*Final time Cong. or assistant:*

mer - cy on us.                      Lamb of God,      you

*Congregation:*

take a - way the sins of the world:                      grant us peace,

grant us peace,      grant us peace.

## Invitation to Communion

Speak to us, O God, in the breaking of the bread and make us one with you.

## Communion Distribution

Christ has prepared the feast. Come to the table where all are welcomed home.

During the distribution of Holy Communion, you may wish to light a candle, place your prayer intention into the frame at the front of the Sanctuary, or come to the prayer station for personal prayer or anointing.

## Communion Hymn

## Thy Holy Wings



1 Thy ho - ly wings, O Sav - ior, spread gent - ly o - ver me,  
2 Oh, let me nes - tle near thee, with - in thy down - y breast  
3 Oh, wash me in the wa - ters of No - ah's cleans - ing flood.



and let me rest se - cure - ly through good and ill in thee.  
where I will find sweet com - fort and peace with - in thy nest.  
Give me a will - ing spir - it, a heart both clean and good.



Oh, be my strength and por - tion, my rock and hid - ing place,  
Oh, close thy wings a - round me and keep me safe - ly there,  
Oh, take in - to thy keep - ing thy chil - dren great and small,



and let my ev - 'ry mo - ment be lived with - in thy grace.  
for I am but a new - born and need thy ten - der care.  
and while we sweet - ly slum - ber, en - fold us one and all.

## Post-Communion Blessing

### Prayer After Communion

Tender and merciful one, at your feast, you fed us who brought nothing, turning out emptiness into joy. Filled with your abundant grace, send us now with to be ministers of reconciliation, mending broken hearts, working for justice, and striving for peace among all people, in the name of Jesus Christ.

Amen

# WE ARE SENT IN JESUS' LOVE

Announcements

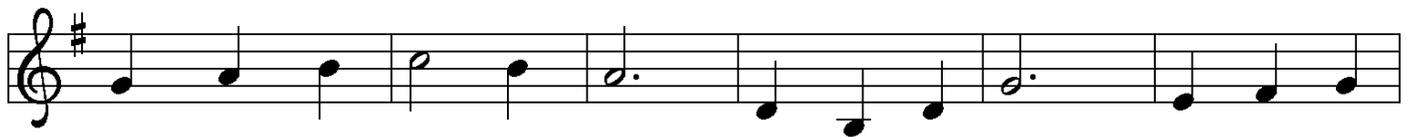
Blessing

Sending Hymn

*Drawn to the Light*



1 Peo - ple who walk in dark - ness have sought a light in the  
2 How can we tell a heav - en from hell if ev - 'ry - one  
3 Where is the sun? Oh, there will be none! The Lamb is the



heart of the dark - est night. Just when we thought all would be  
dwells in the dark of night? Morn - ing dis - pels, gent - ly com -  
one who is shin - ing bright, bids us to come! Life has be -



lost, we were drawn to the light of God.  
pels, and we're drawn to the light of God.  
gun when we're drawn to the light of God.

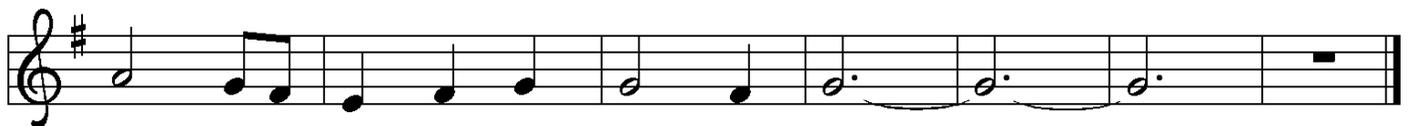
*Refrain*



Dawn is in sight! Gone is the night, drawn to the



light and the morn - ing. Glo - rious and bright, oh, what a



sight to be drawn to the light of God.

**Dismissal**

Go in peace. You are God's hands in the world.

**Thanks be to God.**

<b>Prayer Requested For:</b>	<b>Prayer Concern:</b>	<b>Prayer Contact:</b>
For the people of New Zealand and our Muslim siblings everywhere	Assurance of God's Love	Staff
Those affected by political and racial discord.	Prayers of peace.	Staff
Jan Kimble	Prayers for healing and effective treatment for breast cancer.	Tammy Gover
Richard VanDyke	Prayers for healing and peace.	Jim VanDyke
Pepe Rochon	Prayers for healing and comfort.	Faith St. John
Barbara Horne	Prayers of healing and comfort.	Tammy Gover
Steve Stoner	Prayers of healing and comfort.	Staff
<b>Our prayers continue for many among us:</b> for Bertha Anderson, Timothy Collins, Elizabeth, Rob, Jacob Bard, Miles Bard, Annalu Lingnau, Ben Lingnau, Jr., Ben Lingnau III, David Lingnau, Mary Rix, Patricia Connor, Lori Fields.		



<b>Stewardship of Service</b>	<b>Today - Mar 31</b>	<b>Next Week - Apr 7</b>
Ministers:	All Baptized Members of Bethel	All Baptized Members of Bethel
Pastor:	Pr. Christine Core	Pr. Christine Core
Pastor:	Pr. Terry Moe	Pr. Terry Moe
Music Director:	LeAnn Michaels	LeAnn Michaels
Musician		Cate Milburn
Usher:		
Reader:		
Communion:		
Preparation of the Altar:		



## Coming Up:

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- April 1** | Food Ministry Meeting, 6 pm
- April 2** | Youth Drop-In Center Board Meeting, 6:30 pm
- April 2** | SAVE COLUMBIA POOL, 6:30pm to 8:30pm, IRCO Main Office – Gym, 10301 NE Glisan Street, Portland, OR 97220
- April 6** | Hygiene Program

### For the future:

- April 27** | EPIC Get to Know You and Fundraising Bash, 2-5 pm. Save the date and watch for more, much more, information
- TBD** | Special Congregational Party, details soon
- April 28** | Congregational Council Meeting following Worship – postponed one week; Easter falls on our regularly scheduled meeting date
- June 1** | De-escalation Training, 9:30 am – 12:30 pm for all interested

## Other News

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### Our Lenten Prayers

Here at Bethel, we are offering a couple of opportunities during Lent to deepen our spiritual lives.

We invite you to light a candle, whenever you are moved to do so – for example at the beginning of the service during the Prelude music, during the time of Confession and Forgiveness, Offering, or the Distribution of Communion. We will also have a station for individual blessing and prayer during Holy Communion. On Sunday, the First Sunday in Lent, you will see a large frame with chicken wire stretched in the frame. There will be a supply of paper (purple) with a space for writing a prayer; something that is resting on your heart. When you are ready, you are invited to write your thoughts and prayers on the paper, roll it up and place it in one of the holes of the chicken wire. We will be collecting your prayers in this way during the entirety of Lent.

### Holy Week Schedule

- **Palm Sunday Worship** – Sunday, April 14, 10 am
- **Seder Dinner** – Thursday, April 18, dinner served at 6:30 pm. Many thanks to our head chefs, Ronda Bard and Nash Ababu. Sous chefs and other helpers will be recruited! If you'd like to help, give us a call.
- **Good Friday Service** – Friday, April 19, 7 pm – Meditations on the seven last words of Jesus.
- **Holy Saturday Vigil** – planned by the Confirmation Students – a bit child-oriented, but a special time for all. A simple supper follows.
- **Easter Worship** – Sunday, April 21, 10 am followed by an Easter Egg Hunt. Many thanks to Tammy Gover and her family for organizing the Easter Egg Hunt.
- **New Congregational Picture on Easter Sunday** – Jason Kaplan (Summer's spouse) will be taking a new Congregational picture. The last one we have seems to have Sofia Carpenter-Rodriguez in about second grade and I don't think Gabe Moody-Burghard is walking yet! It's time!

## Joann Noll's Mission Trip to Honduras

During six clinics set up in school classrooms in six different villages near Las Vegas, Santa Barbara, Honduras, a group of Americans and Hondurans served people with 540 dentist visits, 894 doctor visits, 309 women's health exams, reading and sunglasses, vitamins, parasite meds for everyone who needed them and lots of medications provided in the pharmacy where I helped. Food, clothing and shoes were left behind for teachers to distribute to the neediest families. Any referrals for people needing further care or treatment are paid for by the Washington Overseas Mission, including transportation for the individual and that person's family. For 27 years, this mission has provided medical/dental services and construction of buildings. It also inspired Primero Agua, a group that drills wells to provide safe water for small communities.

Although there did not appear to be a lot of malnutrition in children, tooth decay was extremely common. Sugary beverages often replace water for families who do not have clean water. Adults of various ages experience diabetes and high blood pressure. Anxiety and depression are sometimes the result of domestic violence. One woman was given money for bus tickets for herself and her children to leave her husband and go to her parents' home far away. We hope that she was successful. Although the mountain air is clear, poorer families cook indoors with wood on makeshift stoves and no ventilation. This is likely the cause of some of the asthma that is seen.

This mission is effective largely because it is a collaborative effort between the Honduran Dr. Raul Ugarte (who is also the mayor of Pimienta), his extended family and staff, and some Americans who learned quickly to follow the lead of the people they seek to serve. It was an honor to be part of this mission.

## Parsonage Fundraising

**THANK YOU!** Thank you to Bethel members and the Bethel Players who have contributed generously to the Parsonage Remodel Project. Based on our excellent fund raising so far, Mission Investment Fund has granted Bethel a loan in the amount of \$100,000!

**STATUS OF PROJECT** As you may all know, the construction contract for the much needed remodel is \$115,412. This remodel gives us a new kitchen,

**FUNDRAISING FOR THE PROJECT** Everyone has the capacity to give something according to their means, although we know not everyone can give an equal amount. We do encourage everyone to consider their gift. Does a donation of the price of a latte every week fit your budget? That's a precious gift of \$190 over a year's time.

**OUR GOALS** Clearly, the project will cost more than the granted loan, so we have a two part goal. Our fundraising must make up the difference between the actual cost and the loan; and two we need to pay back the loan. The anticipated rent from the newly refreshed and updated parsonage will help pay back the loan. The loan balance can be paid over a maximum of 10 years.

## Cabaret and Cabernet 2019 | May 18, Saturday 6 pm

**Save the date! Reserve your tickets now!**

Join us for a festive evening of fun and fundraising for the Bethel Youth Drop-in Center. \$20 for individual ticket or \$150 for a table. Email [bethel@bethelutheran](mailto:bethel@bethelutheran) for reservations.



## Decorating for Easter

We will be adorning our worship area again this Easter season with tulips, daffodils and other seasonal flowers. We will also place a few pots of lilies. For many, the beautiful trumpet-shaped white flowers of the Easter Lily symbolize purity, virtue, innocence, hope and life... the spiritual essence of Easter.

If you would like to remembering or honoring Loved Ones with the purchase of Easter flowers, please print out this form, complete it and put it in the Offering Plate with your payment. Please complete order form along with payment to church office by Sunday, April 14. Checks should be made to: Bethel Lutheran Church and indicate Easter Flowers

Flowers may be given in memory of departed loved ones, in honor of someone, or simply in thanksgiving for particular blessings. The names will appear in the bulletin for Easter, April 21. The cost of each bunch of flowers or a lily is \$12.

Please complete this order form along with payment to the church office **by Sunday, April 14<sup>th</sup>**. **Checks should be made to:** Bethel Lutheran Church and *indicate flowers*.

**Name and phone of purchaser:** \_\_\_\_\_

**I would like to order** \_\_\_\_\_ [quantity] **@ \$12 each, Total of \$** \_\_\_\_\_

**Please PRINT as you would like to appear in bulletin.**

**In Memory of** \_\_\_\_\_ **By** \_\_\_\_\_

**In Memory of** \_\_\_\_\_ **By** \_\_\_\_\_

**In Honor of** \_\_\_\_\_ **By** \_\_\_\_\_

**In Honor of** \_\_\_\_\_ **By** \_\_\_\_\_

