



Fourth Sunday During Lent

Worship with Holy Communion

March 10, 2024

Welcome to Bethel Lutheran Church



We are glad you are here, and we pray God will be real to you as you worship with us. Bethel is a Reconciling in Christ congregation; therefore, we invite all people, including those of all races, ethnicities, gender identities and expressions, sexual orientations, ages, economic levels, and abilities. God loves all creation and holds us all, so we welcome you who walk through our doors and you who are outside those doors. We honor and appreciate the rich diversity of age, sexual orientation, race, belief, emotional and physical health, gender identity and expression, marital status and station in life bring to the Bethel family and our relationships. We commit ourselves to embracing the work of anti-racism, social and economic justice, and environmental care.

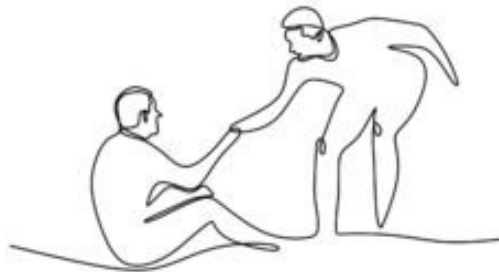
Communion - We will celebrate Holy Communion together via Zoom, as well as gathered in person. Please have bread/cracker(s) and a cup of wine/grape juice ready if you and those with you would like to participate. If you do not have access to wine or grape juice, you may receive Communion without the cup—Christ is present in the bread, as Jesus said, “I am the Bread of Life.” (John 6:35)

GATHERING

Prelude

Precious Lord, Take My Hand

By Thomas A. Dorsey



Restrooms are located in the basement on the east side of the building. An all gender restroom is 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.

Address 5658 North Denver Avenue • **Portland, Oregon** 97217 • **Email** bethel@bethelpdx.org • **Website** www.bethelpdx.org

Confession

Please stand in body or spirit

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who writes the law on our hearts,
who draws all people together through Jesus.

Amen.

Held in God's mercy, let us confess our sin
in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy God,

**we confess that we are caught in snares of sin
and cannot break free.**

**We hoard resources while our neighbors
are hungry and cold.**

We speak in ways that silence others.

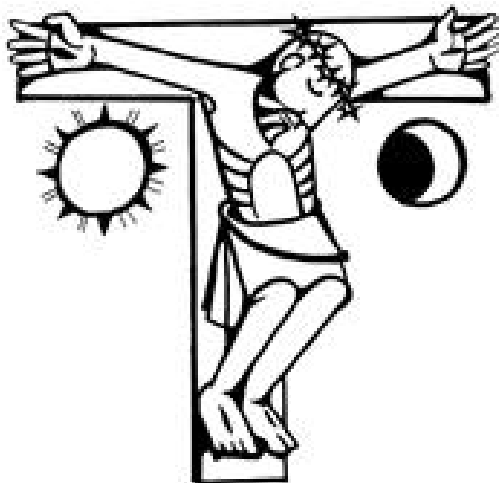
We are silent when we should speak up.

We keep score in our hearts.

We let hurts grow into hatred.

**For all these things and for sins only you know,
forgive us, Lord.**

Amen.



Gathering Song of Praise *Lord Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word*



1 Lord, keep us stead - fast in your word; curb those who
2 Lord Je - sus Christ, your pow'r make known, for you are
3 O Com - fort - er of price - less worth, send peace and



by de - ceit or sword would wrest the king - dom from your Son
Lord of lords a - lone; de - fend your ho - ly church, that we
u - ni - ty on earth; sup - port us in our fi - nal strife



and bring to naught all he has done.
may sing your praise e - ter - nal - ly.
and lead us out of death to life.

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.
Music: ERHALT UNS, HERR, J. Klug, *Geistliche Lieder*, 1543

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray together:

O God, rich in mercy, by the humiliation of your Son you lifted up this fallen world and rescued us from the hopelessness of death. Lead us into your light, that all our deeds may reflect your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Please be seated

WORD

Scripture Reading

Numbers 21:4-9

A reading from Numbers

⁴From Mount Hor [the Israelites] set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. ⁵The people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food." ⁶Then the Lord sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. ⁷The people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned by speaking against the Lord and against you; pray to the Lord to take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. ⁸And the Lord said to Moses, "Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live." ⁹So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

Word of God, Word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

Scripture Reading

Ephesians 2:1-10

A reading from Ephesians

¹You were dead through the trespasses and sins ²in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. ³All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. ⁴But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us ⁵even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—⁶and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God—⁹not the result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

Word of God, Word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation

Please stand in body or spirit



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



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

Gospel Reading

John 3:14-21

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

[Jesus said:] ¹⁴“Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

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

¹⁷“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. ¹⁸Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. ¹⁹And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. ²⁰For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. ²¹But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.”

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

Please be seated

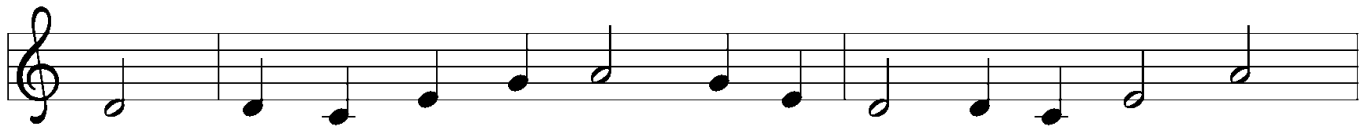
Children's Time

Sermon



Hymn of the Day

What Wondrous Love is This?



1 What won-drous love is this, O my soul, O my soul! What
2 When I was sink - ing down, sink - ing down, sink - ing down, when
3 To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing; to
4 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on; and



won - drous love is this, O my soul! What won-drous love is this
I was sink - ing down, sink - ing down, when I was sink - ing down
God and to the Lamb I will sing; to God and to the Lamb,
when from death I'm free, I'll sing on; and when from death I'm free,



that caused the Lord of bliss to bear the dread-ful curse for my
be - neath God's righ-teous frown, Christ laid a - side his crown for my
who is the great I AM, while mil - lions join the theme, I will
I'll sing God's love for me, and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing



soul, for my soul, to bear the dread-ful curse for my soul?
soul, for my soul, Christ laid a - side his crown for my soul.
sing, I will sing, while mil - lions join the theme, I will sing.
on, I'll sing on; and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing on.

Text: North American folk hymn, 19th cent., alt.

Music: WONDROUS LOVE, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

Please stand in body or spirit

Prayers of Intercession

The response to each prayer is: Hear us O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Sharing of Peace — *Take time to share the peace on Zoom and in person. You may be seated when sharing of peace is concluded.*

COMMUNION MEAL

For those worshipping virtually, please gather your bread and wine to participate in Holy Communion.

Offering

You may use one of our options for giving: Venmo @BethelLutheran-Church phone # digits 6064, Paypal, see our website bethelpdx.org for link, online at: <http://bethelpdx.org/donate> Additionally you may donate by mail or, if worshipping in-person, use the offering plate in the back of the sanctuary. Thank you for supporting the many ministries of Bethel!

Offering Prayer

Let us pray.

**Jesus, you are the bread of life
and the host of this meal.**

**Bless these gifts that we have gathered
that all people may know your goodness.**

**Feed us not only with this holy food
but with hunger for justice and peace.**

We pray this in your name.

Amen.

Great Thanksgiving

Please stand in body or spirit

The Lord be with you.

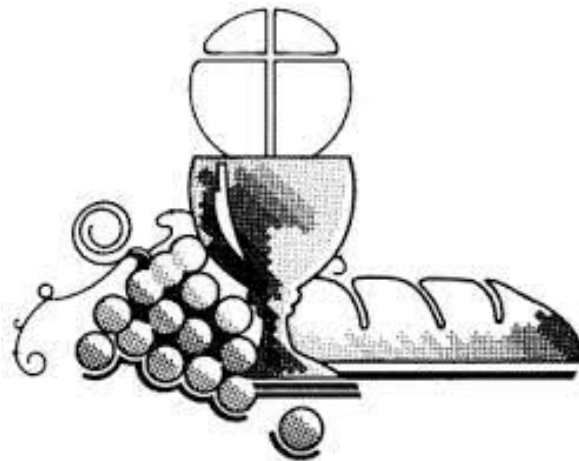
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

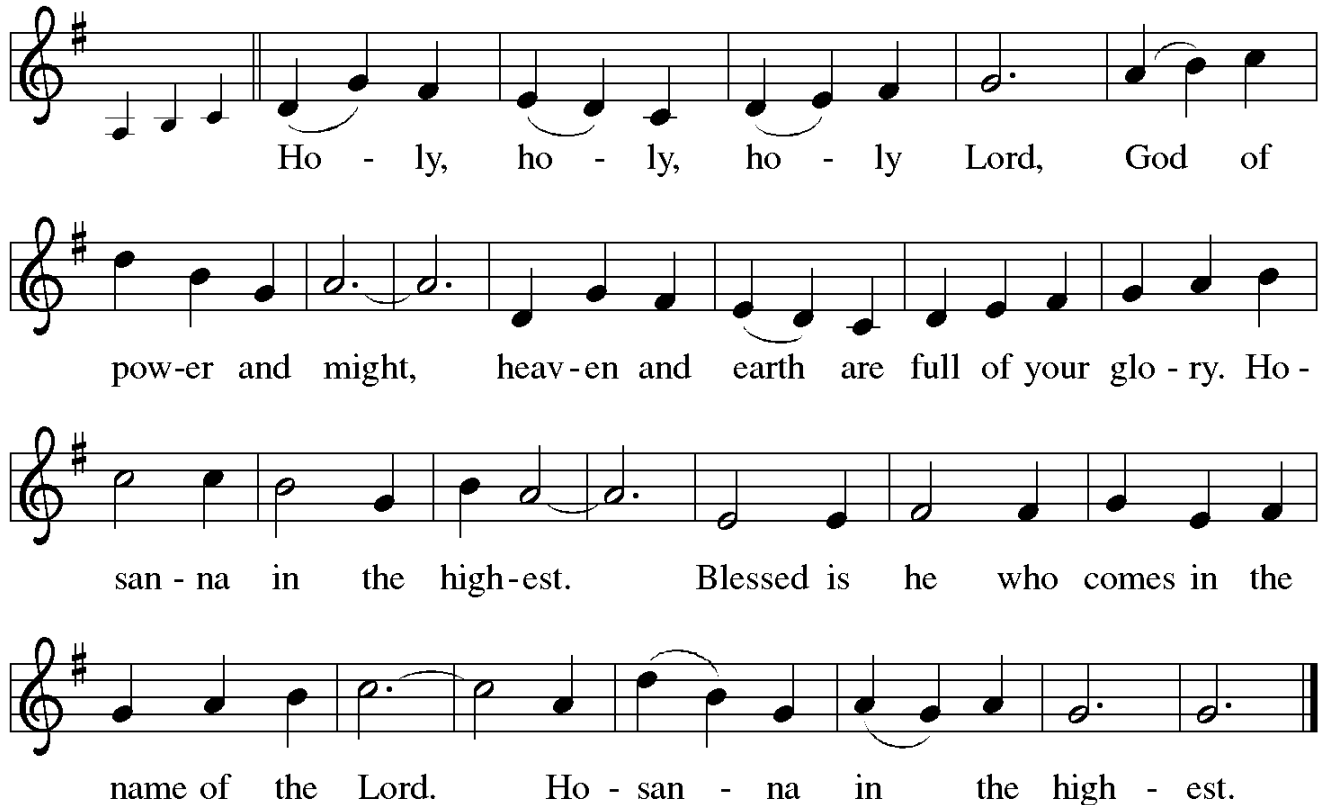
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.



The Thanksgiving continues with the preface for the season.



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

*The presiding minister continues with the Thanksgiving at the Table. At the end, all say: **Amen.***

The Lord's Prayer

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is 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.

Please be seated

Sharing the Bread and Cup

Communion Music

Venetian Boat Song, No. 2

By Felix Mendelssohn

SENDING

Announcements

Blessing

Beloved,
 we are God's own people,
 holy, washed, renewed.
 God bless you and keep you,
 shower you with mercy,
 fill you with courage,
 and ☩ give you peace.
Amen.

Sending Songs

Essercizi per gravicembalo, K. 1
 By Domenico Scarlatti

The Sending.

Go in peace. Share your bread.
Thanks be to God.



Stewardship of Service	This week – Mar. 10, 2024	Next week – Mar. 17, 2024
Ministers	All Baptized Members of Bethel	All Baptized Members of Bethel
Pastor	Pastor Leon LaCross	Pastor Leon LaCross
Musician /Music Director	Jenny Peterson	Shlomo Farber
Reader	TBD	TBD
Zoom Host	Joann Noll	Volunteer needed!

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Pray For:

Pray for the people in Israel, Palestine, and all of the Middle East as they suffer war, violence, terror, and retribution. Show the world a path to peace and justice.

Let us continue to pray for all victims of gun violence.

Pray for peace and justice in Ukraine, Holy Land, and Yemen.

Pray for peace and justice and safety among our houseless neighbors. Help us understand how we can share your love with them.

Pray for Bethel leaders, including Pastor Leon LaCross, Music Director Shlomo Farber, Admin Assistant Kerry Czuba, the 2024 Church Council members, and for all the members and friends of Bethel Lutheran Church.

Pray for the Bethel Youth Drop-In Center Board as they prepare for the Summer 2024 Day Camp. Send us excellent applicants for Staff and support the new Director Marie Houk.

Pray for Shlomo Farber, that his family and friends in Israel may be safe.

Pray for our children, who have returned to classes and studies. Pray they are safe on wet, dark streets. Give them stamina and joy!

Pray for the teachers, school staff, parents, guardians, and grandparents who teach our children and keep them safe.

Pray for those who are ill:

- **Mark Sjostrom**, Svea's uncle, as he recovers from cancer treatments and health complications
- **Neil Marshall** (Nash's Portland family) as Neil undergoes treatment for a brain tumor.
- **Faith Moser** (mother of Joann Noll) as Faith enters her second century!
- **David Gyles** for his improved lung health.
- **Leo Lawrence** for recovery from neuropathy surgery.
- **John Knight and family** as John continues in memory care.
- **Laura Day**, mother of Natalie Peterson, in her diagnosis and treatment of cancer.
- **Gary Andeen** as he receives treatments for lung cancer.
- **Amy Bishop McDonald** for her diagnosis and surgery for breast cancer.
- **Chuck Huntley**, brother of Marjorie Strieff, for his ongoing health.
- **Glenn Chase**, in thanks for his continued good health.
- **Jackie Calder**, in thanks for healing and health that allows her to travel and to accomplish loving volunteer work.
- **JulieAnn Edman** for continued strength and healing.
- **Lorraine Griffey** for health, stamina, and joy.
- **Betty Jean Iacono**, sister of Marjorie Strieff, as she heals from recent heart difficulties.
- **Laurie Peterson**, as she recovers from breast cancer surgery.
- **Rhonda Pederson**, after a liver cancer diagnosis.

Pray for all those who have passed away that they experience the loving embrace of God's love.

Continuing prayers for well-being for our loved ones Timothy, Elizabeth, Faith, Jim, Rob, Jacob, Miles, Andrew, Nash, Matthew, and Patricia--may they walk in light and peace.

Pray in thanksgiving for all the blessings received this week.

Pray we know that God is close and that we are open to receiving and sharing God's love.

Mark Your Calendars...See what's happening at Bethel and Beyond this week:

03/10 9:00 AM Sunday Coffee Hour on Zoom
03/10 10:00 AM Sunday Worship: in person or on Zoom
03/13 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM Cash Oregon
03/14 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM Cash Oregon
03/14 Noon Crafternoon w/Pr. Leon
03/14 4:30-5:30 PM Happy Hour on Zoom
03/17 Happy St. Patrick's Day
03/17 9:00 AM Sunday Coffee Hour on Zoom
03/17 10:00 AM Sunday Worship: in person or on Zoom



Easter lilies are a reminder of the Risen Christ who brings us hope, gratitude and rebirth.

Please consider ordering lilies to decorate the church for Easter. Include those you'd like the Bethel community to remember with your order. The link to sign-up genius is below. Venmo QR code. Payments can be made by mail, Paypal or Venmo (see code on side) Cost is \$10 per plant. Deadline is March 20th.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090D4CABAC2CA4F49-flowers1>

When ordering through sign-up genius please add your remembrance in the comments section.

Thank you.




Send

Loving the world ♡

We can help spread Jesus' love all around the world by caring for other people. Circle some of the ways you care for others.



 Thank you, God, for loving us so much. Amen

This week

Practice loving others by collecting boxes of macaroni and cheese for the food shelf.

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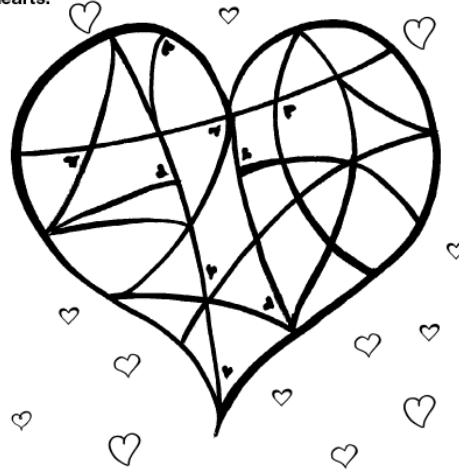
Kids Celebrate

Fourth Sunday in Lent

gather

Welcome to worship. Today is the fourth Sunday in Lent and we are reminded again of God's amazing love.

Color all the little hearts below and find a symbol of God's love for us, then search this bulletin for 40 hearts!



hear & celebrate

Famous words

John 3:14-21

Jesus was talking with a religious man named Nicodemus when he spoke some of the most famous words in the Bible. What did Jesus say?

“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.” John 3:16 ♡




Find and circle Jesus' famous words, in order, in the puzzle below.





FORPLKFJOELSGODPLLKEOW ♡KWO
 QSODKKELSVLOVEDEKEZVMPWQTHE
 WORLDWERUQ ♡PLSDKOWOPLWKEJQ
 THATLWKZHEDKOWLKEGAVEDKJFKW
 KOHISXOENLIWONLYDKLEISON ♡TT
 LESOTHATEVERYONEWHODKLEIODK
 LSKEBELIEVESWOIEOPINDHIMWOP
 EOROWEMAYNOTOEPWLPERISHDKBU
 LD ♡BUTSLKDLEISLKEKKAMAYD ♡LP
 TYHAVELSES�DKWEBETERNALLIFE
 WOE ♡IJOHNTHREESIXTEENYTOPWO

Getting the word out—today!

Jesus spoke his famous words a long time ago, in a different language. What if he visited your congregation today—what might his famous words sound like? ♡

Use the code below and read John 3:16 in a language that's a little easier to understand.

CODE:  = world  = everyone  = Jesus ♡ = loved

God ♡ the  so much,
 that God gave us .
 who believes in 
 will not die, but will live
 forever. John 3:16.

♡
 Try this: Look for John 3:16 in your Bible at home. Underline it with a pencil.



Who was the first person to tell you about God? Share these stories at home. ♡