



Third Sunday During Lent

Worship with Holy Communion

March 23, 2025

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



Ave Maria
By Friedrich Burgmüller

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 forgives all our sin,
whose mercy endures forever.

Amen.

Let us return to God, confessing our sin in the assurance of God's abiding love.
Compassionate One,

**you are slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love,
but our lives do not always reflect you
and your love for the world.**

**We do not show others the tender compassion
you have shown to us.**

**We do not welcome others with the radical hospitality
you grant to all people.**

**We oppress others,
even though you have set us free again and again.**

We squander the abundant gifts of the earth.

**Transform our lives
and guide us again in the way of the cross.**

Amen.



Gathering Song of Praise

O Living Breath of God



- 1 O liv-ing Breath of God, wind at the be-gin - ning up-on the wa - ters;
- 2 O liv-ing Breath of God, by whose pow'r the Son came to birth a - mong us;
- 3 O liv-ing Breath of God, bear-ing us to life through bap-tis-mal wa - ters;



- O liv-ing Breath of God, bear-ing the cre - a - tion to won-drous birth:
- O liv-ing Breath of God, who to the cre - a - tion gives life a - new:
- O liv-ing Breath of God, sigh-ing with cre - a - tion for free-dom's birth:

Refrain



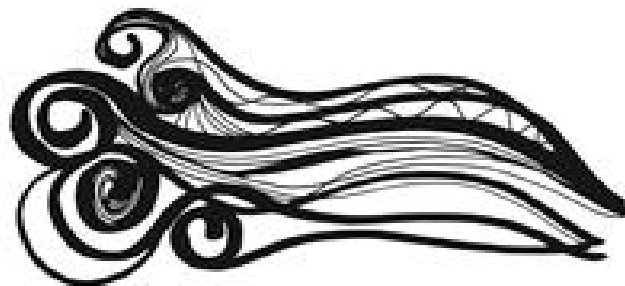
Come now, and fill our spir - its; pour out your gifts a - bun - dant.



O liv-ing Breath of God, Ho-ly Spir-it, breathe in us as we pray.

Text: Osvaldo Catena, 1920-1986; tr. Gerhard M. Cartford, b. 1923
Music: VÄRVINDAR FRISKA, Swedish folk tune
Tr. © 1998 Augsburg Fortress

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Kyrie

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace from above,
and for our salvation,
let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world,
for the well-being of the Church of God,
and for the unity of all,
let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For this holy house,
and for all who offer here their worship and praise,
let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

Amen, amen.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray together:

Eternal God, your kingdom has broken into our troubled world through the life, death, and resurrection of your Son. Help us to hear your word and obey it, and bring your saving love to fruition in our lives, 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

Isaiah 55:1-9

A reading from Isaiah.

- ¹ Ho, everyone who thirsts,
 come to the waters;
and you that have no money,
 come, buy and eat!
Come, buy wine and milk
 without money and without price.
- ² Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,
 and your labor for that which does not satisfy?
Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good,
 and delight yourselves in rich food.
- ³ Incline your ear, and come to me;
 listen, so that you may live.
I will make with you an everlasting covenant,
 my steadfast, sure love for David.
- ⁴ See, I made him a witness to the peoples,
 a leader and commander for the peoples.
- ⁵ See, you shall call nations that you do not know,
 and nations that do not know you shall run to you,
because of the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel,
 for he has glorified you.
- ⁶ Seek the Lord while he may be found,
 call upon him while he is near;
- ⁷ let the wicked forsake their way,
 and the unrighteous their thoughts;
let them return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on them,
 and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.
- ⁸ For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
 nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord.
- ⁹ For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
 so are my ways higher than your ways
 and my thoughts than your thoughts.

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

Scripture Reading

1 Corinthians 10:1-13

A reading from 1st Corinthians.

¹I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, ²and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, ³and all ate the same spiritual food, ⁴and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ. ⁵Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness.

⁶Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did. ⁷Do not become idolaters as some of them did; as it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink, and they rose up to play." ⁸We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. ⁹We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents. ¹⁰And do not complain as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. ¹¹These things happened to them to serve as an example, and they were written down to instruct us, on whom the ends of the ages have come. ¹²So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall. ¹³No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.

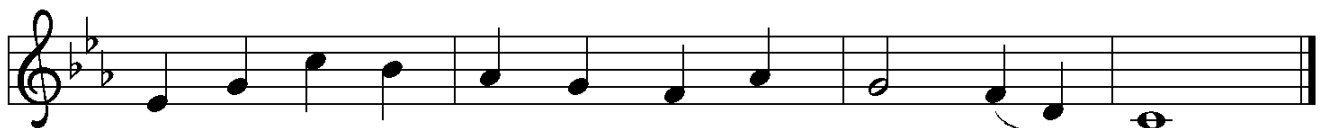
Word of God, Word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

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

Luke 13:1-9

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

¹At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices.² [Jesus] asked them, "Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans?"³ No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. ⁴Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? ⁵No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did."

⁶Then he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. ⁷So he said to the gardener, 'See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?' ⁸He replied, 'Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. ⁹If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.' "

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

Children's Time

Sermon



Please stand in body or spirit

Hymn of the Day

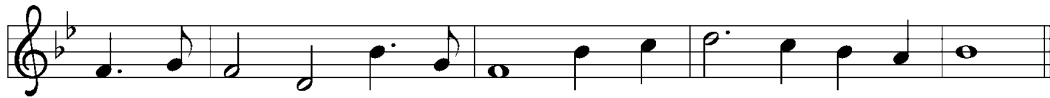
Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me



1 Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, let me hide my - self in thee;
2 Not the la - bors of my hands can ful - fill thy law's de - mands;
3 Noth - ing in my hand I bring; sim - ply to thy cross I cling.
4 While I draw this fleet - ing breath, when mine eye - lids close in death,



let the wa - ter and the blood, from thy riv - en side which flowed,
could my zeal no res - pite know, could my tears for - ev - er flow,
Na - ked, come to thee for dress; help - less, look to thee for grace;
when I soar to worlds un - known, see thee on thy judg - ment throne,



be of sin the dou - ble cure; cleanse me from its guilt and pow'r.
all for sin could not a - tone; thou must save, and thou a - lone.
foul, I to the foun - tain fly; wash me, Sav - ior, or I die.
Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, let me hide my - self in thee.

Text: Augustus M. Toplady, 1740–1778
Music: TOPLADY, Thomas Hastings, 1784–1872

Prayers of Intercession

*The response to each prayer is: God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.***

Sharing of Peace — *Take time to share the peace on Zoom and in person*

Please be seated.

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

Gracious Provider,
you set your immense treasures among us,
opening your heart to the world.
As we prepare to feast on your bountiful love,
deepen our commitment to sharing those
treasures with others,
through our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Great Thanksgiving

Please stand in body or spirit.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

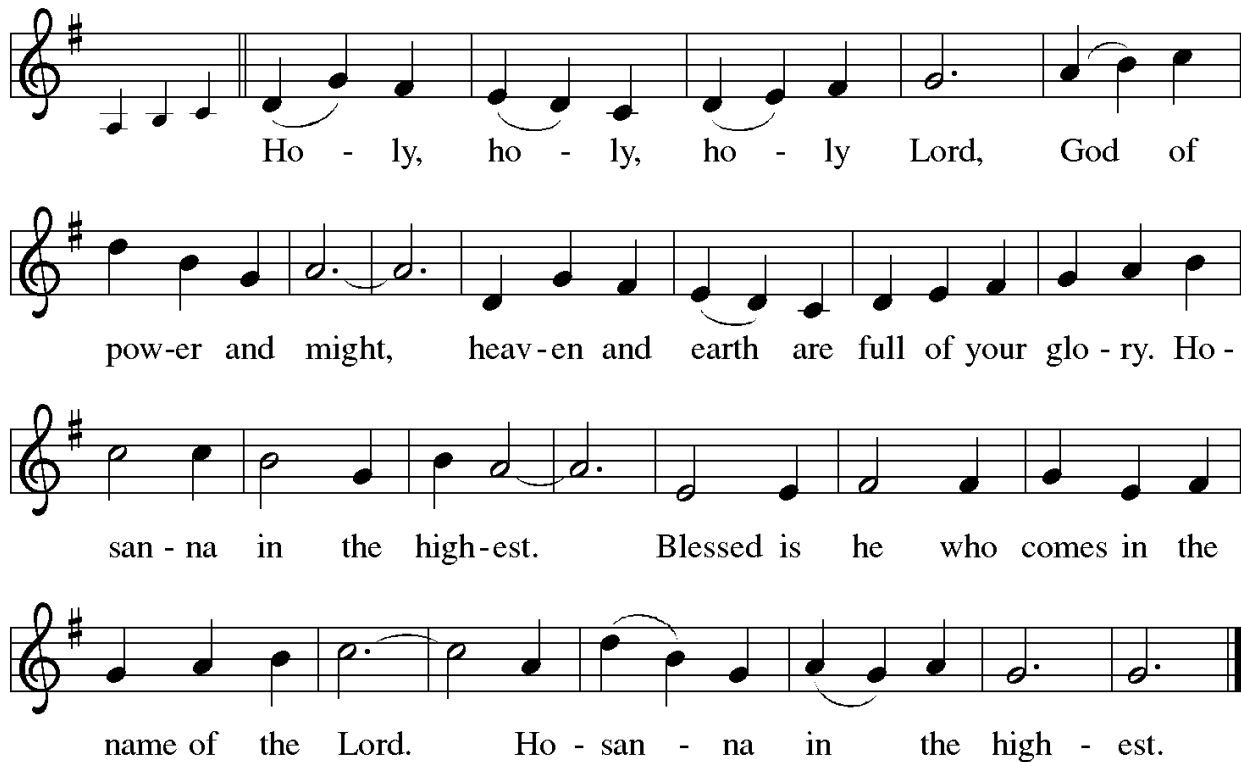
Lift up your hearts.

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 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.

Please be seated

Sharing the Bread and Cup

Communion Music

Celestial Choir
By Frédéric Chopin

SENDING

Announcements

Blessing

God our tender parent,
God the crucified one,
God the reconciling Spirit,
bless you now and forever.
Amen.

Sending Song

Credo
By Joseph Haydn

The Sending.

Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you.
Thanks be to God.

Stewardship of Service	This week – Mar. 23, 2025	Next week – Mar. 30, 2025
Ministers	All Baptized Members of Bethel	All Baptized Members of Bethel
Pastor	Pastor Leon LaCross	Pastor Leon LaCross
Music Director	Shlomo Farber	Shlomo Farber
Reader	TBD	TBD
Zoom Host	Joann Noll	Volunteer needed!

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Pray for:

Pray for the people in Israel, Palestine, all of the Middle East, Ukraine, Georgia, and Yemen 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 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 2025 Church Council members, and for all the members and friends of Bethel Lutheran Church.

Pray for the Bethel Youth Drop-In Center Board in thanksgiving for Elizabeth DeLozier as she begins as director of the Summer Youth Program and that we receive excellent applicants for our other positions.

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

Pray for Julia Rankin as she continues her education at seminary.

Pray for Sean Fitzgerald (Nikki Bucholz), Kim Bucholz's son-in-law who has been deployed to the Middle East.

Pray for our children, as spring arrives, that they blossom where ever they find themselves planted.

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

Pray for the following:

- **Mark Sjostrom**, Svea's uncle, as he recovers from cancer treatments and health complications
- **Faith Moser** (mother of Joann Noll) and her daughters as Faith moves into assisted living.
- **David Giles** as he discontinues treatment for lung cancer.
- **Leo Lawrence** for recovery from neuropathy surgery.
- **Laura Day**, mother of Natalie Peterson, in her diagnosis and treatment of cancer.
- **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.
- **Lorraine Griffey** for health, stamina, and joy.
- **Rick Van Dyke**, brother to Jim Van Dyke, as Rick lives with the uncertainty of his illness and works with his medical team to prepare for treatment.
- **Darin Schmidt**, a former Bethelite, and his wife Jessica, as they navigate a diagnosis of liver cancer.

- **Bob Enke**, cousin of JulieAnn Edman, for healing from a fall and for getting the care he needs.
- **Miles Bard** for health and stamina.
- **Pam Coffman** as she navigates treatment for lung cancer.
- **Karen Anderson** for continued healing of her knee.
- **Marlo Edman** who just had surgery that he heals quickly
- **JulieAnn Edman** for useful MRI results.
- **Dean Peterson** for conditions related to cerebral amyloid angiopathy

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

Especially **Denny Hepp** who passed away on March 2 in the hospital in Great Falls, MT. Denny was Tana Bishop's nephew's farther-in-law. He was a dear part of the family and super friend of Dorothy Bishop (Tana's mother). From a tribute by his daughter: Denny will be deeply missed by all who knew him. We could all strive to love our friends and family as deeply as Denny loved his grandchildren. May his memory live on through the love he shared with his family, and the legacy of excellence he left behind in his work.

For the friends and family of **John Harding**, relative of Pr. Leon, who died unexpectedly.

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

Mark Your Calendars:

- 03/23 9:00 AM Sunday Coffee Hour on Zoom
- 03/23 10:00 AM Sunday Worship: in person or on Zoom
- 03/23 4:00 PM Jazz Concert
- 03/26 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM Cash Oregon
- 03/26 6:30 PM New Horizons Band Practice
- 03/27 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM Cash Oregon
- 03/27 2:00 PM – 7:00 PM Bethel Bees Prep & Serve for Renaissance Commons
- 03/27 4:30 PM - 5:30 PM Bethel Happy Hour
- 03/30 9:00 AM Sunday Coffee Hour on Zoom
- 03/30 10:00 AM Sunday Worship: in person or on Zoom



Time to Order Flowers for Easter to Decorate the Church!
Deadline to Order is March 26!!

This year there is a little verity to choose from. You can sign up for Easter Lilies(\$12 each), Azaleas (\$20 each), and Hydrangeas (\$20 each). There is a sign-up sheet in the back of the Church or you can use Sign-Up Genius
www.signupgenius.com/go/4090D4CABAC2CA4F49-flowers1. Payments can be made either through Venmo @BethelLutheran-Church #6064 or Paypal (see our website), or by mail, 5658 N. Denver Ave., Portland, OR 97217. Please include your remembrance! Thank you!

**2025 Summer Day Camp Program
@ Bethel Youth Drop-In Center**
Program Dates/Times: June 30 through August 8
MTWThF, 8:30 AM to 5:30 PM
Ages: entering 1st through 6th in Fall 2025
Register at www.bethelpdx.org/summer-program
Email: ydic@bethelpdx.org
Phone: 503-285-4919
Address: 5658 N. Denver Ave
Portland, OR 97217

Registration is open for the Summer Program!

Need a flyer? Download from the website or call the office and we will happily print some up for you!