

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

April 6, 2025 - Setting 3

Pastor Calvin Konop, Presiding

Naomi Tracy-Hegg, Musician

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Belonging to Christ, Sharing Christ on the North Shore & Beyond!

Introduction - The Fifth Sunday in Lent

Our God makes all things new. In the first reading God promises it. In the gospel Mary anticipates it, anointing Jesus' feet with costly perfume in preparation for the day of his burial. In the second reading Paul recalls his transformation from the persecutor Saul into an apostle. In baptism, God's new person (you!) rises daily from the deadly mire of trespasses and sins.

Prelude

Naomi Tracy-Hegg

Welcome & Announcements

Temple Talk

Sue Anderson

Confession and Forgiveness

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. *(Silence is kept for reflection.)*

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.**

Beloved in Christ, God's arms are always stretched open wide to welcome the wandering ones home. In ✚ Christ your sins are forgiven. You have a place in God's house forever. **Amen.**

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.

Kyrie

ELW page 138

Prayer of the Day

Creator God, you prepare a new way in the wilderness, and your grace waters our desert. Open our hearts to be transformed by the new thing you are doing, that our lives may proclaim the extravagance of your love given to all through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Children's Time

On the way up the aisles, the children will be collecting coins for the "Holy Cow" fund, which will support ELCA World Hunger. *Find that loose change and help feed kids around the world!*

**First Reading:****Isaiah 43:16-21**

¹⁶ Thus says the LORD, who makes a way in the sea, a path in the mighty waters, ¹⁷ who brings out chariot and horse, army and warrior; they lie down, they cannot rise, they are extinguished, quenched like a wick: ¹⁸ Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. ¹⁹ I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. ²⁰ The wild animals will honor me, the jackals and the ostriches; for I give water in the wilderness, rivers in the desert, to give drink to my chosen people, ²¹ the people whom I formed for myself so that they might declare my praise.

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

Psalm:**Psalm 126**

¹ When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion, then were we like those who dream.

²Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy.

Then they said among the nations, "The LORD has done great things for them."

**³The LORD has done great things for us,
and we are glad indeed.**

**⁴Restore our fortunes, O LORD,
like the watercourses of the Negeb.**

**⁵Those who sowed with tears
will reap with songs of joy.**

**⁶Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed,
will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.**

Second Reading:

Phillippians 3:4b-14

[Paul writes:] ^{4b} If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: ⁵ circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶ as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

⁷ Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. ⁸ More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ ⁹ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. ¹⁰ I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, ¹¹ if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

¹² Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. ¹³ Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

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

Return to the Lord, your God,
for he is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love,
and abounding in steadfast love.

The holy gospel according to St. John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel:

John 12:1-8

¹ Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. ² There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. ³ Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. ⁴ But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, ⁵ "Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?" ⁶ (He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) ⁷ Jesus said, "Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. ⁸ You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me."

The gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Pastor Calvin Konop

Hymn of the Day

*My Hope is Built
on Nothing Less*

ELW 596

Apostles' Creed

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.

Prayers of God's People

Led by the Spirit, let us turn to God in prayer for the church, the world, and all those in need. *(A brief silence)*

The church declares your praise, O God. Guide us in the example of Isaiah's imagination, Paul's transformed identity, and Mary's faith and devotion; that our lives, too, may be poured out in love as we trust in your promises.

God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

The earth declares your praise, O God. Make a way for the planet's future in the sea and the wilderness, the mountains and plains, the tundra and wetlands. Repair habitats and sustainable ecosystems on, above, and beneath the ground.

God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

The nations declare your praise, O God. Where religious differences divide, bring together those who worship you in the name of Jesus Christ and those who call to you with different names. Guide interreligious dialogue, that faith may unite rather than divide communities. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

The people declare your praise, O God. Restore those whose hope has been dampened through a health diagnosis, job or home loss, divorce, or death. Bring healing to those in need especially *Barb, Paulina, Gene, Joan, Bob, Christy, Lynn, and Bruce*. We pray now for those we name aloud, or in the silence of our hearts. *(A time of silence.)*

May all who weep now sing songs of joy again. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

The gifts of the Spirit declare your praise, O God. We thank you for artists who proclaim the gospel. Inspire music, poetry, and images that proclaim the new thing you are doing. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

The communion of saints declares your praise, O God. Giving thanks for those who have died, *especially Vera Finn*, we trust in the one who has made them his own:

Christ Jesus, our crucified and risen Savior. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Receive the prayers of your people and draw all things together in your love, in the name of Jesus, who leads us from death to life. **Amen.**

Sharing of the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

Offering

Naomi Tracy-Hegg

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

ELW page 144

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.**

Words of Institution

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that, renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, Holy, Holy

ELW page 144

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of pow'r and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Thanksgiving at the Table

Blessed are you, O God of the universe. Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth.

Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood.

Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea.

Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness

to the land of milk and honey.

Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one.

Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ.

Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's Passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

O God of resurrection and new life: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine. Bless this feast. Grace our table with your presence. **Come, Holy Spirit.**

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread. Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world. Breathe new life into

us. Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love.
Come, Holy Spirit.

With your holy ones of all times and places, with the earth and all its creatures, with sun and moon and stars, we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever. **Amen.**

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.

Invitation to Communion

All who are hungry, come! The feast of grace is spread. All are welcome!



Bethlehem Lutheran Church believes in the real presence of Christ in Holy Communion, and we practice eucharistic hospitality. All persons, whether visiting or a member, are welcomed to Communion.

Communion Music

Lamb of God

ELW page 146

Nothing Can Trouble

ACS 1033

Post Communion Blessing

Prayer After Communion

Generous Host, you have shared your feast with us and made us new. Send us now to set tables of love and grace in our communities, that your liberating love might nourish the world into freedom, in the name of the crucified one, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Blessing

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

Sending Hymn

*Immortal, Invisible,
God Only Wise*

ELW 834

Dismissal

Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude



Karina Roth

Your prayers are requested for healing: Barb Coe, Paulina Backstrom, Pastor Bob Stoskopf, Gene Erickson, Joan Bieber, Christy Buetow, Lynn Schulte, Bruce & Stacey Johnson, Shae Lindholm, Rhonda Silence, Rhonda Schulte, Emily Ulhorn, Char Anderson, Les Donek, Betty Jones, Stacey Schulte, Carol Ann, Hank Ferland, and Jack Anderson. *If you have any updates on these prayer requests, or any new requests, please call the office at 218-387-2227.*

This week we lift up these members: *Craig & Lynn Schulte; Parker, Katie & Sophia Slanga; Wendy Hagen; Betty Allison; and Sherry Carlson.* May God walk with these friends in their Lenten journey.

The April Mission of the Month is going international - yet has a very local connection. We will be supporting the **Ray of Life** project which supplies solar light kits to families in Ukraine who are living without electricity. This mission was started by Dave Nonnemacher of Two Harbors, (formerly of Grand Marais). His non-profit, *New Horizons Foundation*, will use the funds we raise to purchase components needed for the solar kits. Volunteers will then assemble the kits and prepare them for shipping.

Member Challenge: We are excited to have Dave come to Bethlehem on **May 20th** to lead an assembly event. The parts for each kit currently cost **\$125**. We hope our members will respond generously. ***Wouldn't it be great to give this gift to at least twenty families?*** This is a fun activity to participate in!

ATTN: CHURCH COUNCIL - your [committee] monthly reports are due to the office on Thursday April 10th.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

- **Vacation Bible School** will be July 14-18, 2025. 9am to noon for K-5th grade students. \$15/student. Scholarships available. More to come.
- **Senior Quilt Day:** May 1, 2025—lunch with the Quilters and pick out your quilt. On May 11: Senior blessings with quilts during worship



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This Week at Bethlehem:

Sun Apr 6 10:00 AM Worship Service
with Sunday School

Mon Apr 7 11:00 AM Staff Meeting

Wed Apr 9 12:30 PM Text Study
5:30 PM Community Meal
6:00 PM Lenten Worship
6:30 PM Confirmation

Thurs Apr 10 8:00 AM Bible Study
9:00 AM Quilting
9:30 AM BLCW-Esther Circle

Sun Apr 13 PALM SUNDAY
8:40 AM Choir Practice
10:00 AM Traditional
Worship Service
with Sunday School

Planning Ahead:

Thurs Apr 17 **7:00 PM Maundy Thurs.**
Worship, with
First Communion

Fri Apr 18 **7:00 PM Good Friday**
Tenebrae Service

Sun Apr 20 **8:00 AM Easter Sunrise Service**
9:00 AM Easter Brunch
10:00 AM Traditional Easter
Worship service

Midweek Lenten

Services: are a study of the Lord's Prayer. Join us for a meal at 5:30 and service at 6:00 pm on Wednesday evening.



Confirmation during Lent resume this week:

Students will meet with mentors for an inter-generational interaction after Wednesday worship.



Traveler Cards and Local

Grocery Cards are available from Bethlehem to members of the community that need help. Please contact the office.

Coffee An': *Have you taken a turn serving for our fellowship time on Sundays?* Please sign up to bring some treats to share.

Wednesday Text Study: Join us at 12:30 pm on Wednesdays for a study of the scripture lessons. Zoom link is available.

Men's Bible Study: Every Thursday morning, beginning at 8:00 to 9:15 am. Contact Mike Chmelik for information, 218-387-1790. Zoom link is available.

Free Bibles: Help yourself to a large print English Standard Version Bible, on the counter in the Narthex.

Quilters are seeking more helpers! Every Thursday morning at 9 to 11:30am. No experience necessary. You are invited to the fun!



*On-line giving is encouraged using this QR Code or through automatic transfer.
(Forms are available online & the office.)*

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