

# Bethlehem Lutheran Church

We are called by God to follow Christ in  
love and service to all.



**February 22, 2026**

We encourage children to feel welcome in church during worship. And we recognize that kids need to move and fidget while we share this time together. Tables and coloring pages are available to kids in both the front of the worship space and in the Commons. Parents, please feel free to let your kids move around as needed.

## **Prelude**

Claudius Cazan

## **Bethlehem Lutheran Choir**

“Beautiful Savior”

## **Welcome and Announcements**

*(please stand)*

## **Confession and Forgiveness**

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*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.**

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

## Gathering Hymn

### "The Glory of these Forty Days"

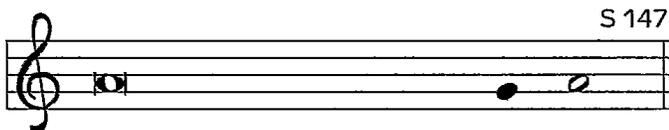
ELW# 320

## Greeting

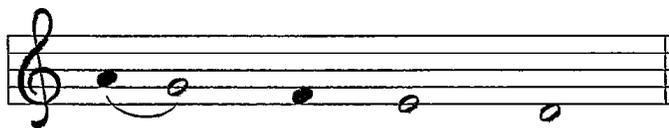
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

## Kyrie



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



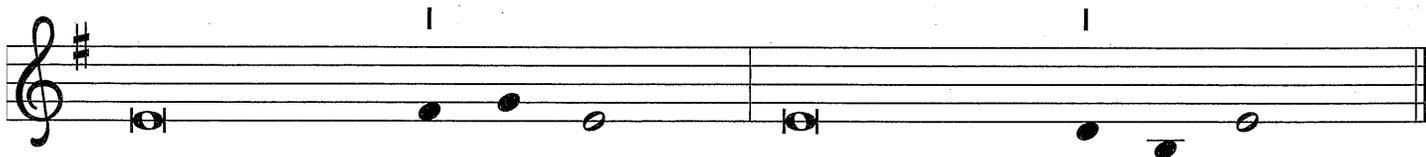
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



<sup>3:1</sup> Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God say, ‘You shall not eat from any tree in the garden?’” <sup>2</sup> The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, <sup>3</sup> but God said, ‘You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.’ ” <sup>4</sup> But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not die, <sup>5</sup> for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” <sup>6</sup> So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food and that it was a delight to the eyes and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. <sup>7</sup> Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked, and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

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

## Psalm 32



- <sup>1</sup> Happy are they whose transgressions <sup>1</sup> are forgiven,  
and whose sin is <sup>1</sup> put away!
- <sup>2</sup> **Happy are they to whom the LORD im- <sup>1</sup> putes no guilt,  
and in whose spirit there <sup>1</sup> is no guile!**
- <sup>3</sup> While I held my tongue, my bones with- <sup>1</sup> ered away,  
because of my groaning <sup>1</sup> all day long.
- <sup>4</sup> **For your hand was heavy upon me <sup>1</sup> day and night;  
my moisture was dried up as in the <sup>1</sup> heat of summer.**
- <sup>5</sup> Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not con- <sup>1</sup> ceal my guilt.  
I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the LORD.” Then you forgave me the  
guilt <sup>1</sup> of my sin.
- <sup>6</sup> **Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in <sup>1</sup> time of trouble;  
when the great waters overflow, they <sup>1</sup> shall not reach them.**
- <sup>7</sup> You are my hiding-place; you preserve <sup>1</sup> me from trouble;  
you surround me with shouts <sup>1</sup> of deliverance.

<sup>8</sup> **“I will instruct you and teach you in the way that I you should go;  
I will guide you I with my eye.**

<sup>9</sup> Do not be like horse or mule, which have no I understanding;  
who must be fitted with bit and bridle, or else they will I not stay near you.”

<sup>10</sup> **Great are the tribulations I of the wicked;  
but mercy embraces those who trust I in the LORD.**

<sup>11</sup> Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice I in the LORD;  
shout for joy, all who are I true of heart.

## **Second Reading**

Romans 5:12-19

<sup>12</sup> Just as sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, and so death spread to all because all have sinned <sup>13</sup> for sin was indeed in the world before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law. <sup>14</sup> Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those who did not sin in the likeness of Adam, who is a pattern of the one who was to come.

<sup>15</sup> But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died through the one man’s trespass, much more surely have the grace of God and the gift in the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for the many. <sup>16</sup> And the gift is not like the effect of the one man’s sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the gift following many trespasses brings justification. <sup>17</sup> If, because of the one man’s trespass, death reigned through that one, much more surely will those who receive the abundance of grace and the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.

<sup>18</sup> Therefore just as one man’s trespass led to condemnation for all, so one man’s act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all. <sup>19</sup> For just as through the one man’s disobedience the many were made sinners, so through the one man’s obedience the many will be made righteous.

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

(please stand)

## 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.

## Gospel Reading

Matthew 4:1-11

The Gospel according to Matthew, the 4th chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup> Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tested by the devil. <sup>2</sup> He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterward he was famished. <sup>3</sup> The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." <sup>4</sup> But he answered, "It is written,

'One does not live by bread alone,

but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.' "

<sup>5</sup> Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, <sup>6</sup> saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written,

'He will command his angels concerning you,'

and 'On their hands they will bear you up,

so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.' "

<sup>7</sup> Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.' "

<sup>8</sup> Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory, <sup>9</sup> and he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." <sup>10</sup> Then Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! for it is written,

‘Worship the Lord your God,  
and serve only him.’ ”

<sup>11</sup> Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

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

## **Children’s Sermon**

### **Sermon**

### **Hymn of the Day**

**“God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens”**

ELW# 771

*(please stand)*

### **The Apostle’s Creed**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
and 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.**

## The Prayers

Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, let us pray for the world and its needs.

Hear us, O God

**Your mercy is great.**

*The prayers conclude:*

Receive our prayers, O God, through Jesus Christ, our strength and salvation.

**Amen.**

## Sharing of the Peace

*Greet one another with a word of welcome and peace.*

*(be seated)*

## Offering

Thank you for your offerings today. As Christ comes to us in the bread and cup of the holy table, we present ourselves through our own sacrifice of generosity to love and serve our neighborhood and the whole world. You can also give online at [www.bethluth.org/give](http://www.bethluth.org/give) as a one time donation or as a recurring gift. Use this code to access the giving site.

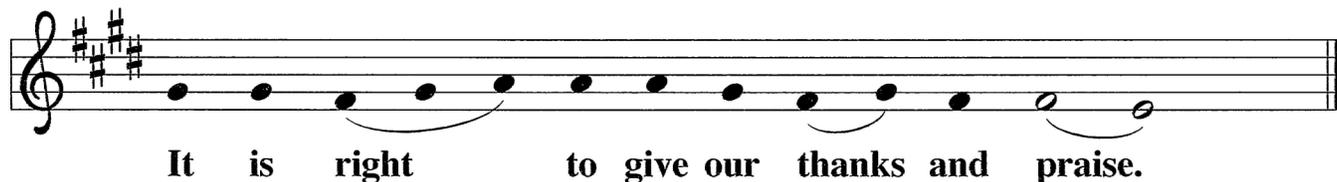
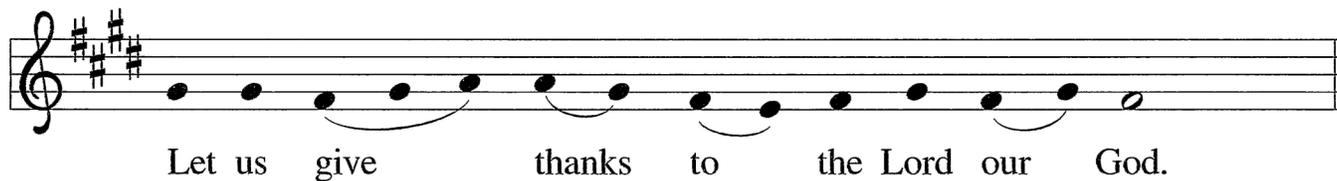


## The Great Thanksgiving

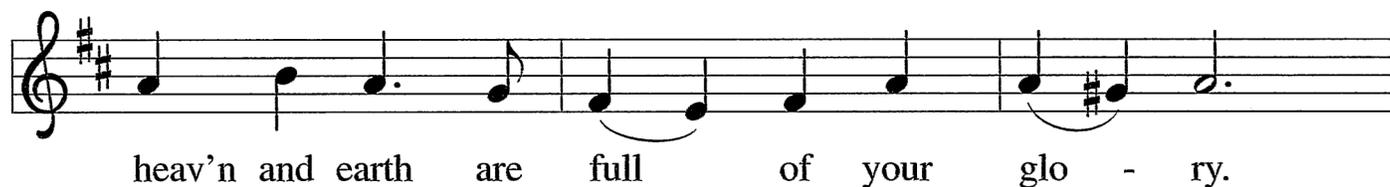
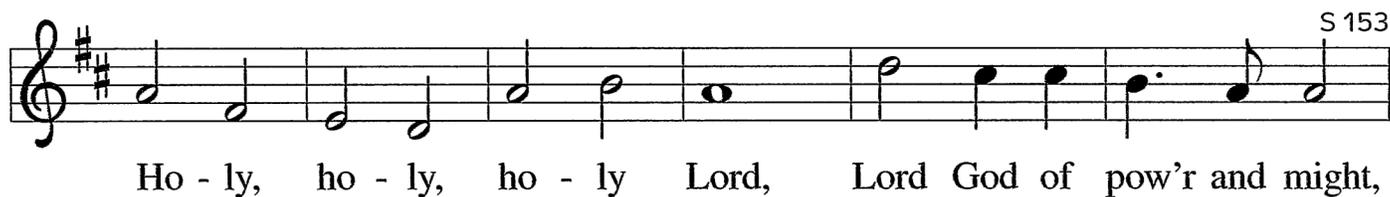
S 152

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.



## Sanctus



## 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

*(be seated)*

## Distribution of Holy Communion

*All are welcome at the table of Christ. Gluten-free wafers and grape juice are available.*

### Lamb of God

S 154



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, grant us peace.

### Communion Hymn

**"When We are Tested"**

ACS# 922



- 1 When we are test - ed and wres - tle a - lone,
- 2 When in the des - ert we cry for re - lief,
- 3 When we are tempt - ed to bar - ter our souls,
- 4 When we have strug - gled and searched through the night,



fam - ished for bread when the world of - fers stone,  
 plead - ing for paths marked by cer - tain be - lief,  
 trad - ing the truth for the pow'r to con - trol,  
 sort - ing and sift - ing the wrong from the right,



nour - ish us, God, by your word and your way,  
 lift us to love you be - yond sign and test,  
 teach us to wor - ship and praise on - ly you,  
 Sav - ior, sur - round us with cir - cles of care,



food that sus - tains us by night and by day.  
 trust - ing your pres - ence, our on - ly true rest.  
 seek - ing your will in the work that we do.  
 an - gels of heal - ing, of hope, and of prayer.

Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947

Music: SLANE, Irish traditional

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## “Oh Love, How Deep”

ELW# 322

*(please stand)*

### **Communion Blessing**

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**Amen.**

### **The Benediction**

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

## **Sending Hymn**

**“Jesus, Still Lead On”**

ELW# 624

## **Dismissal**

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Postlude**

Claudius Cazan

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# Lent 2026

## Feb 25 & Mar 4th at Bethlehem

5:30pm Lenten Supper  
6:30pm Evening Prayer

## Mar 11th at Eidsvold

5:30pm Lenten Supper  
6:30pm Evening Prayer

## Mar 18th & 25th at Northridge

5:30pm Lenten Supper  
6:30pm Evening Prayer



## Brewed Theology

### Feb 26th 6pm Brannigans

It's the first commandment—it's rooted in creation—Jesus did it—but everything gets in its way and it's perhaps the easiest of God's gifts to forget! How are we to think about Sabbath in the 21st century? Join with friends to talk about all of God's gifts!

**BREW  
ED THE  
OLOGY**

## Family Game Event

March 8<sup>th</sup> is a day to set aside for fun and community building here at Bethlehem. Plan to stay after worship in the Fellowship Hall for games of all sorts – for kids, teenagers, and even grown-ups. If you have a game your family likes, bring it along!



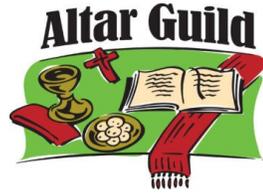
## Warming Center

During these cold winter nights, it's important that we remember those most vulnerable. Please consider helping as you are able to provide a meal at the Warming Center once a month. If you are concerned about the cost, all ingredients will be supplied. Meal Coordinators, Jeff (732-453-4208) and Savannah (845-857-8973) have sauces, beans, spaghetti products, etc. Just give them a call and pick up what you need to make a soup or casserole. Let them know that you are from BLC. Sign up sheets are on the table in the Commons. For questions, please contact Sherry Korthase at 770-639-6621. Thank you!



## Join the Altar Guild

The Altar Guild is a meaningful place to serve and grow spiritually, and we welcome men and women of all ages to join us. Members have the privilege of preparing the altar for worship services throughout the week. Duties include caring for sacramental vessels and vestments, preparing for and cleaning up after services, assisting with seasonal decorations, and more. We would love to welcome new members.



## Wounded But Wanted

### March 1st after worship

A new **Bible Study** focusing on the idea that although all of us are wounded in some way, God still has a plan for us. We'll walk in the footsteps of God's people described in scripture, and see that God does not avoid wounded people. Rather, he seeks them, heals them, and gives them a place in the story. This gathering will be a space of acceptance, comfort, and growth for anyone who wonders if God could really want them. Led by Bryan Knutson, wounded veteran, whole and loved child of God.



## Soups and Desserts Needed!

Can you bring a soup or dessert for Wednesday evenings this lent? Or, would you be willing to set up and/or clean up? Sign up in The Commons or get in touch with Linda Erfle or Peggy Agenes-Janzer. Thanks!



## Feeding the Flathead

We are looking for volunteers to help with cooking, serving, cleaning-up, and baking for Feeding the Flathead on March 16 and March 23. No experience is required! This rewarding ministry serves approximately 50 hot meals an evening so lots of helping hands are needed! There are sign-up sheets in the Commons or contact Julie Miller for info - (703) 862-3490.



## Grandparent & Grandchild Retreat

### March 13-15

Grandparents: a chance to enjoy your grandkids, while having FLBC lead them in Bible study, play time, crafts, games, worship, hiking, snow fun, and more! Maybe even a polar plunge... (and no, Grandparents, you do not HAVE to jump in the lake!) The retreat is designed for 5–12 years-old youth... but you as Grandparents can bring whatever age grandkids you want. You will be housed in a cabin with your grandkids. Contact FLBC for more information.



## Prayer Concerns: Illness/surgery:

Erika Hauser, Gaye Bech, Beth Knutson, Janan Beller, Linda Cincis, Duane Benson, and Mark Miller.

## Grief:

Family of Carol Vish.

## A Special Thank You To Our Assisting Ministers:

<u>Assisting Mnstr/Reader:</u>	Gary Aasheim
<u>Cantor:</u>	Gary Aasheim
<u>Greeters:</u>	Glenda Skeim, Vickie Cunningham
<u>Communion Setup:</u>	Charlene Singley
<u>Communion Asst:</u>	Duane Anderson, Bev Taylor, Jana Thompson
<u>Usher:</u>	Cindy & Mike Galvin, Sherry Korthase, Karen Green
<u>Power Point:</u>	Paul Miller
<u>Acolytes:</u>	

## This Week at Bethlehem

### SUNDAY

9:00am  
10:30am

### 02/22

Worship/ Sunday School  
Bell Choir Practice

### MONDAY

10:00am  
12:00pm  
6:00pm

### 02/23

Respite Care, FH  
Women on the Go, CM  
Feeding the Flathead, FH

### WEDNESDAY

6:45am  
10:00am  
5:30pm  
6:30pm  
7:00pm

### 02/25

Men's Breakfast and Bible Study, FH  
Respite Care, FH  
Soup Supper, **BLC**  
Worship, **BLC**  
Choir

### THURSDAY

9:00am  
9:00am  
5:30pm  
6:00pm

### 02/26

Knitters, FR  
Quilters, FH  
Flathead Valley Community Orchestra, FH  
Brewed Theology, Brannigans

### SUNDAY

9:00am  
10:30am

### 03/01

Worship/ Sunday School  
Bell Choir Practice



**Bethlehem Lutheran Church**  
Pastor Scott Thompson  
Pastor Lucy Schottelkorb

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