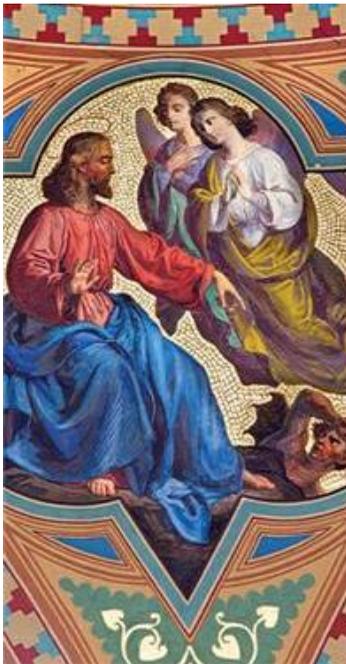




SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2026



WORSHIP THE LORD YOUR GOD

MATTHEW 4:10

Introduction

Today's gospel tells of Jesus' temptation in the desert. His forty-day fast becomes the basis of our Lenten pilgrimage. In the early church Lent was a time of intense preparation for those to be baptized at the Easter Vigil. This catechetical focus on the meaning of faith is at the heart of our Lenten journey to the baptismal waters of Easter. Hungry for God's mercy, we receive the bread of life to nourish us for the days ahead.

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING MUSIC

JESUS, STILL LEAD ON (ELW #624)



1 Je - sus, still lead on, till our rest be won; and, al - though the
2 If the way be drear, if the foe be near, let no faith - less
3 When we seek re - lief from a long - felt grief, when temp - ta - tions
4 Je - sus, still lead on, till our rest be won; heav'n - ly lead - er,



way be cheer - less, we will fol - low, calm and fear - less;
fears o'er - take us, let not faith and hope for - sake us;
come al - lur - ing make us pa - tient and en - dur - ing;
still di - rect us, still sup - port, con - sole, pro - tect us,



guide us by your hand to the prom - ised land.
safe - ly past the foe to our home we go.
show us that bright shore where we weep no more.
till we safe - ly stand in the prom - ised land.

Text: Nicolaus L. von Zinzendorf, 1700–1760; tr. Jane L. Borthwick, 1813–1897, alt.

Music: SEELENBRÄUTIGAM, Adam Drese, 1620–1701

INVOCATION

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.
Amen.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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

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.**

HYMN OF PRAISE

“LORD, I LIFT YOUR NAME ON HIGH”

Music and Lyrics: Rick Founds

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Administrators Brentwood-Benson Music Publishing, Inc.

APOSTOLIC 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.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Lord God, our strength, the struggle between good and evil rages within and around us, and the devil and all the forces that defy you tempt us with empty promises. Keep us steadfast in your word, and when we fall, raise us again and restore us 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.**

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song



***Baptism for Remington Michael Grim, Cecilia Renee Grim and Isla Rae Grimm
ELW pg. 228**

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION
FIRST READING

A reading from Genesis 2: 15-17, 3: 1-7

¹⁵The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. ¹⁶And the LORD God commanded the man, “You may freely eat of every tree of the garden, ¹⁷but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die.”

^{3:1} 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?’” ²The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, ³but 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.’” ⁴But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not die, ⁵for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” ⁶So 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. ⁷Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked, and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL

MATTHEW 4:1-11

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to You, O Lord.**

¹ Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tested by the devil. ² He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterward he was famished. ³ The tempter came and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.” ⁴ But he answered, “It is written, ‘One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’” ⁵ Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, ⁶ 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.’”

⁷ Jesus said to him, “Again it is written, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’” ⁸ Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory, ⁹ and he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.” ¹⁰ Then Jesus said to him, “Away with you, Satan! for it is written, ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.’” ¹¹ Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to You, O Christ.**





1 Come, thou Fount of ev - 'ry bless-ing, tune my heart to sing thy grace;
 2 Here I raise my Eb - en - e - zer: "Hith-er by thy help I've come";
 3 Oh, to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I'm con-strained to be;



streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas - ing, call for songs of loud - est praise.
 and I hope, by thy good plea - sure, safe - ly to ar - rive at home.
 let that grace now like a fet - ter bind my wan-d'ring heart to thee.



While the hope of end-less glo - ry fills my heart with joy and love,
 Je - sus sought me when a strang-er, wan-d'ring from the fold of God;
 Prone to wan - der, Lord, I feel it; prone to leave the God I love.



teach me ev - er to a - dore thee; may I still thy good-ness prove.
 he, to res - cue me from dan-ger, in - ter - posed his pre-cious blood.
 Here's my heart, oh, take and seal it; seal it for thy courts a - bove.

Text: Robert Robinson, 1735–1790, alt.

Music: NETTLETON, J. Wyeth, *Repository of Sacred Music*, Part II, 1813

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

After each petition: Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Concluding petition: Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

SHARING OF CHRIST'S PEACE

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

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ

OFFERING

Thank you for your continued generosity in supporting the ongoing ministry of Bethel Lutheran Church! In-person gifts may be placed in the offering plates, mailed to Bethel Evangelical Lutheran Church (2077 N. Frederick Pike, Winchester, VA 22603), given online at www.bethelwinchester.com or using the adjacent QR code.



MUSIC FOR REFLECTION-THE WONDERFUL CROSS-Choir/Band

OFFERING PRAYER

God our provider, you have not fed us with bread alone, but with words of grace and life. Bless us and these your gifts, which we receive from your bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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.**

PREFACE

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 feast to come, 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

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest. 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 your fidelity the Hebrew people.

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

Praise to you for his death, resurrection, and ascension.

Praise to you for your Spirit which weaves mysteriously through the fabric of life.

In the night in which he was arrested, 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.**

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine. Grace our table with your presence. **Come, Holy Spirit.**

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.**

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

THE DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

Welcome to the Lord's Table!

Everyone, regardless of age and denomination, is invited to join us for Holy Communion. If you prefer a blessing, simply inform the communion distributors. The ushers will direct your row when it is time to come forward.

You will receive the bread from the first Holy Communion distributor. You will pick up the cup of wine or juice from the tray held by the second distributor. For those who need gluten free a pre-packaged **gluten-free** wafer and a cup of **grape juice** is also available.

Once you have communed, you are invited to return to your seat for silent reflection or singing

LAMB OF GOD



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.

COMMUNION HYMN

"PURIFY MY HEART"

Music and lyrics: Jeff Nelson

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Administrators Brentwood-Benson Music Publishing, Inc., Music Services, Inc.

COMMUNION BLESSING

Let us pray ... Compassionate God, you have fed us with the bread of heaven. Sustain us in our Lenten pilgrimage: may our fasting be hunger for justice; our alms, a making of peace; and our prayer, the song of grateful hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world

BENEDICTION

May the God of fidelity and grace grant you harmony with one another.
May the Lord of life inspire you to seek justice and joy.
May the power of the Holy Spirit abide in you forever. **Amen.**



1 A might - y for - tress is our God, a sword and shield vic -
 2 No strength of ours can match his might! We would be lost, re -
 3 Though hordes of dev - ils fill the land all threat - 'ning to de -
 4 God's Word for - ev - er shall a - bide, no thanks to foes, who



to - rious; he breaks the cruel op - pres - sor's rod and
 ject - ed. But now a cham - pion comes to fight, whom
 vour us, we trem - ble not, un - moved we stand; they
 fear it; for God him - self fights by our side with



wins sal - va - tion glo - rious. The old sa - tan - ic foe
 God him - self e - lect - ed. You ask who this may be?
 can - not o - ver - pow'r us. Let this world's ty - rant rage;
 weap - ons of the Spir - it. Were they to take our house,



has sworn to work us woe! With craft and dread - ful might
 The Lord of hosts is he! Christ Je - sus, might - y Lord,
 in bat - tle we'll en - gage! His might is doomed to fail;
 goods, hon - or, child, or spouse, though life be wrenched a - way,

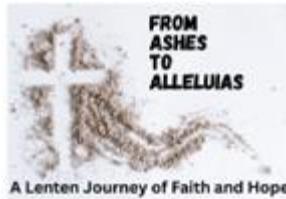


he arms him - self to fight. On earth he has no e - qual.
 God's on - ly Son, a - dored. He holds the field vic - to - rious.
 God's judg - ment must pre - vail! One lit - tle word sub - dues him.
 they can - not win the day. The king - dom's ours for - ev - er!

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*
 Music: EIN FESTE BURG, Martin Luther
 Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**



MIDWEEK LENTEN WORSHIP SERIES

Walking Wet;

Living Our Baptism from Ashes to Alleluias

We don't graduate from baptism. We walk wet each day; claimed by grace, cleaned in water, changed by God's promises, and called to serve God and each other.

Wednesday, March 4

5:30pm Lenten Dinner/Conversation
7pm Lenten Midweek Worship
"We are Claimed"

Wednesday, March 11

5:30pm Lenten Dinner/Conversation
7pm Lenten Midweek Worship
"We are Cleaned"

Wednesday, March 18

5:30pm Lenten Dinner/Conversation
7pm Lenten Midweek Worship
"We are Changed"

Wednesday, March 25

5:30pm Lenten Dinner/Conversation
7pm Lenten Midweek Worship
"We are Called"

A poster for Holy Week worship services. The background is a stylized landscape with purple and orange tones, featuring silhouettes of hills and three crosses on a hill. The text is arranged in a list format. On the left, the church's name and address are listed. On the right, the dates and times for Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday are provided. Social media icons for Facebook and Instagram are at the bottom left.

Bethel
LUTHERAN CHURCH
2077 N. Frederick Pike
Winchester, VA 22603
JOIN US IN PERSON OR ONLINE
via Facebook, YouTube or
www.BethelWinchester.com

**HOLY WEEK
WORSHIP SERVICES**

PALM SUNDAY
MARCH 29TH
9:30AM

MAUNDY THURSDAY
APRIL 2ND
7pm

GOOD FRIDAY
APRIL 3RD
Noon and 7pm

EASTER SUNDAY
APRIL 5TH
9:30am

BETHEL STAFF & COUNCIL

Rev. Dr. David N. Young, Pastor

pastordave@bethelwinchester.com

Kristal Cutler, Director of Music

music@bethelwinchester.com

Edie Donovan, Parish Nurse

emcgoff@gmail.com

George W. Donovan, Sr., Director of Safety and Security

security@bethelwinchester.com

Shawn Garner, Facility Management

facility@bethelwinchester.com

Financial or Giving Questions

office@bethelwinchester.com

Matt Meade & Lexy Grymala Nursery Managers

office@bethelwinchester.com

Mel Siebert, Youth Ministry

youth@bethelwinchester.com

Nina Davis, Office Manager

office@bethelwinchester.com

Patty White, Parish Custodian

annwhite54@aol.com

Council Executive Committee

JENNIFER LAFOLLETTE, PRESIDENT, TEXT/CALL 540-533-9142, EMAIL jnanlafollette@gmail.com

CHERIE LAUCK, VICE-PRESIDENT & MINISTRY TEAM TEXT/CALL 540-305-7529, EMAIL cherie.lauck@bethelwinchester.com

MATT LYMAN, SECRETARY & COMMUNICATIONS TEAM TEXT/CALL 540-336-0300, EMAIL matt.lyman@bethelwinchester.com

LYNDA GRYMALA, TREASURER & FINANCE TEAM TEXT/CALL 540-222-9408, EMAIL lynda.grymala@bethelwinchester.com

DAVID YOUNG, PASTOR

COUNCIL GENERAL MEMBERS

MEL SIEBERT, EMAIL MEL.SIEBERT@BETHELWINCHESTER.COM

LEEANNE MARPLE EMAIL LEEANNE.MARPLE@BETHELWINCHESTER.COM

RENE HOLLEBRANDSE, MINISTRY TEAM EMAIL C.J.HOLLEBRANDSE@GMAIL.COM

SHARI FLETCHER EMAIL: SHARI.FLETCHER@BETHELWINCHESTER.COM

ROB CUTLER EMAIL: ROB.CUTLER@BETHELWINCHESTER.COM

BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

2077 North Frederick Pike, Winchester, VA 22603, 540-662-3245

Office Hours: Monday-Friday 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

www.bethelwinchester.com

