



# Bethlehem Lutheran Church

March 22, 2026 - Setting 3

Pastor Calvin Konop, Presiding

Jess Christenson, CYF Director

Average Worship Band, Music

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*Belonging to Christ. Sharing Christ on the North Shore and Beyond!*

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## Introduction

In today's gospel Jesus reveals his power over death by raising Lazarus from the dead. The prophet Ezekiel prophesies God breathing new life into dry bones. To those in exile or living in the shadows of death, these stories proclaim God's promise of resurrection. In baptism we die with Christ that we might also be raised with him to new life. At the Easter Vigil we will welcome the newly baptized as we remember God's unfailing promise in our baptism.

Prelude

*I Will Rise*

Average Worship Band

## Welcome and Announcements

## Confession and Forgiveness

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

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.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Gracious God, have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In

the name of ✝ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith. Amen.

## Gathering Song

*Gather Us In*

ELW 532

## 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.**

## Hymn of Praise

*Be Unto Your Name*

## Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, **your Son came into the world to free us all from sin and death. Breathe upon us the power of your Spirit, that we may be raised to new life in Christ and serve you in righteousness all our days, through 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

**(No Pennies please!)**

On the way up the aisles, the children will be collecting "Noisy Change" for the "Holy Cow" fund, which will support ELCA World Hunger.

## First Reading

**Ezekiel 37:1-14**

<sup>1</sup>The hand of the LORD came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. <sup>2</sup>He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. <sup>3</sup>He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord GOD, you know." <sup>4</sup>Then he said to me, "Prophesy to these bones and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. <sup>5</sup>Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. <sup>6</sup>I will lay sinews on you and will cause flesh to come upon you and cover you with skin and put breath in you, and you shall live, and you shall know that I am the LORD."

<sup>7</sup>So I prophesied as I had been commanded, and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. <sup>8</sup>I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them, but there was no breath in them. <sup>9</sup>Then he said to me, "Prophesy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live."

<sup>10</sup>I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

<sup>11</sup>Then he said to me, "Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are

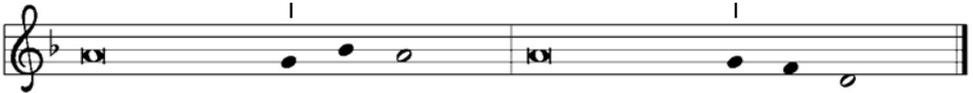
cut off completely.’<sup>12</sup> Therefore prophesy and say to them: Thus says the Lord GOD: I am going to open your graves and bring you up from your graves, O my people, and I will bring you back to the land of Israel.<sup>15</sup> And you shall know that I am the LORD when I open your graves and bring you up from your graves, O my people.<sup>14</sup> I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken and will act, says the LORD.”

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Psalm

Sung Responsively

Psalm 130



<sup>1</sup> Out of the depths

I cry to you, O LORD;

<sup>2</sup> O LORD, hear my voice!

Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplication.

<sup>3</sup> If you were to keep watch over sins,

O LORD, who could stand?

<sup>4</sup> Yet with you is forgiveness,

in order that you may be feared. R

<sup>5</sup> I wait for you, O LORD; my soul waits;

in your word is my hope.

<sup>6</sup> My soul waits for the Lord more than those who keep watch for the morning,

more than those who keep watch for the morning.

<sup>7</sup> O Israel, wait for the LORD, for with the LORD there is steadfast love; with the LORD there is plentiful redemption.

<sup>8</sup> For the LORD shall redeem Israel from all their sins. R

Second Reading

Romans 8:6-11

<sup>6</sup> To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. <sup>7</sup> For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God’s law—indeed, it cannot, <sup>8</sup> and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

<sup>9</sup> But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. <sup>10</sup> But if Christ is in you, then the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. <sup>11</sup> If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

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

**Gospel**

**John 11:1-45**

The holy gospel according to St John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup> Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. <sup>2</sup> Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. <sup>3</sup> So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." <sup>4</sup> But when Jesus heard it, he said, "This illness does not lead to death; rather, it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it." <sup>5</sup> Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, <sup>6</sup> after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

<sup>7</sup> Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." <sup>8</sup> The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?" <sup>9</sup> Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble because they see the light of this world. <sup>10</sup> But those who walk at night stumble because the light is not in them." <sup>11</sup> After saying this, he told them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him." <sup>12</sup> The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right." <sup>13</sup> Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. <sup>14</sup> Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead. <sup>15</sup> For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." <sup>16</sup> Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him."

<sup>17</sup> When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. <sup>18</sup> Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, <sup>19</sup> and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. <sup>20</sup> When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. <sup>21</sup> Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. <sup>22</sup> But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him." <sup>23</sup> Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." <sup>24</sup> Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." <sup>25</sup> Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, <sup>26</sup> and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" <sup>27</sup> She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world."

<sup>28</sup> When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary and told her privately, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you." <sup>29</sup> And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. <sup>30</sup> Now Jesus

had not yet come to the village but was still at the place where Martha had met him. <sup>31</sup>The Jews who were with her in the house consoling her saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. <sup>32</sup>When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.” <sup>33</sup>When Jesus saw her weeping and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. <sup>34</sup>He said, “Where have you laid him?” They said to him, “Lord, come and see.” <sup>35</sup>Jesus began to weep. <sup>36</sup>So the Jews said, “See how he loved him!” <sup>37</sup>But some of them said, “Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?”

<sup>38</sup>Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. <sup>39</sup>Jesus said, “Take away the stone.” Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, “Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days.” <sup>40</sup>Jesus said to her, “Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?” <sup>41</sup>So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, “Father, I thank you for having heard me. <sup>42</sup>I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me.” <sup>43</sup>When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!” <sup>44</sup>The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, “Unbind him, and let him go.”

<sup>45</sup>Many of the Jews, therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did believed in him.

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

Sermon

Pastor Calvin Konop

Hymn of the Day

*What Wonderful Love is This*

ELW 666

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 Intercession

Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, let us pray for the world and its needs. *(A brief silence.)*

We pray for the church. Grant life and peace to all who gather in your name. Breathe into us so that we may share your message of forgiveness, hope, and love. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We pray for creation. Renew landscapes that have dried up, prosper the work of those who restore homes and habitats after natural disasters, and sustain places where biodiversity thrives, especially the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We pray for the nations. Unbind leaders trapped by fear to act boldly for justice, free all who live in places of war and violence, and guide refugees and asylum seekers to safety. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We pray for all people in need. Take away the stone of poverty that weighs down so many. Console any who weep and heal all who are sick. *We pray especially for Nancy, Joan, Linda, Luke, Sarah, Bruce, Lynn, and Katrina.* We pray now for those we name aloud, or in the silence of our hearts. *(A time of silence.)* We pray for all those dealing with issues of mental health or addiction. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We pray for this assembly. Ready the hearts and spirits of all preparing to be baptized. Deepen our wonder at the mystery of your resurrection and life. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We offer our thanksgiving for all people who have died in faith. Give us faith to trust in your power to redeem and save, and bring us up from our graves to life in you. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

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

## Sharing the Peace

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

Offering

*All My Hope*

Average Worship 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.**

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.**

## **Preface**

**Holy, Holy, Holy**

**ELW page 144**

## **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.**

## **Invitation to Communion**

**Come to the table. Feast on God's goodness and mercy. 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. (Offered in these sacraments are wine or apple juice; and regular or gluten-free wafers.)*

## **Communion Music**

**Come to the Table**

**Hear is Bread**

**ELW 483**

## **Post Communion Blessing**

**May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in grace unto everlasting life. Amen.**

## **Prayer After Communion**

**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.**

## **Blessing**

**Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity: God, who calls all things into existence, Jesus Christ, who redeems us, and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation, ✚ bless you now and always. Amen.**

Sending Hymn

*I Am the Resurrection and the Life*

Dismissal

Go in peace. Believe the good news.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Average Worship Band



**We pray for healing for these members & friends:** Joan Bieber, Mary Sanders, Linda Zenk, Nancy & Clayton Koss, Lois Johnson, Butch & Rhonda Schulte, Luke Gulstrand, Sarah Coe, Lynn Schulte, Paulina Backstrom, Phyllis Olson, Bruce & Stacey Johnson, Annalisa Winje; Shae Lindholm, Char Anderson, Stacey Schulte, Hank Ferland, Margaret Dahl, Katrina Crouse, Karen Shannon, Tom Christiansen

**This week we lift up these members:** Jane Gellner; Ed & Kris Hedstrom; Myron Bursheim; Annalisa Winje; and Zack, Jennifer, Alexxandra & Nova Anderson. May God walk with these faithful friends in their Lenten journey.

**Our Mission of the Month for March is Powderhorn Park Neighborhood Rental Assistance Program.** Your giving will assist families in preventing eviction from their homes, will provide opportunities for families to stay together in their homes and will assist with utilities that will keep families warm, with light and with water.

**Newsletter deadline for April edition is tomorrow!!**

**Our sincere sympathies to the Gulstrand Family.** Luke's mom Susan passed away last week after a brief illness. Please keep the Gulstrand's in your prayers.

**Traveler Cards and Local Grocery Cards** are available from BLC to members of the community that need help. Please contact the office.

**Table Tennis** every Thursday at 6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall. **Everyone is welcome,**

**This Week at Bethlehem:**

- Sun Mar 22 8:40 AM Choir practice
- 10:00 AM **Worship Service & Sunday School**
- 11:15 AM Communion Class**
- Tues Mar 24 8:30 AM Staff meeting
- 5:30 PM Girl Scouts
- Wed Mar 25 12:30 PM Text Study
- 5:30 PM Community Meal
- 6:00 PM Lent Worship**
- Thurs Mar 26 8:00 AM Bible Study
- 9:00 AM Quilting
- 6:30 PM Table Tennis
- Sun Mar 29 8:40 AM Choir practice
- 10:00 AM **Worship Service & Sunday School**
- 11:15 AM Communion Class**

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



**Bethlehem Lutheran Church**

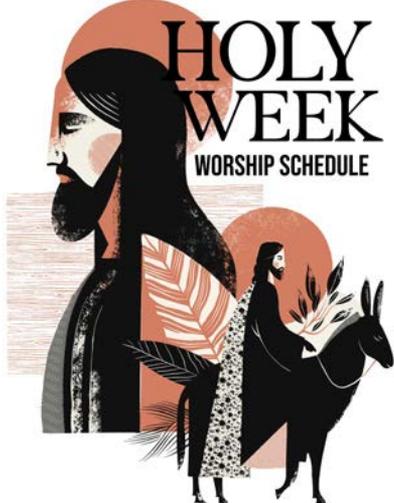
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Next Sunday is **PALM** Sunday



**HOLY WEEK**  
WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Join us for the final steps of the journey to the cross this Lent and into the resurrection at Easter:

Palm Sunday March 29<sup>th</sup> at 10 am  
 Maundy Thursday April 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7 pm  
 Good Friday April 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7 pm  
 Easter Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup>  
 8:00 & 10:00 am Worship  
 9:00 am Easter Brunch  
 9:30 am Easter Egg Hunt

## Palm Sunday Path: The Power of Love

When the Son of Man comes in his glory and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory.

- Matthew 25:31

## A Processional-March & Worship-Rally Sunday, March 29, 3-5pm

First Lutheran Church

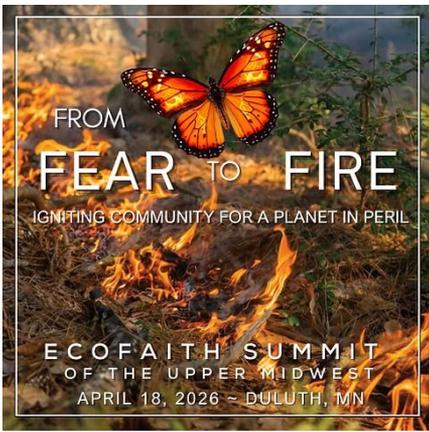
1100 E. Superior St, Duluth, MN 55802



Join us, with Christians in 30 other cities across 15 states, for a Palm Sunday processional/march, worship/rally and meal. Our goal is to lift up the power of Jesus' command to feed the hungry, visit the sick and welcome the stranger over and against the current power of domination and repression.



Bring your palms, processional crosses, singing voices, and affirming signs to the processional/march starting at 3<sup>PM</sup> on London Rd. Following this, speakers will address the challenges and joys of meeting Jesus calling for us in these troubled times. Music led by Sara Thomsen and the Singing Resistance. We will also share a meal and have an opportunity for mutual aid with Northland Legal Aid, Union Gospel Mission and Trans Northland.



## The 2026 EcoFaith Summit of the Upper Midwest

### From Fear to Fire: Igniting Community for a Planet in Peril

*“Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking  
to us on the road...?” - Luke 24:32*

**April 18, 2026 – 9:30am to 5:00pm**

*Check-in, tables and coffee beginning at 8:30am;  
Reception beginning at 4:15pm*

### **First Lutheran Church, Duluth MN and Online**

The EcoFaith Summit of the Upper Midwest gathers together people of faith and conscience to ignite community to act on behalf of our planet in peril.

The day includes: inspiring speakers, table exhibits, networking Opportunities, hands-on action stations, afternoon engagement Sessions, day camp style program for children ages 2 through Upper elementary, Friday lock-in for youth groups, young adult Sleepover, and a group livestream experience planning guide.

**For more information and to register yourself and your group:**  
**[ecofaithnetwork.org/ecofaith-summit-2026](https://ecofaithnetwork.org/ecofaith-summit-2026)**

*This year’s Summit is Co-Presented by: Lutheran Advocacy – MN;  
Minneapolis Area Synod, Northeastern MN Synod,  
Northwestern MN Synod; Northwest Synod Of WI;  
Saint Paul Area Synod*