



Bethlehem Lutheran Church & Early Childhood Center



Fifth Sunday in Lent

March 22, 2026

Worship Services

9:00 am | 10:30 am

Welcome to Bethlehem!

We hope you feel a warm welcome here at Bethlehem Lutheran Church. Please visit our website at **www.blcenc.org** for more information about the congregation. If you are visiting with us, please fill out an information card and place it in the offering basket so we can stay connected.

CHILDREN

All children are welcome in the sanctuary for worship at Bethlehem. If you prefer, there is a comfort room at the back of the sanctuary. Busy bags are available in the narthex. After Children's Time at our **10:30 AM** service children ages 3 years – 6th grade may either attend our Learning Circle program or remain with you.

COMMUNION

We practice **open communion**, meaning all are welcome to participate. We commune by intinction where the pastor dips the bread into a divided chalice with white wine or red grape juice. There is a gluten-free station on the left side of the sanctuary. We are happy to bring communion to individuals with limited mobility.

PARTICIPATION & ACCESSIBILITY

The different movements that happen during worship (sitting, standing, making the sign of the cross) are all optional; please engage as you are comfortable or able. Hearing assistance devices are located at the back of the sanctuary and large-print bulletins are available in the narthex. If you, or someone you know, identify as neurodivergent and have questions about how to participate in worship or in one of our church ministries, please feel free to ask either the pastors or the church office for help.

PRAYER

In addition to the pastors, our Stephen Ministers are always available to pray with you about whatever is on your heart this day. Please look for the folks wearing a blue name tag with the Stephen Ministry logo. Healing prayer stations are available during communion on the second Sunday of each month.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

From "Holy Communion Tree of Life Setting: "Entrance Hymn," "Kyrie," and "Lamb of God" - Text and Tune: Marty Haugen, ©2000, 2001 GIA Publications, Inc. "Return to God" - Text and Tune: Marty Haugen, ©1990, 1991 GIA Publications, Inc. "O God, Who Gives Us Life" - Text: Carl P. Daw, Jr., ©1990 Hope Publishing Company; Tune: NOEL: English melody, arr. Arthur S. Sullivan, 1842-1900, Public Domain. "Precious Lord" - Text: Thomas A. Dorsey; Tune: George N. Allen, adapt. Thomas A. Dorsey; Both ©1938, 1966 Hal Leonard Corporation. "What Wondrous Love Is This" - Text: North American folk hymn, 10th cen., Public Domain; Tune: W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835, arr. Paul Christiansen, - ©1955 Augsburg Fortress Publishers. For copyrighted selections, all rights reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense.net License No. A-706214. Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from One License with license #A-706214.
Photo Credit: Maurice Denis, The Raising of Lazarus, 1919

GATHERING

WELCOME

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

L: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God, the Creator of heaven and earth, the Word who spoke life into being, the Wind stirring the waters.

C: Amen.

L: Let us turn in confession to the one who knows us completely.

Silence is kept for reflection.

L: Mighty God, lover of justice,

C: You call us to life in community, but we have served our own interests at the expense of our neighbors. We have sown deceit where honesty was needed. We say the right words, but our hearts are far from you. Turn us to seek your face. Knit us together and give us the mind of Christ, that we may do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with you, our God.

L: The former things have passed away, and new things God now declares: Like a spring of water that never fails, God covers you in the righteousness of Christ, and forgives your sin in ✝ Jesus' name. May the Spirit give you strength to live for others, and bless you with the gift of peace.

C: Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

Beneath the Tree of Life

(Congregation sings refrain; Cantor sings verses)

Refrain

The musical score is written on a single staff in 2/2 time, with a key signature of three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat). The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a mix of quarter and half notes. The lyrics are written below the staff, with some words in brackets indicating optional or alternate phrasing. The score is divided into two main sections: a refrain and a verse. The refrain consists of two lines of music, each with two lines of lyrics. The verse consists of two lines of music, each with two lines of lyrics. The score ends with a double bar line.

*[Come and gath-er] be - neath the tree of life.
Lay your bur - dens
[Come and gath-er] be - neath the tree of
Lay your bur - dens
life; Root of wis-dom, branch of peace, fruit of
heal-ing and re - lease. [Come and gath-er] be -
Lay your bur - dens
neath the tree of life.

GREETING

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

C: And also with you.

KYRIE

(Leader sings part A, congregation sings part C)



A In peace, let us pray to the Lord:



C Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy.



Lord, have mer - cy, mer - cy on us all. **A** 1. For the
A 2. For your



reign of God, and for peace through - out the
peo - ple here who have come to give you



world, for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the
thanks, for the strength to live your word, let us pray to the



Lord: **C** Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy.
Lord:



A Help, save, and de -
Lord, have mer - cy, mer - cy on us all.



fend us, O God: **C** A - men.

(Return to Gathering Hymn and sing "lay your burdens")

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: Let us pray ...

C: Amen.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM (10:30 AM)

Alice Lisette Criner

WORD

SCRIPTURE READING

Ezekiel 37:1-14

R: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Return to God – GC 410

Re - turn to God with all your heart, the source of grace and
mer - cy; come seek the ten - der faith - ful - ness of God.

GOSPEL READING

John 11:1-45

R: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor Sam Nelson

HYMN OF THE DAY

Precious Lord, Take My Hand – ELW 773



1. Pre - cious Lord, take my hand, Lead me on, let me
 2. When my way grows drear, Pre - cious Lord, lin - ger
 3. When the dark - ness ap - pears And the night draws



stand, I am tired, I am weak, I am worn.
 near, When my life is al - most gone,
 near, And the day is past and gone,



Through the storm, through the night, Lead me on to the
 Hear my cry, hear my call, Hold my hand lest I
 At the riv - er I stand, Guide my feet, hold my



light, Take my hand, pre - cious Lord, lead me home.
 fall. Take my hand, pre - cious Lord, lead me home.
 hand. Take my hand, pre - cious Lord, lead me home.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

L: Lord in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

THE SHARING OF THE PEACE

L: The peace of the Lord be with you always,

C: And also with you!

OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS AND OURSELVES

SPECIAL MUSIC

OFFERTORY RESPONSE

Restore in Us, O God – ELW 328 vs. 1 & 2



1 Re - store in us, O God, the splen-dor of your love; re -
2 O Spir - it, wake in us the won - der of your pow'r; from
3 Bring us, O Christ, to share the full - ness of your joy; bap -
4 Three-per - soned God, ful - fill the prom - ise of your grace, that



new your im - age in our hearts, and all our sins re - move.
fruit-less fear un - furl our lives like spring-time bud and flow'r.
tize us in the ris - en life that death can - not de - stroy.
we, when all our search-ing ends, may see you face to face.

MEAL

GREAT THANKSGIVING

L: The Lord be with you,

C: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts,

C: We lift them to the Lord.

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

ELW pg. 112

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.

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

Lamb of God from Tree of Life

The musical score is written in 2/4 time with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). It consists of four staves of music. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one flat, and a 2/4 time signature. The melody is as follows: quarter rest, quarter note G4, quarter note A4, quarter note B-flat4, quarter note C5, quarter note B-flat4, quarter note A4, quarter note G4. The second staff continues the melody: quarter note F4, quarter note E4, quarter note D4, quarter note C4, quarter note B3, quarter note A3, quarter note G3, quarter note F3. The third staff continues: quarter rest, quarter note E3, quarter note D3, quarter note C3, quarter note B2, quarter note A2, quarter note G2, quarter note F2. The fourth staff concludes the piece: quarter note E2, quarter note D2, quarter note C2, quarter note B1, quarter note A1, quarter note G1, quarter note F1, quarter note E1. The lyrics are: '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 your peace, grant us your peace.'

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 your peace, grant us your peace.

COMMUNION HYMN

What Wondrous Love Is This – ELW 666



1 What won-drous love is this, O my soul, O my soul! What
2 When I was sink - ing down, sink-ing down, sink-ing down, when
3 To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing; to
4 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on; and



won - drous love is this, O my soul! What won-drous love is this
I was sink - ing down, sink-ing down, when I was sink - ing down
God and to the Lamb I will sing; to God and to the Lamb,
when from death I'm free, I'll sing on; and when from death I'm free,



that caused the Lord of bliss to bear the dread-ful curse for my
be - neath God's righ-teous frown, Christ laid a - side his crown for my
who is the great I AM, while mil - lions join the theme, I will
I'll sing God's love for me, and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing



soul, for my soul, to bear the dread-ful curse for my soul?
soul, for my soul, Christ laid a - side his crown for my soul.
sing, I will sing, while mil - lions join the theme, I will sing.
on, I'll sing on; and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing on.

SENDING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

SENDING HYMN

God Who Gives us Life - ELW 1086

To the tune ELW 412



O God who gives us life and breath who shapes us in the womb,
O God who calls your people our to ven - ture and to dare,
O God of co - ve - nant and law re - vealed in cloud and flame,



Who guards our lives from birth to death, then leads us from the tomb:
To plumb the bleak a - byss of doubt and find you ev - en there:
Your might-ty deeds e - voke our awe we dare not speak your name.



De - liv - er us from fears that kill the life we have in you.
When we de - spair in wan - der - ring through wastes of em - pty lies,
Yet we by faith are drawn to you and will your people prove,



Help us to know your Spi - rit still is ma - king all things new.
Re - fresh us with the liv - ing spring of hope that ne - ver dies.
As on our hearts you write a - new the co - ve - nant of love.

DISMISSAL

L: Go in peace, return to the Lord!

C: Thanks be to God!

All Are Welcome!

We live in a diverse world. We are hurting, broken and heavy hearted. We are loving, joyous, and above all, we are welcoming. Regardless of the color of your skin, or the color of your hair; regardless of your gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, relationship status, or political affiliation, you are welcome here. We honor indigenous people and are committed to the work of anti-racism and the stewardship of the creation.

If you are Buddhist, Roman Catholic, agnostic, Muslim, Jewish, seeking, have never set foot in a church, or are a life long Lutheran; you have a place here. If you own, rent, or have nothing at all; you are welcome here. If you are neurodivergent, fully abled, disabled, or a person of differing abilities; if you have regrets, fears, addictions, or afflictions; you have a place here.

All who are wise and all who are confused, all who have found love and all who have lost it, all who celebrate this welcome statement and all who fear it - are welcome here.

Come as you are and be celebrated for who you are. Your place is here. Bethlehem Lutheran is an All are Welcome church.



Reconciling in Christ



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America

Electronic Giving at Bethlehem

Offering gifts can be made electronically on our website

www.blcenc.org under the contribute tab, or by scanning this QR code. There are options for one-time donations, recurring gifts, and special offerings. **No account is needed to donate on our website.**



You can also use the **Vanco Mobile App**. Simply download it from your app store, and search "Bethlehem Lutheran Church Encinitas" by name (there is no invite code). If you already have an account from our website, the same login information will work. If not, please sign up with a new account. **Thank You for Supporting Bethlehem!**



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