



# Bethlehem Lutheran Church & Early Childhood Center



## Easter Vigil

April 4, 2026

5 PM

# Welcome to Bethlehem!

We hope you feel a warm welcome here at Bethlehem Lutheran Church. Please visit our website at [www.blcenc.org](http://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.

## 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.



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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

From "Tree of Life Liturgy": "**Beneath the Tree of Life**" - Text and Tune: Marty Haugen, ©2000 GIA Publications, Inc. "**Light Dawns on a Weary World**" - Text: Mary Louise Bringl, ©2000,e; Tune: TEMPLE OF PEACE: William P. Rowan, 2002 GIA Publications, Inc. "**We Sing Your Praise of Christ**" - Text: Herman G. Stuempfle, ©1997 GIA Publications, Inc.; Tune: FESTAL SONG, William H. Walter, Public Domain. "**Love Astounding**" - Text: Jeannette M. Lindholm, ©1999 Augsburg Fortress Publishers; Tune HOLY MANNNA, W. Moore, *Columbian Harmony*, 1825, Public Domain. "**Halle, Halle, Hallelujah**" - Tune: Caribbean traditional, arr. Mark Sedio, ©1995 Augsburg Fortress Publishers. "**Ubi Caritas et Amor**" - Text : Latin aniphon, 9th cen., tr. Taizé Community; Tune: Jacques Berthier, Both ©1979 Taizé, Les Presses de North America. "**What Feast of Love**" - Text: Delores Dufner, © 1986, Oregon Catholic Press; TuneGREENSLEEVES: English ballad, 16th cen., har.m. ©1993 Oregon Catholic Press. For previous copyrighted selections, all rights reserved. Reprinted under One license.net License No. A-706214. Other hymn selections are in the Public Domain. Permission to podcast/stream the music in the service obtained from One License with License #A-706214. Photo Credit: <https://www.ncnonline.org/spirituality/easter-triduum-good-friday>, Purchase from Shutterstock.com, <https://www.ferrychurch.org/special-events.html>, [https://www.pinterest.com/pin/459015387020496855/](https://www.stmarkssyracuse.com/good-friday/2020/4/7/good-friday-2020https://www.pinterest.com/pin/459015387020496855/), <https://bethesdanewhaven.org/sermons/7216/>



During Holy Week, we join with Christians around the world in observing the **Great Three Days**, known by their Latin name, the **Triduum**. Beginning with the service on Maundy Thursday and continuing through the evening of Easter Sunday, they represent the holiest days of the church calendar. We travel with Jesus from the last supper, to his betrayal and trial, to the moment of the cross, to his burial, and finally to the joy and promise of the empty tomb. You are invited to participate and enter into these stories, whether they are well-known to you, or if this is your first time hearing them. As we move through these three days, we are called to ponder the depth and the mystery of God's love, reflect on the meaning of Christ's presence in our lives, and give thanks and praise for all that God has done in our lives and in the world. As we emerge from death into new life, brimming with resurrection hope, we are empowered and sent as messengers and servants into the world.



## MAUNDY *Thursday*

**Maundy Thursday** centers on Jesus' commandment to love one another, and is the origin of two of the church's most ancient, and sacred acts: foot-washing and communion. The symbolic act of foot-washing helps to remind us that we are called to a life of service and love. At the Lord's Table we remember Jesus' sacrifice. We receive God's grace, forgiveness, and love through bread and wine; and we are strengthened so that we might offer ourselves in love for the life of the world.



## Good Friday

**Good Friday** is a somber celebration as we travel with Jesus through the final hours of his life by way of his seven last words, read within the story of the passion. This is intended to be a time of personal meditation and reflection. Good Friday is the day we contemplate the cross, and the lengths to which our God would go to save us all. God's love, grace, and promise all meet in the moment of the cross, and we receive God's promise to show up in all of the crucifixion moments of our own lives.



## EASTER VIGIL

The **Easter Vigil** is the earliest service of the church, with portions of the liturgy dating back to the 4th century. The church has always vigiled all Saturday night, "because we do not know at what hour our Lord arose from the tomb." The Vigil is also the traditional time of baptism, with the newly baptized coming immediately into their first service of Holy Communion at Easter dawn. Easter Vigil at Bethlehem is joyous and raucous and full of resurrection hope.

# THE SERVICE OF LIGHT

## WELCOME

## THE NEW FIRE & LIGHTING OF THE EASTER CANDLE

L: May the Light of Christ, rising in glory, dispel the darkness of our hearts and minds.

*The congregation receives the light of Christ.*

## GATHERING HYMN

Beneath the Tree of Life

(Congregation sings refrain; Cantor sings verses)

### Refrain

The musical score is written on five staves in G major (one sharp) and 2/2 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 2/2 time signature. The lyrics for the first staff are: \*[Come and gath-er] be - neath the tree of life. The second staff continues the melody with the lyrics: [Come and gath-er] be - neath the tree of. The third staff continues with the lyrics: life; Root of wis-dom, branch of peace, fruit of. The fourth staff continues with the lyrics: heal-ing and re - lease. [Come and gath-er] be -. The fifth staff concludes the phrase with the lyrics: neath the tree of life. The score uses various note values including quarter, half, and whole notes, with some notes beamed together. The lyrics are centered under the corresponding notes.

\*[Come and gath-er] be - neath the tree of life.

[Come and gath-er] be - neath the tree of

life; Root of wis-dom, branch of peace, fruit of

heal-ing and re - lease. [Come and gath-er] be -

neath the tree of life.

## PRAYER OF CHRIST'S LIGHT

### HYMN OF LIGHT

Light Dawns on a Weary World – ELW 726

1 Light dawns on a wea - ry world when eyes be - gin to  
2 Love grows in a wea - ry world when hun - gry hearts find

see all peo - ple's dig - ni - ty. Light dawns on a  
bread and chil - dren's dreams are fed. Love grows in a

wea - ry world: the prom - ised day of jus - tice comes.  
wea - ry world: the prom - ised feast of plen - ty comes.

*Refrain*

The trees shall clap their hands; the dry lands, gush with springs;  
the hills and moun - tains shall break forth with sing - ing!  
We shall go out in joy, and be led forth in peace,  
as all the world in won - der ech - oes sha - lom.

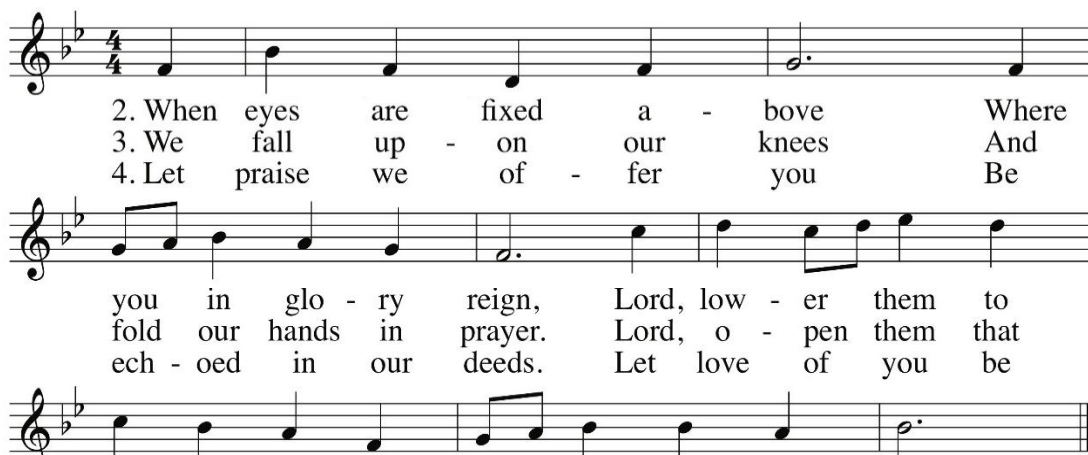
## THE SERVICE OF THE READINGS

WORD OF MERCY

Luke 10:25-37

# HYMN

## We Sing Your Praise O Christ – Hymns for the Gospel 93



2. When eyes are fixed a - bove Where  
 3. We fall up - on our knees And  
 4. Let praise we of - fer you Be

you in glo - ry reign, Lord, low - er them to  
 fold our hands in prayer. Lord, o - pen them that  
 ech - oed in our deeds. Let love of you be

earth a - gain To see a world in pain.  
 grace re - ceived Be grace we glad - ly share.  
 man - i - fest In serv - ing oth - er's needs.

# WORD OF LOVE

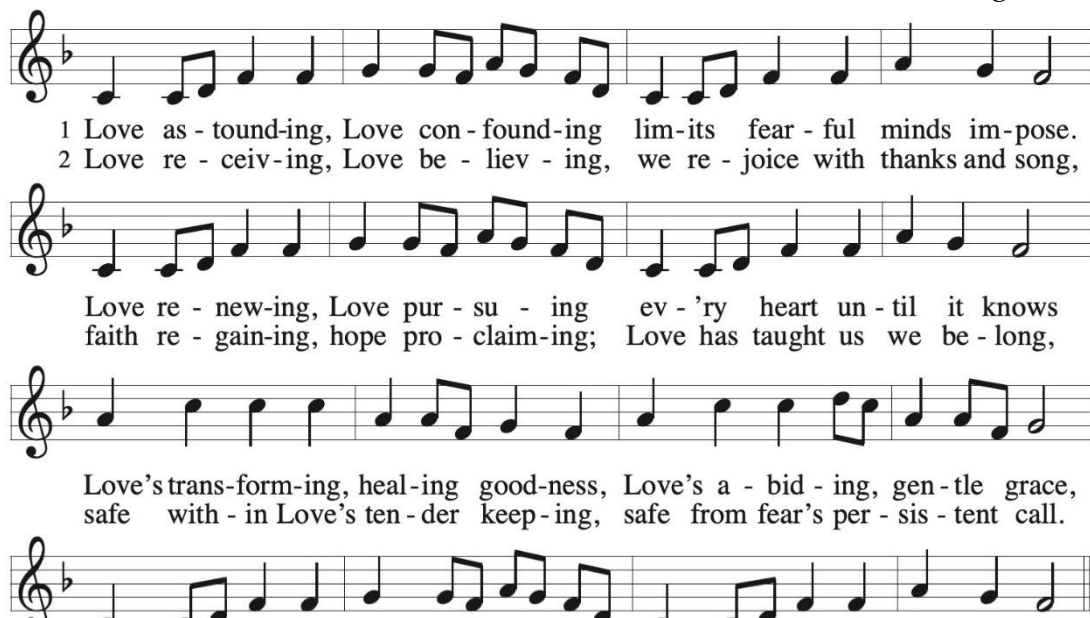
1 Corinthians 13:1-13

# WORD OF COMMITMENT

Ruth 1:7-17

# HYMN

Love Astounding – LA 57



1 Love as - tound-ing, Love con - found-ing lim-its fear - ful minds im-pose.  
 2 Love re - ceiv-ing, Love be - liev - ing, we re - joice with thanks and song,

Love re - new-ing, Love pur - su - ing ev - 'ry heart un - til it knows  
 faith re - gain-ing, hope pro - claim-ing; Love has taught us we be - long,

Love's trans-form-ing, heal-ing good-ness, Love's a - bid - ing, gen - tle grace,  
 safe with - in Love's ten - der keep-ing, safe from fear's per - sis - tent call.

Love's en - dur-ance, Love's as - sur - ance, Love's con - sol-ing, strong em-brace.  
 Love de - fend-ing, Love un - end - ing, Love of God en-fold - ing all.

## THE SERVICE OF THE WORD FOR EASTER

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Halle, Halle, Hallelujah – ELW 172



Hal-le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal -  
- le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le -  
lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah.

### GOSPEL FOR THE FESTIVAL OF THE RESURRECTION

Matthew 28:1-10

R: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

### SERMON

Pastor Sam Nelson

# HYMN OF THE NIGHT

Jesus Christ is Risen Today – ELW 365 vs. 1, 2, & 4



1 Je - sus Christ is ris'n to - day, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 2 Hymns of praise then let us sing, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 3 But the pains which he en - dured, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 4 Sing we to our God a - bove, Al - le - lu - ia!



our tri - um - phant ho - ly day, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 un - to Christ, our heav'n - ly king, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 our sal - va - tion have pro - cured; Al - le - lu - ia!  
 praise e - ter - nal as his love; Al - le - lu - ia!



who did once up - on the cross, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 who en - dured the cross and grave, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 now a - bove the sky he's king, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 praise him, all you heav'n - ly host, Al - le - lu - ia!



suf - fer to re - deem our loss. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 sin - ners to re - deem and save. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 where the an - gels ev - er sing. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. Al - le - lu - ia!

## SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Sawyer Thomas Sivert

Avaline Poppy Sivert

## THE SHARING OF THE PEACE

L: The peace of the Lord be with you always, **C: And also with you!**

## SPECIAL MUSIC

"Christ is Risen, He is Risen Indeed" – WME

# THE SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

## GREAT THANKSGIVING & WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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.

## 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

Ubi Caritas – ELW 642

The musical score is written for a piano and voice. It consists of two systems of music. The first system has a treble and bass staff. The treble staff has a key signature of one flat (Bb) and a common time signature (C). The melody begins with a half note G4, followed by a quarter note A4, a quarter note Bb4, a quarter note C5, a quarter note Bb4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note G4, and a half note F#4. The bass staff has a key signature of one flat (Bb) and a common time signature (C). The melody begins with a half note G3, followed by a quarter note A3, a quarter note Bb3, a quarter note C4, a quarter note Bb3, a quarter note A3, a quarter note G3, and a half note F#3. The lyrics are: U - bi ca - ri - tas et a - mor, Where true char - i - ty and love a - bide, u - bi ca - ri - tas, De - us i - bi est. God is dwell - ing there; God is dwell - ing there.

U - bi ca - ri - tas et a - mor,  
Where true char - i - ty and love a - bide,

u - bi ca - ri - tas, De - us i - bi est.  
God is dwell - ing there; God is dwell - ing there.

## COMMUNION HYMN

What Feast of Love – ELW 487



- 1 What feast of love is of - fered here, what ban-quet come from heav - en?
- 2 What light of truth is of - fered here, what cov - e - nant from heav - en?
- 3 What wine of love is of - fered here, what crim-son drink from heav - en?



What food of ev - er - last-ing life, what gra - cious gift is giv - en?  
What hope of ev - er - last-ing life, what won-drous word is giv - en?  
What stream of ev - er - last-ing life, what pre - cious blood is giv - en?



This, this is Christ the king, the bread come down from heav - en.  
This, this is Christ the king, the sun come down from heav - en.  
This, this is Christ the king, the sweet - est wine of heav - en.

## BENEDICTION

## SENDING HYMN

“All You Need is Love” – WME

## DISMISSAL

L: Go in peace. Christ is risen!

C: He is risen indeed, Alleluia!

# 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](http://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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