



Bethlehem Lutheran Church & Early Childhood Center



Good Friday

April 3, 2026

7 PM

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.

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

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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.

SERVICE OF TENEBRAE

TOLLING OF THE BELL

LITANY OF REPENTANCE

KYRIE

WOV pg. 28

Choir sings "A" | Congregation sings "C"



A Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son: **C** Lord, have mer - cy.
Lord, ... have mer - cy:



A Chri - ste e - le - i - son: **C** Christ, have mer - cy.
Christ, ... have mer - cy:



A Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son: **C** Lord, have mer - cy.
Lord, ... have mer - cy:

PASSION NARRATIVE

In the Garden – Matthew 26:36-46

Jesus is Betrayed – Mark 14:43-46

PRAYER

L: God of silent prayer,

C: Our spirits are willing, but we stumble, and falter, and we lose our way. Help us find the strength to keep awake, even though the night darkens around us. Stay with us, O Lord.

HYMN

Go to Dark Gethsemane – ELW 347



1 Go to dark Geth-se-m - a - ne, all who feel the tempt - er's pow'r;
2 Fol - low to the judg-ment hall, view the Lord of life ar - rained;
3 Cal-v'ry's mourn-ful moun-tain climb; there, a - dor - ing at his feet,



your Re-deem - er's con - flict see. Watch with him one bit - ter hour;
oh, the worm-wood and the gall! Oh, the pangs his soul sus-tained!
mark that mir - a - cle of time, God's own sac - ri - fice com-plete.



turn not from his griefs a - way; learn from Je - sus Christ to pray.
Shun not suf - f'ring, shame, or loss; learn from him to bear the cross.
"It is fin - ished!" hear him cry; learn from Je - sus Christ to die.

PASSION NARRATIVE

Peter's Denial – Matthew 26:57-58, 69-75

Jesus Before the Council – Luke 22:66-71

Crucify Him! – Matthew 27:2, 15-26

PRAYER

L: Merciful Lord,

C: Too often we join the crowd in their cries of, "Crucify him!" Fill our hearts with the compassion and love that defined your time here on earth. Soften our hearts, O Lord.

SPECIAL MUSIC

"God So Loved (Reprise)" – Good News Singers

PASSION NARRATIVE

Hail, King of the Jews – John 19:2-3

Bearing the Cross – Matthew 27:31-32

Father, Forgive Them – Luke 23:32-34a

PRAYER

L: King of kings,

C: You came to us as a king unlike any this world had ever seen. Help us to reflect on how you showed power – not through force, but through service. Empower us with your love, O Lord.

PRAYER STATIONS

Nailing at the Cross: You are invited to write a concern, or a sin, or a prayer on the slip of paper you received at the beginning of service, and then nail it to the cross just outside the front doors of the sanctuary.

Prayer Around the Altar: You are invited to come to the altar space to one of the tables with icons for silent prayer. Candles are available to be lit and placed in the boxes of sand, as a symbol of your prayer.

HYMN

Beneath the Cross of Jesus – ELW 338



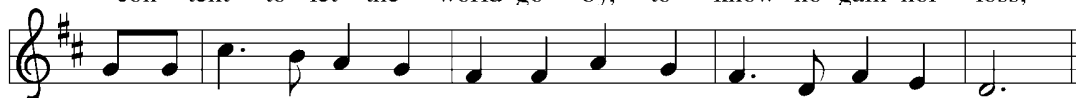
1 Be - neath the cross of Je - sus I long to take my stand;
 2 Up - on the cross of Je - sus, my eye at times can see
 3 I take, O cross, your shad - ow for my a - bid - ing place;



the shad - ow of a might-y rock with - in a wea - ry land,
 the ver - y dy - ing form of one who suf - fered there for me.
 I ask no oth - er sun - shine than the sun - shine of his face;



a home with-in a wil - der - ness, a rest up - on the way,
 And from my con - trite heart, with tears, two won - ders I con - fess:
 con - tent to let the world go by, to know no gain nor loss,



from the burn - ing of the noon-tide heat and bur - dens of the day.
 the . . . won - der of his glo - rious love and my un - wor - thi - ness.
 my . . . sin - ful self my on - ly shame, my glo - ry all, the cross.

PASSION NARRATIVE

Casting Lots – Matthew 27:35-37

Jesus, Remember Me – Luke 23:39-43

Jesus and Mary – John 19:25b-27

PRAYER

L: Source of infinite mercy,

C: Even in the face of death and humiliation, you sought forgiveness on our behalf. May we learn to forgive others as we have been forgiven. Help us to forgive, O Lord.

HYMN

O Sacred Head, Now Wounded – ELW 351 vs . 1 & 3



- 1 O sa - cred head, now wound - ed, with grief and shame weighed down,
- 2 How pale thou art with an - guish, with sore a - buse and scorn;
- 3 What lan - guage shall I bor - row to thank thee, dear - est friend,
- 4 Lord, be my con - so - la - tion; shield me when I must die;



now scorn - ful - ly sur - round - ed with thorns, thine on - ly crown;
 how does thy face now lan - guish, which once was bright as morn!
 for this thy dy - ing sor - row, thy pit - y with - out end?
 re - mind me of thy pas - sion when my last hour draws nigh.



O sa - cred head, what glo - ry, what bliss till now was thine!
 Thy grief and bit - ter pas - sion were all for sin - ners' gain;
 Oh, make me thine for - ev - er, and should I faint - ing be,
 These eyes, new faith re - ceiv - ing, from thee shall nev - er move;



Yet, though de - spised and gor - y, I joy to call thee mine.
 mine, mine was the trans - gres - sion, but thine the dead - ly pain.
 Lord, let me nev - er, nev - er out - live my love to thee.
 for all who die be - liev - ing die safe - ly in thy love.

PASSION NARRATIVE

My God, My God – Matthew 27:45-46

I Thirst/It is Finished – John 19:28-30

Into Your Hands – Luke 23:45b-47

PRAYER

L: Steadfast God,

C: We know that no matter how great our sin might be, you will not forsake us. Be the anchor that holds us steady when the storms of life seek to overwhelm us. Hold us fast, O Lord.

HYMN

Ah, Holy Jesus – ELW 349

1 Ah, ho - ly Je - sus, how hast thou of - fend - ed that we to
2 Who was the guilt - y? Who brought this up - on thee? A - las, my
judge thee have in hate pre - tend - ed? By foes de - rid - ed,
treason, Je - sus, hath un - done thee. 'Twas I, Lord Je - sus,
by thine own re - ject - ed, O most af - flict - ed.
I it was de - nied thee; I cru - ci - fied thee.

PASSION NARRATIVE

The Tomb – Matthew 27:57-60

PRAYER

L: God of new beginnings,

C: Help us to linger at the tomb as we marvel at your love for the world. Remind us that death does not have the final word, and lift our tear-filled eyes to see the promise of new life and hope that are found in the empty tomb. Guide us on our journey, O Lord. Amen.

First Time – Instrumental Only

Verses 1 & 2 – All, Verse 4 – Choir, Verse 5 – Solo



- 1 Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord?
- 2 Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?
- 3 Were you there when they pierced him in the side?
- 4 Were you there when the sun re - fused to shine?
- 5 Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?



Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord?
 Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?
 Were you there when they pierced him in the side?
 Were you there when the sun re - fused to shine?
 Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?

Refrain

Oh, some-times it caus-es me to trem-ble, trem-ble, trem-ble.



Were you there when they cru - ci - fied my Lord?
 Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?
 Were you there when they pierced him in the side?
 Were you there when the sun re - fused to shine?
 Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?

The Good Friday worship concludes without a benediction.

The three days of the Triduum are meant to be treated as three parts of one worship service.

Our Easter Vigil service will be at 5 PM tomorrow. We will gather on the lawn before processing into the sanctuary.

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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