



Bethlehem Lutheran Church & Early Childhood Center



Maundy Thursday

April 17, 2025

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. 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

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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.

GATHERING

WELCOME

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

L: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God, the Word made flesh, our life and our salvation.

C: Amen.

L: Trusting the goodness and loving-kindness of God our Savior, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

L: God of life ...

C: You call us to be messengers of your peace. We confess that too often we hoard our joy, our resources, and our security. We nurture conflict and build barriers. We neglect the needs of our neighbors and ignore the groaning of creation. Have mercy on us. Where we are self-centered, open our hearts. Where we are reluctant, give us courage. Where we are cynical, restore our trust. Renew us with your grace and give us again the hope of eternal life in you. Amen.

L: Hear the good news: We are children of God and heirs of God's promises through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. In ✝ Jesus we are forgiven and redeemed. Sing with joy, for all the ends of the earth shall know the salvation of God.

C: Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

Three Holy Days Enfold Us Now – ACS 930



1 Three ho - ly days en - fold us now in wash - ing
2 The mys - t'ry hid from a - ges past is here re -
3 Christ, lift - ed high up - on the tree, be - fore you



feet and break - ing bread, in cross and font and
vealed in word and sign, for Je - sus' sto - ry
ev - 'ry knee shall bend and ev - 'ry tongue in



life re - newed: in Christ, God's first - born from the dead.
is our own: new life through death is God's de - sign.
praise pro - claim: "You are the Lord of all. A - men."

PRAYER OF THE NIGHT

L: Let us pray,

C: Holy God, source of all love, on the night of his betrayal, Jesus gave us a new commandment, to love one another as he loves us, and in the washing of feet he showed us the dignity of service. Inspire us to be beacons of love, not to be served, but to serve others, following the example of your son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

WORD

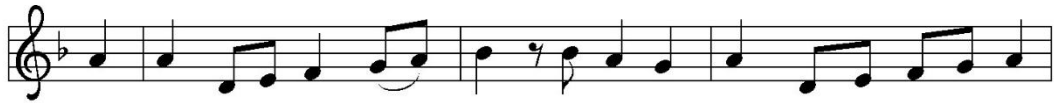
SCRIPTURE READING

Exodus 12:1-4, 11-14

R: Word of God, Word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and mer - ci - ful,



slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

GOSPEL READING

John 13:1-17, 31b-35

R: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor Sam Nelson

HYMN OF THE NIGHT

We Come to the Hungry Feast – ELW 479



1 We come to the hun - gry feast hun - gry for a word of peace.
2 We come to the hun - gry feast hun - gry for a world re - leased
3 We come to the hun - gry feast hun - gry that the hun - ger cease,



To hun - gry hearts un - sat - is - fied the love of God is
from hun - gry folk of ev - 'ry kind, the poor in bod - y,
and know - ing, though we eat our fill, the hun - ger will stay



not de - nied. We come, we come to the hun - gry feast.
poor in mind. We come, we come to the hun - gry feast.
with us; still we come, we come to the hun - gry feast.

FOOT WASHING AND HAND WASHING

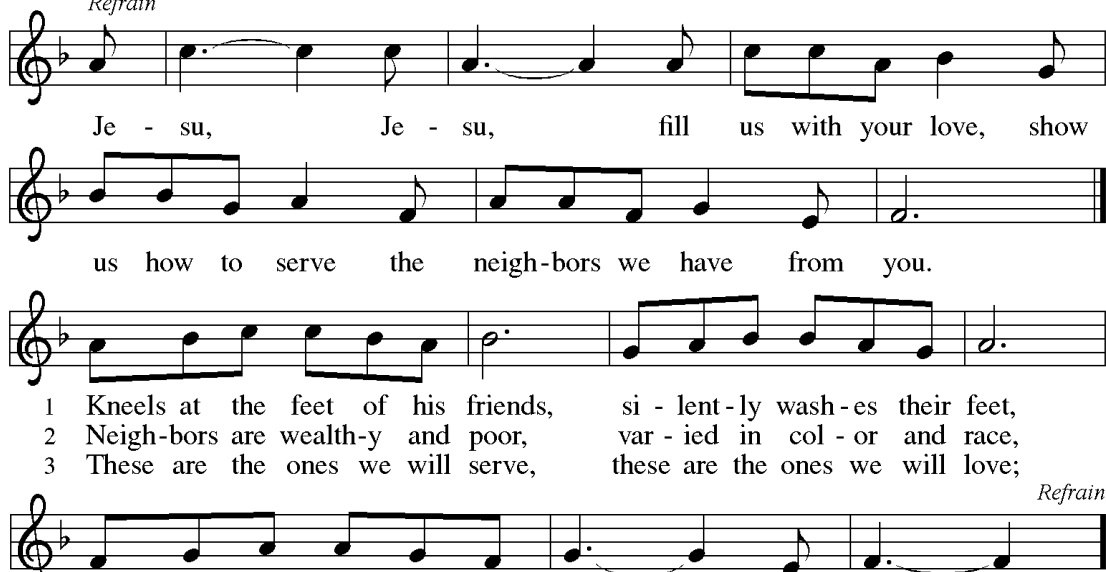
In ancient times foot washing usually served a practical purpose, washing the dirt and dust from the feet of guests before entering a house. The foot washing that Jesus did, however, was not an act of hygiene, but a ritual act of purification. This was a task that was reserved for the lowliest of servants; it was unheard of for someone to have their feet washed by a peer or a superior. In this simple act Jesus serves as a model for Christian humility and calls us all to live a life of service to others.

Those who wish to participate may remove their socks and shoes and sit in the designated chairs to have their feet washed. There are also two stations where you may have your hands washed. If you desire, you may take the place of the person who is doing the washing for a time as well.

HYMN

Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love – ELW 708

Refrain



Je - su, Je - su, fill us with your love, show
us how to serve the neigh-bors we have from you.

1 Kneels at the feet of his friends, si - lent - ly wash - es their feet,
2 Neigh-bors are wealth-y and poor, var - ied in col - or and race,
3 These are the ones we will serve, these are the ones we will love;

Refrain

mas - ter who acts as a slave to them.
neigh-bors are near - by and far a - way.
all these are neigh-bors to us and you.

THE SHARING OF THE PEACE & SPECIAL MUSIC

L: The peace of Christ be with you always, C: And also with you!

MEAL

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

Let Us Break Bread Together – ELW 471

The musical score is written on four staves in 4/4 time, with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The melody is simple and hymn-like. The lyrics are printed below the notes, with some words hyphenated across lines. The first staff has three lines of lyrics, and the subsequent staves have one line each.

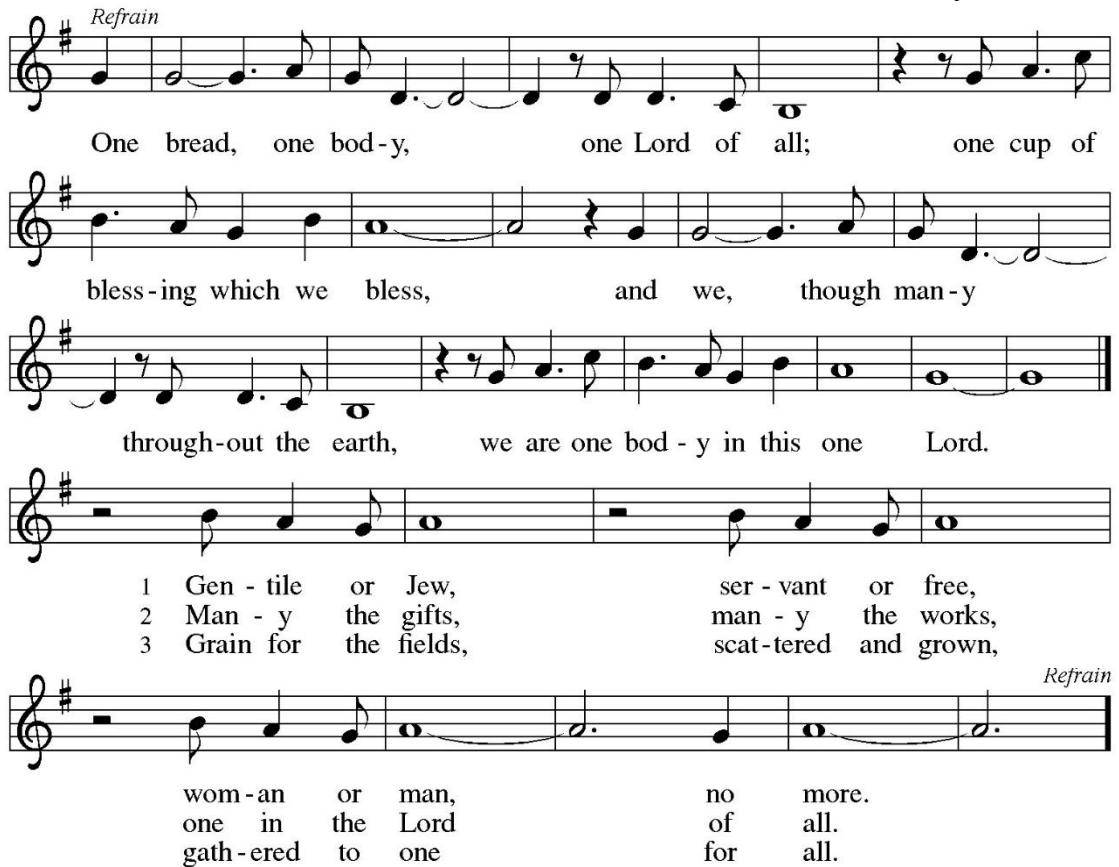
1 Let us break bread to - geth-er on our knees;
2 Let us drink wine to - geth-er on our knees;
3 Let us praise God to - geth-er on our knees;

let us break bread to - geth-er on our knees.
let us drink wine to - geth-er on our knees.
let us praise God to - geth-er on our knees.

When I fall on my knees, with my face to the ris - ing

sun, O Lord, have mer-cy on me.

Refrain



One bread, one bod-y, one Lord of all; one cup of
 bless-ing which we bless, and we, though man-y
 through-out the earth, we are one bod-y in this one Lord.

1 Gen-tile or Jew, ser-vant or free,
 2 Man-y the gifts, man-y the works,
 3 Grain for the fields, scat-tered and grown,

Refrain

wom-an or man, no more.
 one in the Lord of all.
 gath-ered to one for all.

SENDING

STRIPPING OF THE ALTAR & READING OF PSALM 22

SENDING HYMN

Give Me Jesus – ELW 770

Verse 1 – All, Verse 2 – Solo, Verse 4 – All

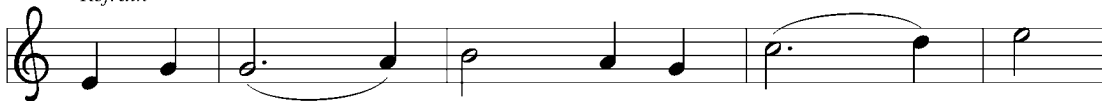


1 In the morn-ing when I rise, in the morn-ing when I rise,
2 Dark . . . mid-night was my cry, dark . . . mid-night was my cry,
3 Just a - bout the break of day, just a - bout the break of day,
4 Oh, . . . when I come to die, oh, . . . when I come to die,
5 And . . . when I want to sing, and . . . when I want to sing,



in the morn-ing when I rise, give me Je - sus.
dark . . . mid-night was my cry, give me Je - sus.
just a - bout the break of day, give me Je - sus.
oh, . . . when I come to die, give me Je - sus.
and . . . when I want to sing, give me Je - sus.

Refrain



Give me Je - sus, give me Je - sus.



You may have all the rest, give me Je - sus.

The Maundy Thursday worship concludes without a benediction.

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

**Our Good Friday service will be at 7 PM tomorrow. The service will be held
in the sanctuary with both livestream and outdoor seating options available.**

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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