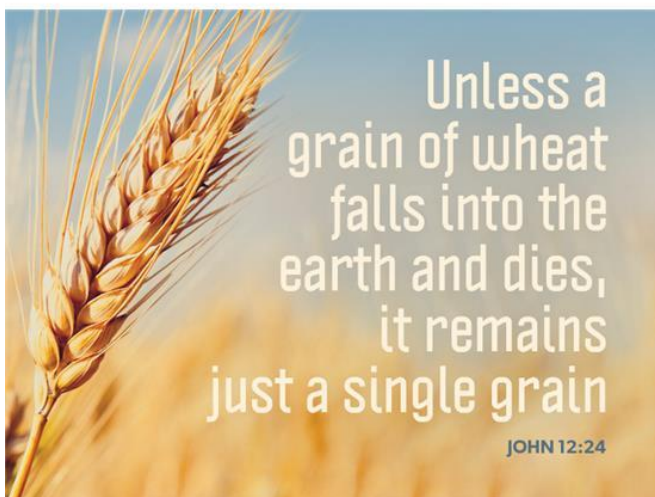




Welcome to Bethlehem Lutheran Church

God's family working together to welcome all.



5th Sunday in Lent March 17th

W8267 Hwy 33 East,
Portage, Wisconsin 53901

Pastor Jaime Benson
Office: 608-742-8502

www.bethlehemLCportage.org

Church Office Hours:

Mon-Wed 9 am to 3 pm

Thurs-Fri 9 am to 12 pm

or by appointment

Hearing assistance devices are available on the counter in the Narthex for your convenience. Please ask the usher for help.

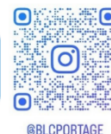
Large print copies of the bulletin are available in the Narthex.

Daily Devotionals are available in the Narthex. These come out quarterly.

Holy Communion is celebrated each week; all people of God are welcome. We offer it two ways: prepacked and communion at the altar. You can pick up the prefilled communion cup on your way into the sanctuary or ask the usher for it at communion time. It has a wafer, which you open first by lifting the clear cellophane on top and then the grape juice. If you would like a **gluten free wafer**, please let the usher know before the start of worship. We also offer communion at the altar for those that wish to come up. Please fill out a Communion Card found in the pew racks and give it to the usher when you come up for communion.

Children's Worship Activity Bags are available in the Narthex with activities for your children, please help yourself. You can place the used activity bags in the basket located beneath the activity bag tree as you leave. We have a **Cry Room** for your comfort where you can hear and see the service.

Ways to stay connected. Follow us on



Enter to praise

We invite those who are able to stand each time this symbol ❖ appears in the bulletin.

❖ CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who writes the law on our hearts, who draws all people together through Jesus. **Amen.**

Held in God's mercy, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy God,

we confess that we are caught in snares of sin and cannot break free. We hoard resources while our neighbors are hungry and cold. We speak in ways that silence others. We are silent when we should speak up. We keep score in our hearts. We let hurts grow into hatred. For all these things and for sins only you know, forgive us, Lord. Amen.

❖ GATHERING HYMN

#338 "Beneath the Cross of Jesus"

❖ 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.**

❖ PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, with steadfast love you draw us to yourself, and in mercy you receive our prayers. Strengthen us to bring forth the fruits of the Spirit, that through life and death we may live in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 31:31-34

³¹The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³²It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. ³³But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, "Know the LORD," for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more. The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Psalm 119:9-16

⁹How shall the young keep their way clean? By keeping to your word.

¹⁰**With my whole heart I seek you; let me not stray from your commandments.**

¹¹I treasure your promise in my heart, that I may not sin against you.

¹²**Blessed are you, O LORD; instruct me in your statutes.**

¹³With my lips I recite all the judgments of your mouth.

¹⁴**I take greater delight in the way of your decrees than in all manner of riches.**

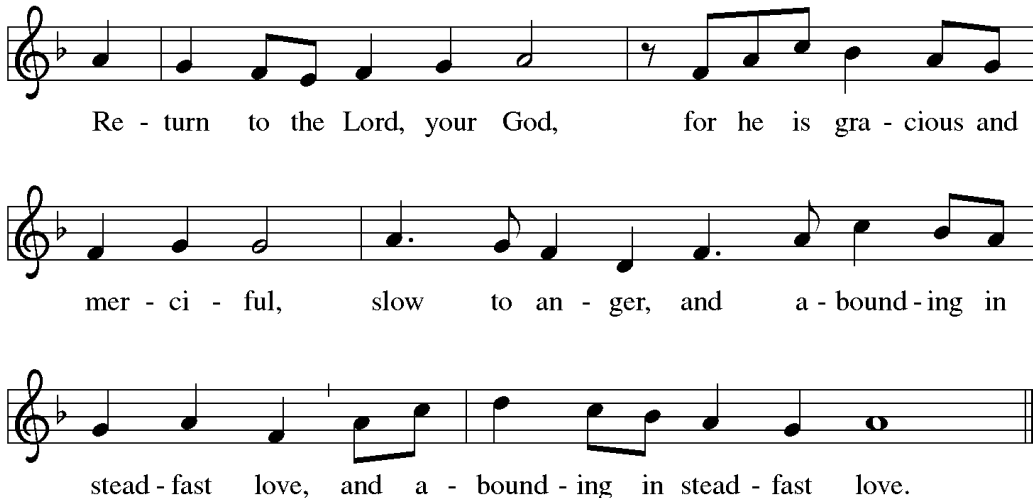
¹⁵I will meditate on your commandments and give attention to your ways.

¹⁶**My delight is in your statutes; I will not forget your word.**

SECOND READING: Hebrews 5:5-10

⁵Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest, but was appointed by the one who said to him, “You are my Son, today I have begotten you”; ⁶as he says also in another place, “You are a priest forever, according to the order of Melchizedek.” ⁷In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. ⁸Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; ⁹and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, ¹⁰having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek. The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

❖



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, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

❖ **GOSPEL:** John 12:20-33

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

²⁰Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. ²¹They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, “Sir, we wish to see Jesus.” ²²Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. ²³Jesus answered them, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. ²⁴Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. ²⁵Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. ²⁶Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

²⁷“Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—‘Father, save me from this hour’? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. ²⁸Father, glorify your name.” Then a voice came from heaven, “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.” ²⁹The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, “An angel has spoken to him.” ³⁰Jesus answered, “This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. ³¹Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. ³²And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all

people to myself.”³³ He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die. The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

CHILDREN’S SERMON

SERMON

❖ HYMN OF THE DAY

“The Table” by Chris Tomlinson

❖ THE 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 power of 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.

❖ MISSION STATEMENT

Bethlehem Lutheran Church is a growing community where we love inclusively, welcome, serve, and thrive through our relationship with God.

❖ THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE *Pray aloud as the Spirit guides you.*

P: Trusting in God’s promise to reconcile all things, let us pray for the church, the well-being of creation, and a world in need.

A brief silence.

God of the covenant, through the church you draw us into community. We give thanks for the means of grace around which we gather. Inspire writers, musicians, and artists whose creative gifts adorn our worship. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of all that exists, you lavish the earth with extravagant beauty. Preserve the rich and complex diversity of living things. Support local, national, and international efforts to protect the environment for future generations. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of the nations, you desire peace and plenty for all people. Defend those who challenge oppression and expose corruption. Support advocates for human rights, social justice, and the welfare of children. Create peace in the midst of conflict, especially in Gaza, Haiti, India, France and the U.S. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of good will, you restore what is broken. We pray for any experiencing estrangement, conflict, or abuse in families and intimate relationships. Protect and comfort all who are vulnerable, especially those living in institutions. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of every time and place, you are with us. Support ministries of prayer and presence in this congregation. Move us to reach out to any who are homebound, lonely, grieving, in treatment, or ill. Especially those on our prayer list and those we name before you in our hearts. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of promise, we give thanks for the saints whose faith inspires us. Grant us faith to trust in your everlasting love. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

P: Accompany us on our journey, God of grace, and receive the prayers of our hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

❖ PEACE

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

OFFERING

We share our offerings for the mission of Christ through Bethlehem. Thank you for your participation in this ministry to the Glory of God!

❖ OFFERING PRAYER

Jesus, you are the bread of life and the host of this meal. Bless these gifts that we have gathered that all people may know your goodness. Feed us not only with this holy food but with hunger for justice and peace. We pray this in your name. **Amen.**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

...we praise your name and join their unending hymn...

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

❖ WORDS OF INSTITUTION

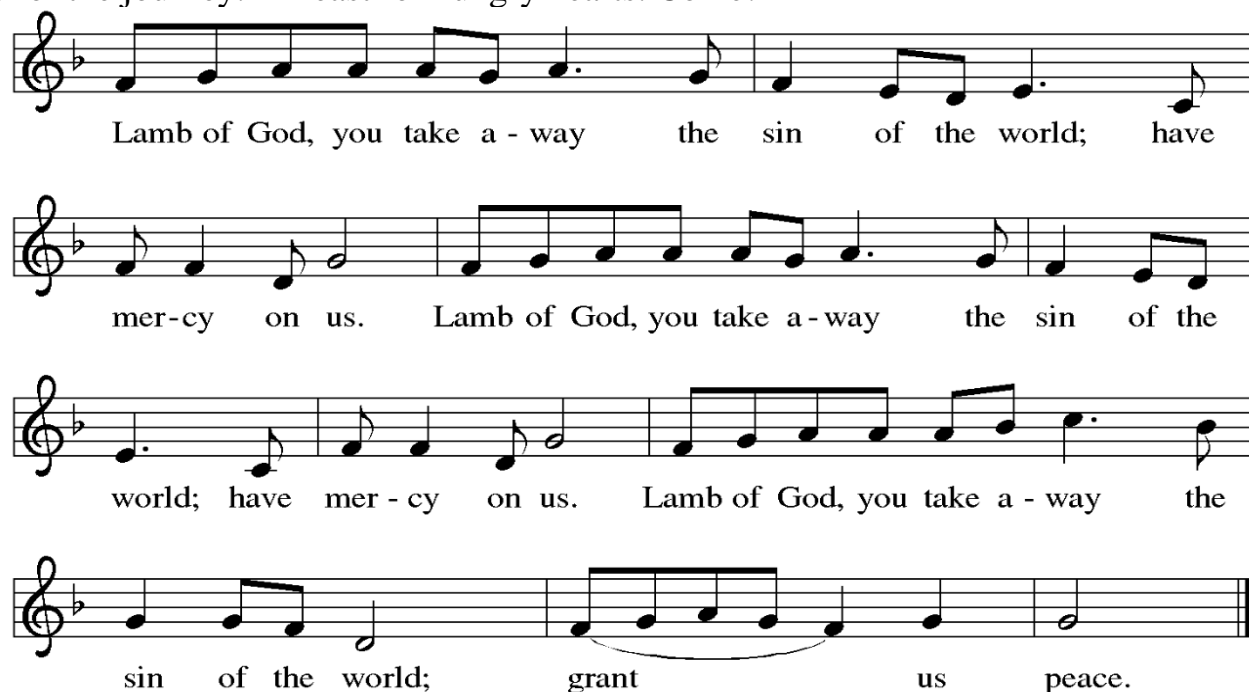
❖ THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

Bread for the journey. A feast for hungry hearts. Come!



DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

You may come forward to receive communion at this time. If you prefer to celebrate communion in your pew with prepackaged elements, please let the usher know.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Generous God, at this table we have tasted your immeasurable grace. As grains of wheat are gathered into one bread, now make us one loaf to feed the world; in the name of Jesus, the Bread of life. **Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Next week is First Communion for the following students: Ben Haroldson, Laila Sween, Esme Wagner and Corah Young.
- Next week after Palm Sunday service there will be an Easter Egg Hunt.
- Next Sunday is also the last day we're collecting items for the School Food Market. Thank you all for your generosity.
- Listed in today's bulletin is the worship schedule for Holy Week. Please note that there will be a brunch between services on Easter.
- Temple Beth El field trip, April 7th. Sign-up on our website or in the narthex by the 24th.

MILESTONES

Today's Gift of Tribute is given by Marie Kucksdorf in honor of Dan's 70th birthday tomorrow!

❖ BLESSING

Beloved, we are God's own people, holy, washed, renewed. God bless you and keep you, shower you with mercy, fill you with courage, and ✠ give you peace. **Amen.**

❖ SENDING HYMN

#545 "Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing"

❖ DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share your bread.

Thanks be to God.

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Depart to share

Church Prayer List, please pray for:

Bonnie Bender
Lee Chenoweth
Shelvy Ritter
Mark Teslik
Donn Trinrud



Our Extended Family Prayer

Concerns:

Lavern Allhiser (brother-in-law of Sandy Sween)
Carly (niece of Jeff & Kerry Melby)
Julie Grueneberg
Chris Kelly (friend of Ginny & Jack Paulson & Nancy & Emil Loether)
Freda Manzullo (sister of Mark Teslik)
Deb Moe & family (cousin of Sandra Sween)
Tatiana Sampson (niece of Jean Elliott)
Kallee Stewart (granddaughter of Donna Stewart)
Sharon Stickford (friend of Ginny Paulson)
Tom Teslik (son of Mark Teslik)
Jody Tilton (granddaughter of Cloe Rehdantz)

Today's Worship Team

Music: Jody
Reader: Ellen Kabele
Usher: Ann Ciske
Video Production: Jeff Melby
Acolyte: Gabe Bishop
Altar Guild: Kerry Melby
Communion Assistants: Kerry Melby & Lyn Holmes

Next Week's Worship Team

Wednesday 5:30 pm, 3/20
Music: Carla
Acolyte: Kinleyh Anderson

Palm Sunday Service 9:00 am, 3/24
Music: Jody
Reader: Ginny McNeal
Usher: Del Molden
Video Production: Ben Rudolph
Acolyte: Kayson Bulgrin
Altar Guild: Lisa Cook
Communion Assistants: Lisa Cook & Ginny McNeal

This Week at BLC:

Monday, March 18th

10:30 am Tai Chi

1:00 pm Card Club

Tuesday, March 19th

9:00 am Quilters

Wednesday, March 20th

10:00 am Chimes Articles Due

10:30 am Tai Chi

5:30 pm Worship & Soup

Supper hosted by All

Committee Members

6:30 pm Bible Study

Thursday, March 21st

9:00 am Women's Group

Meeting

6:30 pm Church

Council



Friday, March 22nd

10:30 am Tai Chi

Sunday, March 24th

9:00 am Worship & First Communion

10:00 am Easter Egg Hunt

10:00 am Deadline

to sign-up
for the
Temple Beth El Trip



HOLY WEEK



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Wednesday, 3/27- No Worship

Maundy Thursday, 3/28, **6:30 pm**

Good Friday, 3/29, **1:00 pm**

Good Friday, 3/29, 7:00 pm Community

Tenebrae @ St. Mary's

Easter, 3/31, **8:00 am**

Brunch between services!

Easter, 3/31, **10:30 am**

To sign up for soup supper, please visit:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D4DADA72FA1FCC43-47551082-2024>

There will **not** be Wednesday night worship service on April 3rd!

If you are interested in joining the Bethlehem Lutheran family,

Pastor Jaime will hold a New Member Class on April 14th at

10:15 am. If you are unable to make it that day, please let the office know. 608-742-8502.



Women's Tea – April 27th! Judy Traut will start selling tickets on March 28th before the Maundy Thursday worship service.