



## **FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT**

**MARCH 17, 2024**

**9:30 AM**



**Bethel Lutheran Church**

**1009 18th Avenue SW**

**Great Falls, MT 59404**

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**A congregation of the Montana Synod of the  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**

*Large print bulletins are available, please see the ushers for a copy.*

*As we gather for worship and prepare our hearts, we would ask that you please silence your cell phones for the duration of the service.*

## **INTRODUCTION**

*God promises Jeremiah that a “new covenant” will be made in the future: a covenant that will allow all the people to know God by heart. The church sees this promise fulfilled in Christ, who draws all people to himself when he is lifted up on the cross. Our baptismal covenant draws us to God’s heart through Christ and draws God’s love and truth into our hearts. We join together in worship, sharing in word, song, and meal, and leave strengthened to share God’s love with all the world.*

## **WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **GATHERING SONG**

*W&P 14      Baptized and Set Free*

## **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.**

Here is a flood of grace:  
Out of love for the whole world,  
God draws near to us,  
breaks every snare of sin,  
washes away our wrongs,  
and restores the promise of life through † Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

## 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.**

## KYRIE

*ELW S203     Setting 10*

*1. Have mercy on us, Lord, and hear out solemn prayer.*

*We come to hear your living word; it saves us from despair.*

*2. Have mercy on us, Christ, and wash away our sin.*

*Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may begin.*

*3. Have mercy on us, Lord; make sin and shame depart.*

*Renew us with your saving pow'r; create in us new hearts!*

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. 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

*The Judeans in Babylon blamed their exile on their ancestors, who had broken the covenant established at Sinai. Here the prophet looks to a day when God will make a new covenant with the people. There will be no need to teach the law, because God will write it on their hearts.*

The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It 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. But 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. No 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.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **PSALM 51:1-12**

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;  
in your great compassion blot out my offenses.

**Wash me through and through from my wickedness,  
and cleanse me from my sin.**

For I know my offenses, and my sin is ever before me.

**Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil in your  
sight; so you are justified when you speak and right in your  
judgment.**

Indeed, I was born steeped in wickedness,  
a sinner from my mother's womb.

**Indeed, you delight in truth deep within me,  
and would have me know wisdom deep within.**

Remove my sins with hyssop, and I shall be clean;  
wash me, and I shall be purer than snow.

**Let me hear joy and gladness;  
that the body you have broken may rejoice.**

Hide your face from my sins,  
and blot out all my wickedness.

**Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
and renew a right spirit within me.**

Cast me not away from your presence,  
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

**Restore to me the joy of your salvation  
and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.**

## **SECOND READING: HEBREWS 5:5-10**

*Using priestly imagery and references to the Old Testament, the author explains how Christ lived in trusting obedience to God, and so God has made Christ the source of our eternal salvation.*

Christ 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”;

as he says also in another place,

“You are a priest forever,  
according to the order of Melchizedek.”

In 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. Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

*LH 119      Return to God*

*Return to God with all your heart, the source of grace and mercy;  
Come, seek the tender seek the tender faithfulness of God.*

The holy gospel according to John the twelfth chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

## **GOSPEL: JOHN 12:20-33**

*Jesus entered Jerusalem for the last time to celebrate the Passover festival. Here Jesus' words about seeds planted in the ground turn the disaster of his death into the promise of a harvest in which everyone will be gathered.*

Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, “Sir, we wish to see Jesus.” Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. Jesus answered them, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very 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. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

“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. Father, glorify your name.” Then a voice came from heaven, “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.” The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, “An angel has spoken to him.” Jesus answered, “This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” 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 MESSAGE AND SERMON**

Jim Carlson, LPA

### **HYMN OF THE DAY**

*LH 547      I See Jesus (In This Place)*

### **PROFESSION OF FAITH**

Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

**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 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.**

## PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Lord, in your mercy.

Hear our prayer.

### THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

### OFFERING/OFFERTORY

*ELW 184 Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful*

*Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord,*

*and fill to the brim our cup of blessing.*

*Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown,  
that we may be fed with the bread of life.*

*Gather the hopes and dreams of all:  
unite them with the prayers we offer.*

*Grace our table with your presence,  
and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.*

### OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray. 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.**

### GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give our thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,...and join their unending hymn:

# **HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**

*ELW S207 Holy, Holy, Holy*

*Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heav'n and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.*

## **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

### **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

*Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus first taught us:*

**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**

*The Lord's Table is open to believers of all Christian traditions. We believe that Christ comes to us in the bread and cup for the forgiveness of sins and new life. Gluten free wafers are available, please let your server know. Choice of red wine and white grape juice offered.*

## **COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION**

<i>ELW 518</i>	<i>We Eat the Bread of Teaching</i>
<i>ELW 542</i>	<i>O Living Bread from Heaven</i>
<i>W&amp;P 134</i>	<i>That We May Be Filled [2x]</i>
<i>W&amp;P 139</i>	<i>the Trumpets Sound, the Angels Sing</i>

## **COMMUNION BLESSING**

**May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God's grace. Amen.**



## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray. 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.**

## BENEDICTION

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

*ELW 185      Create In Me*

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share your bread.  
**Thanks be to God**  
And all God's children said: **Amen.**

## SERVING TODAY

<b>Accompanist</b>	Lynn Ryan, piano;
<b>Lay Assistant</b>	Walt Nuessle
<b>Usher</b>	Sue Hesse
<b>Tech</b>	Gabe Smith
<b>Projection</b>	Tim Lightbourne
<b>Children's Church</b>	Julia Elkin and Tyler Grosenick
<b>Hospitality</b>	The Grosenick Family
<b>Counters</b>	Patty Braget and Randy Gilbertson

**Flowers are given** by Tom and Jan Robitaille.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

We celebrate the **Fifth Sunday in Lent.**

We welcome and thank **Jim Carlson, LPA** for preaching and presiding in worship this morning. Jim has been authorized by the Bishop of the Montana Synod to provide pastoral services in this congregation this Sunday.

**Happy St. Patrick's Day!!!**

**Adult Forum** The Chosen Season 2 continues in the Fellowship Hall after worship.

ELCA Youth Gathering **Parent Meeting** today after worship in the sanctuary.

## **THIS WEEK**

### **Tuesday 3/19**

- Electric City Bible Study, Zoom meeting 7:00 am
- Men's Breakfast in the Fellowship Hall 7:00 am
- Hope Circle at Terry Korpela's home 2:00 pm

### **Wednesday 3/20**

- LOGOs Youth Ministry 5:30 pm; HS LOGOs 6:30 pm

### **Thursday 3/21**

- Lenten Soup Supper in the Fellowship Hall 6:00 pm
- Holden Evening Worship in the sanctuary 6:45 pm

### **Friday 3/22**

- Bethel office is closed

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

### **Sunday 3/24**

- Worship service led by Dave Scholten, LPA in person and live stream at 9:30 am
- Adult Forum The Chosen Season 2 in the Fellowship Hall following worship

### **Tuesday 3/26**

- Electric City Bible Study, Zoom meeting 7:00 am
- Men's Breakfast in the Fellowship Hall 7:00 am

### **Wednesday 3/27**

- No LOGOs Youth Ministry
- Jubilate Choir Retreat for Holy Week 6:30 pm

### **Thursday 3/28**

- Maundy Thursday worship service led by Pastor Jessica Crist  
7:00 pm

### **Friday 3/29**

- Bethel office is closed.
- Good Friday worship service led by the Jubilate Choir 7:00 pm

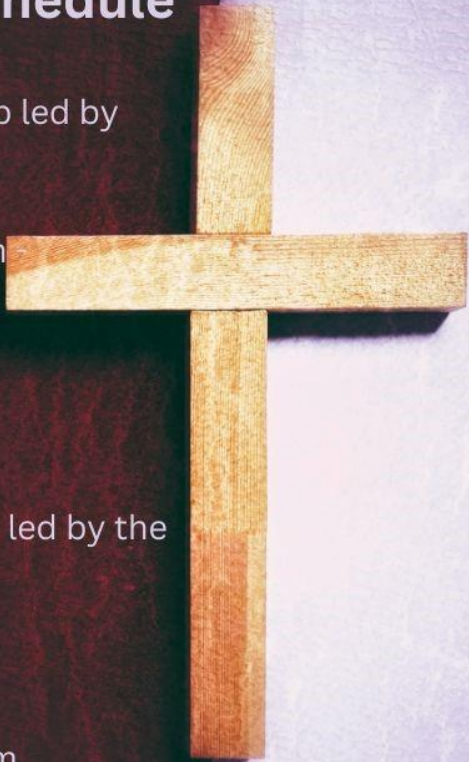
## **Holy Week Schedule**

Sunday, March 24th -  
Palm Sunday, worship led by  
Dave Scholten LPA

Thursday, March 28th  
Maundy Thursday,  
worship led by  
Pastor Jessica Crist

Friday, March 29th -  
Good Friday, worship led by the  
Jubilate Choir

Sunday, March 31st -  
Easter Sunday  
9:00 am and 11:00 am,  
both services led by  
Pastor Jessica Crist



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