

## BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

*Vibrantly open to the spirit, Bethel Lutheran Church seeks to serve God and its neighbors by joyfully living into the good news of Jesus Christ.*

Midweek Lenten Service

Stefan Swanson, Interim Vicar

Wednesday, March 22, 2023

Jan Smith, Accompanist

Taizé Style, Week 4

GivePlus Text 866-298-7547

### WELCOME

### OPENING SONG

ACS #1031 "In God Alone"

### PSALM READING (read responsively) Psalm 146

### PSALM RESPONSE SONG ELW #751 "O Lord, Hear My Prayer"

### SCRIPTURE READING 1 Corinthians 12:12-31 (on back side)

### REFLECTIVE MEDITATION

During this time of meditation, you are invited to rest, breathe, and reflect in whatever way is life-giving for you.

Here are some ideas—

- Feel the Spirit's presence with each part of your own body. Notice how this makes you feel.
- Reflect on which part of the Body of Christ you might identify with.
- Think about the gifts that God has given to you. How might your gifts help care for the whole of the body of Christ?

### PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

### CLOSING SONG

ELW #348 "Stay with Me"

## SCRIPTURE READING: 1 Corinthians 12:12-31

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit. Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. If the foot would say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. And if the ear would say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. If all were a single member, where would the body be? As it is, there are many members, yet one body. The eye cannot say to the hand, “I have no need of you,” nor again the head to the feet, “I have no need of you.” On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and those members of the body that we think less honorable we clothe with greater honor, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect; whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior member, that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it.

Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers; then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? But strive for the greater gifts. And I will show you a still more excellent way.