

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.*

Palm Sunday, April 2, 2023

GivePlus Text 866-298-7547

Stefan Swanson, Interim Vicar

Jan Smith, Accompanist

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

Gather in the Narthex

Welcome and Announcements

Greeting

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Processional Gospel Reading Matthew 21:1-11

Children's Sermon

Procession

Let us go forth in peace.

In the name of Christ. Amen.

Processional Hymn "Pave the Way with Branches" ACS #928

Prayer of the Day

Everlasting God, in your endless love for the human race you sent our Lord Jesus Christ to take on our nature and to suffer death on the cross. In your mercy enable us to share in his obedience to your will and in the glorious victory of his resurrection, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

First Reading Isaiah 50:1-9a (insert)

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalms 31:9-16 (read responsively)

Second Reading Philippians 2:5-11 (printed)

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation (ELW p. 142) **Return to the Lord, your God...**

The Gospel according to Matthew the twenty-first chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Gospel Reading Matthew 21:23-46 (insert)

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

Hymn of the Day "There in God's Garden" ELW #342

Apostles Creed (p. 105)

Prayers of Intercession Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

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

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

Offering

Offertory Prayer

God of good gifts, receive these and all our offerings as we present them in faithful service for the sake of your gospel. Prepare our hearts to receive you in this meal as you pour out your very presence through Jesus Christ, the wellspring of eternal life. Amen.

Great Thanksgiving (ELW p. 144)

Words of Institution

Hymn "The Lord's Prayer" Green Binder #134

Communion (ELW p. 146) **O Lamb of God...**

Communion Hymn "Ah, Holy Jesus" ELW #349

Post Communion Blessing

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

Sending Gospel Reading Matthew 26:1-16 (insert)

Sending Hymn "Beneath the Cross of Jesus" ELW #338

Dismissal

Go in peace. Serve in love.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

WELCOME

Bethel Lutheran Church—April 2, 2023, Palm Sunday

OUR MISSION STATEMENT—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.

QUESTIONS OR REQUESTS? Please contact the church office at 320-395-2125 at bethellutheranlp@gmail.com or pastor@lpbethel.org. For emergency pastoral care needs, please call the church office first, and if nobody answers, call Vicar Stefan at 320-434-7113. Bulletin submissions due: Wednesdays at noon. Newsletter deadline: 25th of the month. **GivePlus Text 866-298-7547**

TODAY

- **Hearing assist devices are available:** Speak to an usher for assistance.
- **Sunday school and Confirmation class:** 10:15 am

MONDAY

- **Coffee hour:** 8:30 am-9:30 am

WEDNESDAY

- **Choir practice:** 6:30 pm
- **WELCA meeting:** 7:30 pm

MAUNDY THURSDAY

- **Maundy Thursday Worship:** 6:30 pm, with communion

GOOD FRIDAY

- **Good Friday Worship:** 6:30 pm

EASTER SUNDAY

- **Worship:** 8:00 am
- **Breakfast:** 9:00 am; Free will offering to support Bethel Youth Camperships

Please remember to return the church key to the lockbox after you lock up the church.

Family Game Night is scheduled for Sunday, April 16, from 5-8 pm at church. Please bring a hotdish or salad to share, your own beverage, and your favorite game to play.

Adult Forum-Twin Cities Homeless Ministry: Join us after worship on Sunday, April 16, for an Adult Forum featuring guest Jeff Schmidt. Jeff will share his Outreach Homeless Ministry in the Twin Cities area. Jeff is a teacher in Hutchinson and began this grassroots ministry where he brings basic survival items to those living on the streets. Jeff will tell his stories of how he shares his faith and respectfully helps meet the basic needs of these individuals.

April Book Club: *Everything Isn't Terrible: Conquer Your Insecurities, Interrupt Your Anxiety, and Finally Calm Down* by Dr. Kathleen Smith—Licensed therapist and mental health writer Dr. Kathleen Smith offers a smart, practical antidote to our anxiety-ridden times. *Everything Isn't Terrible* is an informative and practical guide—featuring a healthy dose of humor—for people who want to become beacons of calmness in their families, at work, and in our anxious world. *Everything Isn't Terrible* will give anyone suffering from anxiety all the tools they need to finally...calm...down. Ultimately, living a calmer and less anxious life—one that isn't terrible—is possible, and with this book you'll learn how to do it.

Discussion date: Wednesday, April 19, 7:30 pm

Spring Fever Youth Retreat: April 28-April 30, 2023, Green Lake Bible Camp, Grades 2-6, Fee \$175. Are you getting the itch for summer? This is the retreat for you! Come, join us for Bible studies, games, arts and crafts, worships, campfires and more! This retreat is great for new campers who want to give camp a try before doing a full week. Sign up today and get ready for some fun!

Bethel Quilting: The group meets the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month in the Fellowship Hall from 1:00 pm-4:30 pm—come and go as you wish. If you are interested in evening quilting, call Judy or Roxanne. The quilts are for baptized babies, graduates, GLLM Quilt auction, and Don't Cry I'm Here (homeless shelter).

On the fourth Sunday of the month the "Noisy" offering supports camperships for Bethel youth attending Green Lake Bible Camp. On your way out of the sanctuary, drop your loose change into the metal can with a clang! Although paper bills and checks won't have the same noisy effect, they will be accepted and appreciated! (April 23)

First Reading: Isaiah 50:1-9a

Thus says the LORD: Where is your mother's bill of divorce with which I put her away? Or which of my creditors is it to whom I have sold you? No, because of your sins you were sold, and for your transgressions your mother was put away. Why was no one there when I came? Why did no one answer when I called? Is my hand shortened, that it cannot redeem? Or have I no power to deliver? By my rebuke I dry up the sea, I make the rivers a desert; their fish stink for lack of water, and die of thirst. I clothe the heavens with blackness, and make sackcloth their covering.

The Lord GOD has given me the tongue of a teacher, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word. Morning by morning he awakens— awakens my ear to listen as those who are taught. The Lord GOD has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backward. I gave my back to those who struck me, and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; I did not hide my face from insult and spitting. The Lord GOD helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame; he who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me. It is the Lord GOD who helps me; who will declare me guilty? All of them will wear out like a garment; the moth will eat them up.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 21:23-46

When he entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet." So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

"What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' He answered, 'I will not'; but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, 'I go, sir'; but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.

"Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenants and went to another country. When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. Again he sent other slaves, more than the first; and they treated them in the same way. Finally he sent his son to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.' But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, 'This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.'" So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?" They said to him, "He will put those wretches to a miserable death, and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time." Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the scriptures: 'The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord's doing, and it is amazing in our eyes'? Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces the fruits of the kingdom. The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and it will crush anyone on whom it falls." When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.