

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.

Ash Wednesday, February 14, 2024
GivePlus Text 866-298-7547

Rev. Molly Wills, Pastor
Jan Smith, Accompanist

GATHERING

Prelude "Savior, When in Dust to You" arr. by Paul Manz
Gathering Hymn "Our Father, We Have Wandered" ELW #606
Greeting

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Prayer of the Day

Almighty and ever-living God, you hate nothing you have made, and your forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create in us new and honest hearts, so that, truly repenting of our sins, we may receive from you, the God of all mercy, full pardon and forgiveness through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

WORD

First Reading Isaiah 58:1-12 (page 600-601 in the pew Bible)
The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalms 51:1-17 (read responsively) (Psalms follow page 338 in front of hymnal)

Second Reading 2 Corinthians 5:20b—6:10 (page 940 in the pew Bible)
The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation (p. 205)

We are turning, Lord, to hear you; you are merciful and kind-slow to anger, rich in blessing, and with love to us inclined.

The Gospel according to Matthew the sixth chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Gospel Reading Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

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

Sermon

Hymn of the Day "Bless Now, O God, the Journey" ELW #326

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.

Invitation to Lent

Imposition of Ashes

"Remember That You Are Dust" ACS #919 (repeat 3x)

"Abide With Me" ELW #629

Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation,

that we may show forth your glory in the world.

By the cross and passion of your Son, our Savior,

bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.

Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life.

Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Offering

"Now Is the Time of Grace"

Prayer

Merciful God,

Bless these gifts that we have gathered that all people may know your goodness. Accompany our journey through these forty days. Renew us in the gift of baptism, that we may provide for those who are poor, for those in need, fast from self-indulgence, and above all that we may find our treasure in the life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Lord's Prayer (ELW p. 255) **Our Father, who art in heaven...**

SENDING

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

"Be Thou My Vision" ELW #793

Dismissal

Go in peace. Share your bread. **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

"Around You, O Lord Jesus" arr. by Stephen Gabrielson