

Bethesda on the Bay Lutheran Church

Fifth Sunday in Lent

Evangelical Lutheran Worship setting 5

April 6, 2025

10:00AM

**Please stand as you are willing and able.
ELW refers to the red hymnal, Evangelical Lutheran Worship.
ACS refers to All Creation Sings*

GATHERING

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

The assembly gathers in quiet for prayer and meditation.

WELCOME & CENTERING SILENCE

You are invited to use this time of silence to center your hearts and pray as we prepare for worship together.

PRELUDE

Beneath the Cross of Jesus

Arr.: Wilbur Held

*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who forgives all our sin,
whose mercy endures forever.
Amen.

Let us return to God, confessing our sin in the assurance of God's abiding love.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate One,
you are slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love,
but our lives do not always reflect you
and your love for the world.
We do not show others the tender compassion
you have shown to us.
We do not welcome others with the radical hospitality
you grant to all people.

We oppress others, even though you have set us free again and again.
We squander the abundant gifts of the earth.
Transform our lives and guide us again in the way of the cross.
Amen.

Beloved in Christ,
God's arms are always stretched open wide
to welcome the wandering ones home.
In † Christ your sins are forgiven.
You have a place in God's house forever.
Amen.

*GATHERING HYMN Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed ELW 337

***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**

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.

For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal-va-tion, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,

and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.

For this ho - ly house, and for all who of - fer here their wor-ship and praise,

let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.

Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.

A - men.

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Creator God, you prepare a new way in the wilderness, and your grace waters our desert. Open our hearts to be transformed by the new thing you are doing, that our lives may proclaim the extravagance of your love given to all 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.

The assembly is seated.

CHOIR ANTHEM

My Hope Is in the Lord Marianne Formann

WORD

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

FIRST READING

Isaiah 43:16-21

- ¹⁶ Thus says the LORD,
 who makes a way in the sea,
 a path in the mighty waters,
¹⁷ who brings out chariot and horse,
 army and warrior;
 they lie down, they cannot rise,
 they are extinguished, quenched like a wick:
¹⁸ Do not remember the former things,
 or consider the things of old.

¹⁹ I am about to do a new thing;
now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?
I will make a way in the wilderness
and rivers in the desert.

²⁰ The wild animals will honor me,
the jackals and the ostriches;
for I give water in the wilderness,
rivers in the desert,
to give drink to my chosen people,
²¹ the people whom I formed for myself
so that they might declare my praise.

The reading may be concluded: Word of God. Word of Life.

The assembly responds: Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 126

Refrain:



Those who sowed with tears will reap with songs of joy.

¹ When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion,
then were we like those who dream.

² **Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy.
Then they said among the nations, "The LORD has done great things for them."**

³ The LORD has done great things for us,
and we are glad indeed.

⁴ Restore our fortunes, O LORD,
like the watercourses of the Negeb.

Refrain:



Those who sowed with tears will reap with songs of joy.

⁵ Those who sowed with tears
will reap with songs of joy.

⁶ **Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed,
will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.**

Refrain:



Those who sowed with tears will reap with songs of joy.

SECOND READING

Philippians 3:4b-14

[Paul writes:] ^{4b} If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: ⁵ circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶ as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

⁷ Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. ⁸ More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ ⁹ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. ¹⁰ I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, ¹¹ if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

¹² Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. ¹³ Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

The reading may be concluded: Word of God. Word of Life.

The assembly responds: Thanks be to God.

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.



*GOSPEL

John 12:1-8

The gospel is announced. The holy gospel according to St. John
Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. ² There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. ³ Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. ⁴ But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, ⁵ "Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?" ⁶ (He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) ⁷ Jesus said, "Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial." ⁸ You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me."

The gospel concludes: The gospel of the Lord.

The assembly responds: Praise to you, O Christ.

***REFLECTION**

The Rev. Angela Freeman

Silence for reflection follows the sermon.

The assembly stands to proclaim the word of God in song.

***HYMN OF THE DAY** Where Charity and Love Prevail ELW 359

***APOSTLES' CREED** Pg. 105

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

P: Led by the Spirit, let us turn to God in prayer for the church, the world, and all those in need.

A brief silence.

A: The church declares your praise, O God. Guide us in the example of Isaiah's imagination, Paul's transformed identity, and Mary's faith and devotion; that our lives, too, may be poured out in love as we trust in your promises. God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

A: The earth declares your praise, O God. Make a way for the planet's future in the sea and the wilderness, the mountains and plains, the tundra and wetlands. Repair habitats and sustainable ecosystems on, above, and beneath the ground. God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

A: The nations declare your praise, O God. Where religious differences divide, bring together those who worship you in the name of Jesus Christ and those who call to you with different names. Guide interreligious dialogue, that faith may unite rather than divide communities. God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

A: The people declare your praise, O God. Restore those whose hope has been dampened through a health diagnosis, job or home loss, divorce, or death. Bring healing to those in need (*especially*). May all who weep now sing songs of joy again. God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

A: The gifts of the Spirit declare your praise, O God. We thank you for artists who proclaim the gospel (*especially Albrecht Dürer, Matthias Grünewald, and Lucas Cranach*). Inspire music, poetry, and images that proclaim the new thing you are doing. God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A: The communion of saints declares your praise, O God. Giving thanks for those who have died, we trust in the one who has made them his own: Christ Jesus, our crucified and risen Savior. God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

P: Receive the prayers of your people and draw all things together in your love, in the name of Jesus, who leads us from death to life.

Amen.

***PEACE**

The presiding minister and the assembly greet each other in the peace of the risen Christ.

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Greet one another as you are comfortable sharing God's peace.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERTORY

OFFERING

An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need.

Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re-new a right
spir-it with-in me. Cast me not a-way from your pres-ence, and take
not your Ho-ly Spir-it from me. Re-store to me the joy of
your sal-va-tion, and up-hold me with your free Spir-it.

*OFFERING PRAYER

A: Let us pray.

Jesus, you are the bread of life
and the host of this meal.

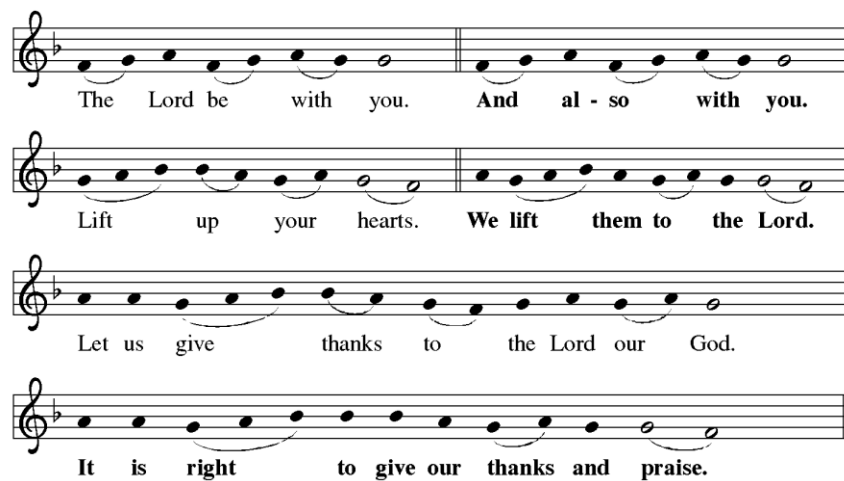
Bless these gifts that we have gathered
that all people may know your goodness.

Feed us not only with this holy food
but with hunger for justice and peace.

We pray this in your name.

Amen.

*DIALOGUE



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

*PREFACE

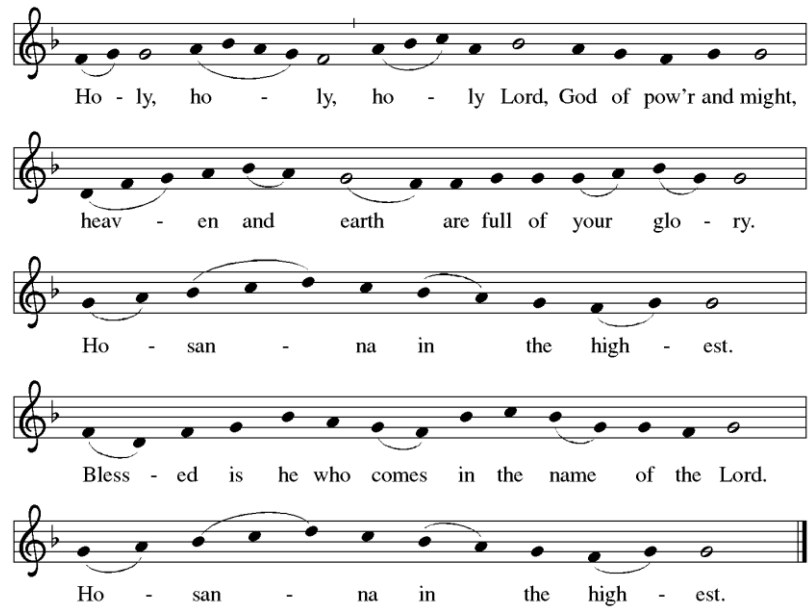
The presiding minister continues:

It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times....

....And so with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven,

We praise your name and join their unending hymn:

*SANCTUS



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 in the high - est.
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Ho - san - na in the high - est.

*THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

.....Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord,
and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food,
the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord;
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be all honor and glory, now and forever.

Amen.

*LORD'S PRAYER

Presiding Minister continues:



Gathered into one by the Ho-ly Spir - it, let us pray as Je-sus taught us.

Congregation prays:



Our Fa - ther in heav - en, hal - lowed be your name,
your king - dom come, your will be done, on earth as in heav - en.
Give us to - day our dai - ly bread. For - give us our sins as we
for - give those who sin a - gainst us. Save us from the time of tri - al
and de - liv - er us from e - vil. For the king - dom, the pow'r,
and the glo - ry are yours, now and for - ev - er. A - men.

*INVITATION TO COMMUNION

All who are hungry, come!
The feast of grace is spread.

All are welcome to the Lord's table. You are invited to either come to the altar or remain in your seat to receive communion. If it is your preference, pre-filled elements are available at the ushers stand when you came in. If you come forward, you are invited to stand or kneel at the altar railing where the pastor and assisting ministers serve you the sacraments and/or offer you a blessing. Let Pastor know if you need gluten free bread. Please cross your hands over your heart to indicate you prefer to receive a blessing.

COMMUNION

When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say

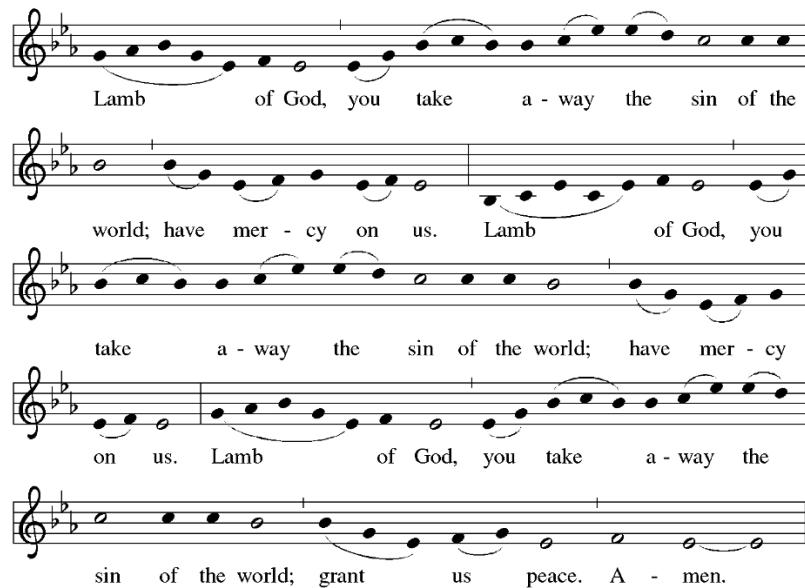
The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

and each person may respond

Amen.

LAMB OF GOD



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; grant us peace. A - men.

COMMUNION HYMNS	Seed That in Earth Is Dying	ELW 330
	As the Deer Runs to the River	ELW 331

*PASTORAL BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ,
strengthen you and give you peace.

Amen.

*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A: 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.

SENDING

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

***BLESSING**

The presiding minister proclaims God's 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**

Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross

ELW 335

***DISMISSAL**

Marked with the cross of Christ,
go forth to love and serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE Let Thy Blood in Mercy Poured / When I Survey the Wondrous Cross Arr.:
Wilbur Held

Leading Worship Today

The Rev. Angela Freeman	Senior Pastor
Eric Richardson	Minister of Music
Lisa Hanson	Assisting Minister
Dr. Matt Chiu	Organist
Gary Weiland	Lector
Kaitlyn Lembke	Acolyte
Bob Emmerich, John Menzies	Ushers
Ellen Menzies	Altar Guild
Eric & Teresa Peace	Tech Team

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Next week’s readings: First Reading: **Isaiah 50:4-9a**; Psalm: **Psalm 31:9-16**; Second Reading: **Philippians 2:5-11**; Gospel: **Luke 22:14—23:56**.



BETHESDA ON THE BAY LUTHERAN
CHURCH & CHILDCARE CENTER

bethesdaonthebay.org
(440) 871-2276
info@bethesdaonthebay.org



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Purpose Statement

Bethesda on the Bay is:

Growing in community to share the love of Christ.

Guiding Principles

In our community, we...

1. welcome all,
2. serve our neighbors,
3. love one another,
4. witness to the gospel of Jesus, and
5. spread the light of Christ in the world.

ALTAR FLOWERS are given to the Glory of God in honor of Audrey Lucille Gregory's 12th birthday from her family. Bless you Audrey!

LARGE PRINT BULLETINS ARE AVAILABLE FOR THOSE WHO NEED THEM. SPEAK WITH AN USHER OR PASTOR FOR ASSISTANCE.

CONNECT CARD – There are connect cards in the pew pockets. If you are a guest, have a prayer intention or anything else to share, please fill out a card and drop it in the collection basket. There are also opportunities listed for ways to get involved!

NAME TAGS are available for all worshipers as desired. Thank you for wearing your nametag and helping us build community and fellowship. If you do not see your nametag hanging in the Narthex or you simply need a new one printed, please contact the church office. There are also guest name tags for any guest attending worship.

CHILDREN'S BULLETINS & BUSY BAGS – Please ask an usher if you would like a children's bulletin and/or busy bag with activities to keep your child(ren) occupied during worship. Thank you to Chris Webner who recently updated the bags!

SUNDAY MORNING ADULT FORMATION

Discussion about Luther's *Small Catechism* continues on Sunday mornings at 9:00am in the lounge. This little book was meant to provide a guide for conversation and discussion in homes and around dinner tables. Come explore the foundations of our Lutheran faith and why Luther himself found the contents of the book to be so vital to our lives of faith! Copies of the *Small Catechism* will be provided, or you can bring your own from home! Class will continue on Sundays into Lent. Come for all or as often as you are able!

ACOLYTE TRAINING

Younger worshipers are invited to explore ways of serving during worship on Sunday morning, and Acolyting is one of the traditional ways for children to serve at Bethesda. If your child has received Holy Communion already and has shown interest in helping to lead worship, please contact Pastor Angela and/or come to training for Acolytes on Sunday, April 6th after worship.

EASTER SUNDAY

Easter Morning Coffee and Fellowship is coming up soon, April 20th. Coffee and fellowship will be in the fellowship hall both before and after worship. As we continue through this busy time in our church year will need help in the form of bakery, mandarin oranges, grapes and set up help on Sat. April 19th. There will be sign-up sheets in the narthex or you can contact the office, Pastor or Laura English. Last year's Easter Fellowship was well received. We hope you will chip in and help by providing some goodies and/or set up skills and then spend a little time in fellowship and worship with your church family here at Bethesda before going about the rest of your day.

EASTER EGG HUNT

All children are invited to the Easter Egg Hunt on Holy Saturday at 10:00am. Donations of individually wrapped candy and stickers are being collected now, until Maundy Thursday. Thank you for helping by bringing a bag of goodies and placing in the bin in the narthex or leaving in the office.

GOOD SOIL LENTEN STORIES AND SCRIPTURE

You are invited to attend "Stories and Scripture" led by Pastor Marissa Harrison and Pastor Jim Kulma at 6:30pm-7:30pm at Good Soil most Wednesday in Lent, except for the Wed before Maundy Thursday (4/16).

EASTER FLOWERS

Once again, we will adorn the sanctuary with lilies, hydrangeas, daffodils and geraniums for Easter. All orders can be taken home after worship on Easter. You can either fill out a physical or online form, call or email the office to place your order. You can pay for your plant by check, cash or Tithe.ly. Please mark that payment is for Easter Flowers. Order deadline is April 6.

April 2 SOUP SUPPER

Thank you to everyone who helped make the soup supper on April 2 a success, including Laura English, Chris Kiel, David Johnson, Nancy Kelly, Marianne Schmidt, Diana Wolfe, Dave and Andrea Lembke, Sandy Stewart, Melanie Long Chris Webner, and Sunny Baddour.

SCRIPTURE BASED COLORING SHEETS

Coloring sheets, based on the Sunday scripture, are available each week by the usher's stand. You are welcome to pick one up for use during worship or take it home with you for colorful prayer and meditation during the week.

WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY

Gather weekly on Wednesday at 10:00am for Bible study and discussion about the assigned scripture we hear on the approaching Sunday morning. No expertise needed. Share together in open conversation, prayer and fellowship.

CONFIRMATION CLASSES

The next Confirmation class is Thursday, May 1st 6:00 – 8:00 pm. Keep them in your prayers as they grow in their faith and as people in the weeks ahead. For more information, contact Pastor Angela.

PEACEMAKERS QUILTERS

The Peacemakers is an outside group that meets at Bethesda Thursdays at 9:00 am, now through May 2025. They quilt and donate their quilts to charitable groups that need them, with the support of Thrivent Financial. New quilters and sewers are welcome anytime. The sewing technique is straight-seam. They also have projects you can do at home! If you are interested in learning more or joining the group, contact the office or show up on Thursday!

BW SENIOR RECITAL *for Adam Zeidler*

One of Bethesda's wonderful young adults will soon be graduating from Baldwin Wallace. Adam Zeidler will complete his undergraduate degree this Spring! You are invited to attend his Senior Recital next Sunday, April 6th, 6:00pm at the Baldwin Wallace Conservatory of Music, in Fynette Kulas Hall.

BETHESDA PHOTO DIRECTORY

The directory has been updated for 2025! You can always access the directory through the app or online with Instant Church Directory. If you would like or prefer a hardcopy of the directory, please reach out to Chrissy in the church office. A \$5 contribution is requested to offset printing and binding expense.

MESSIAH SING ALONG

Rocky River United Methodist Church (19414 Detroit Rd., Rocky River, OH 44116) and the Gifts of Music Concert Series are excited to host a sing-along concert of Handel's Messiah, Parts 2 and 3, on Saturday, April 12, at 2:00pm! Led by orchestra, participants will be guided through Handel's unforgettable melodies, from "All We Like Sheep," and "Hallelujah," to "I Know My Redeemer Liveth," and many others! Vocalists of all types and experience levels are welcome. If you have your own score, please bring it, but limited scores will be available. A free will offering will be taken. For more information, contact Bruce Biggin at BRBiggin@netscape.net.

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Bethesda on the Bay Lutheran Church

APRIL 17

7 pm Maundy Thursday worship
Good Soil Ministries, Rocky River

APRIL 18

7 pm Good Friday worship

APRIL 19

10 am Easter Egg Hunt

7 pm The Great Vigil of Easter
Trinity Cathedral, Cleveland

APRIL 20

9:30 am Coffee & fellowship

10 am Celebration of the Resurrection

Fellowship following worship

www.bethesdaonthebay.org



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