

Fourth Sunday in Lent March 10, 2024

Welcome to Bethel! We're glad you're here!

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT . MARCH 10, 2024



All Are Welcome!

We mean it when we say "all are welcome" – no matter where you are on your faith journey or how you identify. Your presence is important to us – we are not complete without you. Our Worship & Music team is continually listening and adapting our worship practices to reflect our desire to welcome ALL of GOD's children.

Hospitality Details

We firmly believe that there is no age limit in GOD's house. Young or old, you are an essential part of our worship community. Families with young children are encouraged to sit near the front of the sanctuary so children can see what is happening. If a young child gets antsy during long periods of inaction like the sermon, they are welcome to quietly play in front of the sound table near the door.

Those participating in worship who find standing for long periods of time difficult are encouraged to take care of themselves and adapt the "Lutheran Aerobics" of frequent standing and sitting to meet their needs. Traditions of standing at certain times during the liturgy are not meant to cause pain or discomfort. Please sit or stand in ways that make your time with us comfortable.

If you need a restroom, you have options:

In the main building, one is located through the side door near the piano. It can also be accessed by going outside through the main door and re-entering the building using the door located under the bell tower. The restroom is to your left.

A larger, wheelchair accessible restroom with a baby changing table, is located in our back building. Go through the iron gate to the left of the sanctuary. As you enter the back building the restroom is immediately to your left. Feel free to ask the usher for directions as well.

Prayer Requests

Yellow paper is available as you enter for you to write prayer requests on. Return the paper to an usher no later than during the Hymn of the Day. The reader will include it during the Prayers of the People.

It is our hope that this will help all those worshipping in the sanctuary and on online to hear the prayers.



Lenten Mid-Week Worship & Soup

Wednesdays during Lent Feb. 21, 28, Mar. 6, 13, & 20

Worship @5:30 Soup Supper @6:15ish

Soup Supper sign-up sheet is on the rack near the main sanctuary door if you'd like to donate some food one evening.



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Today we officially welcome several new friends into the Bethel community. We know that each of them brings their own gifts to help make us complete as a group of followers of Jesus. Share a smile of welcome and help them find a niche in the many ministries that make us Bethel.

> Welcome and God's Blessings to: Jan & Gary Gillespie Jessica & Natalie Back Rebecca Janssen Pr. Trudy Franzen

Note, if you're interested in membership, please speak with Pr. Carolyn. We plan to welcome more folks after Easter. **Introduction to the day**: The fourth of the Old Testament promises providing a baptismal lens this Lent is the promise God makes to Moses: those who look on the bronze serpent will live. In today's gospel Jesus says he will be lifted up on the cross like the serpent, so that those who look to him in faith will live. When we receive the sign of the cross in baptism, that cross becomes the sign we can look to in faith for healing, for restored relationship to God, for hope when we are dying.

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

PRELUDE

WELCOME

The congregation is invited to rise in body and/or spirit and turn to face the baptismal font.

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. 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.

GATHERING SONG Lift High the Cross (ELW 660)



GREETING (ELW p. 138)

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.**







PRAYER OF THE DAY (ELW p. 142)

Let us pray.

O God, rich in mercy, by the humiliation of your Son you lifted up this fallen world and rescued us from the hopelessness of death. Lead us into your light, that all our deeds may reflect your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Please be seated.

WORD

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

FIRST READING: Numbers 21:4-9 (Jeri Wartena)

Though God provides food and water for the Israelites in the wilderness, they whine and grumble. They forget about the salvation they experienced in the exodus. God punishes them for their sin, but when they repent God also provides a means of healing: a bronze serpent lifted up on a pole.

A reading from Numbers.

⁴From Mount Hor [the Israelites] set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. ⁵The people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food." ⁶Then the LORD sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. ⁷The people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned by speaking against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD to take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. ⁸And the LORD said to Moses, "Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live." ⁹So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

Word of God, word of life. Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22 (Jeri Wartena)

¹Give thanks to the LORD, for the LORD is good, for God's mercy endures forever.

²Let the redeemed of the LORD proclaim that God redeemed them from the hand of the foe, ³gathering them in from the lands;

from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.

¹⁷Some were fools and took rebellious paths; through their sins they were afflicted.

¹⁸They loathed all manner of food and drew near to death's door.

¹⁹**Then in their trouble they cried to the LORD and you delivered them from their distress.** ²⁰You sent forth your word and healed them and rescued them from the grave.

²¹Let them give thanks to you, LORD, for your steadfast love and your wonderful works for all people.

²²Let them offer sacrifices of thanksgiving and tell of your deeds with shouts of joy.

SECOND READING: Ephesians 2:1-10 (Jeri Wartena)

While we were dead in our sinfulness, God acted to make us alive as a gift of grace in Christ Jesus. We are saved not by what we do but by grace through faith. Thus our good works are really a reflection of God's grace at work in our lives.

A reading from Ephesians.

¹You were dead through the trespasses and sins ²in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. ³All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. ⁴But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us ⁵even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—⁶and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God—⁹not the result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

The congregation is invited to rise in body and/or spirit to welcome the Gospel



GOSPEL: John 3:14-21 (Pr. Carolyn Brodt)

To explain the salvation of God to the religious leader, Nicodemus, Jesus refers to the scripture passage quoted in today's first reading. Just as those who looked upon the bronze serpent were healed, so people will be saved when they behold Christ lifted up on the cross.

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] ¹⁴"Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

¹⁷"Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. ¹⁸Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. ¹⁹And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. ²⁰For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. ²¹But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God."

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

Please be seated

SERMON (Pr. Carolyn Brodt)



Please be seated

WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS TO THE CONGREGATION

Those being welcomed, a representative of the congregation, and pastor gather near the altar before the assembly. The presiding minister addresses the assembly.

Dear friends, we give thanks for the gift of baptism and for *these people*, one with us in the body of Christ, whom we welcome as *new members* into the life and ministry of this congregation.

ADDRESS AND QUESTIONS

The presiding minister addresses those being welcomed.

In baptism, we are welcomed into the body of Christ and sent to share in the mission of God. We are called to live among God's faithful people, to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper, to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth.

Jan, Gary, Jessica, Natalie, Rebecca, and Trudy, do you intend to continue in the covenant of your baptism among God's people in this place?

Those being welcomed respond. I do, and I ask God to help and guide me. People of God, do you promise to support and pray for these new members in their life in Christ? **We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.**

WELCOME

Those being welcomed face the assembly. A representative of the congregation addresses the assembly.

Let us welcome *these* Siblings in Christ to this community of faith. We rejoice with you in the life of baptism. Together we will give thanks and praise to God and proclaim the good news to all the world.

New members and others return to their seats; worship continues with the Prayer of Intercession.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION (Jeri Wartena)

Trusting in God's promise to reconcile all things, let us pray for the church, the well-being of creation, and a world in need.

Gracious God, your love unites. Give vision to the global church and foster cooperation in mission. Increase inter-religious understanding and ecumenical dialog. Make your church a sanctuary for all fleeing persecution, disaster, and war. We remember especially today our siblings in Palestine, Ukraine, Sudan, and Haiti. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Creating God, your love enlivens. Restore balance to the earth's fragile habitats. Preserve wilderness lands, rainforests, and wildlife. Cleanse our oceans and rivers. Make us good stewards of the earth. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Righteous God, your love liberates. We give thanks for those who courageously witness to your liberating love especially Harriet Tubman and Sojourner Truth, renewers of society, whom we commemorate today. Free all people from the evils of racism, religious strife, and hatred. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Merciful God, your love heals. Care tenderly for all whose loved ones perished from pandemic disease in every nation. Strengthen health care workers, first responders, and caregivers. Relieve all who live with chronic illness and pain. Continue to bless Robert Edmonds with your care and bring strength and wisdom to his family as they navigate his health care needs. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Incarnate God, your love enlightens. Open our hearts and minds to fresh understandings of our faith. Deepen our love for you and for one another. Teach us to pray for our enemies. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Welcoming God, we give you thanks for our new members, Jan, Gary, Jessica, Natalie, Rebecca, and Trudy, whom you have drawn to yourself by the love of Jesus Christ and whom we have welcomed into this household of faith. Keep us close together in your Spirit, in the breaking of bread and the prayers, and in service to others. Hear us, O God,

Your mercy is great.

Abiding God, your love saves. Those who died in the faith are made alive in Christ. We give thanks for your promise that we also will be raised to newness of life. Today we ask especially that the family and friends of Kal Sinervo be comforted by this promise. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Additional prayer requests provided by congregation members to be added here by reader.

Accompany us on our journey, God of grace, and receive the prayers of our hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

PEACE (ELW p. 143)

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

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING

MEAL

We acknowledge that all we have is a gift from God and in gratefulness we return to God a portion of the time, finances, and gifts that God has given us. Thank you so much for your continued support.

As offerings are brought to altar, the congregation is invited to rise in body and/or spirit for the song



OFFERING PRAYER

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.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy God, our living Water and our merciful Guide, together with rivers and seas, wells and springs we bless and magnify you. You led your people Israel through the desert, and provided them water from the rock. We praise you for Christ, our Rock and our Water, who joined us in our desert, pouring out his life for the world. In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me. Remembering, therefore, his life, death, and resurrection, we await your salvation for all this thirsty world. Pour out your Spirit on this holy food and on all the baptized gathered for this feast: wash away our sin, that we may be revived for our journey by the love of Christ. Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,

in your holy Church, both now and forever.

Amen

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us using the language of our hearts. 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

Bread for the journey. A feast for hungry hearts. Come!

> All are welcome to join in our communion celebration. Please have a seat and follow the directions of Pastor Carolyn and the usher.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

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.

Please rise in body and/or spirit for the Blessing.

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 SONG

By Grace We Have Been Saved (ACS 1006)

Music and Lyrics on following page



Please be seated.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

After **brief announcements** related to the ministry of Bethel are shared from the podium **microphone**, the congregation is invited to stand and face the font.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share your bread. Thanks be to God and we will.



To meet our 2024 Operating Expenses each month, Bethel needs \$9995. This is a combination of your generosity and our Montessori School tenant rent which averages about \$3000 each month.

Giving in March

3/3	=	\$4088.06
3/10	=	\$
3/17	=	\$
3/24	=	\$
3/31	=	\$
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Total for Month = \$4088.06 TOTAL for February = \$6719.22

Thanks for your ongoing support of Bethel's Ministries!

Consider Online Giving

Sign up for Online Giving at our website, <u>bethelroseville.org</u>

If you prefer to give by traditional check, please mail it into the church office at 1050 Douglas Blvd., Roseville CA 95678 or drop it into the basket during worship.

Use the QR code below to access e-giving from your phone



Upcoming Scripture Readings

Next Sunday, March 17th Fifth Sunday in Lent

- Jeremiah 31:31-34
- Psalm 51:1-12
- Hebrews 5:5-10
- John 12:20-33

Today's Worship Team

Usher: Jeri Wartena Reader: Jeri Wartena Sound: Rick Mendonsa Zoom: Jeff Dodge/Scott Larson Altar Guild: Loraine Anderson Kids Message: Jeri Wartena Musician: Audrey Gale

Next Week's Worship Team

Usher: Cindi Roxworthy Reader: Lisa & Andrew Chan Sound: Rick Mendonsa Zoom: Jeff Dodge/Scott Larson Altar Guild: Loraine Anderson Kids Message: Lisa Herlocker Musician: Wing and a Prayer



Sunday School for All Ages

(following worship)

Our two "Lisas" will have the kids in Lentz Hall for Bible Stories and crafts.

Pastor Carolyn will meet with the adults in her office AND via Zoom. They will be using the book, *The Forty Parables of Jesus*, by Gehard Lohfink.

The Zoom link will be open at 10:25, and the conversation will begin at 10:30.

Join Zoom Meeting https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89637655924?pwd=eTJ6OVIEMVZDc G53OG1KdW5hV2E1dz09

> Meeting ID: 896 3765 5924 Passcode: 295449

Contact Pastor Carolyn

Contact Pr. Carolyn first to double-check her office hours. She is available Tuesday – Thursday most weeks.

> pastor@bethelroseville.org 916-781-3333 (office)



Looking for a little end of the week fun? Join Bethel friends **Friday, March 15**th **at 6:30pm** in Lentz Hall for games, snacks, and fellowship. Bring your own food and drinks – and board games you'd like to play with the group. This is a low-key activity for all ages and skills.

Bring a friend and join the fun!



March 3 – Dani Pfennig March 5 – Trevor Linn March 8 – Paul Larson March 10 – John Morris March 18 – Jeri Wartena

Blessings to all of our March Birthdays, please let us know if we accidently left you off this list!



Plan Ahead for Holy Week & Easter!

Palm/Passion Sunday, March 24 $^{\rm th}$ at 9:00am

Maundy Thursday, March 28th at 5:30pm

Good Friday, March 29th at 5:30pm

Easter Sunday, March 31st 7:00am Sunrise Worship on Patio 8:00am Pancake Breakfast 8:30ish Little Lutherans Egg Hunt 9:00am Traditional Worship



As you may have heard, this year we will NOT be collecting items for Easter baskets for the children staying at the St. John's Program for Real Change Shelter. Instead, we will be creating bags of candy for the women staying there.

Please bring bags of individually wrapped candies and drop them in the basket at the back of the sanctuary. Cindi Roxworthy & Cheryle Sorensen will be organizing the candy bags and Cindi & Emily will deliver them on Good Friday.



If you are a Thrivent Member you may be eligible to make a **donation of your Choice Dollars** – and we hope that you choose Bethel as your favorite nonprofit ^(C) **Direct your dollars by March 31** or miss out on this easy opportunity to help out our congregation. Check your online portal or contact your agent to learn more.



Today we remember long-time member Kalevi Sinervo who passed away peacefully last Sunday. Kal was active for many years at Bethel, especially helping with our various feeding ministries and caring for our property. A memorial service for Kal is being planned for later this spring and we'll keep you posted. Our faith comforts us in the knowledge that he is now home with Jesus and enjoying his reunion with his beloved, Elsie.

Called to Work for Justice

Through Baptism, we are called to be agents of peace and justice in this world. The work of the ELCA in our time includes that of being a Publicly Engaged Church.

In California, this is done through involvement with the **Lutheran Office of Public Policy (LOPP-CA)** which hosts live advocacy briefings on **Wednesdays** at noon. During the half-hour Zoom meeting, listeners get an update on state and federal legislative priorities and direct a quick advocacy activity. Follow this link: https://lutheranpublicpolicyca.org/advocacy-info-questions to check out *Advocacy, Info, and Questions*.

Want to do more??

Sign up for Lutheran Lobby Day! Alongside other ELCA members, engage directly with members of our state legislature at the state capitol in Sacramento on May 15th! Learn more here: https://lutheranpublicpolicyca.org/lutheran-lobbyday-2024



REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

Attend camp this summer! A variety of options for all ages! Financial flexibility and assistance available.

"I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; that I know very well." Psalm 139:14 (NRSV)

The Summer 2024 theme is: Created to Be!

Each day campers explore more deeply the authentic selves God has created them to be. They will learn what it means to be siblings in Christ—humans who are brave enough to encourage and stand up for each other, sharing burdens as well as joys. Daily themes include: Created to be Free, Created to be Authentic, Created to be Brave, Created to be Disciples, Created to be Disrupted.

Parents, chat about options and send Bethel kids all in the same week. OR Family Camp!?!

Questions?

Talk with Lisa Herlocker or check out www.mtcross.org

Looking for ways to pitch in? Here are some upcoming opportunities.

Feed the Hungry -- next Sunday, March 17th – make and serve lunch for the clients of St. Vincent de Paul just a few blocks away. For details, see Scott Larson after worship today.

Make Palm Crosses – Saturday, March 23rd at 10:00am. Meet up with Pastor Carolyn at the Fig Tree Coffee House in downtown Roseville.

Set up for Easter Breakfast – Friday, March 29th after the Good Friday worship gathering. Help Terri and the Congregational Life Team get ready for Easter morning's pancake breakfast.

Clean up Easter Breakfast – Easter Sunday morning starting around 9:00am. Help Terri & her crew breakdown tables, wash dishes, and put Lentz Hall back in order. *(Some dish washing help would be appreciated during the breakfast as well.)*

Donate Flowers – bring cut flowers Easter morning for our Floral Cross decorated during Sunrise worship and finished up at the 9:00am worship gathering.

"Noisy Offering!"

Encouraging the participation of our youngest members in worship is important to us. When they help collect the offering each week, they may be confused when folks don't drop something in the basket. So, please consider dropping a little spare change into the basket when it comes your way as a "noisy offering."



Are you on Social Media? Have you "liked" and "followed" Bethel on Facebook and Instagram?

This is the best way to get reminders of upcoming events and to see photos of recent activities. Just search for Bethel Roseville CA on either platform to connect with us.

We also have a website – <u>www.bethelroseville.org</u> – this is the best place to find archived bulletins (posted under the "news" tab) and basic information about Bethel and how we are organized as a congregation.

Welcome to Bethel Lutheran Church

We have entered the season of the church year known as Lent. During the 40 days of Lent, we journey with Jesus into the wilderness. It is a journey that begins with Ash Wednesday and the facing of our mortality and ends with the joy of Easter morning. As we journey to the cross with Jesus, we are given a chance to let go of our excuses and failings and to embrace the undeserved grace of God's forgiveness and love.

No matter where you are on your faith journey, we invite you to explore a life of faith with us. You are invited to come as you are to worship a God who meets us where we are and journeys with us in love and grace. We have committed to creating a safe and welcoming place for all people no matter how they identify as individuals and are continually working to live out that commitment in worship, fellowship, and service to our siblings locally and throughout the world. We welcome all because GOD welcomes all, knowing that GOD's love is all-inclusive and stronger than any pressure to conform to the labels this world gives us.

Worship Gathering at 9:00am each Sunday Sunday School for All Ages at 10:15am (Sept - May)



Carolyn Brodt, Pastor 1050 Douglas Blvd • Roseville, CA • 916-781-3333 Pastor@bethelroseville.org



Bethel is located on the original and ancestral homelands of the Nisenan people, and we give thanks for their presence here since time immemorial. We also wish to recognize and honor our Indigenous siblings who have and continue to call this land their home.

