



A Christ-centered family who serves by sharing God's love and hope with all.

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**Fifth Sunday of Lent – March 22, 2026 – 9:00 AM**

Prelude: *"Be Still My Soul"* Bethany Bells and Piano Arr. by Joel Raney,  
Tune: FINLANDIA by Jean Sibelius

Welcome & Announcements

\*Confession & Forgiveness **ELW pg.94**

\*Gathering Hymn: *"There Is a Balm in Gilead"* **ELW #614**

\*Prayer of the Day

First Reading Ezekiel 37:1-14

Psalm (read responsively) Psalm 130

Second Reading Romans 8:6-11

\*Gospel Acclamation: *"Return to the Lord"* **ELW pg. 142**

\*Gospel John 11:1-45

Sermon Pr. Erma Wolf

Hymn of the Day: *"Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery"* **ELW #334 vs. 1,5**

Baptism

Baptism Hymn: *"Jesus Loves Me"* **ELW #595 vs. 1**

\*Prayers of Intercession Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Offerings Received: *"I Will Arise and Go to Jesus"* Faye Lopez,  
Tune: RESTORATION, Southern Harmony

\*Holy Communion

Great Thanksgiving ELW pg. 144, "Holy, Holy, Holy" ELW pg. 144,  
Words of Institution, Lord's Prayer ELW pg. 145, Communion Song -  
"Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world" ELW pg. 146,  
Distribution

Communion Music: *"There Is a Balm in Gilead"* Sandra Eithun,  
Tune: BALM IN GILEAD, African American Spiritual

Post Communion Prayer & Blessing

Sending Hymn: "What Wondrous Love Is This"

ELW #666

Dismissal

Postlude: "Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley" Anna Laura Page,

Tune: LONESOME VALLY, Traditional African American Spiritual

## WORSHIP NOTES

Welcome to worship at Bethany Lutheran Church! It is our hope that you experience the love of Christ and His presence during our worship service this morning. If you are visiting today, please sign the guest book in the narthex. Everyone please sign the Fellowship Pad in your pew.

Large-print bulletins and assistive listening devices are available. If you benefit from either of these, please speak with an usher.

In today's gospel Jesus reveals his power over death by raising Lazarus from the dead. The prophet Ezekiel prophesies God breathing new life into dry bones. To those in exile or living in the shadows of death, these stories proclaim God's promise of resurrection. In baptism we die with Christ that we might also be raised with him to new life. At the Easter Vigil we will welcome the newly baptized as we remember God's unfailing promise in our baptism. (Sundays and Seasons v.20240130.1140 Copyright © 2026 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.)

Please take this bulletin home with you as a reference for this week's calendar of events, as a reminder of Bethany family and friends to keep in your prayers, and for other useful information.

*Each worship service comes together through the help of many people. Please consider being a worship volunteer. Find schedules at the Welcome Center and help fill in the blanks. Thank you for volunteering!*

### **Today's worship leaders are:**

Pr. Erma Wolf & Elina Leander Ozolins, pianist-organist

### **Many thanks to our worship volunteers:**

Greeter: Rhonda Salts; Reader: Mary Marske

Communion Servers: Onalee Wright, Deb Mechler and Twila Henning

Usher: Kent Baker; Fellowship Hosts: Jana Phillips

Count: Connie Heien; Acolyte: Aleyah Falline

Everyone in the Audio/Visual Booth

***Worship is rebroadcast on SMU CH #2:***

*Tuesday-5pm, Wednesday-10am*

*or can be found on YouTube® (Search Bethany Lutheran Church, Spencer IA)*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**FELLOWSHIP** will be after worship in the parlor. This gathering time is a great time to chat over a cup of coffee and sweet treat. All are welcome for fellowship and lively conversation! Hope to see you there!

**APRIL HERALD** deadline is tomorrow – March 23<sup>rd</sup>. If you have an announcement or message you want included, get it to Elizabeth.

**WEDNESDAY ACTIVITIES** Our midweek Lenten services & suppers will be held on Wednesdays through March 25<sup>th</sup>. Supper is served beginning at 6:15 pm and the “Joyous Light” service begins at 7:00 pm. We hope you will join us!

**THE WEEKLY ECUMENICAL LENTEN SERVICE** held on Wednesday, March 25<sup>th</sup> will be at Sacred Heart Catholic Church with the meal beginning at 11:30 am and Worship to follow. All are welcome!

**EASTER LILIES** Help beautify the sanctuary on Easter morning with an Easter lily. Consider sharing a lily in honor or remembrance of a loved one and take it home with you afterward. The cost is \$13. Look for a sign-up sheet/order form at the Welcome Center. Thank you!

**UDMO FOOD PANTRY** Bring food and hygiene items to Bethany – we’ll deliver to UDMO. Not sure what to get/give? Get a shopping list at the Welcome Center.

**EASTER EGG HUNT – DONATIONS NEEDED!!** Join us on Sunday, April 5th for Bethany’s Easter Egg Hunt!! This will follow worship at approximately 10:15 am on the south lawn, weather permitting. This is for children age 10 and under. Bring your own basket (we will have some available). If inclement weather, the hunt will be held indoors. Candy donations are being accepted (small pieces of candy that will fit in a plastic Easter egg) and can be put in the container in the Welcome Center.

**HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE** Next Sunday is Palm Sunday, the beginning of Holy Week. The combined choirs of Bethany and First Congregational Church will present a cantata during worship. Maundy Thursday worship will be April 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7:00 pm and Good Friday worship will be April 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00 pm. Easter Festival Worship will be April 5<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am.

## PRAYER CONCERNS & REQUESTS

### Health Concerns

Kirk Andersen, Cindy Heiter, Lucille Huber, Donna Jones, Carolyn Kruger, Jill Meyer, Sylvia Moore, Liz Vulk, Betty Lee, Bruce Iverson, Lee Youde, Lois Sanchez (Deb Mechler's sister), DeAnna Bensen (Bill Bensen's mother), Loren McIntire (Jaci Schreier's uncle),  
Peace in All Nations

### Prayers of Thanksgiving

Baptism of Brynlee Madison Mitchell

## CALENDAR

### Sunday, March 22 – Fifth Sunday in Lent

9:00 am Worship with Holy Communion

10:15 am Fellowship

### ***NO KIDZ TIME – spring break***

### Wednesday, March 25

9:30 am Bible Study & Prayer Group

11:30 am Community Lenten Service and Lunch at Sacred Heart

4:00 pm Bethany Bells Rehearsal

5:45 pm Choir at First Congregational

5:45 pm Confirmation

6:15 pm Lenten Fellowship Supper

7:00 pm *“Joyous Light”* Lenten Service

### Saturday, March 28

7:30 am Men of Bethany Bible Study (in person & via ZOOM)

### Sunday, March 29 – Palm Sunday

9:00 am Worship with Holy Communion/Cantata

10:15 am Fellowship

10:15 am KIDZ time



### **ONLINE GIVING IS AVAILABLE**

If you would like to give online to support the ministries of Bethany Lutheran Church, scan this code for giving page on our website.