

**All are welcome to receive
Holy Communion at Bethel.**

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

Pastor.....Rev. Barb Lemke
Accompanist.....Cindy Josephson
Oboe.....Deloris DeLapp
Flute.....Melanie Briscoe
Choir DirectorKathy Harrison
HymnistKathy Harrison
Ushers.....Marv & Ev Kelley
Reader.....Bob DeLapp
Communion Assistants.....Jon Lohmer and Laina Kelley Walker
Facebook LivestreamRon Freund
YouTube VideoTom Lenahan

BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
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ASH WEDNESDAY

March 5, 2025

Bethel Lutheran Church
1450 Airport Blvd.
Aurora, CO 80011
Phone: 303-364-2245 website: www.BethelAurora.org
email: church@BethelAurora.org

ASH WEDNESDAY

March 5, 2025

7:00 p.m.

The spirit of Ash Wednesday is most solemn, close to that of the Jewish Day of Atonement. The Ash Wednesday liturgy marks the beginning of a penitential discipline that climaxes in the absolution and peace of the Maundy Thursday liturgy. Ashes are an extraordinarily rich symbol rooted in ancient customs and practices. Ashes, in a Jewish and Christian context, suggest our total dependence upon God. They are a sign of repentance. We are reminded forcefully of the words of committal in the burial service, "...earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust." Moreover, ashes suggest cleansing and renewal. Dear friends, we trust this service of penitence prepares you for this Lenten pilgrimage.

THE RITE OF PENITENCE

PRELUDE:

The liturgy is printed in the cranberry Evangelical Lutheran Worship found in the pew racks.

Welcome
Catching our Breath

Pastor Barb Lemke

PRAYER FOR CLEARING OUT

P: Let us pray a prayer for clearing out...Forgiving God, we are not sure we can slow down.

C: Help us *make* room for you.

P: We have too often crowded you out.

C: Help us *find* room for you.

P: We come to you wanting to be different.

C: Let us *be* room for you.

P: In the name of Jesus who invites us to wholeness. **Amen.**

OPENING HYMN

"I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say"

ELW, #338

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And with you also.

A Time of Silence, Prayer and Confession

P: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.



HOLY WEEK

Saturday, April 12—Prayer Vigil Sunday
10:00 A.M.—3:00 P.M.

April 13—Palm/Passion Sunday
9:30 A.M.

Thursday, April 17—Maundy Thursday
7:00 P.M.

Friday, April 18—Good Friday
7:00 P.M.

Saturday, April 19—Easter Egg Hunt
& Games for children

Sunday, April 20—Easter
6:30 A.M. & 9:30 A.M.
Easter Breakfast—7:30–9:00 A.M.



**Every Wednesday evening:
6:00 P.M.—Soup and Salad Supper
7:00 P.M.—Worship**

P: For the times when we have been too busy for you, God... forgive us.
For the times when we have been too busy to take care of ourselves... forgive us.
For the times when we have been too busy to let our loved ones know how much we love them... forgive us.
Help us be open to your nudge in this season, to adjust to *your* timing for us.

**C: “Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin! For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight... Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.”
(Psalm 51:1–4, 9)**

P: In this moment we hear your promise God: “You can just be you. It’s enough. You don’t have to ‘perform’ for me, or try to be anybody else except for who I created you to be.” You do not ask us to live up to the standards of the world’s version of success. We are your children, and you love us. Now we pray that you will create in us clean hearts. We pray that you would renew a right spirit within us.

We bring our petitions to you this day, O God. Here are the people and things we are worried about and yet know that we cannot control:

Imposition of Ashes

All are invited to come forward by way of the center aisle to receive the sign of penitence, a cross of ashes placed on the forehead and worn throughout the remainder of the service. After receiving the ashen cross, worshippers may wish to kneel at the altar rail for a time of meditation and reflection.

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

C: that we may show forth your glory in the world.

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

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

P: 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.

C: Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Old Testament Lesson.....Joel 2:1–2, 12–17

Psalm.....Psalm 51

Second Lesson 2 Corinthians 5:20b–6:10

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION “Let Your Steadfast Love” ELW, p. 189

The Holy Gospel Matthew 6:1–6, 16–21

After the reading of the gospel

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

CHOIR “Think of Me and Remember” Raney
Kathy Harrison, dir.

Sermon “Busy” Pastor Barb Lemke

SONG “Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross” ELW, #335
Vv. 1, 2 and then chorus

The Nicene Creed

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of The Father, God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation He came down from heaven;
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and became truly human.
For our sake He was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was
buried.**

**On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his Kingdom
will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and Son
is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.**

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come.

Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARISTIC MEAL

The Offering of Tithes and Gifts

OFFERTORY: “Come and Find the Quiet Centre”

Come and find the quiet centre in the crowded life we lead.
Find the room for hope to enter, find the frame where we are freed;
Clear the chaos and the clutter, clear our eyes, that we can see
All the things that really matter, be at peace, and simply be.

Offertory Prayer

Words of Institution

Lord’s Prayer

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

Holy Communion

*All are welcome to come to the Lord’s Table for communion.
Both wine and grape juice (light in color) are provided.*

SONGS DURING COMMUNION:

“Holy, Holy, Holy” ELW, #473

Post Communion Blessing

SENDING

Benediction

RECESSIONAL HYMN “You Are Mine” ELW, #581

Dismissal

P: Go in peace, serve the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**