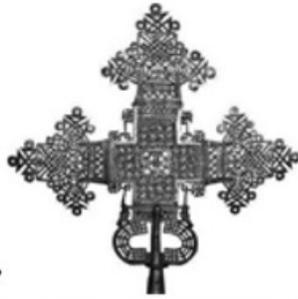
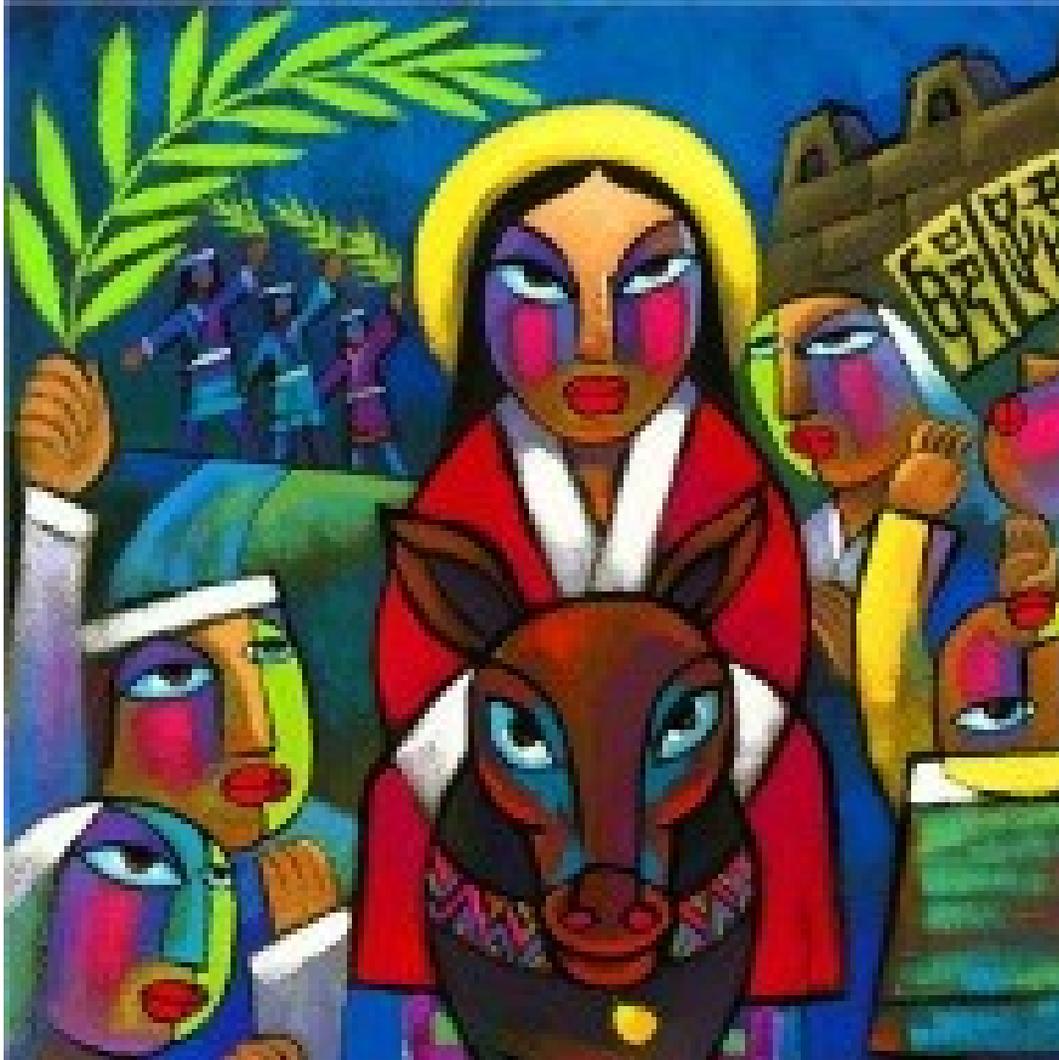


Grace Lutheran



Yoked parish of faith and service: *Bethel & Zion*

Love is spoken here! Be the living Eucharist!



 ***Palm Sunday***
March 29th, 2026

10:30 AM Bethel

All are welcome!

The altars of this parish belong to God, and not to us. All people are welcome to participate in every aspect of our worship, including our open table for the Eucharist. We are honored by your presence this day and hope you find peace and refreshment as we celebrate the extravagant love of God, as followers of the Way of Jesus.

We live into the ongoing revelation of Jesus! There is a place for you, here!

We Gather

The Holy Spirit calls us in community as people of the Way.

PRELUDE

The congregation stands

GREETING In the name of the † Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

The Grace of our Lord Jesus, the Love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all! **And also with you!**

BLESSING OF THE PALMS

Let us pray: **We praise You, O God, for redeeming the world through our Savior Jesus. We remember today how he entered the holy city in triumph and was proclaimed messiah and king by those who spread garments and branches along his way. Please bless these branches and those who carry them and grant us Grace to follow the Way of our Lord, so that, joined to his witness and embodying Your Grace and Mercy, we enter into life with You; through the same Jesus, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.**

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

All Glory, Laud and Honor

ELW (Red Book) 344

PRAYER OF APPROACH

Let us pray; Sovereign God, You have established Your rule in the human heart through the servanthood of Jesus. By Your Spirit, keep us in the joyful procession of those who with their tongues confess Jesus as Lord and with their lives praise him as Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen!**

The congregation is seated

We listen to God's Word

God speaks to us in poetry, creative writing, scripture, preaching & song.

INTROIT

The Palms – Faure'

Choir

A READING FROM CHRISTIAN SCRIPTURE: Philippians 2:5-8 from *The Message**

Jesus did not act to attain status and glory but was obedient to God even to the point of death. Following our Lord's example, we do not seek personal status or glory but care for others as represented in the True Humanity of selflessness and Grace modeled by Jesus.

⁵⁻⁸ Think of yourselves the way Christ Jesus thought of himself. He had equal status with God but didn't think so much of himself that he had to cling to the advantages of that status no matter what. Not at all. When the time came, he set aside the privileges of deity and took on the status of a slave, became *human!* Having become human, he stayed human. It was an incredibly humbling process. He didn't claim special privileges. Instead, he lived a selfless, obedient life and then died a selfless, obedient death—and the worst kind of death at that—a crucifixion.

Response This is the Word of the Lord! **Thanks be to God!**

BELL ANTHEM

Hosanna!

arr. Jason W. Krug

PSALM 31:9-16

read responsively

Be merciful to me, LORD, for I am in distress; my eyes grow weak with sorrow, my soul and body with grief.

¹⁰ ***My life is consumed by anguish and my years by groaning;***

my strength fails because of my affliction, and my bones grow weak.

¹¹ Because of all my enemies, I am the utter contempt of my neighbors
and an object of dread to my closest friends—those who see me on the street flee from me.

¹² ***I am forgotten as though I were dead; I have become like broken pottery.***

¹³ For I hear many whispering, “Terror on every side!” They conspire against me and plot to take my life.

¹⁴ ***But I trust in You, LORD; I say, “You are my God.”***

¹⁵ My times are in Your hands; deliver me from the hands of my enemies, from those who pursue me.

¹⁶ ***Let Your face shine on Your servant; save me in Your unfailing Love.***

The assembly stands to welcome the Living Word!

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ELW pg. 151

***Return to the Lord, your God, who is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.***

Preface Hear the Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ! ***Glory to you, O Lord!***

A READING FROM THE HOLY GOSPELS: Mark 11:1-11 from *The Message**

¹⁻³ When [the disciples and Jesus] neared Jerusalem, having arrived at Bethphage on Mount Olives, Jesus sent two disciples with these instructions: “Go over to the village across from you. You’ll find a donkey tethered there, her colt with her. Untie her and bring them to me. If anyone asks what you’re doing, say, ‘The Master needs them!’ He will send them with you.”

⁴⁻⁵ This is the full story of what was sketched earlier by the prophet:

Tell Zion’s daughter, “Look, your king’s on his way, poised and ready, mounted On a donkey, on a colt, foal of a pack animal.”

⁶⁻⁹ The disciples went and did exactly what Jesus told them to do. They led the donkey and colt out, laid some of their clothes on them, and Jesus mounted. Nearly all the people in the crowd threw their garments down on the road, giving him a royal welcome. Others cut branches from the trees and threw them down as a welcome mat. Crowds went ahead and crowds followed, all of them calling out, “Hosanna to David’s son!” “Blessed is he who comes in God’s name!” “Hosanna in highest heaven!”

¹⁰ As he made his entrance into Jerusalem, the whole city was shaken. Unnerved, people were asking, “What’s going on here? Who is this?”

¹¹ The parade crowd answered, “This is the prophet Jesus, the one from Nazareth in Galilee.”

Response The Gospel of our Lord! ***Praise to you, O Christ!***

COLLECT

Let us pray; True and humble king, hailed by the crowd as Messiah: grant us the faith to know you and love you, that we may be found beside you, following *the Way* that leads to wholeness. ***Amen!***

The congregation is seated

MESSAGE

Pastor Andrew

The congregation stands

HYMN OF THE DAY

My Song is Love Unknown

please see page 7

The congregation is seated

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Let us declare our faith in God.

We believe in God the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named.

We believe in God the Son, who lives in our hearts through faith, and fills us with his love.

We believe in God the Holy Spirit, who strengthens us with power from on high.

We believe in one God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Reconciled by God’s Mercy and sustained by God’s Presence, let us pray for the world and its needs.

A brief silence.

O God, You announce words of Grace and Truth. Give Wisdom to all preachers in Your church both globally and locally (*NE Synod Bishop Nathan Piphon, ELCA Bishop Yehiel Curry, Pr. Mark Nilson, Pr. Julie Cedrone, Pr. Dennis O'Malley and Pr. Aaron Payson*). Open our hearts to encounter the infinite life You offer in Jesus. Merciful God,

Holy One, receive our prayer.

You hold the whole universe. Gather sun and moon, clouds and stars, land and sea, and plants and animals around the cross, so that all creation bears witness to Your saving Love. Merciful God,

Holy One, receive our prayer.

Your Power is sure. Destroy inequity and division in every place, and build Your beloved community among all people. Guide judges, attorneys, and juries so that they act with justice and fairness. Merciful God,

Holy One, receive our prayer.

Your heart breaks open at our pain. Send healing and vindication to all who, like Jesus, know the sting of betrayal, denial, abuse, or false accusations. Be with those experiencing pain or loss this day (*especially*). Merciful God,

Holy One, receive our prayer.

Your ways show compassion. Let this same mind be in us as we enter Holy Week. Bless those here who will lead worship and tell the story of Jesus' death and resurrection. Merciful God,

Holy One, receive our prayer.

O God, Your embrace is eternal. Praise and thanks to You for (*Hans Nielsen Hauge and*) all the faithful departed who rest in Your Mercy. Deliver us all from death's power and raise us to life in You. Merciful God,

Holy One, receive our prayer.

Lord of the church:

hear our prayer, and make us one in heart and mind to serve You with joy for ever. Amen.

The congregation stands

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

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 error 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, restoring the promise of life through † Jesus our Lord. ***Amen.***

THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with us always! ***And also with you!***

We share in God's Holy Communion

God feeds us with the risen Christ's presence!

GATHERING OF GIFTS

OFFERTORY

As the gifts of bread, wine, and currency are brought forward, the assembly stands.

Come to the ta-ble of mer-cy, pre-pared with the wine and the bread.

All who are hun-gry and thirst-y, come and your souls will be fed.

Come at the Lord's in-vi-ta-tion; re-ceive from his nail-scarred hand.

Eat of the bread of sal-va-tion; drink of the blood of the Lamb.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Let us pray: O God, maker of heaven and earth, Your steadfast Love embraces all creation. You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth and bring forth its bounty. Through these gifts of bread and wine, draw us into the death and life of Your Son, who calls us to bear witness to his saving work. We ask this in Jesus' name.

Amen!

Choir

ELW 481

PREPARATION OF THE TABLE

Blessed be God, by whose Grace creation is renewed, by whose Love heaven is opened, by whose Mercy we offer our sacrifice of praise. Blessed be God forever. **Amen.**

LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

The Lord be with you! **And also with you!** Let us open up our hearts! **We open them up to the Lord!**
Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God! **It is right to give God thanks and praise!**

Holy God, we come before Your throne in worship this day amazed at Your Grace and Mercy incarnate in the person of Jesus. His life testified to Your commitment with us as Your created children of the human family in loving us despite our tendencies to ignore You in our daily lives.

Your Spirit permeates even the air that we breathe so that Your Presence is infinitely close with us. So, let us join with the song of the angels in heaven, evermore praising Your patient and eternal Love singing together:

SANCTUS

WOV pg. 617a

Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho-ly Lord, God of pow'r and might, ho-ly, ho-ly, ho-ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:

Heav-en and earth are full, full of your glo-ry. Ho-san-na in the high-est, 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, ho-san-na in the high-est.

Embracing our humanity, Jesus showed us *the Way* of salvation despite being rejected by those living in the darkness and hating the light of Truth; loving us to the end, Jesus gave himself over to death, proving in his rising that the world has no power over what God can do.

In the night in which he was betrayed...

Send the Holy Spirit upon Your people, gathering into one in Your kingdom all who share this one bread and one cup, so that we, in the company of all the saints, may praise and glorify You forever, through Jesus Christ our Lord; by whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory be Yours, almighty Father, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

THE 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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come to the table. Feast on God's goodness and Mercy.

AGNUS DEI (*Lamb of God*)

ELW pg. 154

- 1) **Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.**
- 2) **Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.**
- 3) **Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.**

THE EUCHARIST

Bread is distributed to the hand by the pastor, individual pre-filled cups of grape juice or wine may be taken from the silver trays: the inner-most ring on each tray is the grape juice.

A gluten-free alternative is available from the Assisting Minister.

Believing in the real presence of Christ, Grace practices open-table, Eucharistic hospitality.

All people, baptized or not, are welcomed to The Meal.

Those who do not wish to commune may come forward for a blessing signified by crossed arms.

COMMUNION HYMN

ELW 338

POST EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

Let us pray; God of our salvation, we give You thanks for this meal that restores our souls, reconciles us to You, and strengthens us for the journey. Through the body and blood of Your Son, may we become Jesus' body in the world, bearing witness to Your Love for all creation, through Jesus our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

We go out to serve God

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The congregation stands

BLESSING Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity: God, who calls all things into existence, Jesus Christ, who redeems us, and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation,
✠ bless us now and always. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN *Christ, the Life of All the Living*

ELW 339

DISMISSAL Go in peace! Believe the Good News! **Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE

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*Scripture translations are in the public domain and sourced through <http://www.biblegateway.com>

IN OUR PRAYERS: Donald Tremblay, Rose Marie Faragoli, Donna Brunnell, Russ Terrien, Tom Toeppner, Sandy Staples, Jim Mooney, Karen Carlson, Judy Garneau, Paul Josephson, Edla Bloom, Steve Hynes, Dennis, Peter & Georgia Kosciusko, Tony Genga, Henry Lewis, Glenna Brownell, Roberta Briggs, Joan Bejune, Billy Rogan, Don & Judy Leombruno, Mark Glandville, Jack Fenton, Mark Stevens, Jill Ducat, Jim Mahoney, Tami Briggs, Amy Runge, Heather Gregar, Kenneth Johnson, Lois Kane, Beth Johnson, Bill Withers, Pr. Judy L., Gary Kaufman, Betty Jane Weagle, Valerie Cotter, Kelly O'Brien Hartnett, Judy Sawicki, Anne Berberian, Carol Katagher. Julie Dawes, Elaine Peterson, David and Madeline Nevard, Louise Young, Lina Dickey

Music for March 29, 2026 (Palm Sunday)

Prelude: "Grand Choeur in C" by Theodore Salome (1834-1896)

Postlude: "Blessed Are Ye Faithful Souls" by Johannes Brahms (1833-1897)

Anthem: "Draw Nigh to Thy Jerusalem" words by Jeremy Taylor (1613-1667) Music by Walter Greatorex (1877-1949)

Today's Music: The prelude is an organ composition by French composer and organist Theodore Salome (1834-1896). Salome was one of many distinguished composer/organists in Paris during the second half of the 19th century. His "Grand Choeur in C" reflects the feeling of the procession into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday. Today's **INTROIT** is "The Palms" by Jean-Baptiste Faure (1830-1914), combining bells, piano, and choir. Faure, not to be confused with French composer Gabriel Faure (1845-1924), was a French opera baritone and composer. His work, "The Palms," is frequently part of Palm Sunday worship in Protestant churches. The postlude by Johannes Brahms (1833-1897) reflects the solemn mood entering into Holy Week.

MAUNDY THURSDAY

1 PM @ Zion 7 PM @ Bethel

GOOD FRIDAY

1 PM @ Bethel

Good Friday—Tenebrae Service

Worship in Shadows

Friday, April 3, 2026 7 pm

Greendale Peoples Church
25 Francis St Worcester, MA 01606
Sponsored by the Greendale Ecumenical Group

My Song Is Love Unknown

F Dm Bb6 F Am Gm F

1 My song is love un-known, My Sav-ior's love to me, Love
 2 He came from his blest throne, Sal-va-tion to be-stow; But
 3 Some-times they strew his way And his sweet prais-es sing; Re-
 4 Why, what hath my Lord done? What makes this rage and spite? He

Dm Bb6 F Am Gm F C

to the love-less shown, That they might love-ly be. Oh,
 men made strange, and none The longed-for Christ would know. But,
 sound-ing all the day Ho-san-nas to their King. Then
 made the lame to run, He gave the blind their sight. Sweet

F Dm Bb Am C Bb C

who am I, that for my sake My Lord should take frail
 oh, my friend, my friend in-deed, Who at my need his
 "Cru-ci-fy!" is all their breath, And for his death they
 in-ju-ries! Yet they at these Them-selves dis-please, and

Am C F Am F C7 F

flesh and die? My Lord should take frail flesh and die?
 life did spend; Who at my need his life did spend!
 thirst and cry. And for his death they thirst and cry.
 'gainst him rise; Them-selves dis-please, and 'gainst him rise.

Grace Lutheran



Yoked parish of faith and service: Bethel & Zion

MISSION STATEMENT

"To boldly share God's Love and Grace universally in and through our communities."

VISION STATEMENT

Modeling the welcoming nature of God, we are humbly called and driven by the Spirit to witness, engage and walk with each other authentically, as Jesus' hands and feet, providing spiritual, emotional and physical nourishment.

Through evolving partnerships with ecumenical and other social service organizations we affirm justice and wholeness under the "agency of Grace" that feed the needs and hope of all.

The Rev. Andrew H. Borden, Pastor
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Ann Spinner, Parish Administrator
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Randy Bloom – Minister of Music **Lois Toepfner**, Deacon – Minister of Music Emeritus

Shannon Papandrea - Sexton

Garret Peters - Treasurer

Kate Valleli – Christian Education Coordinator

Adam Hanks – Bell Director

Ann Spinner, Kate Valleli – Financial Secretaries

Marie Sturdevant, Adam Hanks – Lay Worship Leaders: NES Lay School of Theology: Auburn 8 AM, Worcester 2nd Sundays

Parish Council

President – **Dave Valleli (B)** Co-Vice-Presidents – **Jennifer Courtney (Z), Jessica Caminero (B)**

Council – **Dave Spinner (Z), Ruth Thompson (B), Joan Parker (B), LeAnne Carraher Virginia Carlson, (Z), Adam Hanks (B), Donna Hayes (Z)**

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ReconcilingWorks
LUTHERANS FOR FULL PARTICIPATION



NST
Refugee Accompaniment



Grace  Lutheran
Café

