

# THE FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

Saturday, January 31 and Sunday, February 1, 2026



# Bethlehem

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LUTHERAN CHURCH

**100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**  
**1926 - 2026**

*Proclaiming Christ. Nurturing Faith. Restoring Hope.*

# ***Welcome to Worship***

*We're so glad you're here. For a century, Bethlehem has gathered God's people around His gifts. Rooted in the historic liturgy and the teachings of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, worship here has always centered on what God does for us. We gather around His Word and His Sacraments, where Jesus Himself is present—speaking forgiveness, sustaining life, and giving hope. Worship is not first about what we bring, but about how God serves us, and how we respond with praise, prayer, and thanksgiving.*

*For one hundred years, this has been our shared calling: Proclaiming Christ. Nurturing Faith. Restoring Hope. Generation after generation, God has been at work here—gathering His people, forming them through His Word and gifts, and sending them into the world. And He is not finished yet. As a Gospel presence in our neighborhood, we trust that the same faithful God who carried us through the past is shaping what is to come. Whether this is your first visit or your spiritual home, you belong here. May this time of worship nurture your faith, fill you with Christ's hope, and send you out ready to proclaim His love in word and deed.*

## **REGARDING THE LORD'S SUPPER**

At Bethlehem, we believe that in the Lord's Supper, Jesus gives us more than a symbol—He gives us Himself. In, with, and under the bread and wine, we receive His true body and blood for the forgiveness of sins, the strengthening of faith, and the unity of His people. This is how Christ continues to proclaim His saving work and nurture our faith today.

As we prepare to receive this gift, we follow the Scriptures and the Small Catechism in examining ourselves: Do I believe I am a sinner in need of God's grace? Do I trust in Jesus as my Savior? Do I believe that Christ is truly present in this meal? Do I desire to turn from sin and live in faith and love? Whoever answers yes to these is truly worthy and well prepared.

Bethlehem is a congregation of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, and we ask that all who commune share our confession of faith. If you are not yet instructed in this teaching or have questions, we warmly invite you to come forward for a blessing—simply cross your arms over your chest—or speak with our pastor after the service. We are glad you're here, and we would love to walk with you as we grow in Christ together.

***(Children's Activity bags are available in the Narthex.  
Please remember to return them to the rack after the service.)***

# + PREPARATION +

## PRESERVICE MUSIC

## WELCOME

## RINGING OF THE BELLS

## HYMN

LSB #904

### BLESSED JESUS, AT YOUR WORD



1 Bless - ed Je - sus, at Your Word We are gath - ered  
2 All our knowl - edge, sense, and sight Lie in deep - est  
3 Gra - cious Sav - ior, good and kind, Light of Light, from  
△ 4 Fa - ther, Son, and Spir - it, Lord, Praise to You and

all to hear You. Let our hearts and souls be stirred  
dark - ness shroud - ed Till Your Spir - it breaks our night  
God pro - ceed - ing, O - pen now our heart and mind;  
ad - o - ra - tion! Grant that we may trust Your Word,

Now to seek and love and fear You, By Your teach - ings,  
With the beams of truth un - cloud - ed. You a - lone to  
Help us by Your Spir - it's plead - ing. Hear the cry Your  
Con - fi - dent of our sal - va - tion, While we here be -

sweet and ho - ly, Drawn from earth to love You sole - ly.  
God can win us; You must work all good with - in us.  
Church now rais - es; Hear and bless our prayers and prais - es.  
low must wan - der, Till we sing Your prais - es yon - der.

Text (sts. 1–3): Tobias Clausnitzer, 1619–84; (sts. 1–3): tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.; (st. 4): Geistreiches Gesang-Büchlein, 1707, Berlin; (st. 4): tr. unknown, alt.

Tune: Johann Rudolph Ahle, 1625–73, alt.

Text and tune: Public domain

*(Stand)*

## INVOCATION AND OPENING SENTENCES

Pastor In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Congregation Amen.**

Pastor I will sing of the steadfast love of the LORD, forever;

**Congregation with my mouth I will make known Your faithfulness to all generations.**

Pastor For I said, “Steadfast love will be built up forever; in the heavens  
You will establish Your faithfulness.”

**Congregation Let the heavens praise Your wonders, O Lord, Your faithfulness  
in the assembly of the holy ones!**

Pastor O LORD God of hosts, who is mighty as You are, O Lord, with Your  
faithfulness all around You?

**Congregation Blessed be the Lord forever! Amen and Amen. Come, let us walk  
in the light of the LORD.**

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor Let us now make confession of our sins to God, our gracious  
heavenly Father.

**Congregation Eternal God, we confess that by nature we are sinful people. We  
are given to sinful thoughts, sinful words, and sinful deeds. We  
have transgressed Your law in many ways, by what we have done  
and by what we have left undone. We have often been heedless of  
our calling to follow in Your ways. Because of our sins and our  
sinfulness, we deserve Your punishment now and for eternity.  
Gracious God, in Your mercy, forgive our sin and restore us to a  
full and joyful relationship with You through the merits of Jesus,  
our Lord. Direct our days by Your Holy Spirit that we may  
joyfully follow Your will and gladly obey Your commandments  
as Your redeemed people, bringing the brightness of Your light  
to the darkened world.**

Pastor

In the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; He will surely do it. Be at peace.

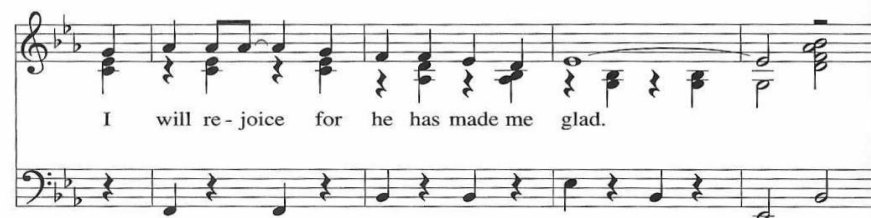
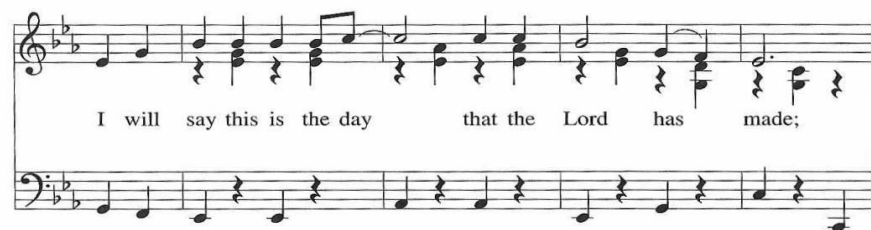
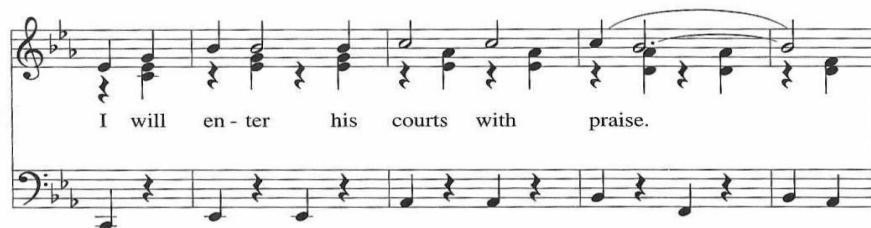
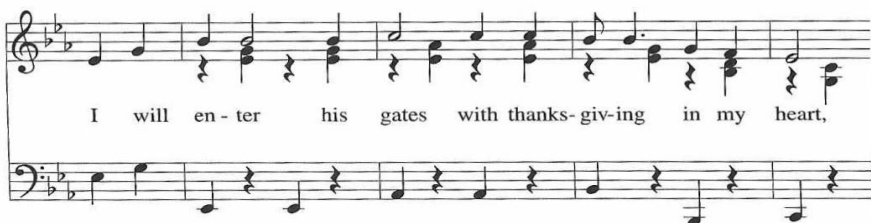
Congregation

Thanks be to God. Amen.

HYMN

TFBF #291

### I WILL ENTER HIS GATES HE HAS MADE ME GLAD



He has made me glad, he has made me glad,

I will re-joice for he has made me glad.

He has made me glad, he has made me glad,

I will re-joice for he has made me glad.

## *+ SERVICE OF THE WORD +*

### **SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY: EPIPHANY 4**

Pastor                      The Lord be with you.

**Congregation            And with thy spirit.**

Pastor                      Let us pray. Almighty God, You know we live in the midst of so many dangers that in our frailty we cannot stand upright. Grant strength and protection to support us in all dangers and carry us through all temptations; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Congregation            Amen.**

*(Sit)*

### **OLD TESTAMENT**

Micah 6:1–8

<sup>1</sup>Hear what the LORD says: Arise, plead your case before the mountains, and let the hills hear your voice. <sup>2</sup>Hear, you mountains, the indictment of the LORD, and you enduring foundations of the earth, for the LORD has an indictment against his people, and he will contend with Israel. <sup>3</sup>“O my people, what have I done to you? How have I wearied you? Answer me! <sup>4</sup>For I brought you up from the land of Egypt and redeemed you from the house of slavery, and I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam. <sup>5</sup>O my people, remember what Balak king of Moab devised, and what Balaam the son of Beor answered him, and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal, that you may know the saving acts of the LORD.” <sup>6</sup>“With what shall I come before the LORD, and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? <sup>7</sup>Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?” <sup>8</sup>He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

Leader                      This is the Word of the Lord.

**Congregation            Thanks be to God.**

## EPISTLE

1 Corinthians 1:18–31

<sup>18</sup>The word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. <sup>19</sup>For it is written, “I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.” <sup>20</sup>Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? <sup>21</sup>For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe. <sup>22</sup>For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, <sup>23</sup>but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, <sup>24</sup>but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. <sup>25</sup>For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

<sup>26</sup>For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. <sup>27</sup>But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; <sup>28</sup>God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, <sup>29</sup>so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. <sup>30</sup>He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, whom God made our wisdom and our righteousness and sanctification and redemption. <sup>31</sup>Therefore, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

Leader                      This is the Word of the Lord.

**Congregation              Thanks be to God.**



(Stand)

## ALLELUIA



## HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 5:1–12

<sup>1</sup>Seeing the crowds, [Jesus] went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him. <sup>2</sup>And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying: <sup>3</sup>“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. <sup>4</sup>“Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. <sup>5</sup>“Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. <sup>6</sup>“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied. <sup>7</sup>“Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy. <sup>8</sup>“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. <sup>9</sup>“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God. <sup>10</sup>“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. <sup>11</sup>“Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. <sup>12</sup>Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

Pastor                      This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Congregation          Praise be to Thee, O Christ.**

(Sit)

## HYMN OF THE DAY

LSB #851

### LORD OF GLORY, YOU HAVE BOUGHT US

1 Lord of glo - ry, You have bought us With Your  
2 Grant us hearts, dear Lord, to give You Glad - ly,  
3 Won - drous hon - or You have giv - en To our  
4 Lord of glo - ry, You have bought us With Your

life - blood as the price, Nev - er grudg - ing for the  
free - ly of Your own. With the sun - shine of Your  
hum - blest char - i - ty In Your own mys - te - rious  
life - blood as the price, Nev - er grudg - ing for the

lost ones That tre - men - dous sac - ri - fice;  
good - ness Melt our thank - less hearts of stone  
sen - tence, "You have done it all to Me."  
lost ones That tre - men - dous sac - ri - fice.

And with that have free - ly giv - en Bless - ings  
Till our cold and self - ish na - tures, Warmed by  
Can it be, O gra - cious Mas - ter, That You  
Give us faith to trust You bold - ly, Hope, to

count - less as the sand To the un - thank - ful  
You, at length be - lieve That more hap - py  
deign for alms to sue, Say - ing by Your  
stay our souls on You; But, oh, best of

and the e - vil With Your own un - spar - ing hand.  
and more bless - ed 'Tis to give than to re - ceive.  
poor and need - y, "Give as I have giv'n to you"?  
all Your grac - es, With Your love our love re - new.

Text: Eliza S. Alderson, 1818–89, alt.

Tune: Rowland H. Prichard, 1811–87

Text and tune: Public domain

## SERMON

*"The Light at Work"*

*(Stand)*

## APOSTLES' CREED

LSB pg.192

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell.  
The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.**

**From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life † everlasting.**

**Amen.**

*(Sit)*

## OFFERING

*(Stand)*

## OFFERTORY

LSB pg. 192

**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 Thy pres - ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it**  
**from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -**  
**tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir - it. A - men.**

## INSTALLATION OF BOARD MEMBERS (9:00am)

(Sit)

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

### + SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT +

(Stand)

#### PREFACE

LSB pg. 194

Pastor The Lord be with you.

Congregation And with thy spirit.

Pastor Lift up your hearts.

Congregation We lift them up unto the Lord.

Pastor Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God.

Congregation It is meet and right so to do.

#### PROPER PREFACE

#### SANCTUS

LSB pg. 195



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth;



heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo - ry. Ho - san - na,



ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is He,



bless-ed is He, bless - ed is He that com-eth in the name of the Lord.



Ho-san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

## LORD'S PRAYER

LSB pg. 196

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.

## THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

LSB pg. 197

## PAX DOMINI

LSB pg. 197

Pastor The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Congregation Amen.

## AGNUS DEI

LSB pg. 198

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the  
world, have mer - cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that  
tak - est a-way the sin of the world, have mer - cy up - on us.  
O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the  
world, grant us Thy peace. A - men.

(Sit)

## DISTRIBUTION

*Prayerful Meditation*

(Stand)

## NUNC DIMITTIS

LSB pg. 199

**C** Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace according to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast prepared before the face of all people, a light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of Thy people Israel. Glo - ry be to the Father and to the Son and to the Ho - ly Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A - men.

## THANKSGIVING

Pastor O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,  
Congregation and His mercy endureth forever.

## POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

## BENEDICTION

Pastor The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.  
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give you peace.  
Congregation Amen.

# LIFT HIGH THE CROSS


*Refrain*



Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro-claim Till  
all the world a-dore His sa-cred name.

1 Come, Chris-tians, fol-low where our Cap-tain trod,  
2 Led on their way by this tri-um-phant sign,  
3 All new-born sol-diers of the Cru-ci-fied  
4 O Lord, once lift-ed on the glo-rious tree,

*Refrain*



Our king vic-to-rious, Christ, the Son of God.  
The hosts of God in con-qu'ring ranks com-bine.  
Bear on their brows the seal of Him who died.  
As Thou hast prom-ised, draw us all to Thee.

5

Let ev'ry race and ev'ry language tell  
Of Him who saves our lives from death and hell. Refrain

6

So shall our song of triumph ever be:  
Praise to the Crucified for victory! Refrain

Text: George W. Kitchin, 1827–1912; rev. Michael R. Newbolt, 1874–1956, alt.

Tune: Sydney H. Nicholson, 1875–1947

Text and tune: © 1974 Hope Publishing Co. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110001608

## **MINISTRY TEAM**

### **The Reverend Ben Ahlersmeyer**

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### **Janelle Deal, Organist**

Email ..... [janelle.buford@my.wheaton.edu](mailto:janelle.buford@my.wheaton.edu).

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**President – Greg Shediack**

**Vice President – John Stafford**

**Secretary – Blake Sebring**

**Treasurer – Brian Bates**

## **At Large Members:**

**Dan Bates**

**John Bates**

**Rachelle Dance**

**David Schult**

## **SCHOOLS**

**Lutheran South Unity School.....**[lsusfw.org](http://lsusfw.org).....**744-0459**

**Concordia Lutheran High School....**[clhscadets.com](http://clhscadets.com).....**483-1102**

## **COUNSELING NEEDS**

*Please talk to Pastor Ben Ahlersmeyer for a referral for counseling to Cross Connections.*

## **BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH**

3705 South Anthony Boulevard, Fort Wayne, Indiana 46806-4329

[www.bethlehemlcms.org](http://www.bethlehemlcms.org)

Church Office, (260) 744-3228 Fax Number, (260) 744-3229

Office Hours: 10:00am – 4:00pm (Monday – Friday)

### ***Our Worship Schedule:***

*Saturday Afternoon Worship Service at 4:00pm*

*Sunday Morning Worship Service at 9:00am*

## **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

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