

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

Saturday, February 1, and Sunday, February 2, 2025



Bethlehem

LUTHERAN CHURCH

Gathering – Welcoming – Serving – Restoring

WHO WE ARE

*As forgiven children of God, Bethlehem Lutheran Church
shows Christ's love through acts of service
so that we can share the hope of the Gospel with others.*

WELCOME TO WORSHIP AT BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

We are so glad you're here! Bethlehem is a caring community of believers committed to being a birthplace of hope in southeast Fort Wayne. We are a congregation of the Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod, where Christ's sacrificial love shapes who we are and how we serve.

Our worship centers on God's gifts to us in His Word and Sacraments. Here, Jesus meets us through His promises of forgiveness, life, and salvation, and we respond with prayer, praise, and thanksgiving. Whether this is your first time worshiping with us or your spiritual home, you are part of our family today.

Thank you for joining us as we rest in God's grace and grow in His love. May you be refreshed by the beauty of Christ's sacrifice and sent out to reflect His light in the world!

HOLY COMMUNION EXAMINATION

In the Bible the Apostle Paul wrote, "A man ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup." (I Corinthians 11:28) In order to examine yourself before attending the Lord's Supper, ask yourself the following questions:

Do I believe that I am a sinner, and am I sorry for my sins?
(Proverbs 28:13; Romans 3:23; I John 1:8-9)

Do I believe that Jesus Christ by His death offers me forgiveness for all my sins?
(Romans 5:8; Colossians 2:13; Hebrews 9:28; I John 1:7)

Do I believe that I receive the body and blood of Christ in and with the bread and wine (not merely symbolically present)?
(Matthew 26:26-28; I Cor. 10:16; I Cor. 11:24-25)

Do I desire to turn from my sinful ways and live a God-pleasing life?
(Isaiah 1:16; John 8:11; Romans 6:12)

If you are unable to answer "yes" to these questions or believe further instruction is needed, please talk to a pastor or an elder before communing as participating without a proper understanding of Holy Communion can be spiritually harmful (I Corinthians 11:27-29). If you can answer "yes" to these questions, then come with a repentant heart and join us in the reception of the Lord's Supper. If not, adults and children who have not yet taken part in communion instruction classes are invited to come forward for a blessing and are asked to keep their arms folded over their chest during the distribution.

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

+ *PREPARE* +

PRESERVICE MUSIC

WELCOME

RINGING OF THE BELLS

HYMN

LSB #540 (w/Handbells)

CHRIST, THE WORD OF GOD INCARNATE



1 Christ, the Word of God in - car - nate, Lord and Son of
2 Christ, the liv - ing bread from heav - en, Food for bod - y,
3 Christ, the shoot that springs tri - um - phant From the stump of
4 Christ, our good and faith - ful shep - herd, Watch - ing all Your



A - bra - ham; Christ, the ra - diance of the Fa - ther,
food for soul; Christ, the man - na dai - ly giv - en,
Jes - se's tree; Christ, true vine, You nur - ture branch - es,
lambs and sheep; Christ, the gate that guards the sheep - fold,



Per - fect God, the great I AM; Christ, the light, You
Nour - ish, strength - en, make us whole. Feed us with the
To bear fruit a - bun - dant - ly. Graft us in - to
Nev - er - fail - ing vig - il keep. When we stray, Good



shine un - van - quished, Light and life You bring to all; Light our
food of heav - en, Fore - taste of the feast to be; Quench our
You, O Sav - ior; Prune our hearts so we re - main Fruit - ful
Shep - herd, seek us, Find us, lift us, bear us home; Lamb of



path with Your own pres - ence, Grant us grace to heed Your call.
thirst with liv - ing wa - ter Spring - ing up e - ter - nal - ly.
branch - es in Your vine - yard Till e - ter - nal life we gain.
God, our shep - herd, keep us; Let us hear Your voice a - lone.

5 Christ, the way that leads unfailing To the Father's home on high,
Christ, the truth that frees the captive, Christ, the life that cannot die.
Mediator to the Father, Sacrifice and great High Priest:
Lead us to Your heav'nly mansions, There to share Your wedding feast.

(Stand)

6 Christ, the Alpha and Omega, Christ, the firstborn from the dead,
Christ, the life and resurrection, Christ, the Church's glorious head:
Praise and thanks and adoration And unending worship be
To the Father and the Spirit And to You eternally.

Text: Steven P. Mueller, 1964

Tune: Columbian Harmony, 1825, Cincinnati

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Tune: Public domain

INVOCATION

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

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor Our help is in the name of the Lord,
Congregation **who made heaven and earth.**

Pastor If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?
Congregation **But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.**

Pastor Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer
and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ
in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness
and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in
thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our
sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the
infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the
sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

Congregation **Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead
us to everlasting life. Amen.**

Pastor Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for
His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant
of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in
the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation **Amen.**

+ SERVICE OF THE WORD +

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

LSB pg. 204 (w/Handbells)



1 To God on high be glo - ry And peace to all the earth;
2 To You, O sole-be - got - ten, The Fa - ther's Son, we pray;
3 For You a - lone are ho - ly; You on - ly are the Lord.



Good-will from God in heav - en Pro- claimed at Je-sus' birth!
O Lamb of God, our Sav - ior, You take our sins a - way.
For - ev - er and for - ev - er, Be wor-shipped and a - dored;



We praise and bless You, Fa - ther; Your ho - ly name, we sing—
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus; Re - ceive our heart - felt cry,
You with the Ho - ly Spir - it A - lone are Lord Most High,



Our thanks for Your great glo - ry, Lord God, our heav'n-ly King.
Where You in pow'r are seat-ed At God's right hand on high—
In God the Fa - ther's glo - ry. "A - men!" our glad re - ply.

Text: Stephen P. Starke

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor The Lord be with you.

Congregation And also with you.

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: JEREMIAH 1:4–10

⁴Now the word of the LORD came to me, saying, ⁵“Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations.” ⁶Then I said, “Ah, Lord GOD! Behold, I do not know how to speak, for I am only a youth.” ⁷But the LORD said to me, “Do not say, ‘I am only a youth’; for to all to whom I send you, you shall go, and whatever I command you, you shall speak. ⁸Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you, declares the LORD.” ⁹Then the LORD put out his hand and touched my mouth. And the LORD said to me, “Behold, I have put my words in your mouth. ¹⁰See, I have set you this day over nations and over kingdoms, to pluck up and to break down, to destroy and to overthrow, to build and to plant.”

Leader This is the Word of the Lord.

Congregation Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE: 1 CORINTHIANS 12:31B—13:13

I will show you a still more excellent way. ¹If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. ²And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. ³If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing. ⁴Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant ⁵or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; ⁶it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. ⁷Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. ⁸Love never ends. As for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away. ⁹For we know in part and we prophesy in part, ¹⁰but when the perfect comes, the partial will pass away. ¹¹When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I gave up childish ways. ¹²For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known. ¹³So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

Leader This is the Word of the Lord.

Congregation Thanks be to God.

(Stand)

ALLELUIA AND VERSE

LSB pg. 205 (w/Handbells)



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



These things are writ - ten that you may be - lieve that



Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL: LUKE 4:31–44

³¹[Jesus] went down to Capernaum, a city of Galilee. And he was teaching them on the Sabbath, ³²and they were astonished at his teaching, for his word possessed authority. ³³And in the synagogue there was a man who had the spirit of an unclean demon, and he cried out with a loud voice, ³⁴“Ha! What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God.” ³⁵But Jesus rebuked him, saying, “Be silent and come out of him!” And when the demon had thrown him down in their midst, he came out of him, having done him no harm. ³⁶And they were all amazed and said to one another, “What is this word? For with authority and power he commands the unclean spirits, and they come out!” ³⁷And reports about him went out into every place in the surrounding region. ³⁸And he arose and left the synagogue and entered Simon’s house. Now Simon’s mother-in-law was ill with a high fever, and they appealed to him on her behalf. ³⁹And he stood over her and rebuked the fever, and it left her, and immediately she rose and began to serve them. ⁴⁰Now when the sun was setting, all those who had any who were sick with various diseases brought them to him, and he laid his hands on every one of them and healed them. ⁴¹And demons also came out of many, crying, “You are the Son of God!” But he rebuked them and would not allow them to speak, because they knew that he was the Christ. ⁴²And when it was day, he departed and went into a desolate place. And the people sought him and came to him, and would have kept him from leaving them, ⁴³but he said to them, “I must preach the good news of the

kingdom of God to the other towns as well; for I was sent for this purpose.”⁴⁴ And he was preaching in the synagogues of Judea.

Pastor This is the Word of the Lord.

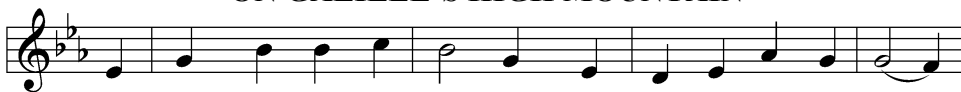
Congregation Thanks be to God.

(Sit)

HYMN OF THE DAY

LSB #835

ON GALILEE'S HIGH MOUNTAIN



1 On Gal - i - lee's high moun-tain Christ gave the great com - mand
2 The Lord who, born of Mar - y, Came down as man and died,
3 His strength with - in my weak-ness Will make me bold to say
4 And not a - lone to na - tions In far - a - way re - treats,



In words of strength and prom - ise Which all can un - der-stand:
Who preached to all who lis-tened, For us was cru - ci - fied—
How His re - deem - ing pow - er Trans-forms my stub-born clay;
But ev - 'ry-where I broad-cast His love through crowd-ed streets:



“All pow'r to Me is giv - en To do what I shall choose;
This Lord, our liv - ing broth - er, In pow'r at God's right hand,
His touch of fire ig - nites me, With cour - age I am sent,
The lives that my life touch - es, How - ev - er great or small—



There - fore I send My chil-dren, Their wit - ness I will use.”
Has cho - sen us to car - ry His truth to ev - 'ry land.
My tongue - tied si - lence bro - ken, With grace made el - o - quent.
Let them through me see Je - sus, Who served and saved us all.

- 5 That ev'ryone He chooses, For reasons of His own,
Will find in Christ his calling To live His love alone.
His presence always leads us Till time no more shall be;
Christ's strength, His love, His comfort Give us His victory.

(Stand)

6 Lord, gather all Your children, Wherever they may be,
And lead them on to heaven To live eternally
With You, our loving Father, And Christ, our brother dear,
Whose Spirit guards and gives us The joy to persevere.

Text: Henry L. Lettermann, 1932–96

Tune: Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

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SERMON

“The Light Touches Our Regard for Others”

NICENE CREED

(Sit)

OFFERING / FRIENDSHIP REGISTER

(9:00am)

COME JUST AS YOU ARE (by Joseph Sabolick)

Choir

"Come just as you are."

Here the Spirit call.

"Come just as you are."

Come and see.

Come, receive.

Come and love forever.

Life everlasting, and strength for today,
taste the Living Water, and never thirst again.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

+ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT +

(Stand)

PREFACE

LSB pg. 208

Pastor The Lord be with you.

Congregation And also with you.

Pastor Lift up your hearts.

Congregation We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

Congregation It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

PROPER PREFACE

SANCTUS

LSB #208 (w/Handbells)



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



Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.



Sing ho - san-na in the high-est, sing ho-san - na to the Lord;



Tru - ly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

Text: Stephen P. Starke

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

LORD'S PRAYER

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

PAX DOMINI

LSB pg. 209

Pastor

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Congregation

Amen.

AGNUS DEI

LSB pg. 210 (w/Handbells)

1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
You take the sin of the world a - way;
You take the sin of the world a - way;
O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,
Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

Text: Stephen P. Starke

(Sit)

DISTRIBUTION

PRAYERFUL MEDITATION (4:00pm)

ANTHEM (9:00am)

Choir

"LET US BREAK BREAD TOGETHER ON OUR KNEES"

(by John Helgen)

Kyrie eleison. O Lord, have mercy on me.

Let us break bread together on our knees;
When I fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me.

Let us drink wine together on our knees;
When I fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me.

Lord, have mercy on me;
O Lord, have mercy on me.

Let us praise God together on our knees;
When I fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me.

Kyrie eleison. O Lord, have mercy on me.

(Stand)

NUNC DIMITTIS

LSB pg. 211 (w/Handbells)

1 O Lord, now let Your ser - vant De -
2 All glo - ry to the the Fa - ther, All
part in heav'n - ly peace, For I have seen the
glo - ry to the
glo - ry Of Your re - deem - ing grace:
Spir - it, For - ev - er Three in One;
A light to lead the Gen - tiles Un -
For as in the be - gin - ning, Is
to Your ho - ly hill, The glo - ry of Your
now, shall ev - er be, God's tri - une name re -
peo - ple, Your cho - sen Is - ra - el.
sound - ing Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

BENEDICTION

Pastor

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

Congregation

Amen.

(Sit)

CLOSING HYMN

LSB #541

“AWAY FROM US!” THE DEMON CRIED



1 “A - way from us!” the de - mon cried
2 But Je - sus spoke with God’s own pow’r;
3 O ris - en Christ, God’s liv - ing Word,
4 Drive out the doubt that crip - ples faith;
5 Then help us, Lord, to greet each day



When Christ, the Lord, drew near. “Our dark, dis - or - dered
“Come forth!” was His com - mand; For e - vil can - not
To us, we pray, draw near. Come, speak the truth that
Ex - pel our pride and greed That we, from pow’rs that
With hearts and wills made new And, when You call us



world is lost When You, the Light, ap - pear!”
bear the Light Nor sin the Truth with - stand.
cleans - es sin With love that con - quers fear.
threat - en us, May, by Your grace, be freed.
forth to serve, To rise and fol - low You.

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle, Jr., 1923–2007 Tune: African American spiritual; adapt. Harry T. Burleigh, 1866–1949

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MINISTRY TEAM

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SCHOOLS

Lutheran South Unity School.....lsusfw.org.....**744-0459**

Concordia Lutheran High School.....clhscadets.com.....**483-1102**

COUNSELING NEEDS

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

BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

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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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