

# FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

Saturday, February 8, and Sunday, February 9, 2025



# Bethlehem

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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

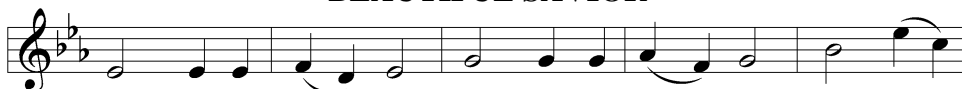
## WELCOME

## RINGING OF THE BELLS

## HYMN

LSB #537

### BEAUTIFUL SAVIOR



1 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, King of cre - a - tion, Son of  
2 Fair are the mead - ows, Fair are the wood - lands, Robed in  
3 Fair is the sun - shine, Fair is the moon - light, Bright the  
4 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, Lord of the na - tions, Son of



God and Son of Man! Tru - ly I'd love Thee, Tru - ly I'd  
flow'rs of bloom - ing spring; Je - sus is fair - er, Je - sus is  
spar - kling stars on high; Je - sus shines bright - er, Je - sus shines  
God and Son of Man! Glo - ry and hon - or, Praise, ad - o -



serve Thee, Light of my soul, my joy, my crown.  
pur - er, He makes our sor - r'wing spir - it sing.  
pur - er Than all the an - gels in the sky.  
ra - tion Now and for - ev - er - more be Thine!

Text: Münsterisch Gesangbuch, 1677, Münster; tr. Joseph A. Seiss, 1823–1904

Tune: Silesian, 19th cent.

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 O God, be not far from me;

**Congregation O my God, make haste to help me!**

Pastor O God, from my youth You have taught me,

**Congregation and I still proclaim Your wondrous deeds.**

Pastor So even to old age and gray hairs, O God, do not forsake me,

**Congregation until I proclaim Your might to another generation, Your power to all those to come.**

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor Seeing Jesus' power, Peter blurted out, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord."

**Congregation Heavenly Father, we confess that we have failed in thoughts, words, and deeds; we are sinful people.**

Pastor Paul lamented, "If I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays but my mind is unfruitful."

**Congregation We confess, Holy Spirit, that we have been content to find peace only for ourselves; we are sinful in our very being.**

Pastor Isaiah cried, "I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips."

**Congregation We confess, Lord Jesus, that we have sinned even in our speaking and doing; we deserve to have You depart from us.**

Pastor Despite their failures, Isaiah and Paul were inspired to write parts of the Bible and Peter led the disciples. By the grace of God, Jesus died and rose for you. As the angel told Isaiah, "Your guilt is taken away, and your sin atoned for." As a called and ordained servant of Christ, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Congregation Amen. Help us, Lord Jesus, to follow, calm and fearless, till our rest is won.**

## + SERVICE OF THE WORD +

### GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

LSB pg. 204



**C** 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 - shiped 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. O Lord, keep Your family the Church continually in the true faith that, relying on the hope of Your heavenly grace, we may ever be defended by Your mighty power; 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**

Isaiah 6:1-13

<sup>1</sup>In the year that King Uzziah died I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; and the train of his robe filled the temple. <sup>2</sup>Above him stood the seraphim. Each had six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. <sup>3</sup>And one called to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!" <sup>4</sup>And the foundations of the thresholds shook at the voice of him who called, and the house was filled with smoke. <sup>5</sup>And I said: "Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!" <sup>6</sup>Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a burning coal that he had taken with tongs from the altar. <sup>7</sup>And he touched my mouth and said: "Behold, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away, and your sin atoned for." <sup>8</sup>And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" Then I said, "Here am I! Send me." <sup>9</sup>And he said, "Go, and say to this people: "'Keep on hearing, but do not understand; keep on seeing, but do not perceive.' <sup>10</sup>Make the heart of this people dull, and their ears heavy, and blind their eyes; lest they see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their hearts, and turn and be healed." <sup>11</sup>Then I said, "How long, O Lord?" And he said: "Until cities lie waste without inhabitant, and houses without people, and the land is a desolate waste, <sup>12</sup>and the LORD removes people far away, and the forsaken places are many in the midst of the land. <sup>13</sup>And though a tenth remain in it, it will be burned again, like a terebinth or an oak, whose stump remains when it is felled." The holy seed is its stump.

Leader                      This is the Word of the Lord.

**Congregation              Thanks be to God.**

## EPISTLE

1 Corinthians 14:12b-20

Since you are eager for manifestations of the Spirit, strive to excel in building up the church. <sup>13</sup>Therefore, one who speaks in a tongue should pray for the power to interpret.

<sup>14</sup>For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays but my mind is unfruitful. <sup>15</sup>What am I to do? I will pray with my spirit, but I will pray with my mind also; I will sing praise with my spirit, but I will sing with my mind also. <sup>16</sup>Otherwise, if you give thanks with your spirit, how can anyone in the position of an outsider say “Amen” to your thanksgiving when he does not know what you are saying? <sup>17</sup>For you may be giving thanks well enough, but the other person is not being built up. <sup>18</sup>I thank God that I speak in tongues more than all of you. <sup>19</sup>Nevertheless, in church I would rather speak five words with my mind in order to instruct others, than ten thousand words in a tongue. <sup>20</sup>Brothers, do not be children in your thinking. Be infants in evil, but in your thinking be mature.

Leader This is the Word of the Lord.

Congregation Thanks be to God.

(Stand)

## ALLELUIA AND VERSE

LSB pg. 205

The musical score is written on four staves, each with a treble clef and a common time signature (C). The first staff contains the melody for the first line of the Alleluia: "Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia." The second staff contains the melody for the first line of the verse: "These things are writ - ten that you may be - lieve that". The third staff contains the melody for the second line of the verse: "Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God." The fourth staff contains the melody for the second line of the Alleluia: "Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia." Each line of music is followed by its corresponding lyrics.

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 5:1-11

Pastor                    The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the fifth chapter.

**Congregation    Praise to You, O Christ**

<sup>1</sup>On one occasion, while the crowd was pressing in on [Jesus] to hear the word of God, he was standing by the lake of Gennesaret, <sup>2</sup>and he saw two boats by the lake, but the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. <sup>3</sup>Getting into one of the boats, which was Simon's, he asked him to put out a little from the land. And he sat down and taught the people from the boat. <sup>4</sup>And when he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch." <sup>5</sup>And Simon answered, "Master, we toiled all night and took nothing! But at your word I will let down the nets." <sup>6</sup>And when they had done this, they enclosed a large number of fish, and their nets were breaking. <sup>7</sup>They signaled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink. <sup>8</sup>But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord." <sup>9</sup>For he and all who were with him were astonished at the catch of fish that they had taken, <sup>10</sup>and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching men." <sup>11</sup>And when they had brought their boats to land, they left everything and followed him.

Pastor                    This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Congregation    Praise to You, O Christ**



(Sit)

## HYMN OF THE DAY

LSB #856

### O CHRIST, WHO CALLED THE TWELVE



1 O Christ, who called the Twelve To rise and fol - low You, For -  
2 O Christ, who taught the Twelve The truth for a - ges sealed, Whose  
3 O Christ, who led the Twelve A - mong the des - o - late And  
4 O Christ, who sent the Twelve On roads they'd nev - er trod To  
5 O Christ, th'a - pos-tles' Lord, The mar - tyrs' strength and song, The



sak - ing old, fa - mil - iar ways For ven - tures bold and new:  
words and works a - wak-ened faith, The ways of God re - vealed:  
broke as bread of life for all Your love com - pas - sion - ate:  
serve, to suf - fer, teach, pro-claim The near - er reign of God:  
cru - ci - fied and ris - en King To whom the saints be - long:



Grant us to hear Your call To risk se - cu - ri - ty And,  
In - struct us now, we pray, By Your em-pow'r-ing Word. True  
Lead us a - long the ways Where hope has near - ly died And  
Send us on ways where faith Tran - scends ti - mid - i - ty, Where  
Though gen - er - a - tions pass, Our trib - ute still we bring, Our



bound in heart and will to You, Find per - fect lib - er - ty.  
teach - er, be for all who seek Their light, their life, their Lord.  
help us climb the lone - ly hills Where love is cru - ci - fied.  
love in-forms and hope sus-tains Both life and min-is - try.  
hymns a sac - ri - fice of praise, Our lives an of - fer - ing.

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle, Jr., 1923–2007

Tune: English; adapt. Franklin L. Sheppard, 1852–1930

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Tune: Public domain

## SERMON

## “The Light Touches Our Work”

## NICENE CREED

(Sit)

## OFFERING / FRIENDSHIP REGISTER

## 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



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

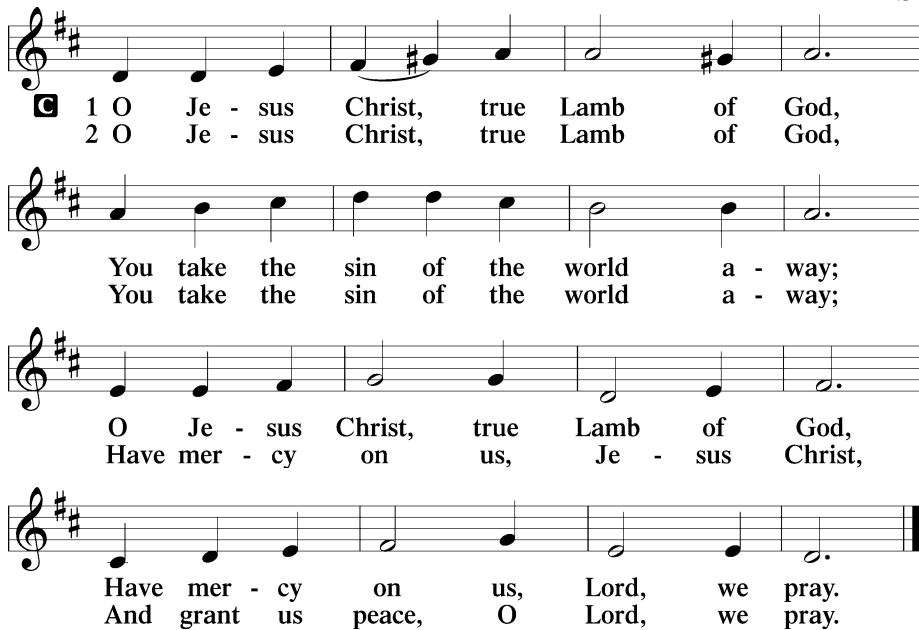
The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Congregation

Amen.

## AGNUS DEI

LSB pg. 210



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

## I AM TRUSTING THEE, LORD JESUS



1 I am trust-ing Thee, Lord Je - sus, Trust - ing on - ly Thee;  
 2 I am trust-ing Thee for par - don; At Thy feet I bow,  
 3 I am trust-ing Thee for cleans - ing In the crim - son flood;  
 4 I am trust-ing Thee to guide me; Thou a - lone shalt lead,



Trust - ing Thee for full sal - va - tion, Great and free.  
 For Thy grace and ten - der mer - cy Trust - ing now.  
 Trust - ing Thee to make me ho - ly By Thy blood.  
 Ev - 'ry day and hour sup - ply - ing All my need.

5

I am trusting Thee for power;  
 Thine can never fail.  
 Words which Thou Thyself shalt give me  
 Must prevail.

6

I am trusting Thee, Lord Jesus;  
 Never let me fall.  
 I am trusting Thee forever  
 And for all.

Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836–79

Tune: Henry W. Baker, 1821–77

Text and tune: Public domain

(Stand)

## NUNC DIMITTIS

LSB pg. 211

1 O Lord, now let Your ser - vant De -  
2 All glo - ry to 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 #853

### HOW CLEAR IS OUR VOCATION, LORD

1 How clear is our vo - ca - tion, Lord,  
2 But if, for - get - ful, we should find  
3 We mar - vel how Your saints be - come  
4 In what You give us, Lord, to do,

When once we heed Your call: To live ac - cord - ing  
Your yoke is hard to bear; If world - ly pres - sures  
In hin - dranc - es more sure; Whose joy - ful vir - tues  
To - geth - er or a - lone, In old rou - tines or

to Your Word And dai - ly learn, re - freshed, re - stored,  
fray the mind, And love it - self can - not un - wind  
put to shame The cas - ual way we wear Your name  
ven - tures new, May we not cease to look to You,

That You are Lord of all And will not let us fall.  
Its tan - gled skein of care: Our in - ward life re - pair.  
And by our faults ob - scure Your pow'r to cleanse and cure.  
The cross You hung up - on— All You en - deav - ored done.

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903–2000

Tune: C. Hubert H. Parry, 1848–1918

Text: © 1982 Hope Publishing Co. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110001608

Tune: Public domain



## **MINISTRY TEAM**

### **The Rev. Ben Ahlersmeyer**

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## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**President – Greg Shediack**

**Vice President – Evans Branigan**

**Secretary – John Stafford**

**Treasurer – Brian Bates**

## **At Large Members:**

**Dan Bates**

**Rachelle Dance**

**David Schult**

**Blake Sebring**

## **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**

3705 South Anthony Boulevard

Fort Wayne, Indiana 46806-4329

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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