

THE SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY



January 19, 2025

WELCOME, GUESTS

Welcome to all who worship with us today. We are thankful for your presence and invite you to share in “the food which endures for eternal life.”

Please sign the visitor’s book at our Welcome Center in the narthex. If you’d like to know more about us or are considering becoming a member, please complete the form found in each pew, return it to an usher or simply put it in the collection plate. There is a cry room down the stairs off the narthex where the service can still be heard. Busy-bags, children’s bulletins and magazines and are also provided in the narthex.

We’d like for you to learn more about us!

A Reconciling in Christ Congregation: We welcome people of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions; and we are committed to work for racial equity.



A Green Congregation: for being stewards of the earth.

In Covenant with Lutheran Campus Ministry (LuMin St. Louis), lcmstl.org

LAND AND PEOPLES ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Bethel Lutheran Church acknowledges and honors the Tribal peoples, including the Osage Nation, Quapaw, Miami, Otoe-Missouria, Kickapoo, and Illinois Confederacy among others, who were unjustly removed from their ancestral homelands on which we gather.

Bethel Lutheran Church honors the Native peoples who have cared for, and continue to care for, the lands which they first inhabited, named, and tended.

Bethel Lutheran Church recognizes that the cultural and spiritual life of our Indigenous siblings offers wisdom about living in relationship with creation and with our neighbors.

In support of our goal of being a caring, inclusive, Christ-centered community, we

- ❖ care for God’s creation
- ❖ promote the non-violence of Christ and care for those who suffer
- ❖ participate in the Spirit toward a global religious community

January 19, 2025

+ The Second Sunday after Epiphany +

Setting Five

10 AM

The responses of the assembly appear in bold type.

“ELW” refers to Evangelical Lutheran Worship, the cranberry-colored book in the pew racks.

Standing and sitting are corporate acts of the assembly.

When the assembly stands, those who are able stand on behalf of those who cannot.

The Sundays after Epiphany continue to celebrate the revelation of God’s glory to us as it was made known to the magi and to those on Jordan’s banks at Jesus’ baptism—today using wedding imagery. Our God rejoices over God’s people as those being married rejoice over one another. By the power of the Spirit there are gifts galore for everyone. In Christ Jesus the best wine is saved for last. Taste and see.

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God

WELCOME

PRELUDE

Help Me God’s Goodness to Praise

HELFT MIR GOTT’S GÜTE PREISEN

from the Orgelbüchlein, 1717

chorale settings by Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

This setting of a New Year’s hymn considers the passing of the old, and the beginning of the new. Its forthright, almost youthful energy is graced with a measure of sadness, expressed in its chromatic, half-step bass line, before resolving brightly.

“Help me God’s goodness to praise,
All you dear children;
With songs and acclamations
To God our thankfulness we raise.”

The assembly stands for Confession and Forgiveness, which begins at the bottom of page 94 near the front of the cranberry book.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

ELW page 94

GATHERING HYMN *All Praise to You, O Lord*

GARELOCHSIDE



1 All praise to you, O Lord, who by your might - y pow’r
2 You speak, and it is done; o - be - dient to your word,
3 Oh, may that grace be ours, in you for - e’er to live,
4 So, led from strength to strength, grant us, O Lord, to see



did man - i - fest your glo - ry forth in Ca - na’s mar - riage hour.
the wa - ter red - d’ning in - to wine pro - claims the pres - ent Lord.
and drink of those re - fresh - ing streams which you a - lone can give.
the mar - riage sup - per of the Lamb, the great e - piph - a - ny.

GREETING *The presiding minister and the assembly greet each other.*


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

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

Glory to God


ELW page 158

Assisting minister



Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

All



Lord God, heav'n-ly King,

*The canticle is found on page 158
near the front of the cranberry book.*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Lord God, source of every blessing, you showed forth your glory and led many to faith by the works of your Son, who brought gladness and salvation to his people. Transform us by the Spirit of his love, that we may find our life together in him, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

The assembly is seated.

WORD

God speaks to us in Scripture reading, preaching, and song

FIRST READING

Isaiah 62:1–5

As bridegroom and bride rejoice, so shall God rejoice over you

The people's return to Judah after the exile was marred by economic and political troubles. Nevertheless, the prophet declares, Jerusalem and Judah will be restored. God will rejoice over Jerusalem as a bridegroom rejoices over his bride; and the people are called to the celebration.

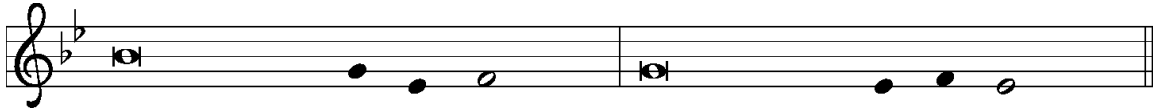
A reading from Isaiah.

For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until its vindication shines out like the dawn and its salvation like a burning torch. The nations shall see your vindication and all the rulers your glory, and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the LORD will give.

You shall be a beautiful crown in the hand of the LORD and a royal diadem in the hand of your God. You shall no more be termed Forsaken, and your land shall no more be termed Desolate, but you shall be called My Delight, and your land Married, for the LORD delights in you, and your land shall be married. For as a young man marries a young woman, so shall your builder marry you, and as one rejoices in marrying one's beloved, so shall your God rejoice over you.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.



- Cantor* Your love, O LORD, reaches | to the heavens,
and your faithfulness | to the clouds.
- Assembly* **Your righteousness is like the strong mountains,
your justice like | the great deep;
you save humans and | beasts, O LORD.**
- Cantor* How priceless is your | love, O God!
your people take refuge under the shadow | of your wings.
- Assembly* **They feast upon the abundance | of your house;
you give them drink from the river of | your delights.**
- Cantor* For with you is the | well of life,
and in your light | we see light.
- Assembly* **Continue your loving-kindness to | those who know you,
and your favor to those who are | true of heart.**

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 12:1–11

There are a variety of gifts but the same Spirit

The congregation at Corinth experienced division as people were comparing one another's spiritual gifts, thinking some to be superior to others. Paul invites this fractured community to trust that God's Holy Spirit has gifted them all perfectly for their mission together.

A reading from First Corinthians.

Now concerning spiritual gifts, my dear family, I do not want you to be ignorant. You know that when you were gentiles you were enticed and led astray to idols that could not speak. Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking by the Spirit of God ever says "Let Jesus be cursed!" and no one can say "Jesus is Lord" except by the Holy Spirit.

Now there are varieties of gifts but the same Spirit, and there are varieties of services but the same Lord, and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, to another the working of powerful deeds, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Silence for preparation precedes the gospel acclamation.



The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Arise, Shine, For Your Light Has Come

Perry Nelson

Sung by ALL.

ALL: A- rise, shine, _____ for your light has come, _____ and the
glo- ry of _____ the Lord has ris- en up- on you! Al- le- lu- ia,
Al _____ le- lu- ia, Al- le- lu- ia! _____ All who fol- low Je- sus the
light, shall _____ have _____ the light _____ of life! Al- le- lu- ia!

HOLY GOSPEL

John 2:1–11

The wedding at Cana

Turning water to wine at the wedding at Cana is described as the first of Jesus' signs. Through many such epiphanies, Jesus reveals that he bears God's creative power and joyful presence into the world.

As the gospel is announced, a small cross may be traced with the thumb on the forehead, then on the lips, then on the breast, as a prayer that the gospel may dwell in our minds, on our lips, and in our hearts.

The ☩ holy gospel according to John, the second chapter.

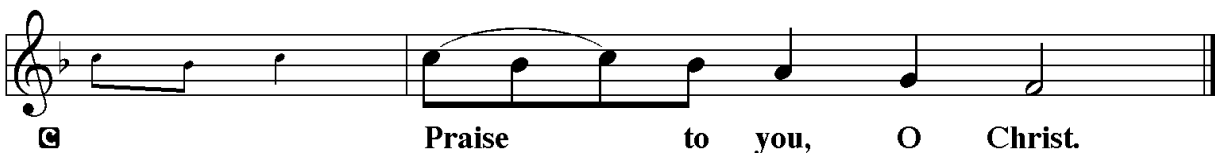


On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come." His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you."

Now standing there were six stone water jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to them, "Fill the jars with water." And they filled them up to the brim. He said to them, "Now draw some out, and take it to the person in charge of the banquet." So they took it. When the person in charge tasted the water that had become wine and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), that person called the bridegroom and said to him, "Everyone serves the good wine first and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now."

Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee and revealed his glory, and his disciples believed in him.

The gospel of the Lord.



The assembly is seated.

SERMON

Pastor Scott Benolkin

Silence for reflection follows the sermon.

The assembly stands for the Hymn of the Day to proclaim the word of God in song.

HYMN OF THE DAY *Jesus Come! For We Invite You* UNION SEMINARY

ELW # 312

1. All 2. High voices 3. Low voices 4. All

High voices = soprano/alto Low voices = tenor/bass

APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

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

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

The assisting minister invites the assembly into prayer.

With the Spirit of Christ shining upon us,
let us boldly pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

After each petition:

God of grace,
hear our prayer.

We pray for all who suffer in body, mind, or spirit, especially Joseph, Ron, Annie, Marilyn, Steve, Barbara, Kathy, Katrina, Joe, Bill, JoAnn, Daniel, Angie, Will, Tom, Charlene, Richard, Steve, Jack, Rudolph, Brittany, Mary, David, Julie, Nick, Meredith, Joe, Michael, Marcie, and Anne-Marie.
We give thanks for the recovery of Liam.

The presiding minister concludes the prayers:

We entrust our prayers to you, O God,
in the sure and certain hope that your promise is revealed among the people.
Amen.

THE PEACE *The presiding minister and the assembly greet each other in the peace of the risen Christ.*

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace. After greeting one another, the assembly is seated.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please see the schedule and written announcements on the last inside pages.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ

OFFERING

An offering is gathered, and the table is set.

VOLUNTARY

God, Your Glory We Have Seen in Your Son

DIEU, NOUS AVONS VU TA GLOIRE

Music of Jean Langlais (1907-1991)

English words by Brian Wren, 1964

The assembly is invited to rise and sing the final refrain with the choir.

Choir:

Refrain:

God, your glory we have seen in your Son,
Full of truth, full of heav'nly grace:
In Christ make us live, his love shine on our face,
And the nations shall see in us the triumph you have won.

1. In the fields of this world his good news he has sown,
And sends us out to reap till the harvest is done.

God, your glory...

2. He was broken for us, God-forsaken his cry,
And still the bread he breaks: to ourselves we must die.

God, your glory...

3. He has trampled the grapes of new life on his Cross;
Now drink the cup and live: he has filled it for us.

God, your glory...

4. He has founded a kingdom that none shall destroy:
The corner-stone is laid. Go to work: build with joy!

Assembly, standing:

**God, your glory we have seen in your Son,
Full of truth, full of heav'nly grace:
In Christ make us live, his love shine on our face,
And the nations shall see in us the triumph you have won.**



THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

*Believing in the real presence of Christ in the holy meal, this church practices Eucharistic hospitality.
All are welcome at God's table.*

The presiding minister greets the assembly and invites all present to give thanks.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The presiding minister continues:

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that ... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (SANCTUS)



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



heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.



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.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

God of our weary years, God of our silent tears, you have brought us this far along the way. In times of bitterness you did not abandon us, but guided us into the path of love and light. In every age you sent prophets to make known your loving will for all humanity. The cry of the poor has become your own cry; our hunger and thirst for justice is your own desire. In the fullness of time, you sent your chosen servant to preach good news to the afflicted, to break bread with the outcast and despised, and to ransom those in bondage to prejudice and sin.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.



Christ has died. Christ is ris - en. Christ will come a - gain.

Remembering, therefore, his death and resurrection, we await the day when Jesus shall return to free all the earth from the bonds of slavery and death.

Come, Lord Jesus!

And let the church say, Amen.

Amen.

Send your ☩ Holy Spirit, our advocate, to fill the hearts of all who share this bread and cup with courage and wisdom to pursue love and justice in all the world.

Come, Spirit of freedom!

And let the church say, Amen.

Amen.

Join our prayers and praise with your prophets and martyrs of every age, that, rejoicing in the hope of the resurrection, we might live in the freedom and hope of your Son. Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.



A - men, a - men. A - men, a - men.

The Great Thanksgiving concludes with the Lord's Prayer.

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 AND BREAKING OF THE BREAD

The presiding minister invites the assembly to Christ's table, where all are welcome.

The joy of the Lord is our strength. Come, eat this meal of gladness.

The assembly is seated.

We invite all persons to share in Holy Communion. Those who do not commune are invited to come forward for a blessing. The silver chalices contain wine. In the individual cups, wine is clear; grape juice is a rose color. For sanitary reasons, we do not practice self-intinction: please do not dip the bread into the chalice. Gluten-free wafers are available. If any need to commune under one element (only the bread or only the wine/juice), know that the fullness of the sacrament is present in the one element.

LAMB OF GOD (AGNUS DEI)

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; grant us peace. A - men.

COMMUNION MEDITATION

The Old Year Has Gone Away
DAS ALTE JAHR VERGANGEN IST
from the *Orgelbüchlein*, 1717
setting by Johann Sebastian Bach

There is a Jewish tradition in connection with the celebration of the Hebrew New Year. On Rosh Hashanah (the opening of the ten-day New Year's observances), it is said that the Book of Life is opened, and those whose names are written therein will live through another year. On the tenth day, Yom Kippur [the "Day of Atonement"], the Book of Life is closed; for those whose names were omitted, this shall be their last year.

To a certain extent this tradition expresses the essence of the New Year's hymn *The Old Year has Gone Away*, which is played annually here at Bethel in a setting by Johann Sebastian Bach. This hymn is a plaintive lament not only for the passing of an old year, but for the dying that such a passing represents. Bach's setting of the chorale conveys this spirit most profoundly. In this setting the hymn tune is stated in an elaborate, solo cantilena in the soprano (top) voice, and the intense chromaticism is expressive of the sadness of the passing of time and the brevity of life.

COMMUNION HYMN

When Christ's Appearing Was Made Known

WO GOTT ZUM HAUS

On the final stanza, the assembly stands.



1 When Christ's ap - pear - ing was made known, King Her - od
 2 The east - ern sa - ges saw from far and fol - lowed
 3 With - in the Jor - dan's sa - cred flood the heav'n - ly
 4 And oh, what mir - a - cle di - vine, when wa - ter
Stand. 5 For this his glad e - piph - a - ny, all glo - ry



trem-bled for his throne; but he who of - fers heav'n - ly
 on his guid - ing star; by light their way to light they
 Lamb in meek - ness stood, that he, of whom no sin was
 red - dened in - to wine! He spoke the word, and forth it
 un - to Je - sus be; whom with the Fa - ther we a -



birth seeks not the king - doms of this earth.
 trod, and by their gifts con - fessed their God.
 known, might cleanse his peo - ple from their own.
 flowed in streams that na - ture ne'er be - stowed.
 dore, and Ho - ly Ghost for - ev - er - more.

The assembly is seated.



POSTCOMMUNION *O Chief of Cities, Bethlehem*
TRUTH FROM ABOVE
setting by Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

This plaintive English carol recalls Christ's manifestation to the Magi, and his revelation to the Gentiles – people of all nations. The original Nativity text of this carol expresses a related sentiment: "This is the Truth sent from above."

1. O chief of cities, Bethlehem, Of David's crown the fairest gem,
But more to us than David's name, In you, as man, the Savior came.
2. Beyond the sun in splendor bright, Above you stands a wondrous light
Proclaiming from the conscious skies That here, in flesh, the Godhead lies.
3. The wise men, seeing him so fair, Bow low before him, and with prayer
Their treasured eastern gifts unfold Of incense, myrrh, and royal gold.
4. The golden tribute owns him king, But frankincense to God they bring,
And last, prophetic sign, with myrrh, They shadow forth his sepulcher.
5. O Jesus, whom the Gentiles see, With Father, Spirit, One in Three:
To you, O God, be glory giv'n By saints on earth and saints in Heav'n.

The assembly stands for the prayer after communion.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Nourishing God, at this table you have refreshed us with holy gifts of food and drink. Strengthen us for service, and send us out to embody your good news of liberation and healing for the sake of the world. In the name of Christ we pray,

Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world

BLESSING *Solemn Blessing for Epiphany*

May Almighty God, who led the Magi by the shining of a star
to find the Christ, the Light from Light, lead you also, in your pilgrimage, to find the Lord.

Amen.

May God, who sent the Holy Spirit
to rest upon the Only-begotten at his baptism in the Jordan River,
pour out that Spirit on you who have come to the waters of new birth.

Amen.

May God, by the power that turned water into wine at the wedding feast at Cana,
transform your lives and make glad your hearts.

Amen.

And may the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the ☩ Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be upon you and remain with you forever.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN

Brightest and Best of the Stars of the Morning

ELW # 303

MORNING STAR

Music by James Harding, words by Reginald Heber

This majestic hymn reminds us of the very first moment of the Epiphany, as the Wise Men pursued the Star of Bethlehem – from which the hymn tune takes its name.

DISMISSAL

The assisting minister sends the assembly into mission.

Go in peace. Live in hope.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

We Christian Folk Now Have Our Joy

WIR CHRISTENLEUT HAB'N JETZUND FREUD

from the *Orgelbüchlein*, 1717

chorale setting by Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750)

A hymn of confident faith in the birth and manifestation of the Savior. It begins:

Come, Christian folk, your joy be spoke,
For Christ is born and our salvation bringeth.
Who to him cleaves, in faith believes,
Shall never die, but life in heaven receiveth.

* * *

Organ music for this service includes selections by Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750), from his liturgical compendium, the *Orgelbuchlein*. Bach's "Little Organ Book" was intended to encompass some 164 chorale settings, for worship use throughout the liturgical year. These works were composed during his incarceration in 1717, for "pressing too vigorously" for his release from the service of the Duke of Weimar, in order to take another position. Eventually, the Duke begrudgingly granted Bach his release, but the *Orgelbüchlein* was left unfinished, with only 46 chorale settings complete. Nonetheless, the collection, as it stands, offers an impressive variety of compositional techniques, and is a fundamental resource for the serious liturgical organist.

Incidentally, there was a recent project among living organist/composers to "complete" the *Orgelbüchlein*, that is, to compose new settings of the chorale preludes which Bach left uncomposed. This was in observance of the 2017 tercentennial of Bach's famous collection. Many of these new pieces are interesting, but most of them sound nothing like Bach, and they often lack the Master's regard for the content, contour, and character of the chorale tune. Nonetheless, the initiative is an intriguing proposition, and offers evidence of Bach's far-reaching impact and significance.

IN OUR PRAYER CONTINUALLY

We give thanks for healing for **Liam Connolly**.

We pray for **Joseph McCormack**, as he contends with a serious illness. Joe is a friend of Dr. Mager and Bruce Kleiner of the Chancel Choir.

We pray for God's protection and healing for **Ron Rendleman**, following surgery this past week.

We pray for **Annie Tucker** (daughter of Ashley and DJ Tucker and granddaughter of Pete Hayes), who is recovering from foot surgery.

We pray for **Marilyn Dichsen** (friend of Laura Roth), who is undergoing cancer treatment.

We pray for **Steve** (brother of Mike Grupe), who is recovering from surgery.

We pray for **Barbara Mayes** (family of the Lights), who received a difficult diagnosis.

We pray for **Kathy Fangmann** (cousin of Deb Grupe), who is undergoing treatment for mantle cell lymphoma.

We pray for **Katrina Wong** (friend of the Kennedys), who continues immunotherapy treatment.

We pray for **Joe Collman** (friend of Roy Ledbetter and Tom Dewey), who is in hospice care.

We pray for **Bill Vaughan**, who is recovering from a broken neck.

We pray for **JoAnn Foote** (mother of Cindy Gross), who is in hospice care.

We pray for the continued recovery of **Daniel Cierpiot**, friend of Dr. Stephen Mager, following brain surgery. Danny's condition is much improved, and we continue to pray for his health and well-being, and that of his family.

We pray for **Angie Brlas** (cousin of Sylvia Titgemeyer), who is going through rehab.

We pray for God's guidance and peace for the **Grenda family** during a difficult time for their son **Will**. Heidi and Dave Grenda are dear friends and former members of Bethel.

We ask for continued prayers for **Tom Dewey** as he's undergoing immunotherapy treatments for a recurring health condition.

We pray for **Charlene Reimann** in her time of need.

We pray for **Richard Jones**, help in seeking renewed living arrangements and employment.

We pray for **Steve Bristol** (father of Christian, Heather, and Zachary), who has been diagnosed with Alzheimer's. We pray for comfort, strength and support for him and his family.

We pray for **Jack Williamson** (father of Jennifer Williamson), who has dementia.

We pray for God's comfort and peace for **Rudolph Mueller**, who is now under hospice care.

We pray for **Brittany** (niece of Ann and Bob Mottl) for her continued healing.

We pray for God's comfort and strength to be with **Mary Baker Findley** (sister of Vicki Baker Lottes) with stage 4 cancer and her husband **David Findley**, who has Alzheimer's.

We pray for **Julie Murthy** (cousin of Emily Pelcak) as she starts her battle with cancer.

We pray for strength and wisdom for **Nick Peppes** (colleague of Gail Heyne Hafer), who is facing personal challenges.

We pray for **Meredith Sallee** (sister of Katy Koontz) during her treatment for cancer.

We pray for **Joe Whelan** (stepson to Tim Gutknecht), who is dealing with a genetic condition.

We pray for **Michael Moentmann**, who lives with chronic illness.

We continue our prayers for **Marcie Dowell** as she lives with a heart condition.

We pray for **Anne-Marie Bogdan** (sister of Nathan Schroeder) as she lives with long-standing health conditions. May God's comfort and strength be with her and her family.

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY

January 26, 2025

The Third Sunday after Epiphany

Reconciling in Christ Sunday

God's glory is revealed in the reading of scripture. People stand at attention. People weep. People prostrate themselves in prayer. The unity of the church is another reflection of God's glory. Most gloriously, the promises of God are fulfilled in the person of Jesus Christ. Gather round. Listen up. Glimpse the glory of God.

Nehemiah 8:1–3, 5–6, 8–10	Ezra reads the law of Moses before the people
Psalms 19	<i>The teaching of the LORD revives the soul</i>
1 Corinthians 12:12–31a	You are the body of Christ
Luke 4:14–21	Jesus reads from the scroll of the prophet Isaiah

Reconciling in Christ Sunday – January 26

God desires full life for all. But because of sin, our age-old rebellion, social forces too often silence, control, or devalue God's beloved children whose sexual or romantic orientation, gender identity, or gender expression challenge patterns of sexism and patriarchy. Yet God empowers us to recognize that all people are created in God's image and to renounce any power, privilege, or prejudice that undermines community and disrupts joy, gladness, relationships, and abundant life for all people.

SCHEDULE

bethelstl.org/events

SUN	1/19	The Second Sunday after Epiphany
	8:45 AM	Faith Formation; Adult Forum
	10 AM	Holy Communion
TUE	1/21	
	10:30 AM	Bible Study
SUN	1/26	The Third Sunday after Epiphany
	8:45 AM	Faith Formation; Adult Forum
	10 AM	Holy Communion <i>Reconciling in Christ Sunday</i>
TUE	1/28	
	7:00 AM	Bible Study (<i>offsite</i>)
	10:30 AM	Bible Study
SUN	2/2	The Presentation of Our Lord <i>Candlemas</i>
	8:45 AM	Conversation with Pastor: "Building Boards"
	10 AM	Holy Communion
	11:20 AM	Crêpes in the Fellowship Hall

Announcements

Souper Bowl of Caring

Souper Bowl of Caring is rolling! Bring donations through February 9 for our pantry partners Good Ground Pantry (nonperishable foods) and God's Helping Hand (cleaning supplies). Monetary donations will go to God's Helping Hand.

Bethel's Breadbreakers! Plan to join for Winter 2025! Last weekend to sign up!

Do you want to start off 2025 with the opportunity to enhance connections with fellow Bethel-ites? Consider joining a Breadbreakers group! Sign up NOW for Bethel's Winter 2025 Breadbreakers!

Breadbreakers groups are a great way to get to know your fellow members! It's an enjoyable way to learn more about each other – and create ties that bind – over a potluck meal. Groups are formed to provide a mix of new and more established members. We'll divide into groups of 8 or 10, and plan to meet two or three times during February, March, and April. If you are interested in joining a Breadbreakers group, please sign up on the sheet in the Narthex or contact Sue Flesch via email at susanflesch@gmail.com no later than January 19! Groups will be assigned immediately thereafter. Thank you!

National Day of Racial Healing – Tuesday, January 21

Join a free ELCA online event on Tuesday, Jan. 21, 10 AM to 2 PM, to observe the 2025 National Day of Racial Healing (NDORH). Presented by the ELCA in partnership with Augsburg Fortress Publishers, this educational event will feature worship, workshops, music, and guided reflection while centering the voices of ELCA leaders of color. See elca.org/ndorh to register.



To make an offering electronically, go to bethelstl.org/give

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Cover art: *The Wedding at Cana*. JESUS MAFA, Cameroon. From Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library. Original source: www.librairie-emmanuel.fr. Reprinted by permission.

Interior art before the gospel: *The Wedding Feast at Cana*, fresco by Giotto di Bondone (1266/67–1337), in the Scrovegni Chapel (“Arena Chapel”), Padua. At the left of the image, Jesus gives directions to the servant girl. At the right, his Mother enjoins the servants to follow his instructions, as the Steward tastes the water-made-wine. Image courtesy of the Web Gallery of Art.

Interior art at the offering: *Altar of Keur Moussa Abbey*. Father George Saget, 1963. Keur Moussa, Senegal. Source: Wikimedia Commons. Creative Commons Attribution 2.0 Generic license.

Interior art at communion: *The Wedding at Cana*. He Qi (born 1951). Used by permission, license code beginning 7PCW.

*Have Something for the Bethel Connection, Bulletin, Website, Narthex Information Board, or Facebook?
Email it to submissions@bethelstl.org by 9 AM Monday morning.*

SERVING TODAY

Celebrant & Preacher	Pastor Scott Benolkin
Assisting Minister	Silas Johnson
Lectors and Communion Assistants	Sue Flesch Deb Grupe Roy Ledbetter
Musicians	Stephen Mager, organist and music director Bethel Chancel Choir
Ushers	Mark Scharff Gail Heyne Hafer
Altar Guild	Kristin Soifer
Bread Baker	Jen Williamson
Audio-Visual Engineers	Charlotte White Nathan Schroeder



7001 Forsyth Boulevard, Saint Louis, MO 63105

Office Hours Mon–Fri 10 AM–2 PM

Office: (314) 863-3112

Pastoral Emergencies: (614) 446-9693

LuMin Pastor: (314) 636-3202

The Rev. Scott K. Benolkin (he/him), Pastor, pastor.scott@bethelstl.org

Stephen Mager, DM, Organist and Music Director

The Rev. Tina Reyes (she/her/ella), Campus Pastor, LuMin St. Louis, pastor.luminstl@gmail.com

Anna Burkemper, Church Administrator, office@bethelstl.org

Have a prayer request? Email it to prayers@bethelstl.org anytime.

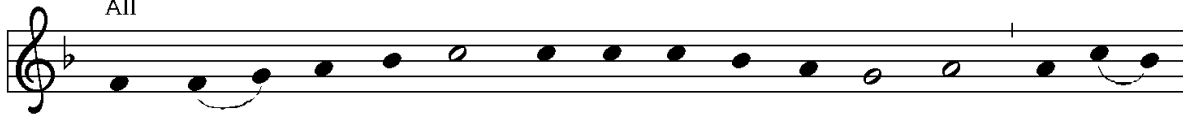
Note that the information you send to this address will get shared with a number of people who will be praying for you as well as the Sunday Holy Communion bulletin.

Assisting minister



Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

All



Lord God, heav'n-ly King, al-might-y God and Fa - ther, we wor -



ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, O Lord God,



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world: have



mer-cy on us; you are seat - ed at the right hand of the



Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer. For you a - lone are the



Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord, you a - lone



are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

Jesus, Come! For We Invite You



1 Je - sus, come! for we in - vite you, guest and mas - ter,
2 Je - sus, come! trans-form our plea - sures, guide us in - to
3 Je - sus, come! in new cre - a - tion, heav'n brought near in
4 Je - sus, come! sur - prise our dull - ness, make us will - ing



friend and Lord; now, as once at Ca - na's wed - ding,
paths un - known; bring your gifts, com-mand your ser - vants,
pow'r di - vine; give your un - ex - pect - ed glo - ry,
to re - ceive more than we can yet im - ag - ine,



speak and let us hear your word: lead us through our need or
let us trust in you a - lone: though your hand may work in
chang-ing wa - ter in - to wine: rouse the faith of your dis -
all the best you have to give: let us find your hid - den



doubt - ing, hope be born and joy re - stored.
se - cret, all shall see what you have done.
ci - ples— come, our first and great - est Sign!
rich - es, taste your love, be - lieve, and live!

Text: Christopher Idle, b. 1938

Music: UNION SEMINARY, Harold Friedell, 1905–1958

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Music © 1957, 1985 H. W. Gray, admin. CPP/Belwin.

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Brightest and Best of the Stars



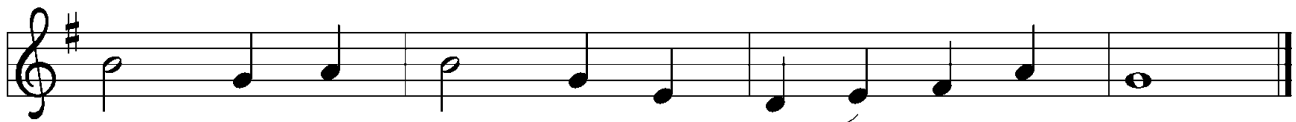
1 Bright - est and best of the stars of the morn - ing,
2 Cold on his cra - dle the dew - drops are shin - ing;
3 What shall we give him, in cost - ly de - vo - tion?
4 Vain - ly we of - fer each am - ple ob - la - tion,
5 Bright - est and best of the stars of the morn - ing,



dawn on our dark - ness and lend us your aid.
low lies his head with the beasts of the stall;
Shall we bring in - cense and of - f'rings di - vine,
vain - ly with gifts would his fa - vor se - cure;
dawn on our dark - ness and lend us your aid.



Star of the east, the ho - ri - zon a - dorn - ing,
an - gels a - dore him in slum - ber re - clin - ing,
gems of the moun - tain and pearls of the o - cean,
rich - er by far is the heart's ad - o - ra - tion,
Star of the east, the ho - ri - zon a - dorn - ing,



guide where our in - fant re - deem - er is laid.
mak - er and mon - arch and sav - ior of all.
myrrh from the for - est or gold from the mine?
dear - er to God are the prayers of the poor.
guide where our in - fant re - deem - er is laid.

Text: Reginald Heber, 1783–1826, alt.

Music: MORNING STAR, James P. Harding, 1850–1911, adapt.