

**✠ Second Sunday after Christmas ✠**  
**Bethlehem Lutheran Church**  
**January 3, 4 & 7, 2026**

**WELCOME IN JESUS' NAME**

WELCOME to our guests and members as we gather for worship today! **Please place your names in our red “Record of Fellowship” books.** Also, please give attention to the written “News and Notes”.

**PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP**

O holy and most merciful God, You have taught us the way of Your commandments. We implore You to pour out Your grace into our hearts. Cause it to bear fruit in us that, being ever mindful of Your mercies and Your laws, we may always be directed to Your will and daily increase in love toward You and one another. Enable us to resist all evil and to live a godly life. Help us to follow the example of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, and to walk in His steps until we shall possess the kingdom that has been prepared for us in heaven; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

**WORSHIP NOTES**

As the Christmas season continues, the Church reflects on the meaning of the Word made flesh. In today's Gospel (Luke 2:40–52), we see Jesus growing in wisdom and obedience, already devoted to His Father's will, reminding us that the child of Bethlehem is both true God and true man. The Epistle (Galatians 4:4–7) proclaims that in the fullness of time God sent His Son to redeem us and make us His children, while the words of Isaiah (61:10–62:3) declare the joy and glory of the salvation Christ brings. Even after Christmas Day, we rejoice that God has kept His promises and continues to come to us in His Word and Sacraments.

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**RINGING OF THE BELL**

**589 Speak, O Lord, Your Servant Listens**

- 1 Speak, O Lord, Your servant listens,  
Let Your Word to me come near;  
Newborn life and spirit give me,  
Let each promise still my fear.  
Death's dread pow'r, its inward strife,  
Wars against Your Word of life;  
Fill me, Lord, with love's strong fervor  
That I cling to You forever!

- 2 Oh, what blessing to be near You  
And to listen to Your voice;  
Let me ever love and hear You,  
Let Your Word be now my choice!  
Many hardened sinners, Lord,  
Flee in terror at Your Word;  
But to all who feel sin's burden  
You give words of peace and pardon.
- 3 Lord, Your words are waters living  
When my thirsting spirit pleads.  
Lord, Your words are bread life-giving;  
On Your words my spirit feeds.  
Lord, Your words will be my light  
Through death's cold and dreary night;  
Yes, they are my sword prevailing  
And my cup of joy unfailing!
- 4 As I pray, dear Jesus, hear me;  
Let Your words in me take root.  
May Your Spirit e'er be near me  
That I bear abundant fruit.  
May I daily sing Your praise,  
From my heart glad anthems raise,  
Till my highest praise is given  
In the endless joy of heaven.

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### *Stand*

*The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.*

- P In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.**
- P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
- C But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

*Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.*

- P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

**C** Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

**P** 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.

**C** Amen.

### ✠ Service of the Word ✠

#### Introit

*Psalm 147:1, 5, 11-12; antiphon: John 1:14*

**P** The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

**C** Praise the LORD! For it is good to sing praises to our God; for it is pleasant, and a song of praise is fitting.

**P** Great is our Lord, and abundant in power; his understanding is beyond measure.

**C** But the LORD takes pleasure in those who fear him, in those who hope in his steadfast love.

**P** Praise the LORD, O Jerusalem!  
Praise your God, O Zion!

**ALL** Glory be to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning,  
is now, and will be forever. Amen.

**ALL** The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

#### Kyrie

LSB 152

**P** In peace let us pray to the Lord.

**C Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.

**C Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.

**C Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.

**C Lord, have mercy.**

**P** Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

**C Amen.**

### **Gloria in Excelsis**

*LSB 154*

**P** Glory to God in the highest, and peace to His people on earth.

**C Lord God, heavenly king, almighty God and Father:  
We worship You, we give You thanks, we praise You for  
Your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God,  
Lamb of God:**

**You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.  
You are seated at the right hand of the Father; receive  
our prayer.**

**For You alone are the Holy One, You alone are the Lord,  
You alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the  
Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

### **Salutation and Collect of the Day**

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C And also with you.**

**P** Let us pray.

**Almighty God, You have poured into our hearts the true  
Light of Your incarnate Word. Grant that this Light may  
shine forth in our lives; through the same Jesus Christ, Your  
Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy  
Spirit, one God, now and forever.**

**C Amen.**

*Sit*

## Old Testament Reading

1 Kings 3:4–15

<sup>4</sup> The king went to Gibeon to sacrifice there, for that was the great high place. Solomon used to offer a thousand burnt offerings on that altar. <sup>5</sup>At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night, and God said, “Ask what I shall give you.” <sup>6</sup>And Solomon said, “You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant David my father, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you. And you have kept for him this great and steadfast love and have given him a son to sit on his throne this day. <sup>7</sup>And now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of David my father, although I am but a little child. I do not know how to go out or come in. <sup>8</sup>And your servant is in the midst of your people whom you have chosen, a great people, too many to be numbered or counted for multitude. <sup>9</sup>Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, that I may discern between good and evil, for who is able to govern this your great people?”

<sup>10</sup>It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. <sup>11</sup>And God said to him, “Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches or the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, <sup>12</sup>behold, I now do according to your word. Behold, I give you a wise and discerning mind, so that none like you has been before you and none like you shall arise after you. <sup>13</sup>I give you also what you have not asked, both riches and honor, so that no other king shall compare with you, all your days. <sup>14</sup>And if you will walk in my ways, keeping my statutes and my commandments, as your father David walked, then I will lengthen your days.”

<sup>15</sup>And Solomon awoke, and behold, it was a dream. Then he came to Jerusalem and stood before the ark of the covenant of the LORD, and offered up burnt offerings and peace offerings, and made a feast for all his servants.

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

## Epistle

Ephesians 1:3–14

<sup>3</sup>Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, <sup>4</sup>even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love <sup>5</sup>he predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, <sup>6</sup>to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. <sup>7</sup>In him we have redemption through his blood, the

forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, <sup>8</sup>which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight <sup>9</sup>making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ <sup>10</sup>as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.

<sup>11</sup>In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, <sup>12</sup>so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. <sup>13</sup>In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, <sup>14</sup>who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

*Stand*

**Alleluia and Verse**

*LSB 156*

**C** **Alleluia.**

**Lord, to whom shall we go?**

**You have the words of eternal life.**

**Alleluia, alleluia.**

**Holy Gospel**

*Luke 2:40–52*

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the second chapter.

**C** **Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>40</sup>The child [Jesus] grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him.

<sup>41</sup>Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover. <sup>42</sup>And when he was twelve years old, they went up according to custom. <sup>43</sup>And when the feast was ended, as they were returning, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents did not know it, <sup>44</sup>but supposing him to be in the group they went a day's journey, but then they began to search for him among their relatives and acquaintances, <sup>45</sup>and when they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem, searching for him. <sup>46</sup>After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. <sup>47</sup>And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. <sup>48</sup>And when his parents saw him, they were astonished. And his mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us so? Behold, your father and I have

been searching for you in great distress.” <sup>49</sup>And he said to them, “Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father’s house?” <sup>50</sup>And they did not understand the saying that he spoke to them. <sup>51</sup>And he went down with them and came to Nazareth and was submissive to them. And his mother treasured up all these things in her heart.

<sup>52</sup>And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man.

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C Praise to You, O Christ.**

*Sit*

## **Offering (10:30)**

### **410 Within the Father’s House**

- 1 Within the Father’s house  
The Son has found His home,  
And to His temple suddenly  
The Lord of life has come.
- 2 The doctors of the Law  
Gaze on the wondrous child  
And marvel at His gracious words  
Of wisdom undefiled.
- 3 Yet not to them is giv’n  
The mighty truth to know,  
To lift the earthly veil that hides  
Incarnate God below.
- 4 The secret of the Lord  
Escapes each human eye,  
And faithful pond’ring hearts await  
The full epiphany.
- 5 Lord, visit Thou our souls  
And teach us by Thy grace  
Each dim revealing of Thyself  
With loving awe to trace

*Stand*

- 6 Till we behold Thy face  
And know as we are known

Thee, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,  
Coequal Three in One.

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## **Sermon**

## **Offering (5:30 and 8:00)**

*Stand*

## **Nicene Creed**

**C I believe in one God, the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth  
and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of  
God, begotten of His Father before all worlds,  
God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God,  
begotten, not made, being of one substance with the  
Father, by whom all things were made;  
who for us men and for our salvation came down from  
heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the  
virgin Mary and was made man;  
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.  
He suffered and was buried.**

**And the third day He rose again according to the  
Scriptures and ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of the Father.**

**And He will come again with glory to judge both the  
living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of  
life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped  
and glorified, who spoke by the prophets.  
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic  
Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission  
of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead  
and the life ☩ of the world to come. Amen.**

## **Prayer of the Church**

**☩ Service of the Sacrament ☩**



## Preface

LSB 160

P The Lord be with you.

**C And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

**C We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; for in the mystery of the Word made flesh You have given us a new revelation of Your glory that, seeing You in the person of Your Son, we may know and love those things which are not seen. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

## Sanctus

LSB 161

**C Holy, holy, holy Lord God of pow'r and might:**

**Heaven and earth are full of Your glory.**

**Hosanna. Hosanna.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

## Prayer of Thanksgiving

LSB 161

P Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C    Amen.**

### **Lord's Prayer**

*LSB 162*

**P**    Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**C**    **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**

**P**    Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

### **Pax Domini**

*LSB 163*

**P**    The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C**    **Amen.**

### **Agnus Dei**

*LSB 163*

**C**    **Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.**

*Sit*

### **Distribution**

*If you desire to commune, please speak to one of the pastors before the service. Our altar is open to those who confess oneness with us in doctrine, are members of our congregation or sister congregations of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod, and are not under church discipline in another congregation.*

*Please note that “gluten free” communion wafers are available for those who need them. Please tell the Communion Assistant “gluten free” when he approaches you at the Communion Rail. Also, for those who desire, highly diluted wine is available in individual cups (one drop of wine in the cup of water). Please tell the Communion Assistant “clear” when he approaches you at the Communion Rail.*

**Distribution Hymns** (please refer to the hymnal)

**594 - God’s Own Child, I Gladly Say It**

**696 - O God, My Faithful God**

**395 - O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright**

*Stand*

**Thank the Lord**

*LSB 164*

**C** Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev’ryone what  
He has done.  
Let all who seek the Lord rejoice and proudly bear His  
name.  
He recalls His promises and leads His people forth in  
joy  
with shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia, alleluia.

**Post-Communion Collect**

**P** Let us pray.  
We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have  
refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You  
that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the  
same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one  
another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who  
lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now  
and forever.  
**C** Amen.

**Benediction**

*LSB 166*

**P** 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.  
**C** Amen.

**376 Once in Royal David’s City**

**1** Once in royal David’s city  
Stood a lowly cattle shed,

Where a mother laid her baby  
In a manger for His bed:  
Mary was that mother mild,  
Jesus Christ her little child.

- 2 He came down to earth from heaven,  
Who is God and Lord of all,  
And His shelter was a stable,  
And His cradle was a stall;  
With the poor and mean and lowly  
Lived on earth our Savior holy.
- 3 For He is our childhood's pattern,  
Day by day like us He grew;  
He was little, weak, and helpless,  
Tears and smiles like us He knew;  
And He feels for all our sadness,  
And He shares in all our gladness.
- 4 And our eyes at last shall see Him,  
Through His own redeeming love;  
For that child so dear and gentle  
Is our Lord in heav'n above;  
And He leads His children on  
To the place where He is gone.
- 5 Not in that poor, lowly stable  
With the oxen standing by  
Shall we see Him, but in heaven,  
Set at God's right hand on high.  
Then like stars His children, crowned,  
All in white, His praise will sound!

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### Acknowledgments

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## **ASSISTING AT WORSHIP**

**Preacher** Rev. Jeremy Hanson  
**Presiding Minister** Rev. Patrick Niles

**Organists** Sandy Kasten  
Susan Wachter

**Lay Readers** Jan Wegner (5:30)  
Dan Blackburn (8:00)  
Paula Siech (10:30)  
Bill Lang (6:00)

**Communion Assistants**  
Luther Bajus & Richard Zimbal Sr. (5:30)  
Luke Timm (8:00)  
David Ames (10:30)  
Bill Lang (6:00)

**Student Assistants**  
(A) Amaya Contreras & Julia Detlaff (5:30)  
(U) Izzy Crego & Zac Sines (5:30)  
(A) Lauren Markevitch & Olivia Ostermann (8:00)  
(U) Jacob Krautkramer & Adalyn Ursprung (8:00)  
(A) Ottis Leibham & Jaxon Virant (10:30)  
(U) Eoin Irish & Vinny Lemus (10:30)



# HAPPY NEW YEAR

*Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!  
In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope  
through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.*

ECCLESIASTES 3:11