



**The Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany**  
**February 23, 2025**  
**8:00 & 9:30 am Worship**

**PRELUDE: "Prelude & Fugue in G Major", BuxWV 147**

Organ

~Dietrich Buxtehude

**WELCOME**

**OPENING HYMN: "O Day of Rest and Gladness"**

LSB 906



1 O day of rest and glad - ness, O day of joy and light,  
2 This day at earth's cre - a - tion The light first had its birth;  
3 This day, God's peo - ple meet - ing, His Ho - ly Scrip - ture hear;  
4 That light our hope sus - tain - ing, We walk the pil - grim way,



O balm of care and sad - ness, Most beau - ti - ful, most bright;  
This day for our sal - va - tion Christ rose from depths of earth;  
His liv - ing pres - ence greet - ing, Through bread and wine made near.  
At length our rest at - tain - ing, Our end - less Sab - bath day.



This day the high and low - ly, Through a - ges joined to bless,  
This day our Lord vic - to - rious The Spir - it sent from heav'n,  
We jour - ney on, be - liev - ing, Re - newed with heav'n - ly might,  
We sing to Thee our prais - es, O Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son;



Sing, "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly," The tri - une God con - fess.  
And thus this day most glo - rious A three - fold light was giv'n.  
From grace more grace re - ceiv - ing, On this blest day of light.  
The Church her voice up - rais - es To Thee, blest Three in One.

**CALL TO WORSHIP: (based on I Corinthians 1:3)**

**L:** Grace and peace to you from God our Father, the Lord Jesus Christ, and the Spirit who proceeds from them.

**P:** Amen.

## **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS: (based on I Cor 15:22 and 6:11)**

**L:** In Adam all have died. Only in Christ will all be made alive. Therefore, Almighty God, our maker and redeemer, we confess to You that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against You in thought, word and deed. Therefore, we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking Your grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**P:** **O most merciful God, who has given Your only begotten Son to die for us, have mercy upon us and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by Your Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of You and of Your will and true obedience to Your Word, to the end that by Your grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

**L:** You have been washed, sanctified and justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God! To those who believe on His name He gives power to become the children of God and has promised them His Holy Spirit. Those who believe and are baptized shall be saved. Grant this, Lord, unto us all.

**P:** **Amen.**

## **SONG OF PRAISE: “Yet Not I But through Christ in Me”**

### **Verse 1**

What gift of grace is Jesus my redeemer  
There is no more for heaven now to give  
He is my joy my righteousness and freedom  
My steadfast love my deep and boundless peace  
To this I hold my hope is only Jesus  
For my life is wholly bound to his  
Oh how strange and divine I can sing all is mine  
Yet not I but through Christ in me

### **Verse 2**

The night is dark but I am not forsaken  
For by my side the Saviour he will stay  
I labour on in weakness and rejoicing  
For in my need his power is displayed  
To this I hold my Shepherd will defend me  
Through the deepest valley he will lead  
Oh the night has been won and I shall overcome  
Yet not I but through Christ in me

### **Verse 3**

No fate I dread I know I am forgiven  
The future sure the price it has been paid  
For Jesus bled and suffered for my pardon  
And he was raised to overthrow the grave  
To this I hold my sin has been defeated  
Jesus now and ever is my plea  
Oh the chains are released I can sing I am free  
Yet not I but through Christ in me

### **Verse 4**

With every breath I long to follow Jesus  
For he has said that he will bring me home  
And day by day I know he will renew me  
Until I stand with joy before the throne  
To this I hold my hope is only Jesus  
All the glory evermore to him  
When the race is complete still my lips shall repeat  
Yet not I but through Christ in me

### **Ending**

When the race is complete still my lips shall repeat  
Yet not I but through Christ in me  
Yet not I but through Christ in me

## **OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: *Genesis 45:3-15***

Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph! Is my father still alive?" His brothers could not answer him because they were afraid of him.

"Please come closer to me," Joseph said to his brothers. When they did so, he said, "I am Joseph, the brother you sold into slavery in Egypt! Now, don't be sad or angry with yourselves that you sold me. God sent me ahead of you to save lives. The famine has been in the land for two years. There will be five more years without plowing or harvesting. God sent me ahead of you to make sure that you would have descendants on the earth and to save your lives in an amazing way. It wasn't you who sent me here, but God. He has made me like a father to Pharaoh, lord over his entire household, and ruler of Egypt.

"Hurry back to my father, and say to him, 'This is what your son Joseph says, "God has made me lord of Egypt. Come here to me right away! Live in the land of Goshen, where you will be near me. Live there with your children and your grandchildren, as well as your flocks, your herds, and everything you have. I will provide for you in Egypt, since there will be five more years of famine. Then you, your family, and all who belong to you won't lose everything.'"

“You and my brother Benjamin can see for yourselves that I am the one who is speaking to you. Tell my father how greatly honored I am in Egypt and about everything you have seen. Hurry and bring my father here!”

He threw his arms around his brother Benjamin and cried with Benjamin, who was crying on his shoulder. He kissed all his brothers and cried with them. After that his brothers talked with him. – GW®

## **NEW TESTAMENT LESSON: 1 Corinthians 15:50-57**

Brothers and sisters, this is what I mean: Flesh and blood cannot inherit God’s kingdom. What decays cannot inherit what doesn’t decay.

I’m telling you a mystery. Not all of us will die, but we will all be changed. It will happen in an instant, in a split second at the sound of the last trumpet. Indeed, that trumpet will sound, and then the dead will come back to life. They will be changed so that they can live forever. This body that decays must be changed into a body that cannot decay. This mortal body must be changed into a body that will live forever. When this body that decays is changed into a body that cannot decay, and this mortal body is changed into a body that will live forever, then the teaching of Scripture will come true:

“Death is turned into victory!  
Death, where is your victory?  
Death, where is your sting?”

Sin gives death its sting, and God’s standards give sin its power. Thank God that He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.– GW®

## **CHILDREN’S MESSAGE**

### **GOSPEL READING: Luke 6:27-38**

“But I tell everyone who is listening: Love your enemies. Be kind to those who hate you. Bless those who curse you. Pray for those who insult you. If someone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other cheek as well. If someone takes your coat, don’t stop him from taking your shirt. Give to everyone who asks you for something. If someone takes what is yours, don’t insist on getting it back.

“Do for other people everything you want them to do for you.

“If you love those who love you, do you deserve any thanks for that? Even sinners love those who love them. If you help those who help you, do you deserve any thanks for that? Sinners do that too. If you lend anything to those from whom you expect to get something back, do you deserve any thanks for that? Sinners also lend to sinners to get back what they lend. Rather, love your enemies, help them, and lend to them without expecting to get

anything back. Then you will have a great reward. You will be the children of the Most High God. After all, He is kind to unthankful and evil people. Be merciful as your Father is merciful.

“Stop judging, and you will never be judged. Stop condemning, and you will never be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven. Give, and you will receive. A large quantity, pressed together, shaken down, and running over will be put into your pocket. The standards you use for others will be applied to you.” – GW®

## **SERMON SONG: “This Dust”**

### **Verse 1**

Lord have mercy on me  
I am riddled with the world’s disease  
Of taking what I want  
And turning it into a need

### **Chorus 1**

I am flesh and blood  
Never good enough  
You poured out Your love  
To cover over this dust

### **Verse 2**

Oh what senseless love  
That you would come and join with us  
To drink this cursed cup  
Redeeming all that we’ve undone

### **Chorus 2**

We are flesh and blood  
Never good enough  
You poured out Your love, To cover over this dust

### **Bridge 1**

And mercy reigns  
On all our shame  
And washes all  
The stain away

### **Bridge 2**

Death is all around us  
We are not afraid  
Written is the story  
Empty is the grave

**SERMON: "Everyone, Everything, Everywhere" 1 Corinthians 15:50-57**

**HYMN OF THE DAY: "O God, O Lord of Heaven and Earth" LSB 834**



1 O God, O Lord of heav'n and earth, Thy liv - ing  
2 Our fa - tal will to e - qual Thee, Our reb - el  
3 Thou cam - est to our hall of death, O Christ, to  
4 O Spir - it, who didst once re - store Thy Church that



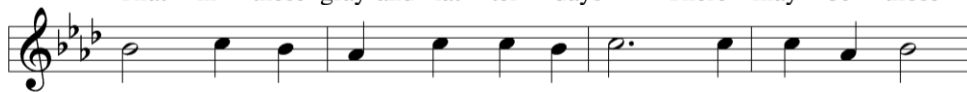
fin - ger nev - er wrote That life should be an aim -  
will wrought death and night. We seized and used in pride -  
breathe our poi - soned air, To drink for us the dark  
it might be a - gain The bring - er of good news



less mote, A death - ward drift from fu - tile birth.  
ful spite Thy won - drous gift of lib - er - ty.  
de - spair That stran - gled our re - luc - tant breath.  
to men, Breathe on Thy clo - ven Church once more,



Thy Word meant life tri - um - phant hurled In splen - dor through  
We housed us in this house of doom, Where death had roy -  
How beau - ti - ful the feet that trod The road that leads  
That in these gray and lat - ter days There may be those



Thy bro - ken world. Since light a - woke and life be - gan,  
al scope and room, Un - til Thy ser - vant, Prince of Peace,  
us back to God! How beau - ti - ful the feet that ran  
whose life is praise, Each life a high dox - ol - o - gy



Thou hast de - sired Thy life for man.  
Breached all its walls for our re - lease.  
To bring the great good news to man!  
To Fa - ther, Son, and un - to Thee.

**OFFERING:** *The Offering Box is located in the center aisle. If you so desire,  
Text Giving is now available by texting GIVE to 562-210-0463.  
For On-line Giving information, contact Maraley at [mshaeffer@bethanylutheran.org](mailto:mshaeffer@bethanylutheran.org)  
or call 562-421-4711, ext. 21. Thank you!*

## **PRAYER OF THANKS**

### **CONFESSION OF FAITH:**

- L**: No one can say Jesus is Lord, except by the Holy Spirit. (*1 Cor. 12:3*) Called, sealed and enabled by the Spirit we join Christians around the world confessing our faith in the Lord Jesus through the words of the Nicene Creed:

### **CONFESSION OF FAITH: NICENE CREED:** (*\*catholic means the universal Christian Church*)

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,  
begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father.**

**Through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven;  
by the power of the Holy Spirit**

**he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;**

**he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.**

**With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.**

**He has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy \*catholic and apostolic Church.**

**We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins.**

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,**

**and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

### **PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH:**

- L**: Friends in Christ, I urge you all to lift up your hearts to God and pray with me as Christ our Lord has taught us and freely promised to hear us.

God, our Father in heaven, look with mercy on us, Your needy children on earth, and grant us grace that Your holy name be hallowed by us and all the world through the pure and true teaching of Your Word and the fervent love shown forth in our lives.

Graciously turn from us all false doctrine and evil living whereby Your precious name is blasphemed and profaned. Lord, in Your mercy,



**P:** hear our prayer.

**L:** May Your kingdom come to us and expand. Bring all transgressors and those who are blinded and bound in the devil's kingdom to know Jesus Christ, Your Son, by faith that the number of Christians may be increased. Lord, in Your mercy,

**P:** hear our prayer.

**L:** Strengthen us by Your Spirit according to Your will, both in life and in death, in the midst of both good and evil things, that our own wills may be crucified daily and sacrificed to Your good and gracious will. Into Your merciful hands we commend /name(s)/ and all who are in need, praying for them at all times: Thy will be done. Lord, in Your mercy,

**P:** hear our prayer.

**L:** Grant us our daily bread, preserve us from greed and selfish cares, and help us trust in You to provide for all our needs. Lord, in Your mercy,

**P:** hear our prayer.

**L:** Forgive us our sins as we also forgive those who sin against us so that our hearts may be at peace and may rejoice in a good conscience before You, and that no sin may ever frighten or alarm us. Lord, in Your mercy,

**P:** hear our prayer.

**L:** Lead us not into temptation, O Lord, but help us by Your Spirit to subdue our flesh, to turn from the world and its ways, and to overcome the devil with all his wiles. Lord, in Your mercy,

**P:** hear our prayer.

**L:** And lastly, O heavenly Father, deliver us from all evil of both body and soul, now and forever. Lord, in Your mercy,

**P:** hear our prayer.

**L:** We trust, O Lord, in Your great mercy to hear and answer us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**P:** Amen.

**\*\*\* For our 8:00 a.m. worshippers, the service continues on page 12 with Announcements.**

**\*\*\* For our 9:30 a.m. worshippers, the service continues with the Celebration of Holy Communion:**

## ✠ Holy Communion ✠

***The Lord's Supper is celebrated at Bethany in the joyful confession that our Lord gives us His very Body and Blood for the forgiveness of sins in this sacrament. God intends this gift for His children who recognize their sin, trust in Christ as their Savior, desire to live for Him alone and join in this joyful confession.***

To help you prepare for communion we invite you to take a few moments of quiet prayer. For aid there are prayers on the front page of the hymnal for both before and after the reception of communion. Or simply pray, "*Dear Lord Jesus, at Your gracious invitation You invite me to come to You, to eat and drink Your holy body and blood and You Yourself have promised to give in this sacrament of Your altar. Forgive me of my sin, through this Your meal of Forgiveness. Let me experience the fullness of Your love, through this Your meal of love. Strengthen my faith, through this meal of Yours that calls for and bestows faith. Empower me to live for You, through this Your meal that promises life everlasting and equips me for daily living as one who has received You and Your gifts.*"

### **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

*For those communing, who so desire, the center cups in each tray are **alcohol free.** The wafers on the stand next to the pillar pulpit side (when kneeling for communion) or on the stand in front of the baptismal font (when processing for communion) are **gluten free.***

*In our 9:30 a.m. service we will practice the Easter tradition of continuous communion. We will not kneel at the altar, rather we will join the procession of saints and come forward and remain standing as we receive the bread and wine. After receiving the elements, you are invited to return to your seat and continue in meditation, prayer and song.*

### **DISTRIBUTION HYMNS: "Come As You Are"**

#### **Verse 1**

Come out of sadness from wherever you've been  
Come broken-hearted let rescue begin  
Come find your mercy O sinner come kneel  
Earth has no sorrow that Heaven can't heal  
Earth has no sorrow that Heaven can't heal

#### **Chorus**

(So) Lay down your burdens lay down your shame  
All who are broken lift up your face  
O wanderer come home; You're not too far  
So lay down your hurt lay down your heart—Come as you are

## Verse 2

There's hope for the hopeless  
And all those who've strayed  
Come sit at the table come taste the grace  
There's rest for the weary—Rest that endures  
Earth has no sorrow that Heaven can't cure

## Bridge

Come as you are, Fall in His arms  
Come as you are

## Verse 3

There's joy for the morning O sinner be still  
Earth has no sorrow that Heaven can't heal  
Earth has no sorrow that Heaven can't heal

## Ending

Come as you are...

## “Draw Near and Take the Body of the Lord”

LSB 637



1 Draw near and take the bod - y of the Lord,  
2 He who His saints in this world rules and shields,  
3 Come for - ward then with faith - ful hearts sin - cere,



And drink the ho - ly blood for you out - poured;  
To all be - liev - ers life e - ter - nal yields;  
And take the pledg - es of sal - va - tion here.



Of - fered was He for great - est and for least,  
With heav'n - ly bread He makes the hun - gry whole,  
O Lord, our hearts with grate - ful thanks en - dow



Him - self the vic - tim and Him - self the priest.  
Gives liv - ing wa - ters to the thirst - ing soul.  
As in this feast of love You bless us now.

## POST COMMUNION PRAYER

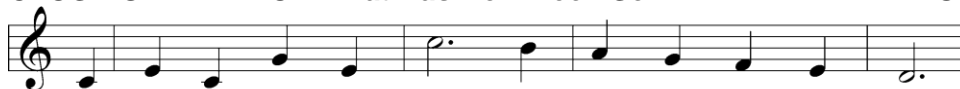
## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### THE BLESSING:

**[L]:** Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be people of courage; be strong. Do everything in love!

### CLOSING HYMN: “On What Has Now Been Sown”

LSB 921



1 On what has now been sown Thy bless - ing, Lord, be - stow;  
2 To Thee our wants are known, From Thee are all our pow'rs;  
3 O grant that each of us, Now met be - fore Thee here,



The pow'r is Thine a - lone To make it sprout and grow. Do Thou  
Ac - cept what is Thine own And par - don what is ours. Our prais -  
May meet to - geth - er thus When Thou and Thine ap - pear And fol -



in grace the har - vest raise, And Thou a - lone shalt have the praise!  
es, Lord, and prayers re - ceive, And to Thy Word a bless - ing give.  
low Thee to heav'n, our home. E'en so, a - men, Lord Je - sus, come!

### POSTLUDE:

#### “Alleluia”

Organ

~Charles Callahan

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“O Day of Rest and Gladness” LSB 906

Text: Christopher Wordsworth, 1807-85, sts. 1-2, alt.; Charles P. Price, 1920-99, st. 3; *The Hymnal 1982*, st. 4.

Tune: *Gesangbuch der Herzogl. Hofkapelle*, Württemberg, 1784; setting: *The Lutheran Hymnal*, 1941.

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O God, O Lord of Heaven and Earth" LSB 834  
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"Come As You Are"  
CCLI Song # 7017790 Ben Glover | David Crowder | Matt Maher  
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"Draw Near and Take the Body of the Lord" LSB 637  
Text: Latin, 7<sup>th</sup> cent.; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-66, alt.; Tune: *Trente quatre Pseaumes de David*, Geneva, 1551, ed. Louis Bourgeois; setting: *The Lutheran Hymnal*, 1941. Text and music: Public domain.

"On What Has Now Been Sown" LSB 921  
Text: John Newton, 1725-1807, alt. Tune: John Darwall, 1731-89; setting: *Lutheran Book of Worship*, 1978.  
Text and music: Public Domain.

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**SERVING GOD'S HOUSE TODAY:**

Acolyte 8:00...Connor Clevon	Crucifer 8:00...Penelope Clevon
Crucifer 9:30...Logan Noble	
Lector 8:00...Steve Albers	Lector 9:30...David Akins
Liturgist...Vicar John Alwood	Preacher...Pastor Kevin Kritzer
Artist in Residence...Blake Flattley	Organist...Robert Bottoms
Children's Message...Vicar Alwood	Sound...Felix Rivera, Jon Widmann

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**If You're a Visitor**, WELCOME! We are so glad you have joined us for worship today. If you would like more information about Bethany and its ministries, please scan the QR code to the right. You will be directed to Bethany's fillable information form.



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**Today's Flowers are given to the glory of God:**

*~On the one-year anniversary of Jill's entrance  
in the heavenly party with her Savior Jesus! ~*

*~by Seth Moorman*



+ + + + + +



**Today's Flowers are given to the glory of God:**

*~In loving memory of our parents who were married  
75 years ago on February 26~*

*~by Debra Wasser and Meg Veliz*



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**Today's Flowers are given to the glory of God:**

*~ Birthday Joy for Ryan, Mary and Jacob Fink  
all celebrating within 6 days of each other! ~*

*~by Karl Fink*



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July 1, 2024 - Dec 31, 2024 Offerings \$740,453  
July 1, 2023 - Dec 31, 2023 Offerings \$674,884

Church and School income vs. expense July 1, 2024 – Dec. 31, 2024: \$134,082  
Church and School income vs. expense July 1, 2023 – Dec. 31, 2024: \$107,392

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Please visit our websites to find out more about our Church, School and Preschool. Get weekly updates by signing up for the **Bethany Bullet**—our weekly capsule of worship highlights and campus-wide information.

**Bethany Lutheran Church** and its Ministries are found at: [www.bethanylutheran.org](http://www.bethanylutheran.org)

**Bethany Lutheran School** information can be found by visiting their website at: [www.bethanylutheran.org/school/](http://www.bethanylutheran.org/school/)

**Bethany Preschool's** website: [www.bethanylutheran.org/preschool/](http://www.bethanylutheran.org/preschool/)

To sign up for the weekly **Bethany Bullet**: <https://bit.ly/BethanyBulletSignUp>

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## DONATE TO BETHANY'S FLOWER FUND!



- **A SPECIAL REQUEST WITH RECOGNITION\*** is a special type of Altar Flower donation. This request will be printed in the bulletin. For example, it could be given in memory of a person who has gone before us, for a wedding anniversary, baptismal birthday or a birthday celebration, etc. **This recognition has a suggested donation of \$75.**
- **A GENERAL DONATION TO THE ALTAR FLOWER FUND** enables Bethany to have flowers in worship and for our shut-in and hospitalized members to receive flowers from our flower ministry team, even when no one has ordered flowers for specific purposes on Sunday. **This General Donation is for any amount you wish to give.**

\*If you are making a **Special Request with Recognition**, please use this form to let us know of your donation **for a specific Sunday date** and what the significance of that donation is towards. **IMPORTANT:** Please complete this form at least **2 weeks prior** to that date, so that information regarding your donation can be **printed in the Sunday bulletin** for the date requested.

Sign up to donate to Bethany's Altar Flower Fund, please use this URL:

**<https://bit.ly/BLCAltarFlowers>**



Or scan Bethany's Flower Fund QR code to the right: