

WELCOME TO BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH

THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD

January 7, 2024

8:00 & 9:30 AM

We are so glad you are here in God's house for worship.

Before worship, talk to God!

(see inside cover of hymnal for pre-service prayer prompts)

During worship, let God talk to you!

After worship, talk to one another.

If You're a Visitor, let us get to know you.

Scan the QR Code here:



Parents of Young Children: *We love to have children in worship.* God put the wiggle in children; don't feel you have to completely suppress it in God's house. We know the presence of children in worship is a gift to the church! It is in the Lord's house that we learn how to listen and speak to our God with our brothers and sisters in faith. Feel free to quietly explain the parts of the service and the actions of those leading worship. Children learn how to worship by copying you. If you have a need, we have "worship bags" in the Narthex filled with items to help children and families during worship. There is a *Nursery* across the courtyard in the office complex, where you as a parent may take your little one needing a break. You are then able to return to church and continue your worship of the Lord.

Please place cell phones and electronic devices on mute as you join us in worship this morning. Thank you.

PRESERVICE MUSIC

WELCOME

OPENING HYMN:

“Your Grace Finds Me”

Verse 1:

**It's there in the newborn cry
There in the light of ev'ry sunrise
There in the shadows of this life
Your great grace
It's there on the mountain top
There in the ev'ryday and the mundane
There in the sorrow and the dancing
Your great grace, O such grace**

Chorus 1:

**From the creation to the cross
There from the cross into eternity
Your grace finds me
Yes Your grace finds me**

Verse 2:

**It's there on a wedding day
There in the weeping by the graveside
There in the very breath we breathe
Your great grace
The same for the rich and poor
The same for the saint and for the sinner
Enough for this whole wide world
Your great grace, O such grace**

Chorus 2:

**From the creation to the cross
There from the cross into eternity
Your grace finds me
Yes Your grace finds me**

(Song continues on next page.)

**There in the darkest night of the soul
There in the sweetest songs of victory
Your grace finds me
Yes Your grace finds me**

Bridge:

**Your great grace O such grace
Your great grace O such grace
The same for the rich and poor
The same for the saint and for the sinner
Enough for this whole wide world
Your great grace O such grace
Oh oh oh oh oh oh oh**

Chorus 3:

**So I'm breathing in Your grace
And breathing out Your praise
I'm breathing in Your grace
Forever I'll be breathing in Your grace
And breathing out Your praise
I'm breathing in Your grace
Forever I'll be breathing in Your grace
And breathing out Your praise
I'm breathing in Your grace
Forever I'll be breathing in Your grace
And breathing out Your praise
I'm breathing in Your grace
Forever God forever God**

Ending:

**It's the same for the saint and the sinner
It's enough for this whole wide world
Yes Your grace finds me
Yes Your grace finds me**

CALL TO WORSHIP:

Leader: When we were baptized into God's name,
we were brought into fellowship with the Holy, Triune God Himself.
When we gather together in His house, in His name,
we are reminded that there is nowhere on earth
we belong more than in His presence,
as His baptized children, praising His name,
the name put upon us in water and word.

**People: The name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.**

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS:

Leader: The Word of God teaches us that we are conceived and born sinful
and would be lost forever
unless delivered from sin, death and everlasting condemnation.

**People: Almighty God, while I am Your child,
I am still by nature a child of Adam
and the corruption of the fall has been borne witness
to through my own sinful thoughts, words and deeds
of which I am ashamed
and because of which I deserve everlasting condemnation;
but You are the Father of all grace and mercy
and You sent Your Son to atone for my sin.
For His sake forgive me, restore me, lead me
and guide me as Your own beloved child. Amen.**

Leader: In the goodness of God,
Jesus Christ was sent to live and die and rise for you.
In the stead and by the command of God, I forgive you all your sins,
in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

MINISTRY OF MUSIC: **“United in Christ”**

**People of the Lord, Come now and sing
Every nation and tongue, To Christ our King
With empty hands, His gifts receive**

**Whether young or old, You’re a child of God
Whether rich or poor, No matter what you got
He gathers all to the foot of the cross**

Chorus:

**His body broken, makes this body whole
His resurrection, it assures us all
No darkness, nor doubting nor pain in this life
Could keep us from being united in Christ**

**All you Sinner and saints, You have a place
With the Spirit’s gifts, Proclaim His grace
There’s nothin’ too small, To be used by the living God**

Bridge:

**We are the body, Christ is the head
Sealed with the promise, through blood he shed
We are the body, Christ is the head
He's given life where there once was death
We are the body, Christ is the head
His grace the heartbeat, our confidence
So, love one another, shout out his praise
We’re bound together, in Jesus’ name**

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING: *Genesis 1:1-5*

In the beginning God created heaven and earth.

The earth was formless and empty, and darkness covered the deep water. The Spirit of God was hovering over the water.

Then God said, “Let there be light!” So there was light. God saw the light was good. So God separated the light from the darkness. God named the light *day*, and the darkness he named *night*. There was evening, then morning—the first day. – GW ®

RESPONSIVE READING: *Romans 6:1-11*

Leader: You know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death.

People: We were buried with Jesus by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

Leader: For if we have been united with Him in a death like His, we will certainly be united with Him in a resurrection like His.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

THE HOLY GOSPEL: *Mark 1:4-11*

John the Baptizer was in the desert telling people about a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. All Judea and all the people of Jerusalem went to him. As they confessed their sins, he baptized them in the Jordan River.

John was dressed in clothes made from camel's hair. He wore a leather belt around his waist and ate locusts and wild honey.

He announced, "The one who comes after me is more powerful than I. I am not worthy to bend down and untie his sandal straps. I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan River. As Jesus came out of the water, he saw heaven split open and the Spirit coming down to him as a dove. A voice from heaven said, "You are my Son, whom I love. I am pleased with you." – GW ®

SERMON HYMN:

“Light of the World”



1.O Je - sus, Son of God, so full of grace and truth,



the Fa - ther's sav - ing Word, so won - der - ful are You.



The an - gels longed to see and proph - ets searched to find the glo - ry we have seen re




vealed. 2.You shone up - on the earth, but who will un - der stand?
(3.In You all things were made) and noth - ing with - out You.



You came un - to Your own but who will rec - og - nize
In heav - en and on earth all things are held in You.



Your birth was proph - e - sied for You were the Mes - si - ah
And yet You be - came flesh, liv - ing as one of us.



who came and walked up - on the earth.
Un - der the shad - ow of the cross

Your glo - ry we have seen, the one and on - ly King;
where, through the blood You shed, You have made peace a - gain,

and now You're liv - ing in our hearts.
peace for the world that God so loves.

Light of the world, Light of the world, Light of the world, You shine up - on us

Light of the world, Light of the world, Light of the world, You shine up - on us

1.
3. In You all things were made

2. **D.S. al fine** 3.

Light of the world, Light of the world, Light of the world, You shine up-on us

SERMON: *“Wringing Wet”*

HYMN OF THE DAY: *“He Will Hold Me Fast”*

Verse 1:

When I fear my faith will fail
Christ will hold me fast
When the tempter would prevail
He will hold me fast
I could never keep my hold
Through life's fearful path
For my love is often cold
He must hold me fast

Chorus:

He will hold me fast
He will hold me fast
For my Savior loves me so
He will hold me fast

Verse 2:

Those He saves are His delight
Christ will hold me fast
Precious in His holy sight
He will hold me fast
He'll not let my soul be lost
His Promises shall last
Bought by Him at such a cost
He will hold me fast

Verse 3:

For my life He bled and died
Christ will hold me fast
Justice has been satisfied
He will hold me fast
Raised with Him to endless life
He will hold me fast
Till our faith is turned to sight
When He comes at last

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 or call 562-421-4711, ext. 21. Thank you!*

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

LORD'S PRAYER:

**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.**

REMEMBRANCE OF BAPTISM AND COMMUNION:

Leader: In baptism, we were united to the suffering and death of Jesus Christ and cleansed of sin by His blood.
In baptism, we were renewed and called to a life of daily repentance and faith which clings to our Savior.
Today, we come to renew that faith once more.
In baptism you, or your sponsor on your behalf, responded to the grace of God by renouncing the devil and all his works and all his ways.
So, I ask you anew, do you renounce the devil and all his works and all his ways?

People: **Yes, I renounce them!**

Leader: In baptism you, or your sponsor on your behalf, responded to the call of God by proclaiming the Christian faith.
So, I ask you anew, do you believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth?

People: **Yes, I believe that out of Fatherly, divine, goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me God has called me His own child; and**

Leader: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son?

People: **Yes, I believe that Jesus is my Lord and Savior who redeemed me, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death.**

Leader: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

People: **Yes, I believe in the Holy Spirit who has called me to faith by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts and leads me to thank and praise, serve and obey the Lord; living under Him in His kingdom and remaining in the Church.**

Leader: The Almighty God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given you the new birth of water and the Spirit and has forgiven you all your sins, will strengthen you with His grace to life everlasting. Through baptism He has promised you both eternal joys and daily strength. As His baptized child he invites and calls you to remember your baptism continually, that you might drown the old you and rise anew to walk with Him in and through life. Today, He who walks with you, comes to you in His own body and blood as He has promised. In this meal He forgives you anew, strengthens you in faith, equips you to live in and for Him as His baptized child and confirms His promise given in baptism that you are a child of the kingdom that hath no end.

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 as 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

SHARING OF THE PEACE

For those communing, who so desire, the center cups are alcohol free; the tray of wafers in front of baptismal font are gluten free.

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS:

“Jesus, Savior, Pilot Me”

Verse 1:

**Jesus Saviour pilot me
Over life's tempestuous sea
Unknown waves before me roll
Hiding rocks and treach'rous shoal
Chart and compass come from Thee
Jesus Saviour pilot me**

Verse 2:

**As a mother stills her child
Thou canst hush the ocean wild
Boist'rous waves obey Thy will
When Thou say'st to them be still
Wondrous Sov'reign of the sea
Jesus Saviour pilot me**

Verse 3:

**When at last I near the shore
And the fearful breakers roar
'Twixt me and the peaceful rest
Then while leaning on Thy breast
May I hear Thee say to me
Fear not I will pilot Thee**

"Jesus Paid It All"

1.And I hear the Sa-vior say, "Thy strength in-deed is
 now in-deed I find Thy pow'r and Thine a-
 when be-fore the throne I stand in Him com-

small. Child of weak-ness, watch and pray, find in Me thine all in all."
 lone, can change the lep-ers spots, and melt the heart of stone.
 plete, Je-sus died my soul to save my lips shall still re-peat.

Je - sus paid it all, all to Him I owe.

Sin had left a crim-son stain, He washed it white as snow.

1.2.

2.Lord.
 3.And

3.
 Sin had left a crim-son stain He washed it white as snow. He
 washed it white as snow. He washed it white as snow.

Oh

praise the One who paid my debt, and raised this life up from the dead. Oh,

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

HOLY BAPTISM:



9:30 + *Daniel Lloyd Angeles* +

Elder: Through Baptism, God has made *Daniel* a member of the priesthood we all share in Christ Jesus, that together we may present the forgiveness of God in Christ to our world.

People: **We welcome you into the Lord's family.
We receive you as a fellow member of the body of Christ
and a worker with us in the kingdom of God.**

THE BLESSING:

Leader: Go to live always in the Light of Christ,
being ever watchful for His coming, that you may meet Him with joy
and enter with Him into the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom,
which shall have no end.

People: **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN:

“Be Thou My Vision”



1.Be Thou my vi - sion oh Lord of my heart.
2.Be Thou my wis - dom and Thou my True Word.
3.High King of hea - ven my vic - to - ry won.



Naught be all else to me save that Thou art.
I ev - er with Thee and Thou with me Lord.
May I reach heav - en's joys oh bright heav - en's sun.



Thou my best thought by day or by night.
Thou my great Fa - ther and I Thy true son.
Heart of my own heart what ev - er be - fall



Wa - king or slee - ping, Thy pre - sence my light.
Thou in me dwell - ing and I with Thee one.
Still be my vi - sion oh ru - ler of all.



Still be my vi - sion oh ru - ler of all.

POSTLUDE

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“Your Grace Finds Me”

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“Be Thou My Vision” WOV 776

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SERVING GOD'S HOUSE TODAY:

Children's Sermon... Karl Fink

Lector 8:00... Sheri and Tom Esswein

Keyboard... Kevin Bowers

Liturgist... Pastor Kyle Blake

Lector 9:30... Barbara and Neal Hasty

Artist in Residence... Blake Flattley

Preacher... Senior Pastor Kevin L. Kritzer

ARE YOU RECEIVING THE BETHANY BULLET? The *Bethany Bullet* is a weekly capsule of worship highlights, and important information about events taking place at Bethany Lutheran Church. If you would like to receive the *Bethany Bullet* email Aimee Coleman at acoleman@bethanylutheran.org with your name and email address. Tell a friend about the *Bethany Bullet!*

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO HEAR TODAY'S SERMON OR PREVIOUS SERMONS AGAIN...

You can hear them as podcasts on our website www.bethanylutheran.org.

REGULAR CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:

Monday – Thursday from 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM noon.

Closed Fridays.