



First
Sunday
after

Christmas



December 28, 2025

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

WELCOME

OPENING HYMN OF PRAISE: "O Come, All Ye Faithful"

LSB 379

1 O come, all ye faith - ful, Joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O
2 High - est, most ho - ly, Light of Light e - ter - nal,
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, Sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
4 Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, Born this hap - py morn - ing;

come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;
Born of a vir - gin, a mor - tal He comes;
Sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!
Je - sus, to Thee be glo - ry giv'n!

Come and be - hold Him Born the king of an - gels:
Son of the Fa - ther Now in flesh ap - pear - ing!
Glo - ry to God In the high - est:
Word of the Fa - ther Now in flesh ap - pear - ing!

Refrain
O come, let us a - dore Him, O come, let us a - dore Him,
O come, let us a - dore Him, Christ the Lord!

CALL TO WORSHIP:

Leader: Lord God, Heavenly Father, we praise You for so wonderfully creating us and, even more so, for so mercifully restoring us in Christ.

People: **Your Son came to share in our humanity and weakness that we might share in His glory and life. Receive now our thanks for we have come to welcome Him and to adore Him, Christ the King.**

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS:

Leader: Lord of life, in Your Son, You have taken on our flesh
that You might redeem us from our lost condition.

People: **Incarnate Savior, we confess that our very nature
is fallen and depraved.
We have not drawn near to You,
we have not always held Your teaching close to our heart,
and we have failed to love You as passionately
as we love the things of this world.
You were born to heal us.
Your infant hands will soon enough
be pierced for our transgressions.
So forgive us our sins anew we pray;
and send us Your Spirit that we might cradle You in our hearts
and herald Your coming into our world. Amen.**

Leader: Through the grace of God the Father, this Babe, the Son of Mary,
has been born to give you life.
I have been sent here to bring you good news of great joy:
God's favor rests on you through the One born to save, Christ your Lord.

People: **Amen.**

CHRISTMAS PRAYER: *[adapted from St. Ephraim of Syria's Christ prayer (AD 306-373)]*

Leader: This celebration of Your birth resembles You, Lord, because it brings joy
to all humanity. The high and lowly, elderly and young alike rejoice in
Your day. This feast is celebrated from generation to generation. Kings
and emperors pass away, and the festivals to commemorate them soon
lapse. But Your day will be heralded until the end of time. This day is a
pledge of peace. For at Your birth heaven and earth were reconciled, for
You came from heaven to earth on that day and You forgave our sins and
wiped away our guilt. You are light for the blind; a cup of living water for
parched souls; and You are the bread of life for those who hunger for
righteousness. In the winter when trees are bare, You give us the most
succulent fruit of the Spirit. And in December when seeds are hidden in
the soil, the staff of life springs forth from the virgin's womb.

CHRISTMAS GLORIA: “Now Sing We, Now Rejoice”

LSB 386

1 Now sing we, now re - joice, Now raise to heav'n our voice;
3 Now through His Son doth shine The Fa-ther's grace di - vine.

He from whom joy stream - eth Poor in a man-ger lies;
Death was reign-ing o'er us Through sin and van - i - ty

Not so bright - ly beam - eth The sun in yon - der skies.
Till He o - pened for us A bright e - ter - ni - ty.

Thou my Sav - ior art! Thou my Sav - ior art!
May we praise Him there! May we praise Him there!

The image shows a musical score for a Christmas Gloria. It consists of four staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff has two lines of lyrics, the second and third staves have two lines each, and the fourth staff has two lines. The music is written in a simple, accessible style with many whole and half notes.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: *Jeremiah 31:15-17*

This is what the Lord says:

A sound is heard in Ramah,
the sound of crying in bitter grief.
Rachel is crying for her children.
She refuses to be comforted,
because they are dead.

This is what the Lord says:

Stop your crying, and wipe away your tears.
You will be rewarded for your work, declares the Lord.
You will return from the land of the enemy.
Your future is filled with hope, declares the Lord.
Your children will return to their own territory. – GW®

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON: *Revelation 14:1-5*

I looked, and the lamb was standing on Mount Zion. There were 144,000 people with him who had his name and his Father's name written on their foreheads. Then I heard a sound from heaven like the noise of raging water and the noise of loud thunder. The

sound I heard was like the music played by harpists. They were singing a new song in front of the throne, the four living creatures, and the leaders. Only the 144,000 people who had been bought on earth could learn the song.

These 144,000 virgins are pure. They follow the lamb wherever he goes. They were bought from among humanity as the first ones offered to God and to the lamb. They've never told a lie. They are blameless. – GW®

HYMN: “Angels from the Realms of Glory” LSB 367

1 An - gels from the realms of glo - ry, Wing your flight o'er
 2 Shep - herds in the field a - bid - ing, Watch - ing o'er your
 4 Saints be - fore the al - tar bend - ing, Watch - ing long in
 5 All cre - a - tion, join in prais - ing God the Fa - ther,
 all the earth; Ye who sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry,
 flocks by night, God with us is now re - sid - ing,
 hope and fear, Sud - den - ly the Lord, de - scend - ing,
 Spir - it, Son, Ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing
 Now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth.
 Yon - der shines the In - fant Light.
 In His tem - ple shall ap - pear.
 To the e - ter - nal Three in One.
Refrain
 Come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship;
 Wor - ship Christ, the new - born King.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

THE HOLY GOSPEL: *Matthew 2:13-18*

After they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. The angel said to him, “Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, because Herod intends to search for the child and kill him.”

Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and left for Egypt that night. He stayed there until Herod died. What the Lord had spoken through the prophet came true: “I have called my son out of Egypt.”

When Herod saw that the wise men had tricked him, he became furious. He sent soldiers to kill all the boys two years old and younger in or near Bethlehem. This matched the exact time he had learned from the wise men. Then the words spoken through the prophet Jeremiah came true:

“A sound was heard in Ramah,
the sound of crying in bitter grief.
Rachel was crying for her children.
She refused to be comforted
because they were dead.”— GW®

SERMON HYMN:

“Joy to the World”

LSB 387

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re - ceive her
2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let men their songs em -
3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow Nor thorns in - fest the
4 He rules the world with truth and grace And makes the na - tions
King; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare Him
ploy; While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
ground; He comes to make His bless - ings
prove The glo - ries of His righ - teous -
room And heav'n and na - ture sing, And heav'n and na - ture
plains Re - peat the sound - ing joy, Re - peat the sound - ing
flow Far as the curse is found, Far as the curse is
ness And won - ders of His love, And won - ders of His
sing, And heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
joy, Re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
found, Far as, far as the curse is found.
love, And won - ders, won - ders of His love.

MESSAGE

CONFESSION OF CHRISTMAS FAITH:

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth,
who in loving kindness sent a Savior for me.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's one and only Son.
He was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary,
announced by angels, worshipped by shepherds and adored by wise men.
He came to suffer, die, rise again and give me life.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life.
By whose power the Christ child was born anew within my heart.
He binds me together in faith with you, my brothers and sisters in Christ,
with whom I kneel before the manger until, with all people,
I bow before Christ and confess Him as Lord to the glory of God the Father.
Amen.

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 Pauline at: psvolos@bethanylutheran.org
 or call 562-421-4711, ext. 21. Thank you!

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

PRAYER OF OUR LORD: *(Tune: "Away in a Manger")*

Our Father in Heaven, all praise to Your name:
Your kingdom among us, Your will done the same.
By mortals and angels, come Lord reign alone:
Oh hear us and bless us from heaven's high throne.

The bread that we yearn for provide us each day;
As we forgive others, forgive us, we pray;
In times of temptation, Your guidance be near;
From evil deliver Your children most dear.

For Yours is the kingdom; o'er all things You reign.
And Yours is the power; all things You maintain.
To You be the glory, resounding again
From all of creation, forever! Amen.

***For our 8:00 & 11:00 a.m. worshippers, the service continues on the bottom of page 11

***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 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.*

GREAT THANKSGIVING:

Leader: The newborn Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them up, for to us a Savior is born.**

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord.

People: **With angels and shepherds we thank the coming of our God.**

Leader: Father Almighty, Creator of Heaven and earth,

People: **You created light out of darkness and brought forth life on the earth.**

Leader: You formed us in Your image and breathed into us the breath of life.

People: **When we turned away, and our love failed,
Your love remained steadfast.**

Leader: You delivered us from captivity, made a covenant to be our God,
and spoke to us through Your prophets.

**People: You love us so much that You gave Your only Son,
Jesus Christ, to be our Savior.**

Leader: As the angels sang glory to You in the highest, and peace to Your people on
earth, so with Your Church on earth and the company of heaven, we praise
Your name and join in their unending hymn:

People: *(Tune: "Hark the Herald Angels Sing")*
**Holy, holy, holy Lord! God of hosts, by all adored!
Heav'n and earth cannot contain all the glory of Your name!
Hail, hosanna, God most high! Blest is He who now draws nigh.
In the name of God the King! Hallelujahs glad we sing:
Hail, hosanna! Praises due be forever, Lord, to You!**

Leader: Holy are You, and blessed is Your Son, Jesus Christ. As Mary and Joseph
went from Galilee to Bethlehem and there found no room,

**People: so Jesus went from Galilee to Jerusalem
and was despised and rejected.**

Leader: As in the poverty of the stable Jesus was born, so by the baptism of His
suffering, death and resurrection, You gave birth to Your church.

**People: You delivered us from slavery to sin and death
and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.**

Leader: As Your Word became flesh, born of woman, on that night long ago,

People: so on the night in which He gave Himself up for us,

Leader: He took bread, gave thanks to You, broke it, gave it to His disciples and said:

**People: "Take eat; this is My body which is given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me."**

Leader: When the supper was over, He took the cup, gave thanks to You,
gave it to His disciples and said:

**People: "Drink this, all of you; this is My blood of the covenant,
poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."**

**People: And so, in remembrance of all Your gracious promises kept in Christ, in
expectation of receiving Him who came to us at Bethlehem,
once again, here as He comes to us in bread and wine,
we offer ourselves to You in praise, thanksgiving and holiness of life.**

Leader: And we proclaim the mystery of faith:

People: Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

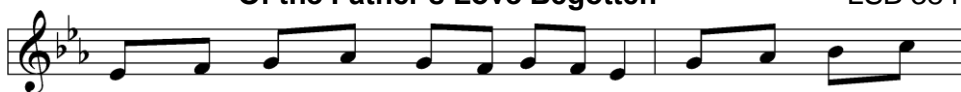
Leader: Send now Your Holy Spirit into our hearts, that we may receive our Lord with a living faith, as He comes to us in His holy supper.

**People: By Your Spirit, make us one with Christ,
one with each other,
and one in ministry to all the world,
until Christ comes in final victory,
and we feast at His heavenly banquet table.**

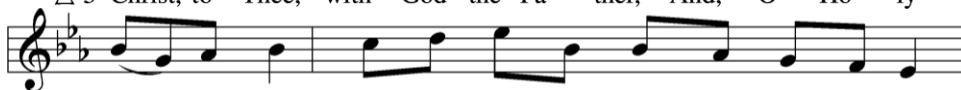
DISTRIBUTION HYMNS:

“Of the Father’s Love Begotten”

LSB 384



1 Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - ten Ere the worlds be -
2 Oh, that birth for - ev - er bless - ed, When the vir - gin,
4 O ye heights of heav'n, a - dore Him; An - gel hosts, His
△ 5 Christ, to Thee, with God the Fa - ther, And, O Ho - ly



gan to be, He is Al - pha and O - me - ga,
full of grace, By the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing,
prais - es sing. Pow'rs, do - min - ions, bow be - fore Him
Ghost, to Thee Hymn and chant and high thanks - giv - ing



He the source, the end - ing He, Of the things that are, that
Bore the Sav - ior of our race, And the babe, the world's Re -
And ex - tol our God and King. Let no tongue on earth be
And un - end - ing prais - es be, Hon - or, glo - ry, and do -



have been, And that fu - ture years shall see
deem - er, First re - vealed His sa - cred face
si - lent, Ev - 'ry voice in con - cert ring
min - ion, And e - ter - nal vic - to - ry



Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.

A - men.

“Once He Came in Blessing”

LSB 333

1 Once He came in bless - ing, All our sins re -
 2 Now He gent - ly leads us; With Him - self He
 3 Soon will come that hour When with might - y
 4 Come, then, O Lord Je - sus, From our sins re -

dress - ing; Came in like - ness low - ly,
 feeds us Pre - cious food from heav - en,
 pow - er Christ will come in splen - dor
 lease us. Keep our hearts be - liev - ing,

Son of God most ho - ly; Bore the cross to
 Pledge of peace here giv - en, Man - na that will
 And will judg - ment ren - der, With the faith - ful
 That we, grace re - ceiv - ing, Ev - er may con -

save us; Hope and free - dom gave us.
 nour - ish Souls that they may flour - ish.
 shar - ing Joy be - yond com - par - ing.
 fess You Till in heav'n we bless You.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER



HOLY BAPTISM:

9:30:

✠ Amani Hiraya Tekeste Stewart ✠

Elder: Through Baptism, God has made **Amani** 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.

BENEDICTION

CLOSING HYMN OF PRAISE: “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” LSB 380



1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, “Glo - ry to the new - born King;
2 Christ, by high - est heav’n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,
3 Hail, the heav’n-born Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Righ-teous-ness!



Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!”
Late in time be - hold Him come, Off - spring of a vir - gin’s womb.
Light and life to all He brings, Ris’n with heal - ing in His wings.



Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, Join the tri - umph of the skies;
Veiled in flesh the God - head see, Hail the in - car - nate De - i - ty!
Mild He lays His glo - ry by, Born that man no more may die,



With the an - gel - ic host pro - claim, “Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!”
Pleased as Man with man to dwell, Je - sus, our Im - man - u - el!
Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them sec - ond birth.



Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, “Glo - ry to the new-born King!”

POSTLUDE



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“O Come, All Ye Faithful” LSB 379

Text: John F. Wade; tr. Frederick Oakeley.

Tune: John F. Wade; setting: *The Hymnal* 1940. Text and music: Public domain.

Now Sing We, Now Rejoice” LSB 386

Text: Latin and German, 14th cent.; tr. Arthur T. Russell, 1806-74, alt.

Tune: German, 14th cent.; setting: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923, alt.

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“Angels from the Realms of Glory” LSB 367

Text: James Montgomery, sts. 1-4; *Salisbury Hymn Book*, Salisbury, st. 5.

Tune: Henry T. Smart.

Text and music: Public domain.

“Joy to the World” LSB 387

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748

Tune: George Frideric Handel, 1685-1759, adapt.; setting: Lowell Mason, 1792-1872.

Text and Tune: Public domain.

“Of the Father's Love Begotten” LSB 384

Text: Marcus Aurelius Clemens Prudentius; tr. John M. Neale, sts. 1-4; tr. Henry Williams Baker, st. 5.

Tune: Plainsong, 13th cent., mode V.

Text and music: Public domain.

“Once He Came in Blessing” LSB 333

Text: Johann Horn, c. 1490-1547; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-78, sts. 1, 4, alt;

tr. *Lutheran Service Book*, 2006, sts. 2-3.

Tune: Michael Weisse, c. 1480-1534.

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“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” LSB 380

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-88, alt.

Tune: Felix Mendelssohn, 1809-47; setting: William H. Cummings, 1831-1915.

Text and Tune: Public domain



SERVING GOD’S HOUSE TODAY:

Acolyte 8:00...Connor Clevon

Crucifer 8:00...Penelope Clevon

Lector 8:00...Katie Musick 9:30...Neal & Barbara Hasty

11:00...Ashlyn Bowman

Liturgist 8:00...Pastor Seth Moorman

Liturgist 9:30 & 11:00...Karl Fink

Preacher...Pastor Kyle Blake

Organ 8:00 & 9:30...Robert Bottoms

Piano 11:00...Trinity Alwood

Children’s Message...Kayleigh Lopez

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



~In celebration of 20 years of marriage for

Joey & Sara Cerulle on December 30 ~

~by Nolan, Henry & Jacqueline Cerulle



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.



PLEASE NOTE:

The Church Office will be closed on Thursday, January 1st and Friday, January 2nd.



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

Bethany Lutheran Church and its Ministries are found at: www.bethanylutheran.org

Bethany Lutheran School information can be found by visiting their website at: www.bethanylutheran.org/school/

Bethany Preschool's website: www.bethanylutheran.org/preschool/

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



DONATE TO BETHANY'S FLOWER FUND!

Flowers are used to decorate the altar every Sunday, for special seasons such as Christmas and Easter, as well as other important dates during the church calendar. You are able to make two types of donations to the Altar Flower Fund: a general donation and a special request with recognition.



• **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: