



# Gathered Connected Sent

Bethany Lutheran Church | Long Beach, CA

FOURTH SUNDAY  
AFTER THE EPIPHANY

FEBRUARY 1, 2026

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PRELUDE:

“Choral Op. 37, No. 4”

~ Joseph Jongen

Organ  
8:00 & 9:30

WELCOME

OPENING HYMN: “Only-Begotten, Word of God Eternal”

LSB 916



1 On - ly - be - got - ten, Word of God e - ter - nal, Lord of cre -  
2 Ho - ly this tem - ple where our Lord is dwell - ing; This is none  
3 Hear us, O Fa - ther, as we throng Your tem - ple. By Your past  
4 God in three per - sons, Fa - ther ev - er - last - ing, Son co - e -



a - tion, mer - ci - ful and might - y: Hear us, Your ser - vants,  
oth - er than the gate of heav - en. Ev - er Your chil - dren,  
bless - ings, by Your pres - ent boun - ty, Smile on Your chil - dren,  
ter - nal, ev - er bless - ed Spir - it: To You be prais - es,



as our tune - ful voic - es Rise in Your pres - ence.  
year by year re - joic - ing, Chant in Your tem - ple.  
and in grace and mer - cy Hear our pe - ti - tion.  
thanks, and ad - o - ra - tion, Glo - ry for - ev - er.

INVOCATION:

**L**: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**P**: Amen.

**L**: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

**P**: 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.*

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS:

**L:** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father:

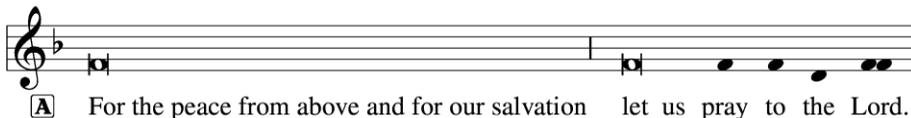
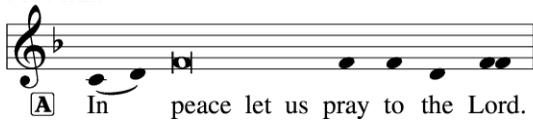
**P:** Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your 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.

**L:** In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for His sake God forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ He gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit. May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**P:** Amen.

## ✠ SERVICE OF THE WORD ✠

### KYRIE:





# THIS IS THE FEAST:

*Refrain*

☐ This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

1 — Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose  
 2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, and  
 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and  
 4 Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry, and might be to  
 5 For the Lamb who was slain has be -

blood set us free to be peo - ple of God. *Refrain*  
 hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are His. *Refrain*  
 join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: *Stanza 4*  
 God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men. *Refrain*  
 gun His reign. Al - le - lu - ia. *Final Refrain*

*Final Refrain*

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

**OLD TESTAMENT READING: *Micah 6:1-8***

Now listen to what the LORD is saying,  
“Stand up! Plead your case in front of the mountains,  
and let the hills listen to your request.  
Listen to the LORD’s lawsuit, you mountains.  
Listen, you strong foundations of the earth.  
The LORD has filed a lawsuit against His people.  
He is arguing His case against Israel.

“My people, what have I done to you?  
How have I tried your patience? Answer me!  
I brought you out of Egypt and freed you from slavery.  
I sent Moses, Aaron, and Miriam to lead you.  
My people, remember what King Balak of Moab planned to do to you  
and how Balaam, son of Beor, responded to him.  
Remember your journey from Shittim to Gilgal  
so that you may know the victories of the LORD.”

What should I bring when I come into the LORD’s presence,  
when I bow in front of the God of heaven?  
Should I bring Him year-old calves as burnt offerings?  
Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams  
or with endless streams of olive oil?  
Should I give Him my firstborn child because of my rebellious acts?  
Should I give Him my young child for my sin?  
You mortals, the LORD has told you what is good.  
This is what the LORD requires from you:  
to do what is right,  
to love mercy,  
and to live humbly with your God. -GW®

**MINISTRY OF MUSIC:**

**“In Thee Is Gladness”**  
~Tr. Catherine Winkworth

Bethany Choir  
8:00 & 9:30

**EPISTLE READING: *1 Corinthians 1:19-31***

Scripture says,

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise.  
I will reject the intelligence of intelligent people.”

Where is the wise person? Where is the scholar? Where is the persuasive speaker of our time? Hasn't God turned the wisdom of the world into nonsense? The world with its wisdom was unable to recognize God in terms of His own wisdom. So God decided to use the nonsense of the Good News we speak to save those who believe. Jews ask for miraculous signs, and Greeks look for wisdom, but our message is that Christ was crucified. This offends Jewish people and makes no sense to people who are not Jewish. But to those Jews and Greeks who are called, He is Christ, God's power and God's wisdom. God's nonsense is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

Brothers and sisters, consider what you were when God called you to be Christians. Not many of you were wise from a human point of view. You were not in powerful positions or in the upper social classes. But God chose what the world considers nonsense to put wise people to shame. God chose what the world considers weak to put what is strong to shame. God chose what the world considers ordinary and what it despises—what it considers to be nothing—in order to destroy what it considers to be something. As a result, no one can brag in God's presence. You are partners with Christ Jesus because of God. Jesus has become our wisdom sent from God, our approval, our holiness, and our ransom from sin. As Scripture says, "Whoever brags must brag about what the LORD has done."-GW®

## **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

8:00 & 9:30

## **HOLY GOSPEL: *Matthew 5:1-12***

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up a mountain and sat down. His disciples came to him, and he began to teach them:

"Blessed are those who recognize they are spiritually helpless.  
The kingdom of heaven belongs to them.  
Blessed are those who mourn.  
They will be comforted.  
Blessed are those who are gentle.  
They will inherit the earth.  
Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for God's approval.  
They will be satisfied.  
Blessed are those who show mercy.  
They will be treated mercifully.  
Blessed are those whose thoughts are pure.  
They will see God.  
Blessed are those who make peace.

They will be called God's children.  
 Blessed are those who are persecuted for doing what God approves of.  
 The kingdom of heaven belongs to them.

"Blessed are you when people insult you,  
 persecute you,  
 lie, and say all kinds of evil things about you because of me.

Rejoice and be glad because you have a great reward in heaven!  
 The prophets who lived before you were persecuted in these ways. -GW®

**SERMON HYMN:**

**"In the Cross of Christ I Glory"**

LSB 427



1 In the cross of Christ I glo - ry, Tow'r - ing  
 2 When the woes of life o'er - take me, Hopes de -  
 3 When the sun of bliss is beam - ing Light and  
 4 Bane and bless - ing, pain and plea - sure By the



o'er the wrecks of time. All the light of sa - cred  
 ceive, and fears an - noy, Nev - er shall the cross for -  
 love up - on my way, From the cross the ra - diance  
 cross are sanc - ti - fied; Peace is there that knows no



sto - ry Gath - ers round its head sub - lime.  
 sake me; Lo, it glows with peace and joy.  
 stream - ing Adds more lus - ter to the day.  
 mea - sure, Joys that through all time a - bide.

**MESSAGE: "All in All: All Need You" / Corinthians 1:19-31**

HYMN OF THE DAY: "Son of God, Eternal Savior"

LSB 842



1 Son of God, e - ter - nal Sav - ior, Source of life and  
 2 As You, Lord, have lived for oth - ers, So may we for  
 3 Come, O Christ, and reign a - mong us, King of love and  
 4 Son of God, e - ter - nal Sav - ior, Source of life and



truth and grace, Word made flesh, whose birth a - mong us  
 oth - ers live. Free - ly have Your gifts been grant - ed;  
 Prince of Peace; Hush the storm of strife and pas - sion,  
 truth and grace, Word made flesh, whose birth a - mong us



Hal - lows all our hu - man race, You our Head, who, throned in  
 Free-ly may Your ser - vants give. Yours the gold and Yours the  
 Bid its cru - el dis - cords cease. By Your pa - tient years of  
 Hal - lows all our hu - man race: By Your pray - ing, by Your



glo - ry, For Your own will ev - er plead: Fill us with Your  
 sil - ver, Yours the wealth of land and sea; We but stew - ards  
 toil - ing, By Your si - lent hours of pain, Quench our fe - vered  
 will - ing That Your peo - ple should be one, Grant, O grant our



love and pit - y, Heal our wrongs, and help our need.  
 of Your boun - ty Held in sol - emn trust will be.  
 thirst of plea - sure, Stem our self - ish greed of gain.  
 hope's fru - i - tion: Here on earth Your will be done.

**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.**

**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!*

**PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**

## PREFACE:



**P** The Lord be with you.



**C** And al - so with you.



**P** Lift up your hearts.



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



**P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

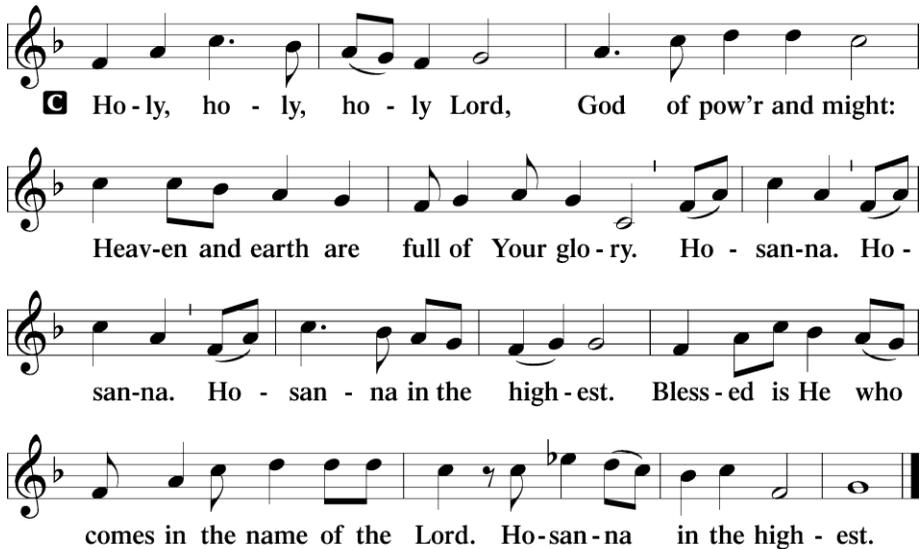


**C** It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

**L**: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. Grant us Your Spirit, gracious Father, that we may give heed to the testament of Your Son in true faith and, above all, firmly take to heart the words with which Christ gives to us His body and blood for our forgiveness. By Your grace, lead us to remember and give thanks for the boundless love which He manifested to us when, by pouring out His precious blood, He saved us from Your righteous wrath and from sin, death, and hell. Grant that we may receive the bread and wine, that is, His body and blood, as a gift, guarantee, and pledge of His salvation. 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.

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

## 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. Ho -  
san-na. 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.

## PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING:

**L:** 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.

**P:** Amen.

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION:

**L:** 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  $\text{†}$  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."

### PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST:

- L:** As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.
- P:** **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**
- L:** O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

### THE 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.**

## ✠ 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 prepare for communion you can find prayer prompts on the front page of the burgundy hymnal. 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 sacred meal. 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. Amen."*

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 & 11:00 am services, 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:**

**“Lord Jesus Christ, We Humbly Pray”** LSB 623



1 Lord Je - sus Christ, we hum - bly pray That we may  
 2 Give us, who share this won - drous food, Your bod - y  
 3 By faith Your Word has made us bold To seize the  
 4 One bread, one cup, one bod - y, we, Re - joic - ing  
 5 Lord Je - sus Christ, we hum - bly pray: O keep us



feast on You to - day; Be - neath these forms of  
 bro - ken and Your blood, The grate - ful peace of  
 gift of love re - told; All that You are we  
 in our u - ni - ty, Pro - claim Your love un -  
 stead - fast till that day When each will be Your



bread and wine En - rich us with Your grace di - vine.  
 sins for - giv'n, The cer - tain joys of heirs of heav'n.  
 here re - ceive, And all we are to You we give.  
 til You come To bring Your scat - tered loved ones home.  
 wel - comed guest In heav - en's high and ho - ly feast.

## “O Living Bread from Heaven”

LSB 642



1 O liv - ing Bread from heav - en, How well You  
 2 My Lord, You here have led me To this most  
 3 You gave me all I want - ed; This food can  
 4 Lord, grant me then, thus strength - ened With heav'n - ly



feed Your guest! The gifts that You have giv - en  
 ho - ly place And with Your - self have fed me  
 death de - stroy. And You have free - ly grant - ed  
 food, while here My course on earth is length - ened,



Have filled my heart with rest. Oh, won - drous food of  
 The trea - sures of Your grace; For You have free - ly  
 The cup of end - less joy. My Lord, I do not  
 To serve with ho - ly fear. And when You call my



bless - ing, Oh, cup that heals our woes! My heart, this  
 giv - en What earth could nev - er buy, The bread of  
 mer - it The fa - vor You have shown, And all my  
 spir - it To leave this world be - low, I en - ter,



gift pos - sess - ing, With prais - es o - ver - flows.  
 life from heav - en, That now I shall not die.  
 soul and spir - it Bow down be - fore Your throne.  
 through Your mer - it, Where joys un - min - gled flow.

### POST-COMMUNION PRAYER:

**[L]:** O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in loving-kindness sent Your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank You that for His sake You have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament, and we ask You not to forsake Your children but always to rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may be enabled constantly to serve You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

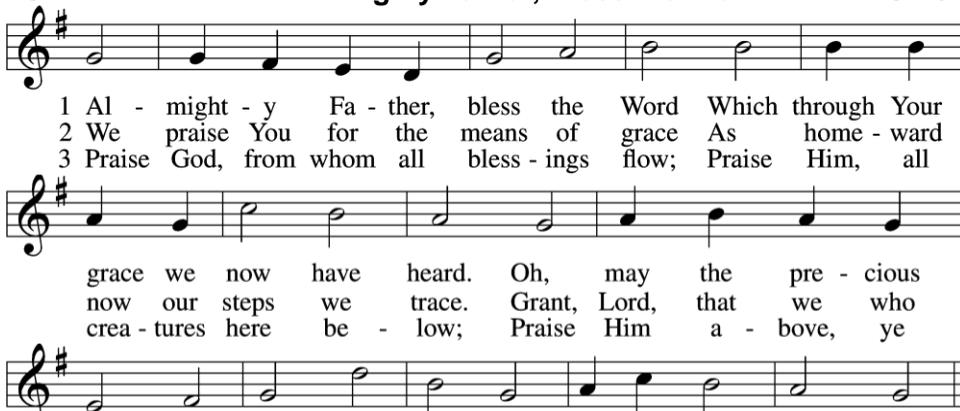
### ANNOUNCEMENTS

## BENEDICTION:

**L:** 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.

**P:** Amen.

## CLOSING HYMN: “Almighty Father, Bless the Word” LSB 923



1 Al - might - y Fa - ther, bless the Word Which through Your  
2 We praise You for the means of grace As home - ward  
3 Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; Praise Him, all  
grace we now have heard. Oh, may the pre - cious  
now our steps we trace. Grant, Lord, that we who  
crea - tures here be - low; Praise Him a - bove, ye  
seed take root, Spring up, and bear a - bun - dant fruit!  
wor - shiped here May all at last in heav'n ap - pear.  
heav'n - ly host: Praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

## POSTLUDE:

“Alleluia”  
~Charles Callahan

Organ  
8:00 & 9:30



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“Only-Begotten, Word of God Eternal” LSB 916

Text: Latin, c. 9<sup>th</sup> cent.; tr. Maxwell J. Blacker, 1822-88, alt.

Tune: *Antiphoner*, Poitiers, 1746; setting: *New English Hymnal*, 1986 Text and music: Public domain.

“In Thee Is Gladness” LSB 818

Text: Johann Lindemann, 1549-1631; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-78, alt.

Tune: Giovanni Giacomo Gastoldi, c. 1556-c. 1622; setting: *Württembergisches Neues Choralbuch*, 1956.

Text & Tune: Public domain. Setting: © 1956 Bärenreiter. All rights reserved. Reprinted under ONELICENSE #A-706149

“In the Cross of Christ I Glory” LSB 427

Text: John Bowring, 1792-1872.

Tune: Ithamar Conkey, 1815-67; setting: Service Book and Hymnal, 1958, alt. Text and music: Public domain.

“Son of God, Eternal Savior” LSB 842

Text: Somerset T.C. Lowry, 1855-1932, alt.

Tune: *Oude en Nieuwe Hollantse . . . Contradanseu*, Amsterdam, c. 1710; Text and tune: Public domain.

Setting: Henry V. Gerike, b. 1948. Setting: ©2006 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved.

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“Lord Jesus Christ, We Humbly Pray” LSB 623

Text: Henry E. Jacobs, 1844-1932, alt.

Tune: *Cantionale Germanicum, Gochsheim*, 1628; setting: *Service Book and Hymnal*, 1958 Text & Music: Public domain

“O Living Bread from Heaven” LSB 642

Text: Johann Rist; tr. Catherine Winkworth. Tune: *Musae Siomiae*, vol. 7, Wolfenbüttel, 1609, ed. Michael Praetorius.

Text and tune: Public domain

“Almighty Father, Bless the Word” LSB 923

Text: *Church Poetry*, Philadelphia, 1823, sts. 1-2, alt.; Thomas Ken, 1637-1711, st. 3. Text & music: Public domain.

Tune: *Trente quatre Pseumes de David*, Geneva, 1551, ed. Louis Bourgeois Setting: *The Lutheran Hymnal*, 1941.



**SERVING GOD’S HOUSE TODAY:**

Acolyte 8:00...Ben Culley

Acolyte 9:30...Alice Kienitz

Lector 8:00...Claude Potter

Liturgist...Karl Fink

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

Pianist/Organist 11:00...Kevin Bowers

9:30...Diana Orr

Crucifer 9:30...Reenie Long

11:00...Les Friend

Preacher...Pastor Kevin Kritzer

Accompanist...Kevin Bowers

Children’s Message...Alissa Brege



**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.



**Parents of Young Children:** We are so glad you and your children are here! Children are a joyful part of worship—after all, God created them with curiosity, energy, and yes, a few wiggles. Please don't feel pressure to keep them perfectly still in God's house. Their presence is truly a gift to our church family.

Worship is where we learn, together, how to listen and speak to God alongside our brothers and sisters in faith. You are welcome to quietly explain parts of the service and what our worship leaders are doing—children learn how to worship by watching and imitating you.

If it would be helpful, "worship bags" are available in the Narthex with items designed to support children and families during worship. Childcare is also available in our Nursery for children from birth through age five. Our caring and qualified staff look forward to welcoming your little one into a safe and loving environment.

Bethany's Nursery is located across the courtyard. Please feel free to ask an usher if you need directions—we're happy to help.



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

*~ for Jim and Jan Coontz who will celebrate 60 years of marriage on February 5<sup>th</sup>.*

*They were married right here at Bethany Lutheran Church ~*



**CALL COMMITTEE UPDATE:**

The Call Committee for Associate Pastor of Connect Ministry (Senior Pastor in transition) has been receiving responses from several interested pastoral candidates. At this time, the committee is narrowing down the list of candidates, and will soon be scheduling interviews. We are so thankful during this call process for your continued prayers, asking for the Holy Spirit's leading, for our committee and each pastoral candidate.





**The Imposition of Ashes** is an ancient custom begun centuries ago when those who had fallen away from the church desired to return and be restored into relationship with the community before the celebration of Easter. To bear witness to their contrition and faith they bore an ashen mark during the Lenten Season.

That custom is the basis of the tradition we observe to this day. We receive the sign of an ashen cross as a physical expression of our penitence, trust and desire to be one with Christ and His bride the church.

**As a church we gather for Ash Wednesday Worship, February 18<sup>th</sup>:**

**Long Beach Campus at 9:00AM**

**Cypress Campus at 6:30PM**

You can also come to the **Long Beach Campus Sanctuary between 7:30-8:30AM**

or

the **Cypress Campus Sanctuary between 12:00-1:00PM**

for **Reflection, Meditation and Individual Imposition of Ashes.**



We've all heard the adage, "Clothes make the man." Some say you can trace the notion clear back to Homer. The concept is fleshed out more fully in a line in Shakespeare's Hamlet; and given complete familiarity by Mark Twain. At the core of the concept is the idea that appearance can influence both perception and behavior.

Long before either Shakespeare or Twain had crafted their works, St. Paul wrote that, "Jesus, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to His own advantage; rather, He made Himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross."

The eternal Son of God, took on human nature and put on the form of a servant. This action, His incarnation, certainly directed His behavior and as Isaiah states (chapter 53) is influenced perception of THE suffering servant.

By His grace, through faith, Jesus has covered us in His righteousness, dressed us in His likeness and calls us to be "His masks" in this world. These *Garments of Grace* influence our perception of one another and our behavior as His disciples.

**Join us on Wednesdays during Lent (2/18 thru 3/25) ON OUR CYPRESS CAMPUS, 4321 Cerritos Ave. Cypress CA at 6:30PM** as we gather to rejoice in the promise that our Lord has clothed us in His *Garments of Grace*.

### **Weekly Themes and Texts:**

- Ash Wednesday (2/18) "Try this on instead." Isaiah 61
- Wednesday Lent I (2/25) "Look what I've knitted you." Genesis 3
- Wednesday Lent II (3/4) "You Look Marvelous" Genesis 37
- Wednesday Lent III (3/11) "Swaddled" Luke 2
- Wednesday Lent IV (3/18) "Filthy Rags" I Peter 2:24
- Wednesday Lent V (3/25) "Garments of Grace" Revelation 3