



# Gathered Connected Sent

Bethany Lutheran Church | Long Beach, CA

**TRANSFIGURATION**  
FEBRUARY 15, 2026

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AS WE GATHER:

Today is a bridge. This morning connects the Advent-Christmas-Epiphany seasons that now conclude and the Lent-Easter seasons that soon begin. Today Jesus is revealed to be God’s beloved Son. The fulfillment of the promise given Mary, the proclamation shared with the shepherds and the affirmation that echoed over the Jordan as His own baptism. Soon enough Jesus’ face, that shines dazzling white, will be stained crimson red as He hangs in darkness on the cross and heaven’s voice is hushed as the Father forsakes His beloved Son that through His forgiving love we can be called His beloved children.

WELCOME

OPENING HYMN: “Awake, My Soul, and with the Sun” LSB 868



1 A - wake, my soul, and with the sun Thy dai - ly  
3 All praise to Thee, who safe hast kept And hast re -  
5 Di - rect, con - trol, sug - gest this day All I de -  
6 Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; Praise Him, all



stage of du - ty run; Shake off dull sloth and  
freshed me while I slept; Grant, Lord, when I from  
sign or do or say That all my pow’rs with  
crea - tures here be - low; Praise Him a - bove, ye



joy - ful rise To pay thy morn - ing sac - ri - fice.  
death shall wake, I may of end - less light par - take.  
all their might In Thy sole glo - ry may u - nite.  
heav’n - ly host: Praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

CALL TO WORSHIP:

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

**P**: **Almighty God, transform our deeds and daily routines that our lives might reveal You.**

**L:** God of Moses, You reveal Yourself to all nations in wonders and with mighty deeds; and You guide Your people with a strong hand and outstretched arm.

**P:** **Reveal Yourself to us anew in glory and grace; and lead us to follow You all the days of our pilgrimage.**

**L:** God of Elijah, You care for us in our deepest of pain and when we fear things are too big to handle.

**P:** **Open our ears to hear Your voice, even in the smallest of whispers, that we might speak Your message of comfort and peace through words and deeds alike.**

**L:** God of Peter, James and John, You call Your own to follow You and grant them vision to see You as You are.

**P:** **In Jesus we behold Your glory O God, and we desire to stay with You where you are;**

**L:** even as You in Christ have promised to never leave us nor forsake us but to remain with us always. Amen.

## **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS:**

**L:** Almighty God, You invite us to come to You and You call us to follow in Your way.

**P:** **Yet, we confess, that by nature we are turned in on ourselves, and so we have not always followed Your way or Your will as we ought. Forgive us Lord, for the times we have pursued what You have forbidden, and ignored what You have commanded. Forgive us Lord, for the times we have thought more about ourselves than others and less about our calling than we ought. Forgive us Lord, for the times we have hurt those closest to us, and for the times we have hurt those we do not know. For the sake of Christ Jesus, who reveals Your life, light and love to us, take away our guilt, grant us Your grace and empower us with Your Spirit to follow Him all the days of our lives. Amen.**

**L:** Hear now the voice of heaven; God never tires of revealing His mercy. God's love never runs out. God has made His glory clear to see in Christ and for His sake forgives you all your sins.

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

**HYMN OF PRAISE:**

**“Jesus on the Mountain Peak”**

LSB 415



1 Je - sus on the moun-tain peak      Stands a - lone in  
2 Trem - bling at His feet we saw      Mo - ses and E -  
3 Swift the cloud of glo - ry came:      God pro - claim - ing  
4 This is God's be - lov - ed Son!      Law and proph - ets



glo - ry blaz - ing; Let us, if we dare to speak,  
li - jah speak - ing. All the proph - ets and the law  
in its thun - der Je - sus as the Son by name!  
sing be - fore Him, First and Last and on - ly One.



Join the saints and an - gels prais - ing.  
Shout through them their joy - ful greet - ing:  
Na - tions, cry a - loud in won - der,  
All cre - a - tion shall a - dore Him!



Al - le - lu - ia!  
Al - le - lu - ia!  
Al - le - lu - ia!  
Al - le - lu - ia!

**OLD TESTAMENT READING: *Exodus 24:8-18***

Moses took the blood and sprinkled it on the people and said, “Here is the blood which seals the promise that the Lord has made to you based on everything you have just heard.”

Moses went up with Aaron, Nadab, Abihu, and 70 of Israel’s leaders. They saw the God of Israel. Under his feet was something like a pavement made out of sapphire as clear and blue as the sky itself. God didn’t harm these leaders of the Israelites. So they saw God, and then they ate and drank.

The Lord said to Moses, “Come up to me on the mountain. Stay there, and I will give you the stone tablets with the teachings and the commandments I have written for the people’s instruction.”

Moses set out with his assistant Joshua, and Moses went up on the mountain of God. He said to the leaders, “Wait here for us until we come back to you. Aaron and Hur are here with you. Take all your disagreements to them.”

So Moses went up on the mountain, and the cloud covered it. The glory of the Lord settled on Mount Sinai. For six days the cloud covered it, and on the seventh day the Lord called to Moses from inside the cloud. To the Israelites, the glory of the Lord looked like a raging fire on top of the mountain. Moses entered the cloud as he went up the mountain. He stayed on the mountain 40 days and 40 nights. -GW®

### **EPISTLE READING: 2 Peter 1:16-21**

When we apostles told you about the powerful coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, we didn't base our message on clever myths that we made up. Rather, we witnessed His majesty with our own eyes. For example, we were eyewitnesses when He received honor and glory from God the Father and when the voice of our majestic God spoke these words to Him: “This is my Son, whom I love and in whom I delight.” We heard that voice speak to Him from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain. So we regard the words of the prophets as confirmed beyond all doubt. You're doing well by paying attention to their words. Continue to pay attention as you would to a light that shines in a dark place as you wait for day to come and the morning star to rise in your hearts. First, you must understand this: No prophecy in Scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation. No prophecy ever originated from humans. Instead, it was given by the Holy Spirit as humans spoke under God's direction. -GW®

### **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

8:00 & 9:30

### **GOSPEL: Matthew 17:1-9**

After six days Jesus took Peter, James, and John (the brother of James) and led them up a high mountain where they could be alone.

Jesus' appearance changed in front of them. His face became as bright as the sun and His clothes as white as light. Suddenly, Moses and Elijah appeared to them and were talking with Jesus.

Peter said to Jesus, “Lord, it's good that we're here. If You want, I'll put up three tents here—one for You, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.”

He was still speaking when a bright cloud overshadowed them. Then a voice came out of the cloud and said, "This is my Son, whom I love and with whom I am pleased. Listen to Him!"

The disciples were terrified when they heard this and fell face down on the ground. But Jesus touched them and said, "Get up, and don't be afraid!" As they raised their heads, they saw no one but Jesus.

On their way down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, "Don't tell anyone what you have seen. Wait until the Son of Man has been brought back to life." -GW®

**SERMON HYMN:**

**"Swiftly Pass the Clouds of Glory"**

LSB 416



1 Swift - ly pass the clouds of glo-ry, Heav-en's voice, the daz-zling light;  
2 Glimpsed and gone the rev - e - la-tion, They shall gain and keep its truth,  
3 Lord, trans - fig - ure our per-cep-tion With the pur - est light that shines,



Mo-ses and E - li - jah van - ish; Christ a - lone com - mands the height!  
Not by build-ing on the moun-tain An - y shrine or sa - cred booth,  
And re-cast our life's in - ten-tions To the shape of Your de - signs,



Pe-ter, James, and John fall si-lent, Turn - ing from the sum-mit's rise  
But by fol - low - ing the Sav-ior Through the val - ley to the cross  
Till we seek no oth - er glo-ry Than what lies past Cal-v'ry's hill



Down-ward toward the shad-owed val-ley Where their Lord has fixed His eyes.  
And by test - ing faith's re - sil-ience Through be - tray-al, pain, and loss.  
And our liv - ing and our dy - ing And our ris - ing by Your will.

**MESSAGE:**

**HYMN OF DAY: "Tis Good, Lord, to Be Here"**

LSB 414

1 'Tis good, Lord, to be here! Thy  
 2 'Tis good, Lord, to be here, Thy  
 3 Ful - fill - er of the past And  
 4 Be - fore we taste of death, We  
 5 'Tis good, Lord, to be here! Yet

glo - ry fills the night; Thy face and gar - ments,  
 beau - ty to be - hold Where Mo - ses and E -  
 hope of things to be, We hail Thy bod - y  
 see Thy king - dom come; We long to hold the  
 we may not re - main; But since Thou bidst us

like the sun, Shine with un - bor - rowed light.  
 li - jah stand, Thy mes - sen - gers of old.  
 glo - ri - fied And our re - demp - tion see.  
 vi - sion bright And make this hill our home.  
 leave the mount, Come with us to the plain.

**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!*

**CONSECRATION OF GIFTS:**

**L:** We praise You, O God, our Redeemer, Creator;

**P:** **In grateful devotion our tribute we bring.**

**L:** We lay it before you, we kneel and adore You;

**P:** **We bless Your holy name, glad praises we sing!**

## 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:** Called together to follow Jesus, we pray for the church, the world and those in need.

*Brief silence*

**L:** Embolden Your church as it reveals the majesty and mercy of You Son. Gathered into Your company and community empower us with Your Spirit to share our stories of Your goodness, grace and glory. Lord in Your Mercy

**P:** **Hear our prayer**

**L:** Give shelter to those who lack housing. Protect those who dwell in danger. Accompany those who live alone or in isolation from caring relationships. Lord in Your Mercy.

**P:** **Hear our prayer**

- L:** Continue to reveal Yourself to us in splendor and strength; and enlighten and encourage us to follow You all the days of our lives. Lord in Your mercy.
- P:** **Hear our prayer**
- L:** Receive our thanks for those who have borne witness to You in our lives and have guided us in faithfulness. Receive our pleas for those who are hurting in mind or body or spirit. (especially) Grant them what they need. Receive our praises for the blessings given to those dear to us. (especially) Lord in Your mercy
- P:** **Hear our prayer**
- L:** Into Your hands of Lord we commend all for whom we prayer, trusting in Your grace and mercy through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who has taught 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.**

### **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

## **✠ 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: “Jesus Comes Today with Healing” LSB 620**



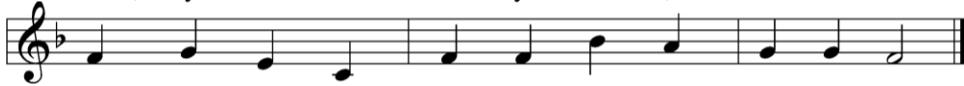
1 Je - sus comes to - day with heal - ing, Knock - ing at my  
 2 Christ Him - self, the priest pre - sid - ing, Yet in bread and  
 3 Un - der bread and wine, though low - ly, I re - ceive the  
 4 God de - scends with heav'n - ly pow - er, Gives Him - self to  
 6 Now have I found con - so - la - tion, Com - fort in my



door, ap - peal - ing, Of - f'ring par - don, grace, and peace.  
 wine a - bid - ing In this ho - ly sac - ra - ment,  
 Sav - ior ho - ly, Blood and bod - y, giv'n for me,  
 me this hour— In this or - di - nar - y sign.  
 trib - u - la - tion, Balm to heal the trou - bled soul.



He Him - self makes prep - a - ra - tion, And I hear His  
 Gives the bread of life, once bro - ken, And the cup, the  
 Ver - y Lamb of God from heav - en, Who to bit - ter  
 On my tongue His pledge re - ceiv - ing, I ac - cept His  
 God, my shield from ev - 'ry ter - ror, Cleans - es me from



in - vi - ta - tion: “Come and taste the bless - ed feast.”  
 pre - cious to - ken Of His sa - cred cov - e - nant.  
 death was giv - en, Hung up - on the curs - ed tree.  
 grace, be - liev - ing That I taste His love di - vine.  
 sin and er - ror, Makes my wound - ed spir - it whole.

“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”

LSB 700



1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, Joy of  
 2 Breathe, O breathe Thy lov - ing Spir - it In - to  
 3 Come, Al - might - y, to de - liv - er; Let us  
 4 Fin - ish then Thy new cre - a - tion, Pure and



heav'n, to earth come down! Fix in us Thy  
 ev - 'ry trou - bled breast; Let us all in  
 all Thy life re - ceive; Sud - den - ly re -  
 spot - less let us be; Let us see Thy



hum - ble dwell - ing, All Thy faith - ful mer - cies crown.  
 Thee in - her - it; Let us find Thy prom - ised rest.  
 turn, and nev - er, Nev - er - more Thy tem - ples leave.  
 great sal - va - tion Per - fect - ly re - stored in Thee,



Je - sus, Thou art all com - pas - sion, Pure, un -  
 Take a - way the love of sin - ning; Al - pha  
 Thee we would be al - ways bless - ing, Serve Thee  
 Changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry, Till in



bound - ed love Thou art; Vis - it us with  
 and O - me - ga be; End of faith, as  
 as Thy hosts a - bove, Pray and praise Thee  
 heav'n we take our place, Till we cast our



Thy sal - va - tion, En - ter ev - 'ry trem - bling heart.  
 its be - gin - ning, Set our hearts at lib - er - ty.  
 with - out ceas - ing, Glo - ry in Thy per - fect love.  
 crowns be - fore Thee, Lost in won - der, love, and praise!



## HOLY BAPTISM:

**9:30**

✠ ***Joshua James Chaffee*** ✠

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

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### BENEDICTION:

**L:** The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.  
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give you peace.

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

**CLOSING HYMN:****“Alleluia, Song of Gladness”**

LSB 417



1 Al - le - lu - ia, song of glad - ness, Voice of joy that  
 2 Al - le - lu - ia, thou re - sound - est, True Je - ru - sa -  
 3 Al - le - lu - ia can - not al - ways Be our song while  
 4 There - fore in our hymns we pray Thee, Grant us, bless - ed



can - not die; Al - le - lu - ia is the an - them  
 lem and free; Al - le - lu - ia, joy - ful moth - er,  
 here be - low; Al - le - lu - ia, our trans - gres - sions  
 Trin - i - ty, At the last to keep Thine Eas - ter



Ev - er raised by choirs on high; In the house of  
 All thy chil - dren sing with thee, But by Bab - y -  
 Make us for a while for - go; For the sol - emn  
 With Thy faith - ful saints on high; There to Thee for -



God a - bid - ing Thus they sing e - ter - nal - ly.  
 lon's sad wa - ters Mourn - ing ex - iles now are we.  
 time is com - ing When our tears for sin must flow.  
 ev - er sing - ing Al - le - lu - ia joy - ful - ly.

**POSTLUDE**

Organ 8:00 &amp; 9:30

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“Awake, My Soul, and with the Sun” LSB 868

Text: Thomas Ken, 1637-1711. Tune: François H. Barthélémon, 1741-1808; setting: *Lutheran Worship*, 1982. Text & tune: Public domain.

“Jesus on the Mountain Peak” LSB 415

Text: Brian Wren, b. 1936.

Tune Theodore A. Beck, 1929-2003, alt. Text: ©1977 Hope Publishing Co. All rights reserved. Reprinted under ONELICENSE #A-706149.

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Text: Thomas H. Troeger, b. 1945. Music: Amanda Husberg, b. 1940.  
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“’Tis Good, Lord, to Be Here” LSB 414  
Text: Joseph A. Robinson, 1858-1933, alt. Tune: Johann Sebastian Bach, 1684-1750, adapt. Text and music: Public domain.

“We Praise You, O God” LSB 785 Stanza 1 Text: Julia B. Cory. Public domain

“Jesus Comes Today with Healing” LSB 620  
Text: Heinrich Puchta; tr. David W. Rogner. Text: ©David W. Rogner. All rights reserved. Reprinted under ONELICENSE #A-706149.  
Tune: Johann Löhner, 1645-1705; adapt. Johann Balhausar König, 1691-1758. Tune: Public domain Setting: *The Lutheran Hymnal*, 1941

“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling” LSB 700  
Text: Charles Wesley. Tune: Rowland H. Prichard; setting: *Service Book and Hymnal*, 1958. Text and music: Public domain

“Alleluia, Song of Gladness” LSB 417  
Text: Latin, c. 11<sup>th</sup> cent.; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-66 alt. Music: John Goss, 1800-50. Text and Music: Public domain.



### **SERVING GOD’S HOUSE TODAY:**

Acolyte 8:00...Ben Culley  
Liturgist...Pastor Seth Moorman  
Lector 8:00...Matt Ruiz      Lector 9:30...Tom & Sheri Esswein      Pastor...Pastor John Alwood  
Organist 8:00 & 9:30...Robert Bottoms      Lector 11:00...Les Friend  
Children’s Message...Lilly Strahm      Piano 11:00...Pat Gagan



**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 Vance and Kimberlie who will celebrate their 44<sup>th</sup>  
Wedding Anniversary on February 14<sup>th</sup> ~*



THE UNIVERSITY

*A Cappella Choir*

AT BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH



CONDUCTOR: DR. KURT E. VON KAMPEN

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MARCH 11  
2026

*Join us!*

7 PM

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 CONCORDIA  
UNIVERSITY  
NEBRASKA
 *at*

 Bethany  
Lutheran  
Church  
Long Beach, CA



**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.**



**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" [1 Peter 2:24](#)
- Wednesday Lent V (3/25) "Garments of Grace" [Revelation 3](#)