

Morning Worship

Bethesda Lutheran Church - 8:30 AM

Immanuel Lutheran Church - 11:00 AM

January 26, 2025

3rd Sunday after Epiphany

Before we begin our worship this morning, I acknowledge that Bethesda Lutheran Church/Immanuel Lutheran Church stands on the traditional grounds of the Anishinaabe People, and we honor their elders both past and present. Their presence is imbued in the lands and waters surrounding us. We nurture our relationships with our indigenous neighbors, and the shared responsibilities to their homeland where we all reside today.

HOLY COMMUNION

Prelude

GATHERING

Confession and Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
whose steadfast love is everlasting.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God
and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God-with-us,
**we confess that we have turned away
those seeking shelter,
claiming there is no room when we have plenty.
We have made power and wealth our idols,**

while you show us true glory: a baby in a manger.

**We have overlooked the shepherds,
expecting good news in prettier packaging.**

**Too often, we have valued violence
instead of your peace.**

Turn us from our ways to your ways.

Grant us the grace to begin again.

**Free us from all that keeps us bound,
and forgive our sin,**

through Jesus Christ, who gives himself for us.

Amen.

Hear the good news and rejoice!

You are God's chosen ones,
holy and beloved,

✠ forgiven in Christ,

and freed to respond in joy.

Amen.

Gathering Hymn: ELW #314 *"Arise, Your Light Has Come!"*

Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion
of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

Kyrie ELW #157

Hymn of Praise ELW #167 *"Now the Feast and Celebration"*

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. **Blessed Lord God, you have caused the holy scriptures
to be written for the nourishment of your people. Grant that we may
hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that,
comforted by your promises, we may embrace and forever hold fast
to the hope of eternal life, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.**

Amen.

First Reading: Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10

The exiles have returned and rebuilt Jerusalem. Now Ezra, the priest, reads the law of Moses to them in the public square. When they hear it, they weep for their sins and for the long years in exile, but Ezra reminds them that “the joy of the Lord is your strength.”

¹ All the people [of Israel] gathered together into the square before the Water Gate. They told the scribe Ezra to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the Lord had given to Israel. ² Accordingly, the priest Ezra brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding. This was on the first day of the seventh month. ³ He read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law. ⁵ And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up. ⁶ Then Ezra blessed the Lord, the great God, and all the people answered, “Amen, Amen,” lifting up their hands. Then they bowed their heads and worshiped the Lord with their faces to the ground. ⁸ So they read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading.

⁹ And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, “This day is holy to the Lord your God; do not mourn or weep.” For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law. ¹⁰ Then he said to them, “Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our Lord; and do not be grieved, for the joy of the Lord is your strength.”

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 19

Refrain: The teaching of the Lord revives the soul. (Ps. 19:7)

- ¹ The heavens declare the glo- | ry of God,
and the sky proclaims its | maker's handiwork.
- ² **One day tells its tale | to another,
and one night imparts knowledge | to another.**
- ³ Although they have no | words or language,
and their voices | are not heard,
- ⁴ **their sound has gone out into all lands, and their message to the
ends | of the world,
where God has pitched a tent | for the sun.**
- ⁵ It comes forth like a bridegroom out | of his chamber;
it rejoices like a champion to | run its course.
- ⁶ **It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens and runs
about to the end of | it again;
nothing is hidden from its | burning heat. R**
- ⁷ The teaching of the Lord is perfect and re- | vives the soul;
the testimony of the Lord is sure and gives wisdom | to the simple.
- ⁸ **The statutes of the Lord are just and re- | joice the heart;
the commandment of the Lord is clear and gives light | to the
eyes.**
- ⁹ The fear of the Lord is clean and en- | dures forever;
the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous | altogether.
- ¹⁰ **More to be desired are they than gold, more than | much fine
gold,
sweeter far than honey, than honey | in the comb. R**
- ¹¹ By them also is your ser- | vant enlightened,
and in keeping them there is | great reward.
- ¹² **Who can detect one's | own offenses?
Cleanse me from my | secret faults.**
- ¹³ Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins; let them not
get dominion | over me;
then shall I be whole and sound, and innocent of a | great offense.
- ¹⁴ **Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be**

acceptable | in your sight,

O Lord, my strength and | my redeemer. R

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a

The apostle and pastor Paul uses the metaphor of the human body to describe how intimately connected we are in the church. For this struggling congregation in Corinth, Paul delivers a vital message of unity that is a mark of the church today.

¹² For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. ¹³ For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

¹⁴ Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. ¹⁵ If the foot would say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁶ And if the ear would say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁷ If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? ¹⁸ But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. ¹⁹ If all were a single member, where would the body be? ²⁰ As it is, there are many members, yet one body. ²¹ The eye cannot say to the hand, “I have no need of you,” nor again the head to the feet, “I have no need of you.” ²² On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, ²³ and those members of the body that we think less honorable we clothe with greater honor, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect; ²⁴ whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior member, ²⁵ that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. ²⁶ If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it.

²⁷ Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of

it. ²⁸ And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers; then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues. ²⁹ Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? ³⁰ Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? ^{31a} But strive for the greater gifts.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

The assembly stands to welcome the Gospel.

Gospel Acclamation

ELW #172 *“Halle, Halle, Hallelujah” See next page*

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Halle, Halle, Hallelujah

Hal-le, hal-le, hal-le-lu-jah. Hal-le, hal-le, hal-le-lu-jah. Hal-le-lu-jah. Hal-le-lu-jah. Hal-le-lu-jah. Hal-le-lu-jah.

Music: Caribbean traditional; arr. Mark Sedio, b. 1954
 Arr. © 1995 Augsburg Fortress

Gospel: Luke 4:14-21

The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 4th chapter.
 Glory to you, O Lord.

Near the beginning of Jesus' public ministry, he visits his hometown of Nazareth. In the words of Isaiah, he states and claims his identity, purpose, and mission.

¹⁴ Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. ¹⁵ He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.

¹⁶ When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, ¹⁷ and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

¹⁸ "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me
to bring good news to the poor.

He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives
and recovery of sight to the blind,
to let the oppressed go free,

¹⁹ to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

²⁰ And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. ²¹ Then he began to say to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you O Christ.

Sermon: Pastor Connie Monson

Hymn of the Day: ELW #715 "*Christ, Be Our Light*"

Affirmation of Faith

We believe in God the Creator, infinite in wisdom, power, and love, whose mercy is over all living things, and whose will is directed to every good.

We believe in Jesus Christ, Child of God and Child of humanity, the gift of the Father's unfailing grace, the ground of our hope, and the promise of our deliverance from sin and death.

We believe in the Holy Spirit as the divine presence in our lives, who holds us and guides us in the truth of Christ, and in whom we find strength and help in time of need.

We believe that this faith can manifest itself in the service of love as set forth by the example of Jesus, to the end that the kingdom of God may come upon the earth.

Prayers of Intercession

With the Spirit of Christ shining upon us, let us boldly pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

As your word is opened in our midst, we give thanks for all who share scripture: for parents, grandparents, and godparents; teachers and mentors; deacons, pastors, bishops, and scholars. Inspire passion for the stories of faith. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

As heavens declare your glory and the sky proclaims your work, we lift our voices in awe of quarks and atoms, vast stars and solar systems. Guide us to speak on behalf of your handiwork. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

As Jesus proclaimed life and freedom in his community, energize communities and nations to eliminate poverty, engage in prison ministry and transformative justice, and envision new ways of working together for your promised reign. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

As your word and presence revive the soul, accompany all experiencing depression, anxiety, or eating disorders; be a source of strength for all affected by memory loss and their caregivers; draw near to all undergoing medical treatment or surgery (*especially*). God of grace,

hear our prayer.

As we are made one body in baptism, strengthen all who serve. Renew and inspire all who use their gifts in this congregation, community, and the world (*especially parish nurses, fellowship hosts, worship leaders, council, and committee members*). God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Lord, you know the need for healing, comfort, help or resolution for those we name before you today: Myrna & Richard Northrop, Kermit Delmain, Ed DePerry, Lorayne Reedy, Lois Osterberg, Courtney Byerhof, Bill Bodner, Chuck & Marcia Perry, Sharon Johnson, Colleen Nozal, Chick Anderson, Kelli Ann Clapero, Rhiannon Tourdot, Holly Tourdot, Bennett Anderson, Jennifer Schlack, John Frederick, Casey French, Mary Thomas, Don Hyde, Valerie Brockmann, and Donnie Anderson. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

As our faith is strengthened by saints who have gone before us, we remember leaders of the early church (*especially Timothy, Titus, Silas, Lydia, Dorcas, and Phoebe*), and beloved friends and family who have died (*especially*). God of grace,

hear our prayer.

We entrust our prayers to you, O God, in the sure and certain hope that your promise is revealed among the people.

Amen.

Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Offering Prayer

Let us pray. **God of grace, your love reaches to the heavens,
and your abundance to the depths of the seas.**

Bless what we offer to your service:

our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts.

**Let us overflow with gratitude and generosity,
now and always. Amen.**

Great Thanksgiving

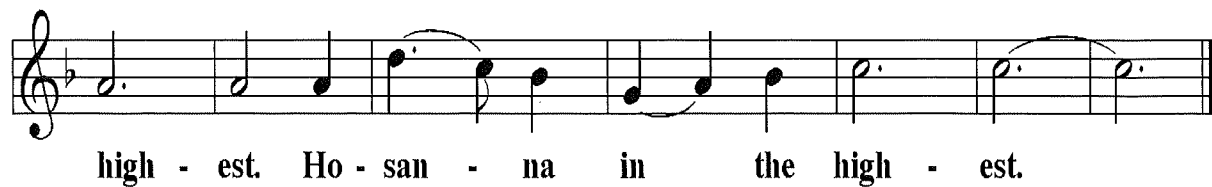
The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all nations; in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son, and in the miracle of water turned to wine he revealed your glory. And so with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

...



Lord's Prayer

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

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.

Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.

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.

Invitation to Communion

The joy of the Lord is our strength.

Come, eat this meal of gladness.

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

The body and the blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Prayer after Communion

Nourishing God,

at this table you have refreshed us
with holy gifts of food and drink.

Strengthen us for service,

and send us out to embody your good news
of liberation and healing for the sake of the world.

In the name of Christ we pray,

Amen.

Communion Hymn ELW #496 *"One Bread, One Body"*

Announcements:

Sunday	Immanuel Annual Meeting & Chili Feed AA 7 pm at Immanuel; Julie Hendrickson's birthday; Austin Szydowski's birthday
Monday	South Shore Quilters 9 am; Book Study on Zoom 1 pm; Dean Rau's birthday
Tuesday	Brunch Bunch 10 am at Bethesda; Bible Study Immanuel and Zoom 1 pm; Cribbage 1 pm at Bethesda
Wednesday	South Shore Quilters 9 am; Midday Prayer 12 pm at Bayfield Presbyterian
Thursday	Immanuel Painters 10 am
Friday	ROMEO 8 am; Knit Wits 1 pm; Ed Metelica's birthday
Sunday	Bethesda's Annual Meeting and potluck following worship

Blessing

The Spirit of the triune God

✠ bless you with joy,
anoint you with compassion,
and send you in love.

Amen.

Sending Hymn ELW #843 *"Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness"*

Dismissal

Go in peace. Live in hope. **Thanks be to God.**

Reconciling in Christ Statement

*There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free,
there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.*

Galatians 3:28

We welcome YOU to Bethesda and Immanuel to participate fully in our congregational life. You who may have experienced exclusion, injustice or racial inequity; You who are young, old, rich, poor; You of all abilities; You from all nations and ethnic

backgrounds; You of all sexual orientations, gender identities or gender expression.

We are committed to racial equity, economic equity, gender equity, sexual equity. We are committed to learn, celebrate, advocate and welcome everyone through a series of forums and educational opportunities. May we grow in acceptance and become a voice for inclusion, equity and justice.

No matter where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.