



# Welcome to Bethesda Lutheran Church

A place of healing and reconciliation in Christ

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EPIPHANY

WITH HOLY COMMUNION

✝ January 5<sup>th</sup> 2025 | 9:30am ✝

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## ✠ GATHERING ✠

PRELUDE • Selections for Piano

Tyler Pyle

### \*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*One* Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, whose steadfast love is everlasting.

*Many* **Amen**

*One* Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.  
*Silence is kept for reflection.*

God-with-us,

*Many* **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.**

*One* Hear the good news and rejoice! You are God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, ✠ forgiven in Christ, and freed to respond in joy.

*Many* **Amen.**

\*GATHERING HYMN • Rise, Shine, You People

ELW 665

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

KYRIE

ELW setting 6, p 166

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

ELW setting 6, p 167

### GREETING

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

*Many* **And also with you.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

**Almighty and ever-living God, you revealed the incarnation of your Son by the brilliant shining of a star. Shine the light of your justice always in our hearts and over all lands, and accept our lives as the treasure we offer in your praise and for your service, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

## ✠ WORD ✠

### FIRST READING: ISAIAH 60:1-6

<sup>1</sup> Arise, shine; for your light has come,  
and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

<sup>2</sup> For darkness shall cover the earth,  
and thick darkness the peoples;  
but the Lord will arise upon you,  
and his glory will appear over you.

<sup>3</sup> Nations shall come to your light,  
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

<sup>4</sup> Lift up your eyes and look around;  
they all gather together, they come to you;  
your sons shall come from far away,  
and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms.

<sup>5</sup> Then you shall see and be radiant;  
your heart shall thrill and rejoice,  
because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you,  
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.

<sup>6</sup> A multitude of camels shall cover you,  
the young camels of Midian and Ephah;  
all those from Sheba shall come.  
They shall bring gold and frankincense,  
and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.

### SECOND READING: EPHESIANS 3:1-12

<sup>1</sup> This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles—<sup>2</sup> for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you, <sup>3</sup> and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, <sup>4</sup> a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. <sup>5</sup> In former generations this mystery

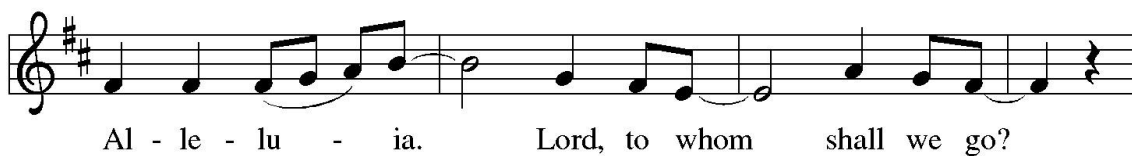
was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: <sup>6</sup>that is, the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

<sup>7</sup>Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given me by the working of his power. <sup>8</sup>Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, <sup>9</sup>and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; <sup>10</sup>so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. <sup>11</sup>This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, <sup>12</sup>in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

*One* Word of God, Word of Life.  
*Many* **Thanks be to God.**

\*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ELW setting 6, p 171



*One* The holy Gospel according to Matthew.  
*Many* **Glory to you, O Lord**

\*GOSPEL: MATTHEW 2:1-12

<sup>1</sup>In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup>asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." <sup>3</sup>When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; <sup>4</sup>and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. <sup>5</sup>They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

<sup>6</sup>'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,  
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;

for from you shall come a ruler  
who is to shepherd my people Israel.' "

<sup>7</sup> Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup> Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." <sup>9</sup> When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. <sup>10</sup> When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. <sup>11</sup> On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. <sup>12</sup> And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

*One*            The holy Gospel of our Lord.  
*Many*            **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON • Pr. Grant Vanderford

HYMN OF THE DAY • I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

ELW 815

\*APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.  
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,**

**and the life everlasting. Amen.**

\*PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

One Lord, in your mercy,  
Many **hear our prayer**

SHARING OF THE PEACE

One The peace of Christ be with you always.  
Many **And also with you.**

✠ **MEAL** ✠

OFFERING

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*An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need. You may place your offering in the plates as they are passed by the ushers during the musical offering. You may also scan the QR code to the right to explore online giving options or contact the church office for more information.*



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MUSICAL OFFERING

*Winter Snow*

Sam Sadlowsky

OFFERTORY RESPONSE • Songs of Thankfulness and Praise v. 1 & 4 ELW 310

OFFERTORY PRAYER

God of heaven and earth, from the beginning, you have called forth life, in which you take delight. The trees, the fields, and the seas sing for joy. Bless now these gifts, received from your bounty, that we may join the chorus of creation to tell of your salvation from day to day.

**Amen.**

## \*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

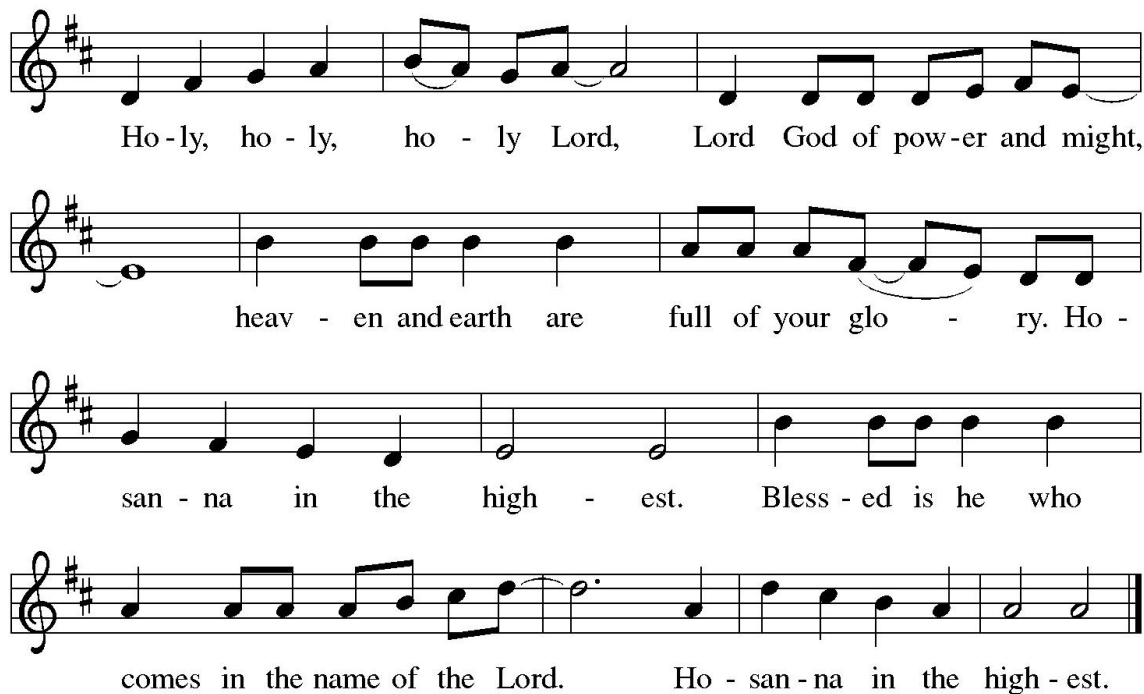
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

## \*PREFACE

### HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

ELW setting 6 | p 173



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow - er and might,  
heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. 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.

## \*EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

**Al-might-y Lord,**

we praise your shining light, your glowing grace.

From before the earth's foundation,

you loved us and promised us life forever.

Within the earth's deep sadness,

we laud your great and glorious might...

Do this for the remembrance of me.

With joy we tell our story:

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

[Assembly echoes:] **Al-le-lu-ia!**

We call for your Spirit on us and this meal.

Refresh our souls with this heavenly food,

the body and blood of your Son.  
Nourish us as branches of your tree,  
and enlighten us with your undying flame.  
We sing out to the Father, we ring out to the Son,  
we exult in the Spirit.  
Transport us in our yearning,  
and be for us the end and the beginning,  
our purest pleasure, our victorious crown,  
our never-ending love.  
And so we pray and praise: a-men, a-men, a-men, a-men.  
[Assembly echoes:] **A-men, a-men, a-men, a-men.**

## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

### LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those  
who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. Amen.**

## INVITATION TO THE TABLE

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*Holy Communion is served in the front of the sanctuary. Please exit the pew using the exterior aisle and circle around to the center aisle to pass by the baptismal font. As we make the journey to receive the sacrament of Holy Communion, we are reminded of the sacrament of Baptism. If you are unable to come to the front, please let one of the ushers know and we will make sure the sacrament is made available to you. No one is required to commune. Alternatively, you are welcome to accept the blessing of the meal in prayer.*

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HYMNS DURING COMMUNION

Joyful is the Dark

ACS 1096



1 Joy - ful is the dark, ho - ly, hid - den God,  
 2 Joy - ful is the dark, Spir - it of the deep,  
 3 Joy - ful is the dark, shad - owed sta - ble floor;  
 4 Joy - ful is the dark, cool - ness of the tomb,  
 5 Joy - ful is the dark, depth of love di - vine,



roll - ing cloud of night be - yond all nam - ing:  
 wing - ing wild - ly o'er the world's cre - a - tion,  
 an - gels flick - er, God on earth con - fess - ing,  
 wait - ing for the won - der of the morn - ing;  
 roar - ing, loom - ing thun - der - cloud of glo - ry,



maj - es - ty in dark - ness, en - er - gy of love,  
 silk - en sheen of mid - night plum - age black and bright,  
 as with ex - ul - ta - tion, Mar - y, giv - ing birth,  
 nev - er was that mid - night touched by dread and gloom:  
 ho - ly, haunt - ing beau - ty, liv - ing, lov - ing God.



Word - in - flesh, the mys - ter - y pro - claim - ing.  
 swoop - ing with the beau - ty of a ra - ven.  
 hails the in - fant cry of need and bless - ing.  
 dark - ness was the cra - dle of the dawn - ing.  
 Hal - le - lu - jah! Sing and tell the sto - ry!

Text: Brian Wren, b. 1936  
 Music: LINDNER, Carlton R. Young, b. 1926  
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## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God of ink black skies and starry nights,  
Like the Magi so many years ago,  
We are here, seeking you.

Step by step, we have wandered into this space<sup>1</sup>  
With the hope of feeling you in our midst.

And step by step, you have claimed us, loved us, and fed us.  
Today we have all drawn star words.

For some of us, these words are full of meaning, challenge, and invitation already.  
For others, these words are a blank canvas—inviting you into our lives.

So as a new year dawns, we pray that you would be in our dreams and in our waking.  
Allow us to use these star words as a tool to see you in our everyday life.

May they guide us, as the star guided the Magi.

May they illuminate your path, as light always does.

And in a year, may we find ourselves here, together again,

With a mouth full of praise for the ways in which you have been present to us.

With hearts full to the brim,

Together we pray,

**Amen.**

## BLESSING

The God of love, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, lavish you with grace, illumine your path, and increase your joy, today and always. **Amen.**

## ✠ SENDING ✠

### \*SENDING HYMN • Field of Stars Awash in Splendor



1 Field of stars a-wash in splen-dor, stars of light, for glo-ry made,  
2 Gath-ered light of God's own peo-ple, more than each a-lone could be,  
3 Christ, O Light sur-pass-ing bright-ness, Christ, the ris-ing Morn-ing Star,



with the light of Christ for-ev-er for the u-ni-verse ar-rayed:  
called to serve, be-loved and no-ble, splen-did in com-mu-ni-ty:  
light our days and shine out from us in-to shad-ed fields a-far.



not a-lone, your life's cre-a-tion, not a-lone, your dai-ly arc,  
man-y are the gifts of bless-ing, man-y are the wards of night,  
Let the saints sing joy in glo-ry, let God's beau-ty glo-rious rise,



but as one fair con-stel-la-tion shin-ing bright-ness in the dark.  
may each life in Christ a-bid-ing be a beam of ho-ly light.  
for the morn-ing stars in cho-rus shall fore-shad-ow par-a-dise.

Text: Susan Palo Cherwien

Music: NETTLETON, J. Wyeth, *Repository of Sacred Music, Part II*, 1813

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### \*DISMISSAL

One Go in peace. The Word of God dwells in you richly.  
Many **Thanks be to God.**

### POSTLUDE • Selections for Piano

Tyler Pyle

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#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS, SOURCES, AND PERMISSIONS

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SERVING TODAY

<b>PRESIDING MINISTER</b>	Pastor Grant Vanderford	<b>MUSICIAN</b>	Tyler Pyle
<b>ASSISTING MINISTER</b>	Lynn Tkachuk	<b>CHOR DIRECTOR</b>	Sam Sadlowsky
<b>LECTOR</b>	Sue Reinhart	<b>COMMUNION SERVERS</b>	Sandy Retzlaff
<b>SACRISTAN</b>	Sandy Retzlaff		Nancy Lund
<b>COUNCIL PERSON ON DUTY</b>	Marty Ohren	<b>CAMERA</b>	Kristin Ohren

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THIS WEEK AT  
BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH

✝ December 22-28, 2024 ✝

TODAY:	9:30AM 10:30AM	WORSHIP COFFEE FELLOWSHIP
MONDAY:	10:00AM 3:45PM	LECTIONARY BIBLE STUDY BAS CHAPEL
TUESDAY:	7:00 PM	EXECUTIVE TEAM MEETING
WEDNESDAY:	9:00 AM 1:30 PM 7:00 PM	QUILTING COMMUNICATION GROUP CHOIR REHEARSAL
FRIDAY	ALL DAY 9:00PM	OFFICE CLOSED NA MEETING