**BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH**

Rev. Molly Wills, Pastor | Jan Smith, Accompanist

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany | Sunday, February 2, 2025

ACS Holy Communion Setting 11

**SPIRIT ART**

**A meditative study of scripture through art.**

**Luke 4:21-30**

 

**GATHERING**

**The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.**

Meditation time Tis a Gift to Be Simple arr. by Michael Larkin

This little Light of Mine arr. by Mark Albrecht

Here I Am Lord arr. by John Carter

Welcome & Announcements

stewardship temple talk: Pastor, Music, Worship, and Choir

Confession, Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, our creator, our protector, our wellspring of life. **Amen.**

Trusting that God receives our words and the meditations of our hearts, let us confess our sin. Merciful God, **you speak blessing and compassion into the world. Forgive us for the ways we act with judgment, cruelty, or indifference. We ignore the needs of our neighbors; we resist your call to oppose injustice; we give in to scarcity and fear; we assume the worst about one another. Cleanse us from our faults** **and release us from their grasp. Show us your lovingkindness. Restore our hearts and repair your world, that we may live in Christ’s ways. Amen.**

God proclaims these words of assurance: “Do not fear, for I have redeemed you. I have called you by name. You are mine.” In + Christ, you are forgiven. In the Spirit, you are made free. Refreshed by the waters of mercy, live anew as beloved children of God. **Amen.**

**GATHERING HYMN** *God of Grace and God of Glory* (red hymnal #705)

Greeting (purple ACS p. 12)

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 (purple ACS p. 12)

Canticle of Praise (purple ACS p. 12)

Prayer of the Day

**Almighty and ever-living God, increase in us the gifts of faith, hope, and love; and that we may obtain what you promise, make us love what you command, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

**WORD**

**God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.**

FIRST Reading: Jeremiah 1:4-10

4 Now the word of the Lord came to me saying, 5 “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations.” 6 Then I said, “Ah, Lord God! Truly I do not know how to speak, for I am only a boy.” 7 But the Lord said to me, “Do not say, ‘I am only a boy, ’for you shall go to all to whom I send you, and you shall speak whatever I command you. 8 Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you, says the Lord.” 9 Then the Lord put out his hand and touched my mouth, and the Lord said to me, “Now I have put my words in your mouth. 10 See, today I appoint you over nations and over kingdoms, to pluck up and to pull down, to destroy and to overthrow, to build and to plant.”

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 71:1-6 (read responsively)

1 In you, O Lord, have I taken refuge; let me never be put to shame.
2 **In your righteousness, deliver me and set me free;** **incline your ear to me and save me.**
3 Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe; you are my crag and my stronghold.
4 **Deliver me, my God, from the hand of the wicked,** **from the clutches of the evildoer and the oppressor.**
5 For you are my hope, O Lord God, my confidence since I was young.
6 **I have been sustained by you ever since I was born; from my mother’s womb you have been my strength;** **my praise shall be always of you.**

SECOND Reading: 1 Corinthians 13:1-13

1 If I speak in the tongues of humans and of angels but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. 2 And if I have prophetic powers and understand all mysteries and all knowledge and if I have all faith so as to remove mountains but do not have love, I am nothing. 3 If I give away all my possessions and if I hand over my body so that I may boast but do not have love, I gain nothing. 4 Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant 5 or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable; it keeps no record of wrongs; 6 it does not rejoice in wrongdoing but rejoices in the truth. 7 It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.8 Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. 9 For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part, 10 but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. 11 When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. 12 For now we see only a reflection, as in a mirror, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. 13 And now faith, hope, and love remain, these three, and the greatest of these is love.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation (purple ACS p. 14)

Gospel: Luke 4:21-30

The holy gospel according to Luke. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

21 Then [Jesus] began to say to [all in the synagogue in Nazareth,] “Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.” 22 All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth. They said, “Is this not Joseph’s son?” 23 He said to them, “Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, ‘Doctor, cure yourself!’ And you will say, ‘Do here also in your hometown the things that we have heard you did at Capernaum.’ ” 24 And he said, “Truly I tell you, no prophet is accepted in his hometown. 25 But the truth is, there were many widows in Israel in the time of Elijah, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months and there was a severe famine over all the land, 26 yet Elijah was sent to none of them except to a widow at Zarephath in Sidon. 27 There were also many with a skin disease in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed except Naaman the Syrian.” 28 When they heard this, all in the synagogue were filled with rage. 29 They got up, drove him out of the town, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they might hurl him off the cliff. 30 But he passed through the midst of them and went on his way.

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**CHILDREN’S SERMON**

sermon

Hymn of the Day *O God, Who Gives Us Life* (purple hymnal #1086)

apostles’ Creed (purple ACS p. 17-18)

Prayers of Intercession God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

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

**MEAL**

**God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.**

offering song All That We Have to Give (insert)

OfferING Prayer

**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 (purple ACS p. 20)

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 (purple ACS p. 20)

Thanksgiving at the Table (purple ACS p. 21)

…with every breath. **We praise you, O God**…into the future. **We rejoice in you, O God**

**…**with us now. **We thank you, O God**…proclaim the mystery of faith: **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again**…in your church, without end. **Amen.**

Hymn The Lord’s prayer (green book #134)

Communion song (purple ACS p. 25)

hYMN during communion Although I Speak With Angel's Tongue (red hymnal #644)

Prayer after Communion

**SENDING**

**God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.**

Blessing

The Spirit of the triune God + bless you with joy, anoint you with compassion and send you in love. **Amen.**

Sending hymn *Go, My Children, with My Blessing* (red hymnal # 543)

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

Postlude Love Divine, All Loves Excelling arr. by Craig Curry

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**WELCOME TO BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH! WE’RE GLAD YOU’RE HERE!**

***If you are new to Bethel, here is some helpful worship information****: We use the ELW (red hymnal) and the supplement ACS (purple hymnal), which contain liturgy and hymns. Liturgy pages are at the front of each hymnal, with the page numbers at the bottom and in the bulletin as (red ELW p.) or (purple ACS p.) Hymn pages are in the back two-thirds of the hymnals, with the page numbers at the top and in the bulletin as (red hymnal #) or (purple hymnal #). The songs from the Green Book are in the bulletin as (green book #).*

***Hearing assist devices are available;*** *speak to an usher for assistance.*

**MISSION STATEMENT**

Vibrantly open to the Spirit, Bethel Lutheran Church seeks to serve God

 and its neighbors by joyfully living into the good news of Jesus Christ.

**FEBRUARY IS STEWARDSHIP MONTH**

**Church** is not an organization you join; it is a **family** where you **belong**,

a **home** where you are **loved**, and a **hospital** where you find **healing**.

**THIS WEEK AT BETHEL**

Today

* Sunday school and Confirmation class: after worship
* *The Chosen*: 10:15 am

Monday, February 3

* Bible study: 1:30 pm
* WELCA meeting: 6:30 pm

Wednesday, February 5

* Quilting: 1:00 pm-4:30 pm
* Choir practice: 6:30 pm

Sunday, February 9

* Worship: 9:00 am, Church Council Installation, Stewardship Temple Talk: Office Administrator and Trustee
* Sunday school and BLTs: after worship
* *The Chosen*: 10:15 am

**QUESTIONS OR REQUESTS?** Contact the church office at 320-395-2125 or bethellutheranlp@gmail.com. Call Pastor Molly Wills at 320-339-8169 or email pastor@lpbethel.org for emergency pastoral care needs.

**ADDRESS:** 77 Lincoln AVE N, Lester Prairie, MN 55354, (Mailing USPS: PO Box 207)

**WEBSITE**: [www.lpbethel.org](http://www.lpbethel.org)

**FACEBOOK:** www.facebook.com/lpbethel

**BULLETIN SUBMISSION DEADLINE:** Wednesdays at noon

**NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:** 25th of the month

**ONLINE GIVING:** scan the QR code

**TEXT GIVING:** To give, text dollar amount to 866-298-7547

**SIMPLY GIVING** offers convenience for you and much-needed consistency for Bethel! For more information, contact Stacy Meyer, Financial Secretary, at finsec@lpbethel.org.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS**

* **UPCOMING MILESTONE CLASSES:** *Ten Commandments for 4th graders*: TODAY, with a blessing during worship on February 9. *Stewardship for 6th graders*: February 9 with a blessing during worship on February 16. The classes will be held after worship.
* **GRANDPARENT or SPECIAL ADULT AND CHILD VALENTINE BREAKFAST:**

When: February 15 | Time: 9:00 am-Noon | Where: Bethel’s Fellowship Hall | Cost: FREE

All children ages 5 and older and a grandparent or special adult are welcome! *Children must come accompanied by a grandparent or special adult.* You and your grandchildren do not need to be a member of Bethel to participate. *Registration is required before the deadline-Monday, February 10.* To register, email jhallberg59@icloud or jks\_teach@yahoo.com. Contact Jean Hallberg at 507-430-2671 with questions.

* **BOXES OF SUNSHINE:** The BLTs will be putting together “Boxes of Sunshine” for the college students of Bethel on February 23rd. We will be collecting “yellow” items for approximately 6 students. If you would like to contribute, here are some of the items we are looking for: Juicy Fruit gum, lemonade packets, Velveeta Mac and Cheese cups, Slim Jims, small packages of Peanut M&M’s, yellow highlighters, chicken flavored Ramen Noodles, small packages of Fudge Stripe cookies, small bags of Lay’s Potato Chips, yellow Post-it Notes, boxes of Sour Patch Kids, and any other snacks or treats that have yellow packaging!
* **FAITH THAT OVERFLOWS 2025:** Registration for GLLM summer programs is open! By registering early, you will not only reserve your place, but you’ll save money too! The Early Bird Discount ends on February 13, 2025! Every registration received before then will receive $65 off each registered program (some restrictions apply.) GLLM scholarships are available for any program including youth camps, and retreat programs. Bethel also has scholarships available, contact Emily Koehler or Pete Hallberg if you are interested. Visit gllm.org for more information and register today! If you have questions, contact the office by phone at 320-796-2181 or email camp@gllm.org.
* **2025 CHURCH COUNCIL:** Council President: David Gohl, Council Secretary: Julie Hanson, Treasurer: Jill Duncan, Financial Secretary: Stacy Meyer, Finance Board: Mitch Overbye & Sara Jepsen, Education Board: Pete Hallberg & Katie Radtke, Trustee Board: Bryon Weisenburger & Jeff Hanson. The Council Installation is on Sunday, February 9, during the worship service. *Thank you to all who have volunteered to serve!*
* **CONTACT INFORMATION:** Please inform the church office of any changes to your contact information to ensure accuracy in the upcoming 2025 Congregational Directory.
* **CHURCH MAILBOXES:** Please note that your mailboxes may have moved!