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**BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH**

Rev. Molly Wills, Pastor | Jan Smith, Accompanist

Third Sunday after Epiphany | Sunday, January 26, 2024

ACS Holy Communion Setting 11

**SPIRIT ART**

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

**Luke 4:14-21**

**GATHERING**

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

Meditation time O, Morning Star, How Fair and Bright arr. by Kenneth T. Kosche

As With Gladness Men of Old arr. by Robert Hobby

Welcome & Announcements

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** *Arise, Your Light Has Come!* (red hymnal #314)

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

**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.**

**CHOIR ANTHEM** How Can I Keep On Singing arr. by Lloyd Larson

**WORD**

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

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

1 All the people [of Israel] gathered together into the square before the Water Gate. They told Ezra the scribe to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the Lord had given to Israel. 2 Accordingly, Ezra the priest 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 19 (read responsively)

1 The heavens declare the glory 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.**   
7 The teaching of the Lord is perfect and revives the soul; the testimony of the Lord is sure and gives wisdom to the simple.  
8 **The statutes of the Lord are just and rejoice the heart;** **the commandment of the Lord is clear and gives light to the eyes.**  
9 The fear of the Lord is clean and endures 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.**   
11 By them also is your servant 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.**

SECOND Reading: 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a

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

Gospel Acclamation (purple ACS p. 14)

**Help us, O Lord, to hear your word. Open our hearts to feel your word. Give us strength to live your word each day.**

Gospel: Luke 4:14-21

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

14 Then Jesus, in the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding region. 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 set free those who are oppressed,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.**

spiritual practice

Hymn of the Day *Christ, Be Our Light* (red hymnal #715)

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 Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing arr. by Patricia Sanders Cota (Chime Choir)

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.**

Lord’s prayer (purple ACS p. 24)

Communion song (purple ACS p. 25)

hYMN during communion One Bread, One Body (red hymnal #496)

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.**

BENEDICTION Go in the Grace of the Lord by James Barnard (Choir)

Sending hymn *The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve* (red hymnal #551)

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

Postlude Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee arr. by Michael Costello

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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.

**THIS WEEK AT BETHEL**

Today

* Sunday school: after worship
* Annual Congregational meeting & potluck: immediately after worship

Monday, January 27

* Bible study: 1:30 pm

Wednesday, January 29

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

Sunday, February 2 (Stewardship Month begins)

* Worship: 9:00 am, *Stewardship Temple Talk: pastor, music, worship, choir*
* Sunday school, Confirmation class, & Ten Commandments 4th grade: after worship
* *The Chosen*: 10:15 am

**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**.

*Coming in February will be Stewardship Month.*

**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)

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Description automatically generatedFACEBOOK:** 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**

* **BETHEL’S ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING TODAY:** The meeting will begin immediately following worship. A potluck meal will follow the meeting.
* **RACHEL KURTZ IN CONCERT** with the SW MN Synod youth band: Wed., January 29, Hutchinson Event Center, pizza will be served from 5:45 pm to 6:15 pm (RSVP by Jan. 27 to pastor@riverofhopehutchinson.org), and the concert will be from 6:30 pm to 7:45 pm. Admission is free, and donations are accepted (checks written to River of Hope).
* **UPCOMING MILESTONE CLASSES:** *Ten Commandments for 4th graders*: February 2 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](mailto: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](mailto:camp@gllm.org).
* **CREATIVE SOULS RETREAT, FEBRUARY 7-9, 2025**: Escape the cold and snow and enjoy a cozy weekend of creating! Crafters of all skills and projects are invited to a weekend of dedicated time to create and work on projects. No need to think about meals or dishes, because we have those covered. When you need a break, there is space for a walk, reading a book, or even enjoying a nap. Join us for a weekend filled with whatever your creative soul needs! Register before the deadline-Tuesday, January 28! Visit [gllm.org](http://gllm.org/) for more information and register today!