**BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH**

Rev. Molly Wills, Pastor | Jan Smith, Accompanist

Sixth Sunday after Epiphany | Sunday, February 16, 2025

ACS Holy Communion Setting 11

**SPIRIT ART**

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

**Luke 6:17-26**



**GATHERING**

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

Meditation time Will You Come and Follow Me arr. by Sylvia Oines

I Know That My Redeemer Lives with Canticle of Praise arr. by Sylvia Oines

Welcome & Announcements

stewardship temple talk: Education Board, Church Council President, Church Council

**GATHERING SONG** Come, Now Is the Time to Worship (green binder #105)

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.**

**SONG OF PRAISE** My Lighthouse (insert)

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.**

Prayer of the Day

**Living God, in Christ you make all things new. Transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace, and in the renewal of our lives make known your glory, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

**SONG OF PRAISE *Blessed Be Your Name* (green binder #104)**

**WORD**

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

FIRST Reading: Jeremiah 17:5-10

5 Thus says the Lord: Cursed are those who trust in mere mortals and make mere flesh their strength, whose hearts turn away from the Lord. 6 They shall be like a shrub in the desert and shall not see when relief comes. They shall live in the parched places of the wilderness, in an uninhabited salt land. 7 Blessed are those who trust in the Lor
whose trust is the Lord. 8 They shall be like a tree planted by water, sending out its roots by the stream. It shall not fear when heat comes, and its leaves shall stay green; in the year of drought it is not anxious, and it does not cease to bear fruit. 9 The heart is devious above all else; it is perverse—who can understand it? 10 I the Lord test the mind and search the heart, to give to all according to their ways, according to the fruit of their doings.

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

PSALM 1 (read responsively)

1 Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked, nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats of the scornful!

2 **Their delight is in the law of the Lord,** **and they meditate on God’s teaching day and night.**
3 They are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that do not wither; everything they do shall prosper.
4 **It is not so with the wicked;** **they are like chaff which the wind blows away.**
5 Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when judgment comes, nor the sinner in the council of the righteous.
6 **For the Lord knows the way of the righteous,** **but the way of the wicked shall be destroyed.**

SECOND Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:12-20

12 Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say there is no resurrection of the dead? 13 If there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised, 14 and if Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation is in vain and your faith is in vain. 15 We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified of God that he raised Christ—whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. 16 For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised. 17 If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile, and you are still in your sins. 18 Then those also who have died in Christ have perished. 19 If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied. 20 But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died.

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

Gospel Acclamation Open My Heart to Your Love (Verse 1) (insert)

Gospel: Luke 6:17-26

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

17 [Jesus] came down with [the twelve] and stood on a level place with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the coast of Tyre and Sidon.18 They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases, and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. 19 And everyone in the crowd was trying to touch him, for power came out from him and healed all of them. 20 Then he looked up at his disciples and said: “Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. 21 “Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled “Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh. 22 “Blessed are you when people hate you and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. 23 Rejoice on that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven, for that is how their ancestors treated the prophets. 24 “But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation. 25 “Woe to you who are full now, for you will be hungry. “Woe to you who are laughing now, for you will mourn and weep. 26 “Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is how their ancestors treated the false prophets.”

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

**SPIRITUAL PRACTICE**

Hymn of the Day Renew Me (green binder #77)

apostles’ Creed (purple ACS p. 17-18 or red ELW p. 105)

Prayers of the people 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 Open My Heart to Your Love (Verses 2-3) (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

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.**

Thanksgiving at the Table

Lord’s prayer (purple ACS p. 24)

COMMUNION

song during communion Come Now, You Blessed (purple hymnal #1059)

Prayer after Communion

**SENDING**

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

BENEDICTION SONG *Blessing*

**May God bless you and keep you. May God's face shine upon you. May God look upon you with favor and give you peace, and give you peace, and give you peace. Amen.**

Blessing

God of endings and beginnings, God in the darkness and the light, God, our hope for the journey, + bless and keep you now and forever. **Amen.**

Sending song My Life Is in You, Lord (green binder #75)

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

Postlude Alabare (I Will Praise) by Manuel Jose Alonso

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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 binder #).*

***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, February 16

* Sunday school, Confirmation class: after worship

Wednesday, February 19

* Bible study: 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
* Quilting: 1:00 p.m.-4:30 p.m.
* Choir practice: 6:30 p.m.
* Book club discussion: 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, February 23

* Worship: 9:00 am, Stewardship Temple Talk: WELCA, Community Garden, Cemetery
* Sunday school and BLTs (prepare Sunshine Boxes): after worship
* Bethel Breakfast: 10:30 a.m.

**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**

* **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!
* **ICE SKATING:** The BLTs are planning an ice skating outing on Sunday, March 9, from noon to 1:30 p.m. in Waconia. We will leave the church at 11:30 a.m. and expect to return about 2:00 p.m. Attendance is free for BLTs! A participation form is required, but if you attended the Big Stone event, you can use the same form. Please sign up in the narthex or send Terri Helland an email at terrihelland@gmail.com. This will be an outdoor rink, and skates will be available to rent there. Remember to dress warmly!
* **CONTACT INFORMATION:** Please inform the church office of any changes to your contact information to ensure accuracy in the upcoming 2025 Congregational Directory. Please sign up if you would like a hard copy of the directory.
* **LENT BEGINS ON ASH WEDNESDAY:** Join us for Ash Wednesday, March 5th worship service at 6:30 p.m. and mid-week Holden Evening Prayer at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesdays March 12-April 9. Meals will be served each week from 5:00 p.m.-6:15 p.m. *There is a Lenten meal sign-up sheet in the narthex for anyone who wants to take a turn to organize, prepare, and serve a meal for 35-45 people. Thrivent Action grants will cover the meal expenses. You can also sign up to bring bars or clean up. Diane Horsman if you have any questions. \*Watch for the Agape Meal (Maundy Thursday) soup sign-up sheet.*