

BETHANY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA

"You have a place here! Joyfully we profess our faith through God's unconditional love. Here and now God dwells in all of our lives, bears our sins on the cross, and forgives us all."

TODAY WE CELEBRATE THE FIRST SUNDAY IN EPIPHANY

9:00 am on Sunday, January 10, 2021

Holy Communion Worship, *Pastor Dave Johnson, presiding*



Our re-creation in baptism is an image of the Genesis creation, where the Spirit of God moved over the waters. Both Mark's gospel and the story in Acts make clear that it is the Spirit's movement that distinguishes Jesus' baptism from John's. The Spirit has come upon us as upon Jesus and the Ephesians, calling us God's beloved children and setting us on Jesus' mission to re-create the world in the image of God's vision of justice and peace.

ALL ARE WELCOME

The family of Bethany hopes that your worship experience is spiritually fulfilling and your day begins with our Lord's gifts of peace and joy.

As Christians of the Reformation tradition, we believe that the Sacrament of the Altar is the Real Presence of Christ's body and blood, instituted by Christ Himself as a sign of unity. All baptized and confessing believers are welcome to receive the sacrament of Holy Communion. For those who are worshipping online at home, communion kits may be picked up in the parking lot at Bethany on Saturdays between 1:00 and 2:00 p.m. and on Sundays between 8 and 8:30 a.m.

ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR SEASON OF EPIPHANY

Minister/Leaders speak regular print—Congregation speaks bold print

THE GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God

▼ **Prelude Reflections for Meditation**

▼ **Welcome and Greeting**

▼ **Prayers and Praises**

▲ **Invocation**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
 whose voice is upon the waters,
 whose mercy is poured out upon all people,
 whose goodness cascades over all creation.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin, trusting in the abundant grace of God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy God,

you search us and know us.

You are acquainted with all our ways.

**We confess that our hearts are burdened by sin—
 our own sins and the broken systems that bind us.**

We turn inward, failing to follow your outward way of love.

We distrust those who are not like us.

**We exploit the earth and its resources
 and fail to consider generations to come.**

Forgive us, gracious God,

for all we have done and left undone.

**Even before the words are on our tongues,
 you know them;**

receive them in your divine mercy.

Amen.

How vast is God's grace!
 Through the power and promise of † Christ Jesus,
 our sins are washed away
 and we are claimed as God's own beloved.
 Indeed, we are forgiven.
 In the wake of God's forgiveness,
 we are called to be the beloved community
 living out Christ's justice
 and the Spirit's reconciling peace.
Amen.

▲ **Prayer of the Day**

Holy God,
creator of light and giver of goodness, your voice moves over the waters.
Immerse us in your grace, and transform us by your Spirit,
that we may follow after your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

THE WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching and song

▼ **God's Word from the Scriptures (NRSV)**

A reading from Genesis 1:1-5

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters.

Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

▼ **God's Word from the Psalms**

Let us read responsively from Psalm 29

Ascribe to the Lord, O heavenly beings, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.
Ascribe to the Lord the glory of his name; worship the Lord in holy splendor.

The voice of the Lord is over the waters;
 the God of glory thunders, the Lord, over mighty waters.

The voice of the Lord is powerful; the voice of the Lord is full of majesty.

The voice of the Lord breaks the cedars; the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon.
He makes Lebanon skip like a calf, and Sirion like a young wild ox.

The voice of the Lord flashes forth flames of fire.
**The voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness;
 the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.**

The voice of the Lord causes the oaks to whirl, and strips the forest bare;
 and in his temple all say, "Glory!"

**The Lord sits enthroned over the flood;
 the Lord sits enthroned as king forever.**

May the Lord give strength to his people! May the Lord bless his people with peace!

▼ **God's Word from the Scriptures (NRSV)**

A reading from Acts 19:1-7

While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul passed through the interior regions and came to Ephesus, where he found some disciples. He said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?" They replied, "No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit." Then he said, "Into what then were you baptized?" They answered, "Into John's baptism." Paul said, "John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, in Jesus." On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied— altogether there were about twelve of them.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

▲ **God's Word from the Gospel (NRSV)**

The Holy Gospel according to Mark 1:4-11

Glory to you, O Lord.

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

▼ **Sermon—God's Word Applied to Life**

▼ **Hymn of the Day**

"Christ, Be Our Light," page 11

▲ **The Apostles' Creed**

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell.**

On the third day he rose again.

**He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again 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 Intercession**

Guided by Christ made known to the nations, let us offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all people in need.

A brief silence.

For the church throughout the world and its leaders, that guided by the Holy Spirit they proclaim the forgiveness of sins, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

For wilderness and water, wind and wild beasts, and all living things on earth, that God's goodness is revealed through creation and faithful stewards care for all God has made, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

For the nations of the world and their leaders, for laborers busy both day and night, and for peacemakers amid strife, that God inspire all people to use their strength wisely, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

For the sick and those who provide medical care, for the imprisoned and those who show them mercy, for the lonely and those who provide companionship, for all who seek healing including *the family of Lee Menghini; Jon and Belvae Tahlier; the family of Donna Anderson, Jim Trudeau, Lorrie Walters, Ruby Burrus, Arlene, Pam Nelson, Joy, Montee, Tim, Barbara, and Ava Johnson Mitchell. We pray for those who are having difficulties with being shut in for months because of COVID -19; those who received prayer shawls and are in need of comfort; those who requested special prayers through our website; and others we now lift up before you.*

A brief silence.

May they know God's compassion, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

For the congregation gathered here, for students returning to school,
for those seeking renewal in their daily work,
that all the beloved of God experience grace and peace, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

In thanksgiving for the faithful departed who now rest from their labors,
that their witness inspire us in our baptismal vocations, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

Merciful God, hear the prayers of your people, spoken or silent,
for the sake of the one who dwells among us, your Son, Jesus Christ our Savior.

Amen.

▲ **Sharing of the Peace**

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

Greet each other with love and the sign of Christ's peace.

THE MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ

▲ **Offering and Presentation of the Gifts**

▲ **The Great Thanksgiving and Words of Institution**

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread,
and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

▲ **The Lord's Prayer**

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;
 and forgive us our trespasses,
 as we forgive those who trespass against us;
 and 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 Word is revealed in a manger, in simple bread and wine.
 Come meet Christ in this meal.

Distribution of Communion

▲ **Post Communion Blessing**

The body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ
 strengthen you and keep you in His grace until He comes again.
 In the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

▲ **Post Communion Prayer**

Christ Jesus,
 at this table we have feasted on your very life
 and are strengthened for our journey.
 Send us forth from this banquet
 nourished in body and in spirit
 to proclaim your good news
 and serve others in your name.
 Amen.

▲ **Hymn of Sending**

“We are Baptized in Christ Jesus,” Page 12

▲ **Blessing**

The Lord bless you and keep you.
 The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
 The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.
 In the name of the Father and the † Son and the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Announcements

Anyone is welcome to announce upcoming events or share thoughts of interest.

Dismissal

Go in peace. Be the Light of Christ.
Thanks be to God.

***Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God by
 The Bethany Ladies Guild and
 In Memory of mother Lorraine Ehlert by Kathy Groeneveld***

Bethany Evangelical Lutheran Church

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Office Hours: 9:00 a.m.—12 noon, Monday and Thursday, and by appointment.
 Tuesday and Wednesday: by appointment.

Lori Ward, Secretary

Announcements and Upcoming Events

Bethany's Annual Meeting will be held on the internet on Saturday, January 30 at 4:00 p.m. via Zoom. A link to the meeting will be sent to everyone in the congregation who has an e-mail address. **Committee reports are due in the church office no later than January 14** so that the annual report can be created.

Bethany Needs YOU! Through term limits and resignations, Bethany Council will be in need of four new members to serve beginning in January. Please prayerfully consider serving Bethany as a Council member. If you have ideas for our church, would like to have input on church matters, or if you are just interested in serving Bethany as a Council member, please contact Pastor Dave or any current Council member ASAP. Current members are Erv Sparapani, Mike Randall, Ray Anderson, Vicki Underhill and Sally Borga. As we look to the future and what that may look like for our church, we would like to do so with a full Council. Again, please consider helping lead Bethany into the future.

Bethany is offering an online Women's Bible Study via Zoom, meeting every Wednesday at 10:00 a.m. Call or e-mail the church office more information.

Two weekly events at Bethany are open to members and friends: **Community Coffee** at 9 a.m. every Tuesday and **The Men's Breakfast and Bible Study** at 7 a.m. every Thursday.

Please contact the church office if you have additions or changes to our prayer list at 906-563-8472 or bethanyoffice@norwaymi.com.

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Christ, Be Our Light



1 Long - ing for light, we wait in dark - ness. Long - ing for
 2 Long - ing for peace, our world is trou - bled. Long - ing for
 3 Long - ing for food, man - y are hun - gry. Long - ing for
 4 Long - ing for shel - ter, man - y are home - less. Long - ing for
 5 Man - y the gifts, man - y the peo - ple, man - y the



truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,
 hope, man - y de - spair. Your word a - lone
 wa - ter, man - y still thirst. Make us your bread,
 warmth, man - y are cold. Make us your build - ing,
 hearts that yearn to be - long. Let us be ser - vants



your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see.
 has pow'r to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice.
 bro - ken for oth - ers, shared un - til all are fed.
 shel - ter - ing oth - ers, walls made of liv - ing stone.
 to one an - oth - er, signs of your king - dom come.



Refrain
 Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the



dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your



church gath - ered to - day.

Text: Bernadette Farrell, b. 1957

Music: CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT, Bernadette Farrell

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We Are Baptized in Christ Jesus



1 We are bap-tized in Christ Je - sus, we are bap - tized in his death;
 2 In the wa - ter and the wit - ness, in the break - ing of the bread,
 3 Glo - ry be to God the Fa - ther, glo - ry be to Christ the Son,



that as Christ is raised vic - to - rious, we might live a brand new life.
 in the wait - ing arms of Je - sus who is ris - en from the dead,
 glo - ry to the Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er three and ev - er one;



And if we have been u - nit - ed in a dread - ful death like his,
 God has made a new be - gin - ning from the ash - es of our past;
 as it was in the be - gin - ning, glo - ry now re - sounds a - gain



we will all be re - u - nit - ed, for he lives.
 in the los - ing and the win - ning we hold fast.
 in a song that has no end - ing. . . . A - men.

Text: John C. Ylvisaker, b. 1937

Music: OUIMETTE, John C. Ylvisaker

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