

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."*

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

9:00 am Sunday, January 19, 2025

Pastor Dave Johnson

TODAY'S REFLECTION



The Sundays after Epiphany continue to celebrate the revelation of God's glory to us as it was made known to the magi and to those on Jordan's banks at Jesus' baptism—today using wedding imagery. Our God rejoices over God's people as those being married rejoice over one another. By the power of the Spirit there are gifts galore for everyone. In Christ Jesus the best wine is saved for last. Taste and see.

All baptized and confessing believers are welcome to receive Holy Communion.

*We hope that your worship experience is spiritually fulfilling
and your day begins with our Lord's gifts of peace and joy*

▼ **Prelude Reflections for Meditation**

▼ **Welcome Greeting—Prayers and Praises**

▲ **Opening Hymn**

"What A Friend We Have In Jesus", page 9

▲ **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.

Silence for Reflection

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.**

▲ Prayer of the Day

Lord God, source of every blessing,

you showed forth your glory and led many to faith by the works of your Son, who brought gladness and salvation to his people. Transform us by the Spirit of his love, that we may find our life together in him, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

THE WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching and song

▼ God's Word from the Scriptures (NRSV)

The First Reading is from Isaiah 62:1-5

For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her vindication shines out like the dawn, and her salvation like a burning torch. The nations shall see your vindication, and all the kings your glory; and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the Lord will give. You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God. You shall no more be termed Forsaken, and your land shall no more be termed Desolate; but you shall be called My Delight Is in Her, and your land Married; for the Lord delights in you, and your land shall be married. For as a young man marries a young woman, so shall your builder marry you, and as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, so shall your God rejoice over you.

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

▼ God's Word from the Psalms (NRSV)

Psalm 36:5-10

Your steadfast love, O Lord, extends to the heavens, your faithfulness to the clouds. **Your righteousness is like the mighty mountains, your judgements are like the great deep; you save humans and animals alike, O Lord.**

How precious is your steadfast love, O God! All people may take refuge in the shadow of your wings.

They feast on the abundance of your house, and you give them drink from the river of your delights.

For with you is the fountain of life; in your light we see light.

O continue your steadfast love to those who know you, and your salvation to the upright of heart!

▼ God's Word from the Scriptures (NRSV)

The Second Reading is from 1 Corinthians 12:1-11

Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed. You know that when you were pagans, you were enticed and led astray to idols that could not speak. Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking by the Spirit of God ever

says 'Let Jesus be cursed!' and no one can say 'Jesus is Lord' except by the Holy Spirit. Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

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

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

The Holy Gospel according to John 2:1-11

Glory to you, O Lord.

On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, 'They have no wine.' And Jesus said to her, 'Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come.' His mother said to the servants, 'Do whatever he tells you.' Now standing there were six stone water-jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to them, 'Fill the jars with water.' And they filled them up to the brim. He said to them, 'Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward.' So they took it. When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom and said to him, 'Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now.' Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

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

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

▼ **Hymn of the Day**

"How Deep The Father's Love For Us", page 10

▲ **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 the Church**

Let us draw near to the Throne of Grace, offering prayer and supplication on behalf of the Church, the world, and one another.

A brief silence

Holy God, thank you for loving your people so passionately that the best human analogy is that of a wedding, and of the love between a bride and bridegroom. Forgive us when we can't properly hear or understand these words! Thank you for the healing and forgiveness that you bestow in Jesus. Thank you for your Holy Spirit, who constantly forms us into Christ's image and his bride. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Adorn your Church with faithful teaching and preaching, and with deeds of mercy and reconciliation. Grant that its worship befits the adoration and delight of a bride for her beloved. Overshadow your persecuted servants with your Holy Spirit. Let them bless the Name of Jesus their Lord. Let their tormentors repent of cursing his Name. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Later this week as we commemorate the sanctity of life, we pray for mercy on women who seek, or who have endured, an abortion – and upon the father of their unborn child. Help them understand your love for them, and their unborn child. Where forgiveness is needed, grant it freely. Help them to turn to you. Give them the strength to choose life, not death, if they are pregnant. Give them the grace to forgive themselves and each other, and to be healed in body and soul, if they have already had an abortion. We also pray for those who struggle to have children and cannot; for those who have lost a child they loved; and for those who struggle to love their children when that is difficult. Have mercy on them all. They face terrible demons of grief, shame, regret, fear, and anger. Help us to walk with them through their dark valleys. Help us to share our confidence that you will lead them safely through. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord, for many of our congregations, the phrase “we are family” is literally true! Bind us together with the cords of your love, as well as kinship ties and traditions. Make this congregation a place where many are adopted into your family, and where the bounties of your blessings are lovingly shared with all. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

In the States, tomorrow is Inauguration Day and also the commemoration of Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. Let his vision for a healed, just, and united people guide the new President and his cabinet. Let your steadfast love and righteousness dwell in the hearts of all our elected and appointed leaders; in the minds of all who take counsel for the nations; and in the actions of everyone in positions of authority in our society. Give us grace to share the gifts and skills you have so generously bestowed – especially with the poor and lonely, the suffering and the sorrowing. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We plead on behalf of everyone who struggles with pain, grief, addiction, fear, shame, doubt, or despair. *We lift before you the needs of those we name before you now (either in silence or out loud).* Give them courage to cling to you in times of trouble. Give to those who care for them a double portion of your compassionate and loving Spirit. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Thank you, heavenly Father, for all our beloved dead who clung faithfully to your promise of salvation. Dry our tears and ease our sorrow. Give us grace to live in faith toward you, and with fervent love for one another. Then, by your great mercy, gather us, with all whom your dear Son is pleased to call his bride and his beloved, at the table of that marriage feast which has no end. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Graciously hear, and generously answer our prayers, dear Father, in accordance with your wisdom and mercy for us. We pray in the name of your dear Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

▲ **Sharing of the Peace**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Greet each other with a sign of Christ's peace.

THE MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ

▼ **Offering and Presentation of the Gifts**

January—March Mission Designation ~ **World Hunger**

▼ **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.**

▼ **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 and Distribution of Communion**

The joy of the Lord is our strength.
 Come, eat this meal of gladness.

Let Us Break Bread Together



1 Let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees;
 2 Let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees;
 3 Let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees;



let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees.
 let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees.
 let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees.



When I fall on my knees, with my face to the ris - ing



sun, O Lord, have mer - cy on me.

▼ **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**

Nourishing God,
**at this table you have refreshed us
with holy gifts of food and drink.
Strengthen us for service,
and send us out to embody your good news
of liberation and healing for the sake of the world.
In the name of Christ we pray,
Amen.**

THE SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world

▼ **Closing Hymn**

“Jesus Paid It All”, page 11

▼ **Announcements**

Anyone is welcome to make announcements at this time.

▲ **Blessing and Dismissal**

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.

Go in peace. Live in hope.
Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

What a Friend We Have in Jesus



1 What a friend we have in Je - sus, all our sins and griefs to bear!
 2 Have we tri - als and temp - ta - tions? Is there trou - ble an - y - where?
 3 Are we weak and heav - y - lad - en, cum - bered with a load of care?



What a priv - i - lege to car - ry ev - 'ry - thing to God in prayer!
 We should nev - er be dis - cour - aged—take it to the Lord in prayer.
 Pre - cious Sav - ior, still our ref - uge—take it to the Lord in prayer.



Oh, what peace we of - ten for - feit; oh, what need - less pain we bear—
 Can we find a friend so faith - ful who will all our sor - row share?
 Do your friends de - spise, for - sake you? Take it to the Lord in prayer.



all be - cause we do not car - ry ev - 'ry - thing to God in prayer!
 Je - sus knows our ev - 'ry weak - ness—take it to the Lord in prayer.
 In his arms he'll take and shield you; you will find a so - lace there.

Text: Joseph Scriven, 1820–1886

Music: CONVERSE, Charles C. Converse, 1832–1918

How Deep The Father's Love For Us

Words and Music by
Stuart Townend

$\text{♩} = 54$

VERSE

D Em D/F# G D/F# D/A A



1. How deep the Fa-ther's love for us, how vast be-yond all meas - ure that
 (2. Be) - hold the Man up - on a cross, my sin up - on His shoul - ders. A -
 (3. I) will not boast in an - y-thing: No gifts, no pow'r, no wis - dom. But

3 D Em D/F# G D/F# A D



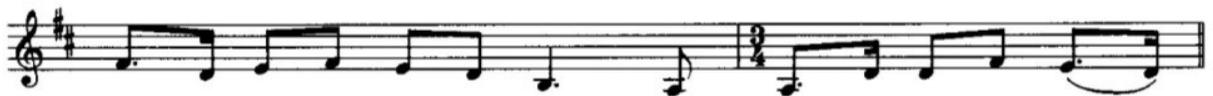
He should give His on - ly Son to make a wretch His treas - ure. How
 -shamed, I hear my mock - ing voice call out a-mong the scof - fers. It
 I will boast in Je - sus Christ: His death and res - ur - rec - tion. Why

5 Em D/F# G D/F# Bm A



great the pain of sear - ing loss. The Fa - ther turns His face a - way as
 was my sin that held _ Him there un - til it was ac - com - plished; His
 should I gain from His _ re - ward? I can - not give an an - swer. But

7 D Em D/F# G D/F# A



wounds which mar the Cho - sen One bring man - y sons to glo -
 dy - ing breath has brought me life. I know that it is fin -
 this I know with all my heart: His wounds have paid my ran -

TURNAROUND

9 D G/B D/A D G² D.C. al Fine



-ry.
 -ished.
 -som.

2. Be -
 3. I

Jesus Paid It All

James Rowe

John T. Grape

Eb

1. I _____ hear the Sa - vior say, "Thy
 2. Lord, — now in - deed I find Thy
 3. For _____ noth - ing good have I Where -
 4. And _____ when, be - fore the throne, I

3 Bb Eb

stength in - deed is small, Child of weak - ness, watch and
 pow'r and Thine a - lone, Can — change the le - per's
 by Thy grace to claim; I'll — wash my gar - ments
 stand in Him com - plete, "Je - sus died my soul to

6 Eb/G Eb/Bb Bb7 Eb

pray, Find in Me thine all in all."
 spots And — melt the heart of stone.
 white In the blood of Cal - vry's Lamb.
 save," My — lips shall still re - peat.

9 Eb Bb Eb

Je - sus paid it all, All to Him I owe; Sin had left a

14 Ab A° Eb/Bb Bb7 Eb

crim - son stain, He washed it white as snow.

Bethany Evangelical Lutheran Church

130 O'Dill Drive, Norway, Michigan 49870 www.norwaybethany.org
OFFICE PHONE 906-563-8472 EMAIL bethanyoffice@norwaymi.com

Pastor Dave Johnson

PHONE/TEXT 651-769-3365 EMAIL ftp565@yahoo.com

ONLINE BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH OFFERING DONATIONS

are available following these easy steps from our secure Website or Facebook Page

norwaybethany.org: Click the donate button on the upper right side of the page to directly access Bethany's secure PayPal Account.

facebook.com/BethanyLutheranChurchElca: Click the "Shop Now" button on the upper right corner to directly access Bethany's secure PayPal Account.

MORE SPECIAL WAYS TO GIVE THROUGH YOUR TIME AND TALENTS

Sunday Worship Lectors and Communion Assistants are needed

Service Assistant to advance projected bulletin slides

Maintenance chores around the facility

Christian Education Volunteers

BETHANY WEEKLY EVENTS CALENDAR

Sunday	9:00 am Worship, in the Great Room and Facebook Live-Stream/Video
Tuesday	9:00 am Community Coffee in Great Room 9:00 am Cover Girls in Classroom
Wednesday	10:00 am Women's Bible Study via ZOOM
Thursday	7:00 am Men's Breakfast and Bible Study in Great Room 10:00 am Women's Bible Study in Conference Room

Copyright Permissions:

- From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2005 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #46211
- OneLicense.net License #A-722709
- CCLI—Christian Copyright Licensing #11270064
- New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.