

Morning Worship

Bethesda Lutheran Church - 8:30 AM

Immanuel Lutheran Church - 11:00 AM

January 12, 2025

Epiphany of Our Lord

Before we begin our worship this morning, I acknowledge that Bethesda Lutheran Church/Immanuel Lutheran Church sits on the traditional grounds of the Anishinaabe People, and we honor their elders both past and present. Their presence is imbued in the lands and waters surrounding us. We nurture our relationships with our indigenous neighbors, and the shared responsibilities to their homeland where we all reside today.

HOLY COMMUNION

Prelude

GATHERING

Confession and Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
whose steadfast love is everlasting.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God
and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God-with-us,
**we confess that we have turned away
those seeking shelter,
claiming there is no room when we have plenty.
We have made power and wealth our idols,**

while you show us true glory: a baby in a manger.

**We have overlooked the shepherds,
expecting good news in prettier packaging.**

**Too often, we have valued violence
instead of your peace.**

Turn us from our ways to your ways.

Grant us the grace to begin again.

**Free us from all that keeps us bound,
and forgive our sin,
through Jesus Christ, who gives himself for us.**

Amen.

Hear the good news and rejoice!

You are God's chosen ones,
holy and beloved,

✠ forgiven in Christ,
and freed to respond in joy.

Amen.

Gathering Hymn: ELW #665 "Rise, Shine, You People!"

Greeting

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.

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord have mercy.

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of
God and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord have mercy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,
let us pray to the Lord.

Lord have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord. **Amen**

Hymn of Praise ELW #301 *“Bright and Glorious Is the Sky” vv. 1 & 5*

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. **Almighty and ever-living God, you revealed the incarnation of your Son by the brilliant shining of a star. Shine the light of your justice always in our hearts and over all lands, and accept our lives as the treasure we offer in your praise and for your service, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.**

Amen.

First Reading: Isaiah 60:1-6

Jerusalem is assured that nations will make a pilgrimage to her because the light of God’s presence is in her midst. The bountiful food of the sea and the profits of international trade will come streaming to Jerusalem and thereby declare God’s praise.

¹ Arise, shine; for your light has come,
and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

² For darkness shall cover the earth,
and thick darkness the peoples;
but the Lord will arise upon you,
and his glory will appear over you.

³ Nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

⁴ Lift up your eyes and look around;
they all gather together, they come to you;
your sons shall come from far away,
and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses’ arms.

⁵ Then you shall see and be radiant;

your heart shall thrill and rejoice,
because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you,
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.

⁶ A multitude of camels shall cover you,
the young camels of Midian and Ephah;
all those from Sheba shall come.

They shall bring gold and frankincense,
and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14

Refrain: All kings shall bow down before him. (Ps. 72:11)

¹ Give the king your jus- | tice, O God,
and your righteousness to | the king's son;

² **that he may rule your | people righteously
and the | poor with justice;**

³ that the mountains may bring prosperity | to the people,
and the | hills, in righteousness.

⁴ **Let him defend the needy a- | mong the people,
rescue the poor, and crush | the oppressor. R**

⁵ May he live as long as the sun and | moon endure,
from one generation | to another.

⁶ **Let him come down like rain upon | the mown field,
like showers that wa- | ter the earth.**

⁷ In his time may the | righteous flourish;
and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall | be no
more.

¹⁰ **May the kings of Tarshish and of the | isles pay tribute,
and the kings of Sheba and Seba | offer gifts. R**

¹¹ May all kings bow | down before him,
and all the nations | do him service.

¹² **For the king delivers the poor who cry out | in distress,
the oppressed, and those who | have no helper.**

¹³ He has compassion on the low- | ly and poor,
and preserves the lives | of the needy.

**¹⁴ From oppression and violence he re-¹ deems their lives,
and precious is their blood¹ in his sight. R**

Second Reading: Ephesians 3:1-12

What had been hidden from previous generations is now made known through the gospel ministry of Paul and others. In Christ both Jews and Gentiles participate in the richness of God's promised salvation.

¹ This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles—² for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you, ³ and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, ⁴ a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. ⁵ In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: ⁶ that is, the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

⁷ Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given me by the working of his power. ⁸ Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, ⁹ and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; ¹⁰ so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. ¹¹ This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, ¹² in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

The assembly stands to welcome the Gospel.

Gospel Acclamation

Thy word

Refrain

F C⁷ F B \flat C⁷ F B \flat F

Thy word is a lamp un-to my feet and a light un-to my path.

C Gm Dm Am

1 When I feel a - fraid, think I've lost my way,
2 I will not for - get your love for me, and yet my

B \flat C B \flat /F F C Gm

still you're there right be - side me, and noth - ing will I fear as
heart for - ev - er is wan - der - ing. Je - sus, be my guide and

Refrain

Dm Am B \flat C Dm D A/C \sharp C⁷ Csus C⁷

long as you are near. Please be near me to the end.
hold me to your side, and I will love you to the end.

Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 2nd chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

God's promise shines bright in the night as magi follow a star to honor a new king. Strangers from a faraway land, they welcome the long-awaited messiah of Israel.

¹ In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ² asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." ³ When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴ and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵ They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

⁶ 'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel.' "

⁷ Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸ Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." ⁹ When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹ On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹² And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you O Christ.

Sermon: Pastor Connie Monson

Hymn of the Day: ELW #739 “Touch the Earth Lightly”

Affirmation of Faith

We believe in God the Creator, infinite in wisdom, power, and love, whose mercy is over all living things, and whose will is directed to every good.

We believe in Jesus Christ, Child of God and Child of humanity, the gift of the Father's unfailing grace, the ground of our hope, and the promise of our deliverance from sin and death.

We believe in the Holy Spirit as the divine presence in our lives, who holds us and guides us in the truth of Christ, and in whom we find strength and help in time of need.

We believe that this faith can manifest itself in the service of love as set forth by the example of Jesus, to the end that the kingdom of God may come upon the earth.

Prayers of Intercession

Filled with good news of great joy, let us offer our prayers for the church, the earth, and all people.

A brief silence.

Your glory fills the earth. Bless the work of all who engage in dialogue with people of other traditions and faiths (*local interreligious organizations may be named*). Bridge our differences with a shared mission of revealing your boundless love to the world. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Restore the glory of creation. Send rain to water-parched lands. Revive ecosystems and habitats threatened by a changing climate, and protect the peoples and creatures who live in them. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Give the rulers your justice and reveal your righteousness to those who govern. Frustrate the plans of tyrants and oppressors. Encourage the work of community organizers and activists who speak out against injustice (*local organizations may be named*). God of grace,
receive our prayer.

Help those who have no helper. Draw near to those who have no one to advocate for them or those who feel forgotten. Deliver those who call to you (*especially*). Precious are they in your sight. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

Liberate this congregation from a yearning for the past that forgets the future. Fuel in us a passion for discovery. Give us the boldness to dream and to imagine our ministries in new and different ways. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

Lord, you know the need for healing, comfort, help or resolution for those we name before you today: Myrna & Richard Northrop, Kermit Delmain, Ed DePerry, Lorayne Reedy, Lois Osterberg, Courtney Byerhof, Bill Bodner, Chuck & Marcia Perry, Sharon Johnson, Colleen Nozal, Chick Anderson, Kelli Ann Clapero, Rhiannon Tourdot, Holly Tourdot, Bennett Anderson, Jennifer Schlack, John Frederick, Casey French, Mary Thomas, Don Hyde, Valerie Brockmann, and Donnie Anderson. We give you thanks for all who modeled lives of loving service. Lead us in your grace until, with all your saints, we enter the fullness of your glory. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

We give thanks for (*names of local saints and all*) your holy ones who now rest in your radiant glory. Make us, with them, sharers in the boundless riches of Christ, our hope and promise. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

We commend these prayers to you, O God, trusting your grace made known to all, through the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Peace

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

Offering Prayer

Let us pray. **God of heaven and earth,
from the beginning, you have called forth life,
in which you take delight.**
The trees, the fields, and the seas sing for joy.
**Bless now these gifts, received from your bounty,
that we may join the chorus of creation
to tell of your salvation from day to day.**
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.**
It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ.
In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh
you have opened the eyes of faith
to a new and radiant vision of your glory,
that, beholding the God made visible,
we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see.
And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and



might, heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.



Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who



comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the



high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Lord's Prayer

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

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.

Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.

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

A child has been born for us, a Son given to us.
Come, receive the gift of Jesus.

The body of Christ, given for you.
The blood of Christ, shed for you.

The body and the blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Prayer after Communion

Merciful God,
we thank you for Jesus, who is our heavenly food.
Strengthened by this goodness,
send us forth to announce your peace,
comfort the afflicted,
and share the good news of great joy.
Amen.

Communion Hymn ELW #310 *“Songs of Thankfulness and Praise”*

Announcements:

Sunday	AA 7 pm at Immanuel;
Monday	South Shore Quilters 9 am; Book Study on Zoom 1 pm
Tuesday	Brunch Bunch 10 am at Bethesda; Bible Study Immanuel and Zoom 1 pm; Cribbage 1 pm at Bethesda; Karen Traut’s birthday
Wednesday	South Shore Quilters 9 am; Midday Prayer 12 pm at Bayfield Presbyterian; Greta Thiel’s birthday
Thursday	Immanuel Painters 10 am; Grace Bergeman’s birthday
Friday	ROMEO 8 am; Knit Wits 1 pm

Blessing

The God of love,
Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,
lavish you with grace,
illumine your path,
and increase your joy,
today and always.

Amen.

Sending Hymn ELW #866 *“We Are Marching in the Light”*

Dismissal

Go in peace. The Word of God dwells in you richly. **Thanks be to God.**

Reconciling in Christ Statement

*There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free,
there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.*

Galatians 3:28

We welcome YOU to Bethesda and Immanuel to participate fully in our congregational life. You who may have experienced exclusion, injustice or racial inequity; You who are young, old, rich, poor; You of all abilities; You from all nations and ethnic backgrounds; You of all sexual orientations, gender identities or gender expression.

We are committed to racial equity, economic equity, gender equity, sexual equity. We are committed to learn, celebrate, advocate and welcome everyone through a series of forums and educational opportunities. May we grow in acceptance and become a voice for inclusion, equity and justice.

No matter where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.