



**Sunday, January 8, 2023**  
**Baptism of Our Lord**  
**Bethany Lutheran Church (ELCA)**

## PRELUDE AND LIGHTING OF CANDLES

### RINGING OF BELL

### WELCOME

*The priesthood of all believers is seated.*

## THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

In the name of the Father,

and of the ✠ Son,

and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,  
we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness.  
Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

We give you thanks, O God,  
for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters  
and by your Word you created the world,  
calling forth life in which you took delight.

Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family.  
Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom.  
At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit.  
By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons,  
making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life,  
and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ.  
Shower us with your Spirit,  
and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.

To you be given honor and praise  
through Jesus Christ our Lord  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## HYMN *Shall We Gather at the River* (ELW 423)



- 1 Shall we gath - er at the riv - er, where bright an - gel feet have trod,
- 2 On the mar - gin of the riv - er, wash - ing up its sil - ver spray,
- 3 Ere we reach the shin - ing riv - er, lay we ev - 'ry bur - den down;
- 4 Soon we'll reach the shin - ing riv - er, soon our pil - grim - age will cease;



with its crys - tal tide for - ev - er flow - ing by the throne of God?  
we will walk and wor - ship ev - er, all the hap - py gold - en day.  
grace our spir - its will de - liv - er, and pro - vide a robe and crown.  
soon our hap - py hearts will quiv - er with the mel - o - dy of peace.



Yes, we'll gath - er at the riv - er, the beau - ti - ful, the beau - ti - ful riv - er;



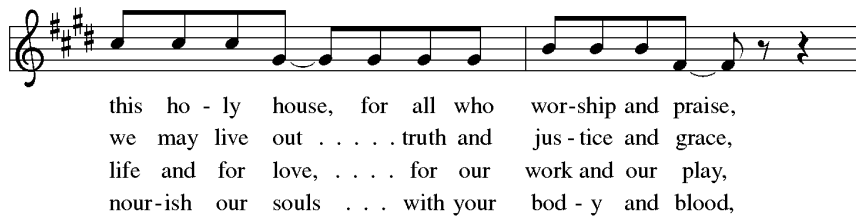
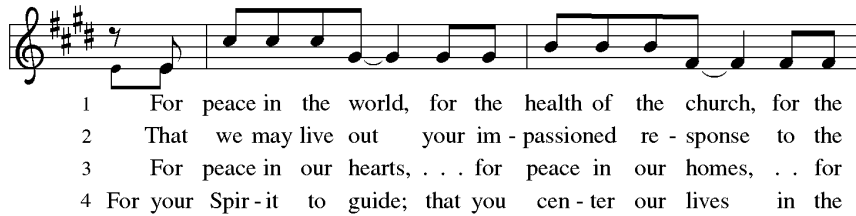
gath - er with the saints at the riv - er that flows by the throne of God.

## **GREETING** (ELW p.184)

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.**

**KRYIE** (ELW p.184) See next page.



## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray.

O God our Father, at the baptism of Jesus you proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit. Make all who are baptized into Christ faithful to their calling to be your daughters and sons, and empower us all with your Spirit, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

*The priesthood of believers is seated.*

### **WORD**

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

## **FIRST READING: Isaiah 42:1-9**

*God's servant is endowed with God's spirit in order to bring justice to the nations. The servant will not exercise authority boisterously or with violence, nor will weariness ever prevent the fulfilling of the servant's task. God's old promises have been fulfilled; the servant's new assignment is to bring light to the nations.*

A reading from Isaiah.

<sup>1</sup>Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations. <sup>2</sup>He will not cry or lift up his voice or make it heard in the street; <sup>3</sup>a bruised reed he will not break, and a dimly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice. <sup>4</sup>He will not grow faint or be crushed until he has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands wait for his teaching.

<sup>5</sup>Thus says God, the LORD, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people upon it and spirit to those who walk in it: <sup>6</sup>I am the LORD, I have called you in righteousness, I have taken you by the hand and kept you; I have given you as a covenant to the people, a light to the nations, <sup>7</sup>to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness.

<sup>8</sup>I am the LORD, that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to idols. <sup>9</sup>See, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare; before they spring forth, I tell you of them.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **PSALM 29**

*Psalm 29 is a hymn of praise.*

<sup>1</sup>Ascribe to the LORD, you gods,  
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

<sup>2</sup>**Ascribe to the LORD the glory due God's name;  
worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.**

<sup>3</sup>The voice of the LORD is upon the waters;  
the God of glory thunders; the LORD is upon the mighty waters.

<sup>4</sup>**The voice of the LORD is a powerful voice;  
the voice of the LORD is a voice of splendor.**

<sup>5</sup>The voice of the LORD breaks the cedar trees;  
the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon;

<sup>6</sup>**the LORD makes Lebanon skip like a calf,  
and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.**

<sup>7</sup>The voice of the LORD  
bursts forth in lightning flashes.

<sup>8</sup>**The voice of the LORD<sup>1</sup> shakes the wilderness;  
the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.**

<sup>9</sup>The voice of the LORD makes the oak trees writhe and strips the forests bare.  
And in the temple of the LORD all are crying, "Glory!"

<sup>10</sup>**The LORD sits enthroned above the flood;  
the LORD sits enthroned as king forevermore.**

<sup>11</sup>O LORD, give strength to your people;  
give them, O LORD, the blessings of peace.

## **SECOND READING: Acts 10:34-43**

*Peter crosses the sharp religious boundary separating Jews from Gentiles and proclaims the good news of God's inclusive forgiveness in Jesus' name to Cornelius, a Roman centurion. As a result of Peter's preaching, Cornelius and his family become the first Gentiles to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.*

A reading from Acts.

<sup>34</sup>Peter began to speak to [Cornelius and his household]: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, <sup>35</sup>but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. <sup>36</sup>You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. <sup>37</sup>That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John

announced: <sup>38</sup>how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. <sup>39</sup>We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; <sup>40</sup>but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, <sup>41</sup>not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. <sup>42</sup>He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. <sup>43</sup>All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*The priesthood of believers stands.*

### **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (ELW p.188)**



### **GOSPEL READING: Matthew 3:13-17**

*Before Jesus begins his ministry, he is baptized by John, touched by the Spirit, and identified publicly as God's child.*

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>13</sup>Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. <sup>14</sup>John would have prevented him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?” <sup>15</sup>But Jesus answered him, “Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness.” Then he consented. <sup>16</sup>And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. <sup>17</sup>And a voice from heaven said, “This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.”

The gospel of the Lord.

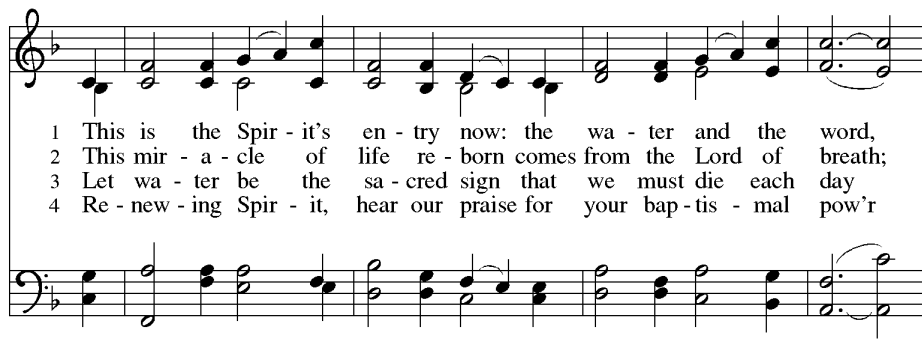
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*The priesthood of believers is seated.*

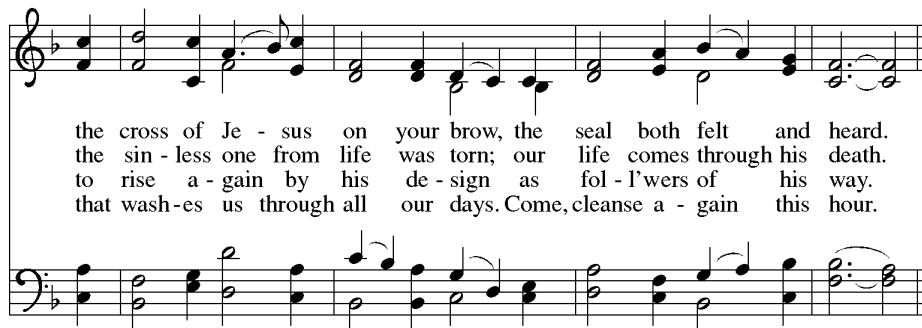
### **SERMON**

*The priesthood of believers stands.*

**HYMN *This Is the Spirit's Entry Now* (ELW 448) See next page.**



1 This is the Spir - it's en - try now: the wa - ter and the word,  
 2 This mir - a - cle of life re - born comes from the Lord of breath;  
 3 Let wa - ter be the sa - cred sign that we must die each day  
 4 Re - new - ing Spir - it, hear our praise for your bap - tis - mal pow'r



the cross of Je - sus on your brow, the seal both felt and heard.  
 the sin - less one from life was torn; our life comes through his death.  
 to rise a - gain by his de - sign as fol - l'wers of his way.  
 that wash - es us through all our days. Come, cleanse a - gain this hour.

Text: Thomas E. Herbranson, b. 1933  
 Music: North American traditional; arr. hymnal version  
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## APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
 creator of heaven and earth.  
 I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
 who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
 born of the virgin Mary,  
 suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
 was crucified, died, and was buried;  
 he descended to the dead.  
 On the third day he rose again;  
 he ascended into heaven,  
 he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
 and he will come 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

With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

*Each petition ends with, "Lord, in your mercy." Those worshipping respond with, "**Hear our prayer.**"*

Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

## PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

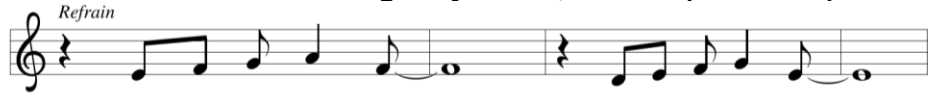
*The priesthood of believers is seated.*

## OFFERING

We are grateful for your gifts, and they are needed to continue the work of the church. For those worshipping online please visit our website ([www.wbbethany.org](http://www.wbbethany.org)) and click on the blue "Give Now" button on the home page. Thank you!

*The priesthood of believers stands and sing the hymn below as offerings are brought forward.*

## OFFERTORY HYMN *Change My Heart, O God (ELW 801)*



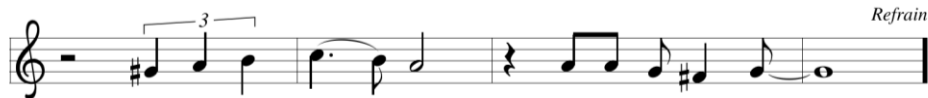
Change my heart, O God; make it ev - er true.



Change my heart, O God; may I be like you.



You are the pot - ter; I am the clay.



Mold me and make me; this is what I pray.

## OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with the gifts of ourselves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

## 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;  
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.

## SENDING

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

## HYMN *We Gather As Your People* (ACS 1038) See next page.



1 God, we gath - er as your peo - ple to raise our song a -  
2 Oh, we sing for all the chil - dren, that one day they be  
3 Oh, we pray for all the young lives cut short by fear and  
4 God, we're work - ing for the fu - ture when chil - dren far and



bove, and we dare to claim the prom - ise of your love.  
free; and we sing for gen - er - a - tions yet to be,  
shame, so a - fraid of who they are and whom they love.  
wide can . . . live their lives with dig - ni - ty and pride.



Though the day may not yet be here, we  
that they nev - er have a rea - son to  
May the mes - sage now be ban - ished that your  
As they grow in strength and stat - ure, may they



trust it soon will be, when your chil - dren will be free.  
doubt that they are blest. May they, in your love, find rest.  
love is for the few; may their faith in you re - new.  
join us hand in hand, as a - gainst all hate we stand.

*Refrain*



Oh, may our hearts and minds be o - pened, fling the church doors o - pen



wide. May there be room e - nough for ev - 'ry - one in - side.



For in God there is a wel - come, in God we all be -



long. May that wel - come be our song.

Text: David Lohman, b. 1961

Music: WELCOME BE OUR SONG, David Lohman

Text and music © 2007 Welcome Song Music, admin. Augsburg Fortress

## BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

**Amen.**

## SENDING

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE



OUR WORSHIP ASSISTANTS		
Ministers of:	Today	January 15
Music	Jill Barnhart	Jill Barnhart
Proclamation (Lector)	Pat Cassabaum	Kami Poppen
Minister of Technology	Jill Taylor	Alex Poppen
Worship (Altar Care)	Samuelson Family	Samuelson Family



### Annual Meeting

Sunday, January 22, 2023 after worship

Remember, a "Voting Member" per our Constitution and Bylaws is defined as:

**C8.02.c Voting** members are confirmed members. Such confirmed members, during the current or preceding calendar year, shall have communed in this congregation and shall have made a contribution of record to this congregation.



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