



**January 5, 2025**

Second Sunday of Christmas  
Bethany Lutheran Church (ELCA)

**Introduction to the day**

Within the gospel reading's profound words lies the simple message that God is revealed in a human person. Though we may try to understand how the Word existed with God from the beginning of time, the wonder we celebrate at Christmas is that the Word continues to dwell among us. Christ comes among us in the gathered assembly, the scriptures, the waters of new birth, and the bread and the wine. Through these ordinary gifts we receive the fullness of God's grace and truth.

This worship is being streamed live via Facebook and will be posted to our Website and X (formerly Twitter).  
The camera captures anyone in the first few pews of our worship space and beyond extending to the altar.

**PRELUDE**  
**LIGHTING OF CANDLES**  
**RINGING OF BELL**  
**WELCOME**

**GATHERING**

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

The assembly stands.

Please respond with the words printed in bold.

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
the Word made flesh,  
our life and salvation.

**Amen.**

Trusting the goodness and lovingkindness of God our Savior, let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

God of life,

**you promise good news of great joy for all people,  
and call us to be messengers of your peace.**

**We confess that too often we hoard our joy,  
our resources, and our security.**

**We nurture conflict and build barriers.**

**We neglect the needs of our neighbors  
and ignore the groaning of creation.**

**Have mercy on us.**

**Where we are self-centered, open our hearts.**

**Where we are reluctant, give us courage.**

**Where we are cynical, restore our trust.**

**Renew us with your grace**

**and give us again the hope of eternal life in you.**

**Amen.**

Hear the good news:

We are children of God and heirs of God's promises  
through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

In † Jesus we are forgiven and redeemed.

Sing with joy, for all the ends of the earth  
shall know the salvation of God.

**Amen.**

**GATHERING SONG *Love Has Come* (ELW 292) See next page.**



1 Love has come— a light in the dark - ness! Love shines forth in the  
 2 Love is born! Come, share in the won - der. Love is God now a -  
 3 Love has come and nev - er will leave us! Love is life ev - er -



Beth - le - hem skies. See, all heav - en has come to pro - claim it;  
 sleep in the hay. See the glow in the eyes of his moth - er;  
 last - ing and free. Love is Je - sus with - in and a - mong us.



hear how their song of joy a - ris - es: Love! Love! Born un - to  
 what is the name her heart is say - ing? Love! Love! Love is the  
 Love is the peace our hearts are seek - ing. Love! Love! Love is the



you, a Sav - ior! Love! Love! Glo - ry to God on high.  
 name she whis - pers; Love! Love! Je - sus, Im - man - u - el.  
 gift of Christ - mas. Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

Text: Ken Bible, b. 1950  
 Music: UN FLAMBEAU, F. Seguin, *Recueil de noëls composés en langue provençale*, 1856  
 Text © 1996 Integrity's Hosanna! Music (ASCAP), c/o Integrity Media, Inc., 1000 Cody Road, Mobile, AL 36695.

**PRAYER OF THE DAY (ELW p. 188)**

Let us pray.

*A brief silence is kept before the prayer.*

Almighty God, you have filled all the earth with the light of your incarnate Word. By your grace empower us to reflect your light in all that we do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

The assembly is seated.

**WORD**

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

**FIRST READING: Jeremiah 31:7-14**

*God promises to bring Israel back to its land from the most remote parts of exile. In Zion Israel will rejoice over God's gift of food and livestock. Young women will express their joy in dancing; God will give gladness instead of sorrow.*

A reading from Jeremiah.

<sup>7</sup> Thus says the LORD:

Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob,  
 and raise shouts for the chief of the nations;  
 proclaim, give praise, and say,

“Save, O LORD, your people, the remnant of Israel.”

<sup>8</sup> See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north,  
 and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth,  
 among them the blind and the lame,  
 those with child and those in labor, together;  
 a great company, they shall return here.

<sup>9</sup> With weeping they shall come,  
 and with consolations I will lead them back,  
 I will let them walk by brooks of water,

in a straight path in which they shall not stumble;  
for I have become a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn.

<sup>10</sup> Hear the word of the LORD, O nations,  
and declare it in the coastlands far away;  
say, "He who scattered Israel will gather him,  
and will keep him as a shepherd a flock."

<sup>11</sup> For the LORD has ransomed Jacob,  
and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him.

<sup>12</sup> They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion,  
and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the LORD,  
over the grain, the wine, and the oil,  
and over the young of the flock and the herd;  
their life shall become like a watered garden,  
and they shall never languish again.

<sup>13</sup> Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance,  
and the young men and the old shall be merry.  
I will turn their mourning into joy,  
I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow.

<sup>14</sup> I will give the priests their fill of fatness,  
and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty,  
says the LORD.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

#### **PSALM 147:12-20**

<sup>12</sup> Worship the LORD, O Jerusalem;  
praise your God, O Zion,

<sup>13</sup> **who has strengthened the bars of your gates  
and has blessed your children within you.**

<sup>14</sup> God has established peace on your borders  
and satisfies you with the finest wheat.

<sup>15</sup> **God sends out a command to the earth,  
a word that runs very swiftly.**

<sup>16</sup> God gives snow like wool,  
scattering frost like ashes.

<sup>17</sup> **God scatters hail like bread crumbs.  
Who can stand against God's cold?**

<sup>18</sup> The LORD sends forth the word and melts them;  
the wind blows, and the waters flow.

<sup>19</sup> **God declares the word to Jacob,  
statutes and judgments to Israel.**

<sup>20</sup> The LORD has not done so to any other nation;  
they do not know God's judgments. Hallelujah!

#### **SECOND READING: Ephesians 1:3-14**

*In Jesus, all of God's plans and purposes have been made known as heaven and earth are united in Christ.  
Through Jesus, we have been chosen as God's children and have been promised eternal salvation.*

A reading from Ephesians.

<sup>3</sup> Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, <sup>4</sup> just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. <sup>5</sup> He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, <sup>6</sup> to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. <sup>7</sup> In him

we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace<sup>8</sup> that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight<sup>9</sup> he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ,<sup>10</sup> as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.<sup>11</sup> In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will,<sup>12</sup> so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory.<sup>13</sup> In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit;<sup>14</sup> this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *Halle, Halle, Hallelujah* (ELW 172)**

Hal-le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal -  
- le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le -  
lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah.

**GOSPEL: John 1:[1-9] 10-18**

*John begins his gospel with this prologue: a hymn to the Word through whom all things were created. This Word became flesh and brought grace and truth to the world.*

The holy gospel according to John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>10</sup> He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup> He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. <sup>12</sup> But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, <sup>13</sup> who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

<sup>14</sup> And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. <sup>15</sup> (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") <sup>16</sup> From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. <sup>17</sup> The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. <sup>18</sup> No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

The assembly is seated.

**SERMON**

**HYMN OF THE DAY O Come All Ye Faithful (ELW 287)**



1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O  
 2 The high - est, most ho - ly, light of light e - ter - nal,  
 3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,  
 4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing:



come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;  
 born of a vir - gin, a mor - tal he comes;  
 sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!  
 Je - sus, to thee be . . . glo - ry giv'n!

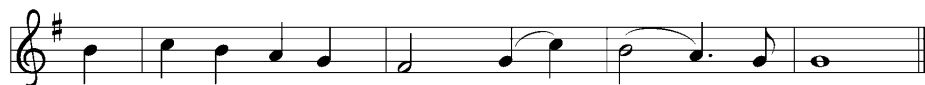


come and be - hold him, born the king of an - gels:  
 Son of the Fa - ther now in flesh ap - pear - ing!  
 Glo - ry to God . . . in . . . the . . . high - est:  
 Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing:

*Refrain*



*Ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus, ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus,*  
 O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,



*ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus Do - mi - num.*  
 O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!

**APOSTLES' CREED (ELW p. 189)**

**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" and the people of God sing "O Lord, Hear My Prayer" (ELW 751).

O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer: when I call, an - swer me.  
 or *The Lord is my song, the Lord is my praise: all my hope comes from God.*

O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer: come and lis - ten to me.  
*The Lord is my song, the Lord is my praise: God, the well-spring of life.*

Text: Psalm 102:1-2; Taizé Community, adapt.  
 Music: HEAR MY PRAYER, Jacques Berthier, 1923-1994  
 Text and music © 1982, 1991 Les Presses de Taizé, GIA Publications, Inc., agent, 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638.  
 www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

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

**Amen.**

**PEACE (ELW p. 189)**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

The assembly is seated.

**OFFERING (ELW p. 190)**

*We are grateful for your gifts, and they are needed to continue the work of the church. For those worshipping online, options on ways to give are found on our website ([www.wbbethany.org](http://www.wbbethany.org)). Thank you! After the offering is gathered, the people of God stand and sing the hymn below as the gifts are brought forward.*

**OFFERTORY HYMN Lord, Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful (ELW 184)**

Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of

bles-sing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that

we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of

all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble

with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

## OFFERING PRAYER (ELW p. 190)

Let us pray.

**Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: our selves, 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.**

The assembly is seated.

## WELCOMING TO THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Today this community of faith rejoices with Ainsley Kinsinger who joins in sharing the meal of Holy Communion.

In the sacrament of holy baptism, we are welcomed into the body of Christ and sent to share in the mission of God. In the sacrament of holy communion, God unites us in Jesus Christ and nourishes us for that mission. Living among God's faithful people, we are strengthened by God's word and this holy supper to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth.

Let us welcome Ainsley to holy communion.

**Welcome to the Lord's table. We thank God for you.**

**We pray that you will find joy and strength in this meal,  
until we feast forever at God's heavenly banquet.**

## DIALOGUE (ELW p. 190)

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.**

## PREFACE (ELW p. 190)

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;  
who on this day overcame death and the grave,  
and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.  
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:

## HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (ELW p. 190)



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry, full of your glo-ry. Ho -  
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high -  
est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -  
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.



## 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,  
and 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.

## LORD'S PRAYER (ELW p. 191)

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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 (ELW p. 191)

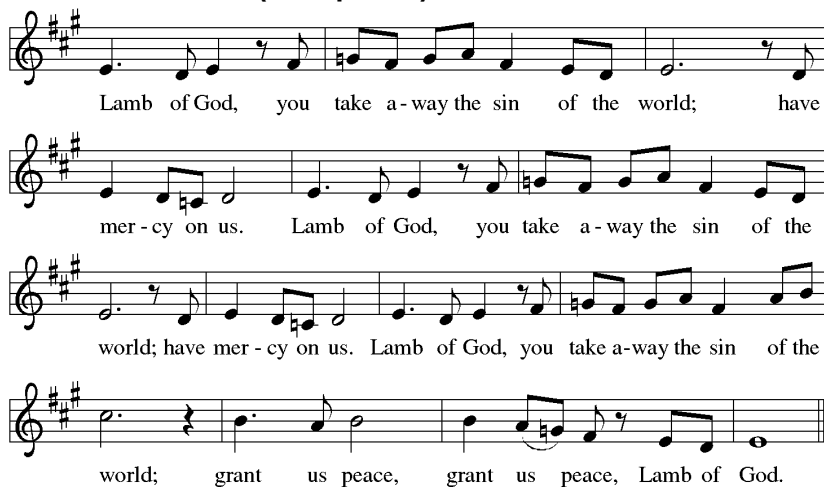
Come to the banquet, for all is now ready.

The assembly is seated.

## COMMUNION

*Communion today will be distributed around the altar. The cups in the center of the tray contain white grape juice. All other cups are wine. Gluten-free wafers are available upon request. All gathered who believe Jesus Christ is their Lord and Savior are invited to come to Holy Communion with repentant hearts believing that Christ forgives our sins and guides our lives. Strengthened, forgiven, and nourished through this meal the Spirit sends us forth in service and to proclaim the good news of Christ's love. Children and adults who do not take communion may come forward for a blessing.*

## COMMUNION SONG (ELW p. 191)



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the  
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the  
world; grant us peace, grant us peace, Lamb of God.

## What Child is This (ELW 296)



1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar-y's lap is sleep-ing?  
2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate where ox and ass are feed - ing?  
3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, peas - ant, king, to own him.



Whom an - gels greet with an-thems sweet while shep-herds watch are keep - ing?  
Good Chris-tian, fear; for sin-ners here the si - lent Word is plead-ing.  
The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; let lov - ing hearts en-throne him.



This, this is Christ the king, whom shep-herds guard and an-gels sing;  
Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;  
Raise, raise the song on high, the vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;



haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar - y!  
hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mar - y!  
joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar - y!

## The First Noel (ELW 300)



1 The first No - el the an - gel did say was to  
2 They look - ed up and saw . . . a star shin - ing  
3 And by the light of that . . . same star three . . .  
4 This star drew near to the . . . north-west, o'er . . .  
5 Then en - tered in those wise . . . men three, full . . .



cer-tain poor shep - herds in fields as they lay; in fields where  
in . . . the east . . . be - yond . . . them far; and to the  
wise . . . men came . . . from coun - try far; to seek for a  
Beth - le - hem . . . it took . . . its rest; and there it  
rev - 'rent - ly . . . up - on . . . their knee, and of - fered



they lay, keep - ing their sheep, on a cold win - ter's  
earth it gave . . . great light, and . . . so it con -  
king was their . . . in - tent, and to fol - low the  
did both stop . . . and stay right . . . o - ver the  
there in his . . . pres - ence their . . . gold, . . . and



night that was so deep.  
tin-ued both day and night.  
star wher - ev - er it went. No - el, No - el, No -  
place where Je - sus lay.  
myrrh, and frank - in - cense.



el, No - el! Born is the King of Is - ra - el.

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION (ELW p. 191)**

Let us pray.

We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

**SENDING SONG *Let the Whole Creation Cry* (ELW 876) See next page.**



1 Let the whole cre - a - tion cry, "Glo - ry to the Lord on high!"  
 2 Ser - vants striv - ing for the Lord, proph - ets burn - ing with the word,  
 3 Men and wom - en, young and old, raise the an - them loud and bold,



Heav'n and earth, a - wake and sing, "Praise to our al - might - y king!"  
 those to whom the arts be - long add their voic - es to the song.  
 and let chil - dren's hap - py hearts in this wor - ship take their parts;



Praise God, an - gel hosts a - bove, ev - er bright and fair in love;  
 Pow'rs of knowl - edge and of law, to the glo - rious cir - cle draw;  
 from the north to south - ern pole let the might - y cho - rus roll:



sun and moon, lift up your voice; night and stars, in God re - joice.  
 all who work and all who wait, sing, "The Lord is good and great!"  
 "Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly One; glo - ry be to God a - lone!"

**BLESSING (ELW p. 192)**

Almighty God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

**Amen.**

**DISMISSAL (ELW p. 192)**

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Please join us for fellowship and refreshments in the Great Hall following worship.*

OUR WORSHIP ASSISTANTS		
Ministers of:	Today	January 12
Music	Jill Barnhart	Jill Barnhart
Proclamation (Lector)	Deb Anderson	Bruce Jeffries
Hospitality (Greeter)	Cindy Knoop & Heidi Christensen	Cindy Knoop & Heidi Christensen
Technology	Tate Frantz & Cole Crosthwaite	Dale Swenson
Worship (Altar Care)	Cindy Knoop & Heidi Christensen	Cindy Knoop & Heidi Christensen

Did you know...



How your weekly offering makes an impact?

It helps us invest in technology to expand our reach beyond the church doors



Average Online attendance = 112 viewers

Thank you for your gifts, which support these and many more great ministries at Bethany Lutheran Church



Our Camera Crew is in need of a few more people to run the video cameras during Sunday worship. As many people join us in worship online, this is an essential ministry role in our proclamation of the good news of Jesus Christ! This is easy to learn and do! You would only be scheduled once a month or less. We will train you!

If interested or have questions, please contact Paula at: [blcsecretary@lcom.net](mailto:blcsecretary@lcom.net) (319) 643-5998

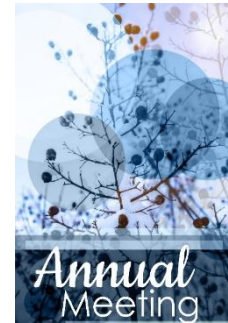
Thank you!

## Annual Meeting

Sunday, January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2024, 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.



## Land Acknowledgement

Bethany Lutheran is located in the original and ancestral homelands of the Iowa, Sauk, Fox, Kickapoo and Oceti Sakowin peoples, and we give thanks for their presence here since time immemorial. We also wish to recognize and honor all our Indigenous siblings who have and continue to call this land their home.

Liturgy from [sundaysandseasons.com](http://sundaysandseasons.com). Copyright © 2020 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Used by permission of Augsburg Fortress under license # SB135727.

*Love Has Come (ELW 292)*; Text © 1996 Living the Natural Way, admin. Music Services, Brentwood, TN Used by permission under OneLicense.net A-726405 streaming license.

*Celtic Alleluia (ELW 174)*; All Music © 1985 Fintan O'Carroll and Christopher Walker, Admin. OCP Publications. All rights reserved. Used by permission of Augsburg Fortress under license # SB135727.

*O Lord, Hear My Prayer (ELW 751)* Text and music © 1982, 1991 Les Presses de Taizé, GIA Publications Inc. agent. Used by permission under OneLicense.net A-726405 streaming license.

Scripture from *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.

Scripture quotations marked NLT are taken from the *Holy Bible*, New Living Translation, Copyright © 1996, 2004, 2015 by Tyndale House Foundation. Used by permission of Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., Carol Stream, Illinois 60188. All rights reserved.