

STARS *of* WONDER



FEBRUARY 1 & 2, 2026

US
Blessed

Welcome to Bethlehem!

We welcome our guests who are worshipping with us today. Thanks for joining us! We are a community of ordinary people who gather to hear the message of God's grace in Jesus. We believe that he is our savior—and yours, too!

We'd love to have you join us again soon. Please take a moment to fill out a connection card (located in the back of the pew in front of you). The blue side is for members to fill out and the yellow side is for visitors.

A lounge for parents needing to quiet small children is located at the rear of church. The room has a clear window for viewing and is equipped with a speaker system.

A hearing loop is available in the worship area and fellowship hall. Set your hearing aid to "t-coil" or ask for headphones at the A/V desk in the back of church.



Today's Worship

In the season of Epiphany, the identity of the savior is revealed, and so is our identity as the people of God. So far, we've focused mainly on the identity of Jesus. This week, the focus shifts to our identity. Today, our readings will remind us that no matter who we are to the world, no matter our circumstance, as children of God, we are blessed.

To Prepare Our Hearts for Worship

Lord, I'm here to worship you. You are here, too, to speak to me. Give me a focused heart ready to listen to you. Show me how I've failed this week, so that I can see all the more how you have loved me. Give me a heart that loves to praise and thank you for your everlasting goodness to me.

The Lord's Supper Celebrated Today

Bethlehem is a spiritual family. We gather because we believe the same things. Communion is a family thing for us. It's a way God has given us to joyfully express our common beliefs. If you're visiting with us today, please talk to a pastor before joining us for this special meal.

We Gather for Worship

Adapted from Christian Worship Setting Two

Hymn: His Robes for Mine

Blue Hymnal, p.568 sts. 1-2

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the  Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation: Amen.

Confession

P: If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

C: **If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just**
 and will forgive us our sins
 and purify us from all unrighteousness.

P: Let's confess our sins to the Lord.

C: **Holy God, gracious Father,**
 I am sinful by nature
 and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions.
 I have not loved you with my whole heart;
 I have not loved others as I should.
 I deserve your punishment both now and forever.
 But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins
 with his innocent suffering and death.
 Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.

Silence for meditation and reflection

Absolution

P: Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the  Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

Glory to God in the Highest

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth. Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. You are seated at the right hand of the Father; receive our prayer.

Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to his
 peo - ple on earth. For you a -
 lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,
 you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ,
 with the Ho - ly Spir - it in the glo - ry of
 God the Fa - ther. A - men. A - men.
 Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to his
 peo - ple on earth.

God Comes to Us in His Word

Today's Prayer

P: Almighty and everlasting God, look with mercy on our weaknesses. In all our moments of danger and need stretch out your right hand to help and defend us; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

First Reading

Zephaniah 2:3; 3:11-13

³Seek the LORD, all you humble of the land,
you who do what he commands.

Seek righteousness, seek humility;
perhaps you will be sheltered
on the day of the LORD's anger.

¹¹On that day you, Jerusalem, will not be put to shame
for all the wrongs you have done to me,
because I will remove from you
your arrogant boasters.

Never again will you be haughty
on my holy hill.

¹²But I will leave within you
the meek and humble.

The remnant of Israel
will trust in the name of the LORD.

¹³They will do no wrong;
they will tell no lies.

A deceitful tongue
will not be found in their mouths.

They will eat and lie down
and no one will make them afraid.”

Today's Psalm: How Truly Blest are They

Psalm 1B



1 How truly blest are they who shun the
2 But make the law of God their stud - y
3 They like a tree shall thrive with wa - ters
4 The wick - ed are not so! They no such



sin - ners' ways, a - mong their coun - sels
and de - light a - mid the la - bors
near the root. Fresh as the leaf their
bless - ing find. Their hopes shall flee like



5 How will they bear to stand
before that judgment seat
where all the saints at Christ's right hand
in full assembly meet?

6 God knows and he approves
the way the righteous go,
but sinners and their works shall meet
a dreadful overthrow.

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 1:26–31

²⁶Brothers and sisters, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. ²⁷But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. ²⁸God chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things—and the things that are not—to nullify the things that are, ²⁹so that no one may boast before him. ³⁰It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God—that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption. ³¹Therefore, as it is written: “Let the one who boasts boast in the Lord.”

Hymn: Blest Are They

Blue Hymnal, p.690 sts. 1-2

Gospel

Matthew 5:1–12

¹Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, ²and he began to teach them.

He said:

³“Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴Blessed are those who mourn,
for they will be comforted.

⁵Blessed are the meek,
for they will inherit the earth.

⁶Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
for they will be filled.

⁷Blessed are the merciful,
for they will be shown mercy.

⁸Blessed are the pure in heart,
for they will see God.

⁹Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they will be called children of God.

¹⁰Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹“Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. ¹²Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Hymn: Blest Are They

Blue Hymnal, p.690 sts. 3–5

Sermon

“The Pursuit of Happiness”

Matthew 5:1-12

Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Offering

Your offerings are just one way you support the gospel ministry we do, and we thank God for them! Guests are welcome to give but need not feel obligated. If you'd like to give online, scan the QR code on the right side of the page or go to bethlehem-wels.com/giving.



Give Online

The Church's Prayer

P: God of Creation and Lord of the Church,
As if it were not enough to forgive us and give us eternal life, you have given each of your people generous gifts to use to your glory and for the good of your people.

C: **"To each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it."** (Ephesians 4:7)

P: Today we especially thank you for the men who serve on our executive board: for Dave Keller, congregational president, Dan Ziegler and Darwin Selle, vice presidents, Steve Zuberbier, secretary, and Floyd Ross, treasurer.

C: **Thank you for their efforts to lead our congregation in our mission: In Jesus, Gather, Grow, and Go.**

P: Give them faith to be examples to our congregation in worship and witness.

C: **Give them ears attuned both to the truths of your Word and the needs of your people.**

P: Give them strength to carry out the kingdom work you've apportioned to this congregation.

C: **Give them wisdom to train your people, their brothers and sisters, to use their unique gifts for lives of Christian service both here and in the world.**

P: Let the relationship between our leaders and our people be one of mutual love and respect.

C: **Let the light of your Gospel shine out through our efforts.**

Special Prayers

Lord's Prayer

C: **Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.**

God Comes to Us in His Supper

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

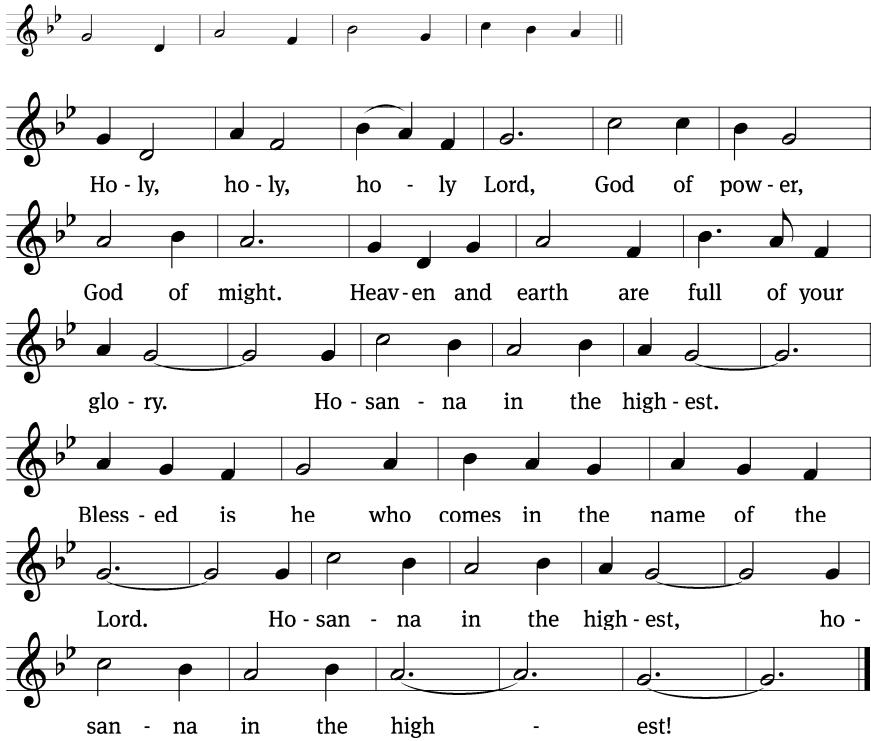
P: Lift up your hearts.

C: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

Holy, Holy, Holy



The musical notation consists of six lines of music for a single voice. The lyrics are as follows:

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

Words of Institution

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, “Take and eat; this is my $\text{\textt{T}}$ body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you; this is my $\text{\textt{T}}$ blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: **Amen.**

Jesus, Lamb of God

Jesus, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Jesus, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Jesus, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us your peace.

Distribution

Bethlehem practices close communion. Visitors, please speak with a pastor before coming up for communion. Thank you!

Hymn: I Come, O Savior, to Your Table

Blue Hymnal, p.670

Hymn: My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less

Blue Hymnal, p.563

Hymn: I Love to Tell the Story

Blue Hymnal, p.746 sts. 1, 3

P: Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances;

C: **for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.**

P: Do not quench the Spirit. Do not treat prophecies with contempt but test them all;

C: **hold on to what is good, reject every kind of evil.**

P: God the Father, every good thing we have comes from you. The best gift of all is the gift of your Son. He shared our humanity, and in this Sacrament we've shared in his body and blood. Thank you for the forgiveness and peace you've given us here. Let your Holy Spirit rule our minds, so that we serve you each day - not because we have to, but willingly. We pray all this in the name of Jesus our Savior.

C: **Amen.**

Blessing

1 Thessalonians 5:23-24

P: May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do it.

C: **Amen.**

Hymn: Jesus Sinners Does Receive

Blue Hymnal, p.654 sts. 1-2, 5-6

Acknowledgments

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