

BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH

4500 EAST HAMPDEN AVENUE | CHERRY HILLS VILLAGE, CO 80113 | WWW.BETHANY-DENVER.ORG | 303.758.2820



CHRIST THE KING SUNDAY

10:00 AM NOVEMBER 23, 2025

Holiday Worship Schedule

**We know that many are already making holiday plans
and
we hope worshipping at Bethany is part of those plans!**

Here is the holiday worship schedule:

Thanksgiving Eve – 6:30pm

Christmas Eve –

11:00am (NEW!)

1:30pm (Outdoor Christmas Pageant)

3:00pm - Denver Brass

**5:00pm - Denver Brass, Chancel Choir
Ensemble, Carillons Handbells**

7:00pm - Denver Brass & Chancel Choir

Christmas Day – Recorded – drops at 6:00am

Sunday after Christmas – 12/28 – 10:00am service only

Service of Remembrance – 12/28 – 11:30am, Chapel

Epiphany Sunday – 1/4 – 10:00am service only

+ WE PREPARE OUR HEARTS +

Gathering Music

Festival Alleluia

Dan Miller

Welcome to Worship

To fill out your digital connection card, go to www.tinyurl.com/BethanyConnect.

Pastor Gary Sandberg



Song of Praise

Give Thanks

W&P 41

Give thanks with a grate - ful heart, give thanks to the Ho - ly One,
give thanks be - cause he's giv - en Je - sus Christ, his Son.
Give thanks with a grate - ful heart, give thanks to the Ho - ly One,
give thanks be - cause he's giv - en Je - sus Christ, his Son.
And now let the weak say, "I am strong," let the poor say, "I am
rich," be - cause of what the Lord has done for us. And
now let the weak say, "I am strong," let the poor say, "I am
rich," be - cause of what the Lord has done for us. Give thanks!

Last time

Text: Henry Smith

Music: GIVE THANKS, Henry Smith

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A Time of Confession

Pastor Gary Sandberg

Gracious God,

We admit that we have fallen short. In what we have said and done, and in what we have left undone, we have not loved you or our neighbors as we should. We have carried worries, guilt, and burdens that we struggle to release. We confess these to you now, trusting in your mercy. Forgive us, God. Lighten our load and guide us into a new way of living. Amen.

God's Gift of Forgiveness

Friends in Christ, hear this good news. God is merciful and full of love. Through Jesus, your sins are forgiven and your burdens are lifted. You are set free to walk in God's grace and to live in the joy of the resurrection. **Amen.**

Opening Song

Oh, Worship the King

ELW 842

You are invited to face the cross as it enters.



1 Oh, wor - ship the King, all - glo - rious a - bove.
2 The earth with its store of won - ders un - told,
3 Your boun - ti - ful care what tongue can re - cite?
4 Frail chil - dren of dust, and fee - ble as frail,
5 O mea - sure - less might, in - ef - fa - ble love,



Oh, grate - ful - ly sing God's pow - er and love;
Al - might - y, your pow'r has found - ed of old;
It breathes in the air, it shines in the light,
in you do we trust, nor find you to fail;
while an - gels de - light to hymn you a - bove,



our shield and de - fend - er, the An - cient of Days,
es - tab - lished it fast by a change - less de - cree,
it streams from the hills, it de - scends to the plain,
your mer - cies, how ten - der, how firm to the end,
the hum - bler cre - a - tion, though fee - ble their lays,



pa - vil - ioned in splen - dor, and gird - ed with praise.
and round it has cast, like a man - tle, the sea.
and sweet - ly dis - tills in the dew and the rain.
our mak - er, de - fend - er, re - deem - er, and friend.
with true ad - o - ra - tion shall sing to your praise.

Text: Robert Grant, 1779–1838, alt.

Music: HANOVER, William Croft, 1678–1727

Greeting

Deacon Debra Alba

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.

Prayer of the Day

O God,

our true life, to serve you is freedom, and to know you is unending joy. We worship you, we glorify you, we give thanks to you for your great glory. Abide with us, reign in us, and make this world into a fit habitation for your divine majesty, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Children's Sermon/Bible Milestone Blessing

Deacon Debra Alba

Children's Worship

Zach Rodasti

Anthem

We Praise Thee, O God, Our Redeemer

arr. Cynthia Dobrinski

Carillons, dir. Nolan Oltjenbruns

+ WE ENCOUNTER GOD'S WORD +

Today's Sermon is based on readings from:

Colossians 1:11-20

Antonio Alba

¹¹ May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, so that you may have all endurance and patience, joyfully ¹² giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. ¹³ He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, ¹⁴ in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

¹⁵ He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation, ¹⁶ for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. ¹⁷ He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸ He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. ¹⁹ For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, ²⁰ and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

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

Luke 23:33-43

The Holy Gospel according to Luke. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

³³ When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. ³⁴ Then Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.” And they cast lots to divide his clothing. ³⁵ And the people stood by watching, but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, “He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!” ³⁶ The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine ³⁷ and saying, “If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!” ³⁸ There was also an inscription over him, “This is the King of the Jews.”

³⁹ One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, “Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!” ⁴⁰ But the other rebuked him, saying, “Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? ⁴¹ And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong.” ⁴² Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come in your kingdom.” ⁴³ He replied, “Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise.”

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

Sermon

Deacon Debra Alba

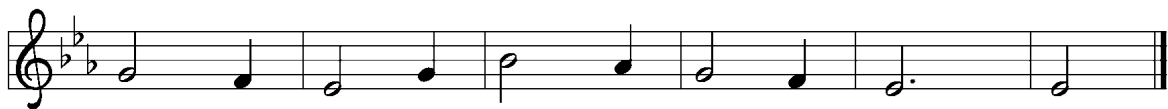
Sermon Notes



1 The King of love my shep - herd is, whose good - ness
 2 Where streams of liv - ing wa - ter flow, my ran - somed
 3 Per - verse and fool - ish oft I strayed, but yet in
 4 In death's dark vale I fear no ill, with thee, dear



fail - eth nev - er; I noth - ing lack if
 soul he lead - eth and, where the ver - dant
 love he sought me, and on his shoul - der
 Lord, be - side me, thy rod and staff my



I am his and he is mine for - ev - er.
 pas - tures grow, with food ce - les - tial feed - eth.
 gent - ly laid, and home, re - joic - ing, brought me.
 com - fort still; thy cross be - fore to guide me.

5 Thou spreadst a table in my sight;
 thine unction grace bestoweth;
 and, oh, what transport of delight
 from thy pure chalice floweth!

6 And so, through all the length of days,
 thy goodness faileth never.
 Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise
 within thy house forever.

Text: Henry W. Baker, 1821–1877

Music: St. COLUMBA, Irish tune

A Statement of Our Faith (Apostles' Creed)

Deacon Debra Alba

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 the People

We Share God's Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

Please share a blessing of peace with others around you. After sharing the Peace, please be seated.

Abundantly Bethany

To fill out your digital connection card, go to www.tinyurl.com/BethanyConnect.

- MomCo Bake Sale
- Thanksgiving Eve Worship & Pie Festival
- Christmas decorating help
- Summer Camp

+ WE WORSHIP GOD WITH OUR OFFERINGS +

OFFERING

You can give in the following ways; Thank you for your gifts!

- On our **website**, find the GIVE button in the header or under the Get Involved tab at **Bethany-Denver.org**
- Through **SubSplash** - Use your phone's camera to scan this **QR Code**
- **Mail** in your check to the office (4500 E. Hampden Ave. Cherry Hills Village, CO 80113)
- Sunday mornings, drop your offering in the silver plate at the doors as you exit



Offering Music

O Day Full of Grace

arr. F. Melius Christiansen

Chancel Choir, dir. Kirk Schjodt

*O day full of grace, which we behold, now gently to view ascending;
Thou over the earth thy reign unfold, good cheer to all mortals lending,
That children of light in every clime may prove that the night is ending.
How blest was that gracious midnight hour, when God in our flesh was given;
Then flushed the dawn with light and power, that spread o'er the darkened heaven;
Then rose o'er the world that sun divine which gloom from our hearts hath driven.
Yea, were every tree endowed with speech, and every leaflet singing,
They never with praise God's worth could reach, though earth with their praise be ringing.
Who fully could praise the light of life who light to our souls is bringing.
With joy we depart for the promised land, and there we shall walk in endless light.*

Children Return to the Sanctuary

+ THE COMMUNITY MEAL +

Invitation to The Communion Table

Pastor Gary Sandberg

Celebration of Holy Communion

Jesus shared meals with friends and strangers, turning ordinary tables into signs of God's kingdom.

We remember his welcome, and we come to be fed.

The story of God's love is told in bread and wine, in friendship and forgiveness.

We are part of this story today.

We come as those before us came, hungry for hope and longing to be made whole.

This is God's story. This is our story.

Blessing of the Bread and Wine

The Lord's Prayer *(Ecumenical translation)*

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.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.

Communion Instruction

Receive communion by dipping the bread into the wine. Pre-packaged communion sets are alcohol free; gluten-free options are available. Groups are welcome to visit a communion station together. Those who are not receiving communion are invited to cross their arms across their chest to receive a blessing.

Communion Distribution

Communion Music

Be Still, My Soul

arr. Hart Morris

Carillons, dir. Nolan Oltjenbruns, with Barbara Seaton, cellist

Communion Song

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

ELW 490



1 Let all mor - tal flesh keep si - lence, and with fear and trem - bling stand;
2 King of kings, yet born of Mar - y, as of old on earth he stood,
3 Rank on rank the host of heav - en spreads its van-guard on the way;
4 At his feet the six - winged ser - aph, cher - u - bim with sleep - less eye,



pon - der noth - ing earth - ly - mind - ed, for with bless - ing in his hand
Lord of lords in hu - man ves - ture, in the bod - y and the blood,
as the Light of light, de - scend - ing from the realms of end - less day,
veil their fac - es to the pres - ence, as with cease - less voice they cry:



Christ our God to earth de - scend - ing comes full hom - age to de - mand.
he will give to all the faith - ful his own self for heav'n - ly food.
comes, the pow'rs of hell to van - quish, as the dark - ness clears a - way.
"Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia, Lord Most High!"

Text: Liturgy of St. James; tr. Gerard Moultrie, 1829–1885, alt.
Music: PICARDY, French folk tune, 17th cent.

Table Blessing

Reception of New Members

Sarah Dolliver; Karen & Mike Griffin; BillieAnne, Jason, Leland, Byron, and Antoinette Kennedy; Diane Kraft; Jane Pope & Richard Meehan; Jessica Sussman & Brendan, Bridget and Emmett Cummings; Shannon Tracy & Eric and Irelyn Freund

+ GOD SENDS US TO SERVE +

Blessing

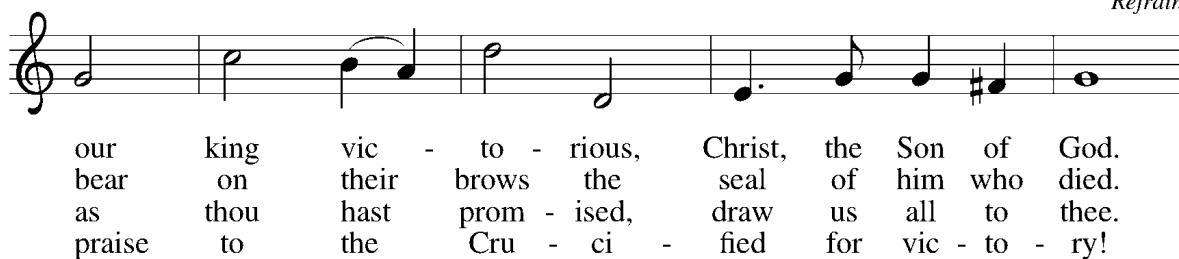
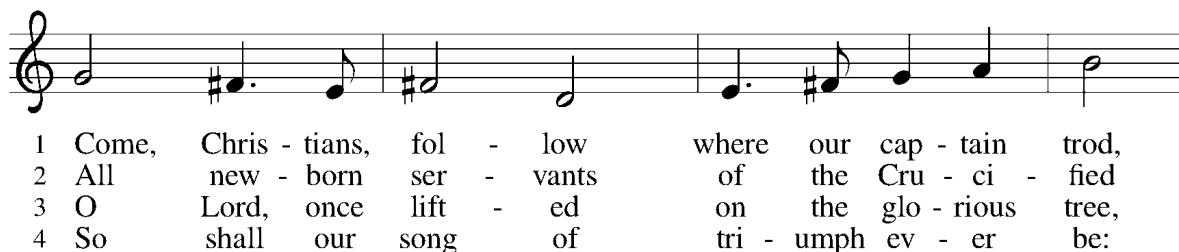
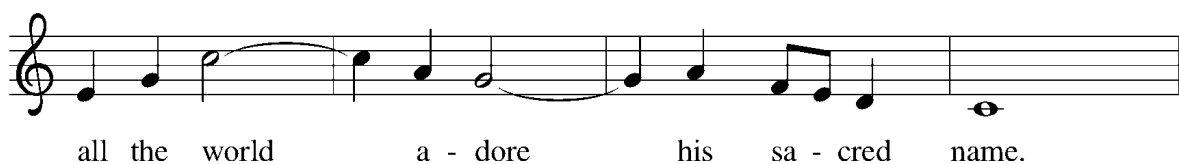
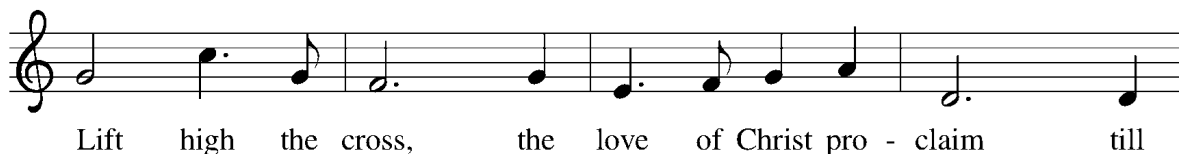
Deacon Debra Alba

Song of Sending

Lift High the Cross

ELW 660

You are invited to face the cross as it recesses to the center.



Text: George W. Kitchin, 1827–1912; rev. Michael R. Newbolt, 1874–1956

Music: CRUCIFER, Sydney H. Nicholson, 1875–1947

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Dismissal

Deacon Debra Alba

As we go forth into the week ahead we remember our calling as the people of Bethany.

Together we will:

Worship and encounter a God who loves us;

Embrace healthy dialogue that promotes unity over division;

Respond to the needs of the world through generosity and action.

With this as our mission, go in peace, serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

In Thee is Gladness

Robert A. Hobby

Things To Know About - News & Events

- ◆ **Bethany's Bible Milestone: TODAY**, each child who participated in the class last week will be blessed and presented with a Bible during worship at the 10:00am service.
- ◆ **Bethany Information Sessions:** New Members will be received **TODAY** at both worship services and a tour of the Bethany campus will be offered at 11:20am - meet in Room 400.
- ◆ **Family Promise Volunteers Needed:** Christ the Savior Lutheran Church is hosting Family Promise the week of Thanksgiving, **Nov 23-30**. Volunteers are needed to host overnight, drive the van, and prepare dinner on the night of the 23rd. Thank you, Theo Umlauf, for arranging to move the beds Sunday the 30th to the next host church. If you have any questions, please call Jean Scott at 303 756-2106 or email her at stlax@comcast.net.
- ◆ **Thanksgiving Eve: Wednesday, Nov 26.** Worship service at 6:30pm (Holden Evening Prayer) followed by a Pie Festival in the Fellowship Hall. We need pies! Sign up to bring a pie, to help setup, help with worship, and help with cleanup after the pie fest at the yellow bubble on the website home page or on the sign up sheet in the Fellowship Hall. Please bring pies to the Fellowship Hall by 6:00pm that night. Thank you!
- ◆ **Christmas Poinsettias:** You can make a donation to purchase a poinsettia plant for Bethany's Christmas decorations in our worship spaces. Envelopes are now available at the Mission Center desk or you can use the Christmas Poinsettia fund in the electronic giving menu. Please be sure to denote how you would like to see your name and who you are giving in honor or in memory of for the Christmas bulletins. Deadline is **Dec 14**.
- ◆ **Christmas Decorating: Sundays, Nov 30, Dec 7, 14, and 23.** We need lots of Christmas elves to decorate the inside and outside of the church after the 10:00am services during Community Time. Each Sunday we'll add more decorations. Please meet in the Fellowship Hall each Sunday where we will assume decorating tasks assigned throughout the church to make it as easy as possible. Let's make the church sing with tidings of great joy! Questions? Please contact Kristin at kmjanicek@aol.com.
- ◆ **Advent Fest: Sunday, Dec 7, 10:20am-12:00pm, Great Hall.** Bethany's Children's Ministry team is looking for some adult and youth helpers to guide the children at numerous craft stations. Please sign up on Bethany's website or contact Deacon Debra Alba at Debra@Bethany-Denver.org if you'd like to help out! Thank you!

HOW TO HELP FOR THE HOLIDAYS

- ◆ **MomCo (formerly MOPS) Bake Sale:** Put away your mixers and bakeware and let MomCo do the baking for you this Thanksgiving! Come browse our bounty of baked goods at the annual MomCo bake sale fundraiser held **TODAY** from 8:00am-11:30am in the Fellowship Hall. We will be selling pies, breads, candies, cookies and our special cake pops! Our MomCo at Bethany group is so grateful to the congregation for its continued support over the last 30 years! MomCo is an international, outreach organization whose goal is to provide support and community for mothers with children of all ages.
- ◆ **Children's Socks Drive:** Throughout December Bethany will be collecting NEW Toddler and Children's socks. These will be donated to Wholly Kicks, a local non-profit whose focus is to mentor and build relationships in "walking with" individuals experiencing economic disparity. Donation boxes will be located at both the North and South church entrances. Thank you for your generosity!
- ◆ **Angel Tree for Lutheran Family Services:** The Angel Tree in the Narthex is full of Christmas tags for kids in their Foster Care Program. Select a tag from the tree or sign up at signupschedule.com/Bethany. All tree tags will include guidelines, gift requests and gift labels. Please label each gift with the recipient number and gift 1 or 2. All gifts need to be at church by **Sunday, Dec 7**. Thank you for making Christmas special for these kids.
- ◆ A HUGE THANK YOU to all those who donated items to the **Home For the Holidays drive for Thanksgiving!** The Outreach Ministry team is so appreciative for everyone's willingness to jump in and help those in Denver who are in need. You donated 23 boxes of kitchen equipment and 19 gift cards supplying food to the families. The items were delivered to Lutheran Family Ministries last week. The Bethany community is so giving and such a blessing!

For more information and to see other announcements, please sign up for the email blasts by contacting the office - 303.758.2820, or visit www.Bethany-Denver.org/Bethany-news/

THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT WORSHIP

- ♦ **Welcome to Bethany!** If you have questions or would like to consider making Bethany your church home, visit our website, Bethany-Denver.org, or stop by the Newcomer Nook after worship. The pastoral team, consisting of Pastor Gary Sandberg (he/him), Pastor Nate Preisinger (he/him), Deacon Debra Alba (she/her) and Director of Pastoral Care Janet Mortinsen (she/her), is available to speak with you.
- ♦ Bethany Lutheran Church values people of diverse race, sexual identity, ethnicity, and political affiliation. **All are welcome at Bethany Lutheran Church** and this community is enriched because you are here. We are together for good!
- ♦ **Sunday Worship services:** 8:30am Traditional - worship follows traditional Lutheran liturgy.
10:00am Casual Blended – a flow of worship that includes the elements of Lutheran worship with music that spans multiple genres and brings some creative ways to engage the theme of the day. Worship leaders are generally dressed more casually.
- ♦ **Participating in Worship:** There will be times during worship when you are invited to stand, but if it is more comfortable or more meaningful for you to remain seated, please feel free to do so.
- ♦ **Communion Statement:** Everyone gathered for worship is invited to take part in Communion. Jesus did not place any barriers around who received communion and neither does Bethany.
- ♦ **Safety:** Bethany Lutheran Church is committed to maintaining a safe and welcoming environment for everyone. If at any time you feel uncomfortable, unsafe or have concerns, please speak with one of our staff or designated leaders. We are here to listen and to support you.
- ♦ **Hearing Assistance Device:** Please see the Sound Tech in the A/V booth at the rear of the Sanctuary if you need a hearing assistance device.
- ♦ **Worship Servants:** Thank you to all the A/V team, Ushers, Communion Servers, Altar Guild, Musicians, Embrace Volunteers and Sacristans for your work to greet people and make worship happen. We always welcome Worship Servants - go to www.signupschedule.com/Bethany to sign up!
- ♦ You are welcome to bring beverages into the Sanctuary but please use a covered container. And enjoy your food outside the Sanctuary (although we understand small children may need snacks!).
- ♦ **Children at Bethany:** Children and youth are a blessing from God and we love having children in the Sanctuary! Additionally, we offer several options for children and families to feel comfortable in a variety of spaces on Sunday mornings:
 - ⇒ **Fidget Station:** We know that all of God's children (young and old) are wonderfully and fearfully made in the image of God. And, at Bethany, ALL are welcome to worship. Available outside the Sanctuary's north doors is a Fidget Station. Children and adults are invited to use these fidgets and art supplies to aid in your spiritual growth and presence in worship. Please return items to the station when you are finished.
 - ⇒ **Busy Bags:** Near the Sanctuary doors you will find premade bags perfect for littles. Grab one on the way in and return it on the way out.
 - ⇒ **Nursery:** For directions to our Nursery, please speak with an usher. The Nursery will not be staffed during our 10:00am service but you are welcome to use it with your child.