

BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH

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



SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY
10:00AM JANUARY 18, 2026

Already giving up on your New Year's resolutions?

Try a new one - grow in faith through Bethany's podcast and daily devotionals!

together 4 good is Bethany's podcast about faith, life, church, and just about anything else! Enjoy interesting insights and information from Pastor Nate, Bethany congregants, and other featured guests.



bethany
365

Bethany 365 is a brief daily devotional email written by Bethany pastors and guest writers to start (or end!) your day in faith. Sign up for the email list here!



+ WE PREPARE OUR HEARTS +

Gathering Music

Communion on "Lauda Sion"
Dialogue on "Te Deum"

Denis Bédard

Welcome to Worship

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

Deacon Debra Alba



Song of Praise

Every Time I Feel the Spirit (*sing twice*)

ACS 942

Refrain



Ev - 'ry time I feel the spir - it mov - ing
in my heart, I will pray. Ev - 'ry time I feel the
spir - it mov - ing in my heart, I will pray.

Text: African American spiritual

Music: PENTECOST, African American spiritual; arr. Melva W. Costen, b. 1933

Arr. © 1990 Melva W. Costen, admin. Augsburg Fortress

A Time of Confession

Deacon Debra Alba

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

O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright!

ELW 308

You are invited to face the cross as it enters.



1 O Morn - ing Star, how fair and bright! You shine with
2 Come, pre - cious dia - mond, light di - vine, and deep with -
3 Lord, when you look on us in love, at once there
4 Al - might - y Fa - ther, in your Son you loved us,

God's own truth and light, a - glow with grace and mer - cy!
in our hearts now shine; there light a flame un - dy - ing!
falls from God a - bove a ray of pur - est plea - sure!
when not yet be - gun was this old earth's foun - da - tion!

Of Ja - cob's line, King Da - vid's son, our Lord and Sav - ior,
In your one bod - y let us be as liv - ing branch - es
Your word and Spir - it, flesh and blood re - fresh our souls with
Your Son has ran - somed us in love to live in him here

you have won our hearts to serve you on - ly! Low - ly,
of a tree, your life our lives sup - ply - ing. Now, though
heav'n - ly food. You are our dear - est trea - sure! Let your
and a - bove: this is your great sal - va - tion. Al - le -

ho - ly! Great and glo - rious, all vic - to - rious, rich
dai - ly earth's deep sad - ness may per - plex us and
mer - cy warm and cheer us! Oh, draw near us! For
lu - ia! Christ the liv - ing, to us giv - ing life

in bless - ing! Rule and might o'er all pos - sess - ing!
dis - tress us, yet with heav'n - ly joy you bless us.
you teach us God's own love through you has reached us.
for - ev - er, keeps us yours and fails us nev - er!

Text: Philipp Nicolai, 1556–1608; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*
Music: WIE SCHÖN LEUCHTET, Philipp Nicolai
Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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

Holy God,

our strength and our redeemer, by your Spirit hold us forever, that through your grace we may worship you and faithfully serve you, follow you and joyfully find you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

Children's Sermon

Deacon Debra Alba

Children's Worship

We Prepare to Hear God's Word

Every Time I Feel the Spirit (*sing twice*)

ACS 942



+ WE ENCOUNTER GOD'S WORD +

Today's Sermon is based on readings from:

Isaiah 49:1-7

William Weinstein

- ¹ Listen to me, O coastlands; pay attention, you peoples from far away!
The Lord called me before I was born; while I was in my mother's womb he named me.
- ² He made my mouth like a sharp sword; in the shadow of his hand he hid me;
he made me a polished arrow; in his quiver he hid me away.
- ³ And he said to me, "You are my servant, Israel, in whom I will be glorified."
- ⁴ But I said, "I have labored in vain; I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity;
yet surely my cause is with the Lord and my reward with my God."
- ⁵ And now the Lord says, who formed me in the womb to be his servant,
to bring Jacob back to him, and that Israel might be gathered to him,
for I am honored in the sight of the Lord, and my God has become my strength—
- ⁶ he says, "It is too light a thing that you should be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob
and to restore the survivors of Israel;
I will give you as a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth."
- ⁷ Thus says the Lord, the Redeemer of Israel and his Holy One,
to one deeply despised, abhorred by the nations, the slave of rulers,
"Kings shall see and stand up;
princes, and they shall prostrate themselves, because of the Lord, who is faithful,
the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you."

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

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

²⁹ John the Baptist saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, “Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!”³⁰ This is he of whom I said, ‘After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me.’³¹ I myself did not know him, but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel.”³² And John testified, “I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him.”³³ I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, ‘He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.’³⁴ And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Chosen One.”

³⁵ The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples,³⁶ and as he watched Jesus walk by he exclaimed, “Look, here is the Lamb of God!”³⁷ The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus.³⁸ When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, “What are you looking for?” They said to him, “Rabbi” (which translated means Teacher), “where are you staying?”³⁹ He said to them, “Come and see.” They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o’clock in the afternoon.⁴⁰ One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother.⁴¹ He first found his brother Simon and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which is translated Anointed).⁴² He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, “You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas” (which is translated Peter).

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

Sermon

Pastor Gary Sandberg

Sermon Notes

Song of the Day

Arise, Your Light Has Come!

ELW 314



1 A - rise, your light has come! The Spir - it's call o - bey;
2 A - rise, your light has come! Fling wide the pris - on door;
3 A - rise, your light has come! All you in sor - row born,
4 A - rise, your light has come! The moun - tains burst in song!



show forth the glo - ry of your God which shines on you to - day.
pro - claim the cap - tive's lib - er - ty, good tid - ings to the poor.
bind up the bro - ken - heart - ed ones and com - fort those who mourn.
Rise up like ea - gles on the wing, God's pow'r will make us strong.

A Statement of Our Faith (Apostles' Creed)

Pastor Gary Sandberg

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.

+ WE WORSHIP GOD WITH OUR OFFERINGS +

Abundantly Bethany

Pastor Gary Sandberg

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

- ♦ **Town Hall:** TODAY, 11:20am, Room 312 (Rehearsal & Lecture Hall)
- ♦ **Bethany Outdoor Adventures Hike:** Saturday, Jan 24
- ♦ **Bethany Dinner Club:** Registration closes Jan 25!

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



FYTD Financial Update (July – November)

Budgeted Income	Budgeted Expenses
\$908,000	\$1,080,000
Actual Income	Actual Expenses
\$960,000	\$1,030,000

Offering Music

Arise, Shine, for Thy Light Come

Healy Willan

Chancel Choir, dir. Kirk Schjodt

*Arise, shine, for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee. Alleluia!
Oh, praise the Lord, all ye nations, and laud him, all ye people!*

For his merciful kindness is great toward us, and the truth of the Lord endureth forever.

Children Return to the Sanctuary

+ THE COMMUNITY MEAL +

Invitation to The Communion Table

Pastor Nate Preisinger

Celebration of Holy Communion

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.

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

Softly and Tenderly

Raymond Brown, arr. Mark Hayes

Chancel Choir, dir. Kirk Schjodt

*Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling, calling for you and for me;
See, on the portals he's waiting and watching, watching for you and for me.
Come home, come home, ye who are weary, come home.
Earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling, calling, O sinner, come home!
Why do we tarry when Jesus is pleading, pleading for you and for me?
Why do we linger and heed not his mercy, mercy for you and for me?
Time is now fleeting, the moments are passing, passing from you and from me;
Shadows are gathering, deathbeds are coming, coming for you and for me.
Oh! For the wonderful love he has promised, promised for you and for me;
Though we have sinned, he has mercy and pardon, pardon for you and for me.
Come home, come home, ye who are weary, come home.
Earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling, calling, O sinner, come home!*

Communion Song

All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly

ELW 461



1 All who hun-ger, gath-er glad-ly; ho-ly man-na is our bread.
2 All who hun-ger, nev-er strang-ers; seek-er, be a wel-come guest.
3 All who hun-ger, sing to - geth-er, Je-sus Christ is liv-ing bread.



Come from wil-der-ness and wan-d'ring. Here in truth we will be fed.
Come from rest-less-ness and roam-ing. Here in joy we keep the feast.
Come from lone-li-ness and long-ing. Here in peace we have been fed.



You that yearn for days of full-ness, all a-round us is our food.
We that once were lost and scat-tered in com-mu-nion's love have stood.
Blest are those who from this ta-ble live their days in grat-i-tude.



Taste and see the grace e-ter-nal. Taste and see that God is good.
Taste and see the grace e-ter-nal. Taste and see that God is good.
Taste and see the grace e-ter-nal. Taste and see that God is good.

Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955–1993

Music: HOLY MANNA, W. Moore, *Columbian Harmony*, 1825

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Table Blessing

+ GOD SENDS US TO SERVE +

Benediction

Pastor Gary Sandberg

Song of Sending

Son of God, Eternal Savior

ELW 655

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



1 Son of God, e - ter - nal Sav - ior, source of life and truth and grace,
2 As you, Lord, have lived for oth - ers, so may we for oth - ers live.
3 Come, O Christ, and reign a - mong us, King of love and Prince of peace;
4 Son of God, e - ter - nal Sav - ior, source of life and truth and grace,



Word made flesh, whose birth a - mong us hal - lows all our hu - man race,
Free - ly have your gifts been grant - ed; free - ly may your ser - vants give.
hush the storm of strife and pas - sion, bid its cru - el dis - cords cease.
Word made flesh, whose birth a - mong us hal - lows all our hu - man race:



you our head, who, throned in glo - ry, for your own will ev - er plead:
Yours the gold and yours the sil - ver, yours the wealth of land and sea;
By your pa - tient years of toil - ing, by your si - lent hours of pain,
by your pray - ing, by your will - ing that your peo - ple should be one,



fill us with your love and pit - y, heal our wrong, and help our need.
we but stew - ards of your boun - ty held in sol - emn trust will be.
quench our fe - vered thirst of plea - sure, stem our self - ish greed of gain.
grant, oh, grant our hope's fru - i - tion: here on earth your will be done.

Text: Somerset C. Lowry, 1855–1932

Music: IN BABILONE, *Oude en Nieuwe Hollandse Boerenlities en Contradansen*, 1710

Dismissal

Pastor Gary Sandberg

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

Finale Jubliante

Healey Willan

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Things To Know About - News & Events

- ♦ **High School Mission Trip:** Meeting **TODAY** at 11:20am in the Youth Room (412). All interested people are welcome!
- ♦ **Winter Food Bank Collection Drive:** Begins **TODAY**, through mid-April. Please bring boxes of cereal to church and put them on the table in the Fellowship Hall. This effort supports the Integrated Family Community Services (IFCS) food bank, located at 3370 S. Irving St, Englewood. Thank you for your gracious hands-on support of this Bethany ministry. For questions contact Ed Blum at 303-506-4782.
- ♦ **Rejoicing Spirits: TODAY**, at Lord of the Hills Lutheran Church 21755 E Smoky Hill Rd. Aurora, 80015, 4:00-6:00pm. Rejoicing Spirits is an inclusive worship space for people with cognitive and intellectual disabilities, their caregivers, families and anyone who seeks an open, joyful and creative worship experience. Please RSVP or for more information contact pastor@lordofthehills.org.
- ♦ **Bethany Outdoor Adventures Hike:** Mark your calendar for **Saturday, Jan 24**, for the first Bethany Outdoor Adventures activity of 2026! Join in a morning of fun at Mount Falcon Park, a 25 minute drive west of Bethany on US Hwy 285. There will be 4 options for different levels of hikes or playing in the snow, followed by hot cocoa and cookies at a final meeting point. Please sign up on the Bethany News Page to see more detailed information and choose your activity. For questions or to be added to the list for future events, please email Lizza Aalto at taalto@aol.com.
- ♦ **10 Commandments Milestone class:** Sunday, **Jan 25**, 11:20am-1:00pm in the Great Hall. Bethany's Children's Ministry is hosting this Milestone for children in 3rd, 4th and 5th grade and their adult caregivers. We'll enjoy a light lunch together and then participate in engaging and creative cross-generational learning activities. Please register online at the ad for this event on www.bethany-denver.org/news or contact Deacon Debra Alba at Debra@Bethany-Denver.org for more information.
- ♦ **Bethany Dinner Club:** This is a wonderful opportunity to get to know fellow Bethany people while sharing a meal. Groups of 6-8 adults gather to enjoy dinner in a home, brunch out or any meal in any location. The goal is fellowship! Each group meets three or four times in a four-month period as the role of host rotates. Couples and singles are welcome! Our Winter into Spring groups will begin in early February. Registration is open until **Jan 25**. Sign up at the link on the Bethany News for this event. Email Bethanybreakingbread@gmail.com with questions.

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. **The two services resume on January 11.**
- ♦ **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 staffed Nursery, please speak with an usher.