

BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH

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



GENEROSITY
CASUAL BLENDED SERVICE
10:00AM JANUARY 25, 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

Dearest Jesus, at Your Word

settings by Paul Manz & Paul Fey

Welcome to Worship

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

Pastor Gary Sandberg



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

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

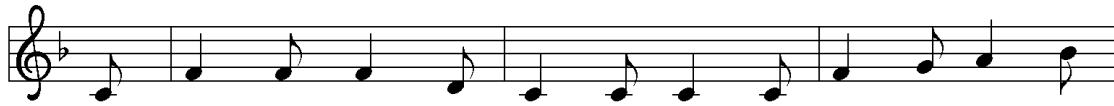
Friends in Christ, hear this good news. God is merciful and full of love. Through Jesus, your sins are forgiven and your burdens are lifted. You are set free to walk in God's grace and to live in the joy of the resurrection. **Amen.**

Opening Song

I Come with Joy

ELW 482

You are invited to face the cross as it enters.



1 I come with joy, a child of God, for - giv - en, loved, and
2 I come with Chris - tians far and near to find, as all are
3 As Christ breaks bread, and bids us share, each proud di - vi - sion
4 The Spir - it of the ris - en Christ, un - seen, but ev - er
5 To - geth - er met, to - geth - er bound by all that God has



free, the life of Je - sus to re - call in
fed, the new com - mu - ni - ty of love in
ends. The love that made us, makes us one, and
near, is in such friend - ship bet - ter known, a -
done, we'll go with joy, to give the world the



love laid down for me, in love laid down for me.
Christ's com - mu - nion bread, in Christ's com - mu - nion bread.
strang - ers now are friends, and strang - ers now are friends.
live a - mong us here, a - live a - mong us here.
love that makes us one, the love that makes us one.

Text: Brian A. Wren, b. 1936

Music: DOVE OF PEACE, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

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Greeting

Pastor Nate Preisinger

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.

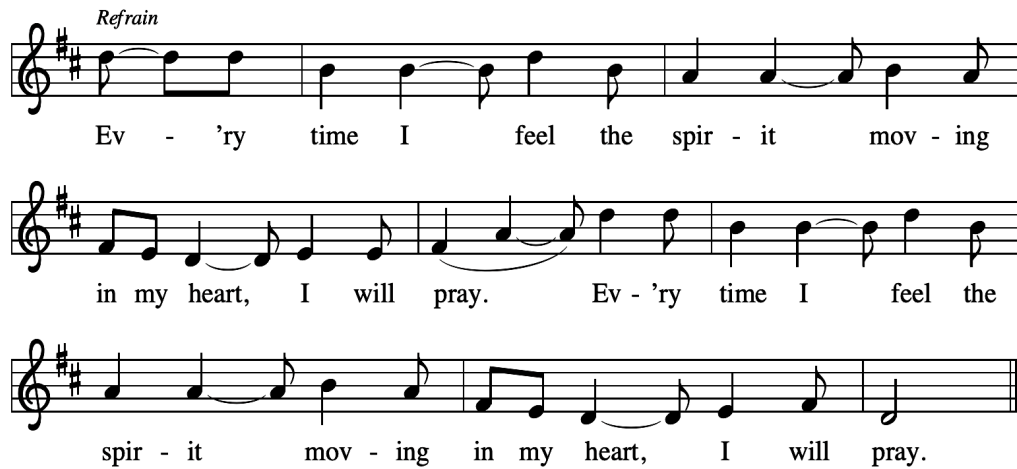
Prayer of the Day

Lord God,

your lovingkindness always goes before us and follows after us. Summon us into your light, and direct our steps in the ways of goodness that come through the cross of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Children's Sermon

Children's Worship



+ WE ENCOUNTER GOD'S WORD +

Today's Sermon is based on readings from:

Deuteronomy 14:22-23

²² "Set apart a tithe of all the yield of your seed that is brought in yearly from the field. ²³ In the presence of the Lord your God, in the place that he will choose as a dwelling for his name, you shall eat the tithe of your grain, your wine, and your oil, as well as the firstlings of your herd and flock, so that you may learn to fear the Lord your God always.

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

Matthew 26:6-13

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

⁶ Now while Jesus was at Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, ⁷ a woman came to him with an alabaster jar of very costly ointment, and she poured it on his head as he sat at the table. ⁸ But when the disciples saw it, they were angry and said, "Why this waste? ⁹ For this ointment could have been sold for a large sum and the money given to the poor." ¹⁰ But Jesus, aware of this, said to them, "Why do you trouble the woman? She has performed a good service for me. ¹¹ For you always have the poor with you, but you will not always have me. ¹² By pouring this ointment on my body she has prepared me for burial. ¹³ Truly I tell you, wherever this good news is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will be told in remembrance of her."

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

Sermon

Pastor Nate Preisinger

Sermon Notes



1 Dear - est Je - sus, at your word we have come a -
 2 All our knowl - edge, sense, and sight lie in deep - est
 3 Ra - diance of God's glo - ry bright, Light of Light from
 4 Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost, praise to you and



gain to hear you; let our thoughts and hearts be stirred
 dark - ness shroud - ed till your Spir - it breaks the night,
 God pro - ceed - ing, Je - sus, send your bless - ed light;
 ad - o - ra - tion! Grant us what we need the most:



and in glow - ing faith be near you as the prom - is -
 fill - ing us with light un - cloud - ed. All good thoughts and
 help our hear - ing, speak - ing, heed - ing, that our prayers and
 all your gos - pel's con - so - la - tion while we here on



es here giv - en draw us whol - ly up to heav - en.
 all good liv - ing come but by your gra - cious giv - ing.
 songs may please you, as with grate - ful hearts we praise you.
 earth a - wait you, till in heav'n with praise we greet you.

Text: Tobias Clausnitzer, 1619–1684, sts. 1–3; *Gesangbuch*, Berlin, 1707, st. 4; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, adapt.
 Music: LIEBSER JESU, WIR SIND HIER, Johann R. Ahle, 1625–1673

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.

- ♦ **Bethany Dinner Club:** Registration closes TODAY!
- ♦ **Souper Bowl of Caring:** Sunday, Feb 8
- ♦ **2026 Intention of Giving (Pledge)**

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

Celebrate with Joy

arr. Cathy Moglebust

Carillons, dir. Nolan Oltjenbruns

Children Return to the Sanctuary

+ THE COMMUNITY MEAL +

Invitation to The Communion Table

Pastor Gary Sandberg

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

Meditation on Beautiful Saviour

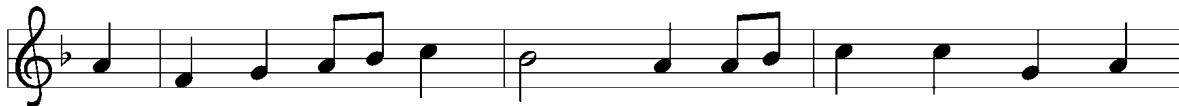
arr. Cathy Moglebust

Carillons, dir. Nolan Oltjenbruns

Communion Song

O Bread of Life from Heaven

ELW 480



1 O bread of life from heav - en, O food to pil - grims
2 O fount of grace re - deem - ing, O riv - er ev - er
3 We love you, Je - sus, ten - der, in all your hid - den



giv - en, O man - na from a - bove: feed
stream - ing from Je - sus' wound - ed side: come
splen - dor with - in these means of grace. Oh,



with the bless - ed sweet - ness of your di - vine com -
now, your love be - stow - ing on thirst - ing souls, and
let the veil be riv - en, and our clear eye in



plete - ness the souls that want and need your love.
flow - ing till all are ful - ly sat - is - fied.
heav - en be - hold your glo - ry face to face.

Text: Latin hymn, c. 1661; tr. Hugh T. Henry, 1862–1946, sts. 1, 3; tr. Philip Schaff, 1819–1893, st. 2
Music: O WELT, ICH MUSS DICH LASSEN, Heinrich Isaac, 1450–1517

Table Blessing

+ GOD SENDS US TO SERVE +

Benediction

Pastor Nate Preisinger

Song of Sending

Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ

ELW 674

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



- 1 Let us tal - ents and tongues em - ploy, reach - ing out with a shout of joy:
- 2 Christ is a - ble to make us one, at the ta - ble he sets the tone,
- 3 Je - sus calls us in, sends us out bear - ing fruit in a world of doubt,



bread is bro - ken, the wine is poured, Christ is spo - ken and seen and heard.
teach - ing peo - ple to live to bless, love in word and in deed ex - press.
gives us love to tell, bread to share: God (Im - man - u - el) ev - 'ry - where!



Je - sus lives a - gain, earth can breathe a - gain, pass the Word a - round: loaves a - bound!

Text: Fred Kaan, b. 1929

Music: LINSTeAD, Jamaican folk tune; adapt. Doreen Potter, 1925–1980

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Dismissal

Pastor Nate Preisinger

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

The Emperor's Fanfare

Antonio Soler

Things To Know About - News & Events

- ♦ **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 closes at end of day TODAY.** Sign up at the link on Bethany News for this event. Email bethanybreakingbread@gmail.com with questions.
- ♦ **Souper Bowl of Caring: Sunday, Feb 8** during Community Time 11:00am in the Fellowship Hall. Please sign up on the event ad on Bethany News to bring a pot of soup/stew or bread/crackers to share. All soups are welcome: meaty, vegetarian, vegan and gluten free. There will be power to plug in crock pots.
- ♦ **Habitat for Humanity Metro Denver/Holy Hammers:** Volunteers needed **Saturday, Feb 28** at the Habitat Production Shop, 8:30am- 3:00pm. Address is 430 S Navajo St, Denver, 80223. Note that volunteers can be as young as 14 and you'll want to dress appropriately for painting. Register at <https://vhub.at/HolyHammers> by **Feb 14**. Contact Kevin Dempsey at kmdmpsy@aol.com for more info.
- ♦ **Bethany's Social Justice Ministry:** You are invited to participate in a Book Study Sunday, **Feb 22**, 11:20am - 12:30pm in Room 210. The book is, "The God who Sees – Immigrants, the Bible and the Journey to Belong" by immigration advocate, Karen Gonzalez. In the book Karen recounts her family's migration from Guatemala to the US. Along her journey she encounters Jesus and begins to follow him. The book will be at the Mission Center for a suggested donation of \$15. For more information please contact Deacon Debra at Debra@Bethany-Denver.org.
- ♦ **Cocina Libre International Meal: Sunday, Mar 8**, 11:30am-1:00pm, Fellowship Hall. This meal is prepared by local, immigrant chefs. The Cocina Libre team, lead by DU Associate Professor of Psychology, Dr. Julia Roncoroni will lead us in viewing a documentary highlighting a few of their stories and participating in guided discussions as we share our stories of Identity, Purpose, and Belonging. The cost of the meal is \$25 and childcare will be available in the Nursery. Due to the sensitive nature of the discussion, it is not recommended for children under the age of 12. Sign up at the event ad on Bethany News **by Feb 26** to secure your seat! For more information contact Deacon Debra at debra@bethany-denver.org.
- ♦ **Winter Food Bank Collection Drive:** Continues 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.

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/



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LUTHERAN CHURCH

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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.