

I will make you  
fish for people

MATTHEW 4:19

Je vous ferai

PÊCHER  
D'HOMME





+ Third Sunday After The Epiphany +

**January 22, 2023**

**AS WE GATHER**

When Jesus appeared on the scene of human history, His coming was like the light of a new day. Isaiah had prophesied a day would come filled with joy as at the harvest or when victors divide spoils. But daylight also reveals problems covered by darkness, like the divisions at the Church in Corinth, as Paul writes. Jesus’ light not only reveals, but it also forgives, heals, and enlivens. People brought the sick and demon-possessed to our Lord, and the first four disciples jumped at the opportunity to follow Him. What ills shall we bring to worship today for resolution? Sins requiring forgiveness, gloom needing joy, divisions seeking reconciliation? Jesus came into human history to die and rise for us; today He comes through Word and Sacrament in grace and mercy to meet our deepest needs. Let us rejoice in the light of God’s forgiveness, mercy, and love.

**The pottery vessels on the altar remind us that although Holy Communion is not celebrated today, our Lord’s sacred gifts are still central to our life of faith. Holy Communion is celebrated every 1st, 3rd, and 5th weekend (and major festivals).**

***Liturgical Color:***

***Green is the color of life and growth in the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.***

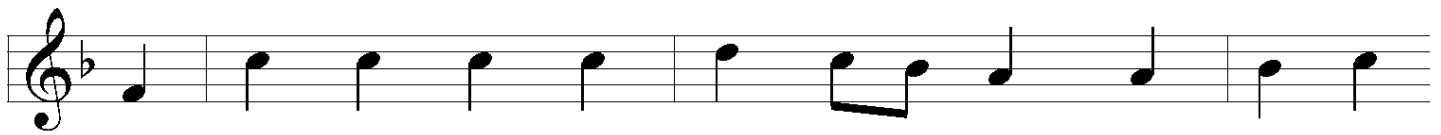
***Visitors:*** We are glad you have chosen to be with us today! We would especially like to follow-up with you beyond today, so please take a moment to leave your best contact information in the guest books at each entrance. ***A cry-room for parents and children is just off from the front entryway, and there’s a wonderful nursery downstairs at the end of the fellowship hall for you to make use of at any time.*** Do you have any questions about anything here? Don’t hesitate to ask one of the ushers or elders, or talk to the pastor.

**Prelude**

**Announcements & Welcome**

***Please rise***

**Gathering Hymn..... “The People That in Darkness Sat”, #412**



1 The peo - ple that in dark - ness sat A glo - rious  
 2 To hail Thee, Sun of Righ - teous - ness, The gath - 'ring  
 3 To us a Child of hope is born, To us a  
 4 His name shall be the Prince of Peace, The Ev - er -



light have seen; The light has shined on them who long In  
 na - tions come; They joy as when the reap - ers bear Their  
 Son is giv'n, And on His shoul - der ev - er rests All  
 last - ing Lord, The Won - der - ful, the Coun - sel - or, The



shades of death have been, In shades of death have been.  
 har - vest trea - sures home, Their har - vest trea - sures home.  
 pow'r in earth and heav'n, All pow'r in earth and heav'n.  
 God by all a - dored, The God by all a - dored.

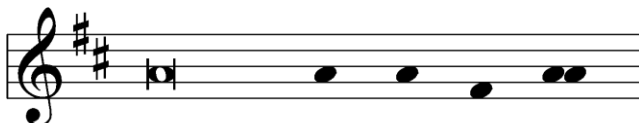
5 His righteous government and pow'r  
 Shall over all extend;  
 On judgment and on justice based,  
 His reign shall have no end,  
 His reign shall have no end.

6 Lord Jesus, reign in us, we pray,  
 And make us Thine alone,  
 Who with the Father ever art  
 And Holy Spirit, one,  
 And Holy Spirit, one.

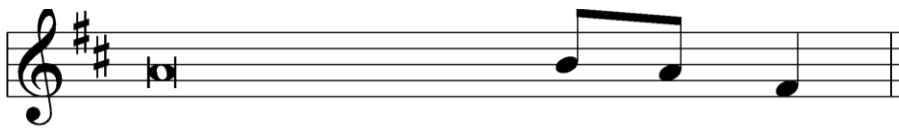
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## Matins

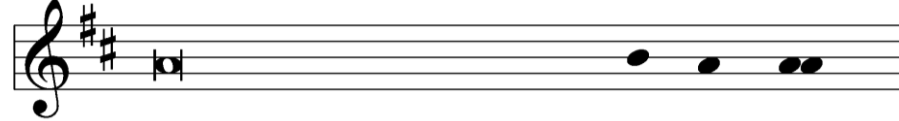
Opening Verses..... page 219



**L** O Lord, o - pen my lips,



**C** and my mouth will de - clare Your praise.



**L** Make haste, O God, to de - liv - er me;



**C** make haste to help me, O Lord.



**C** Glo-ry be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spir - it;



as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and will be for - ev - er. A - men.



Praise to You, O Christ. Al - le - lu - ia.

## Psalmody

### Antiphon (*Epiphany*)

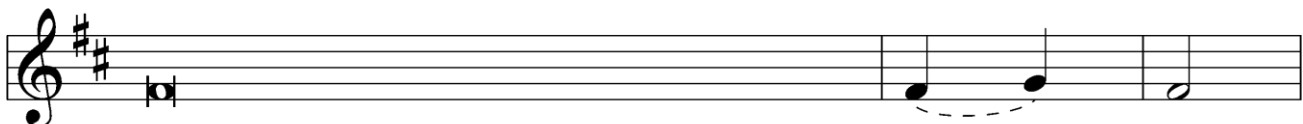


**L** The Christ has ap - peared to us.



**C** O come, let us wor - ship Him.

### Venite.....pages 220-221



- C** 1 O come, let us sing . . . . . to the Lord,
- 2 For the Lord is a . . . . . great God
- 3 The sea is His, for He . . . . . made it,
- 5 Glory be to the Father and . . . . . to the Son





strength, and my all, Whom then shall I fear?

Stanza



1 There is one thing I ask of the Lord: To dwell in His



house for - ev - er, To gaze on the beau-ty of the



Lord All the days of my life.



2 Do not hide Your face, O Lord; Ev - 'ry day I will



seek Your face. Though my fa - ther and moth - er may for -



sake me, The Lord will re - ceive me.



3 Teach me, Lord, and keep me on Your paths; Guide me, Lord, a -



long a lev - el way. I will gaze on the good - ness of the



Lord In the land of all the liv - ing.

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Please be seated

# Readings

## Old Testament Reading ..... Isaiah 9:1-4

There will be no gloom for her who was in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he has made glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.

The people who walked in darkness  
have seen a great light;  
those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,  
on them has light shined.  
You have multiplied the nation;  
you have increased its joy;  
they rejoice before you  
as with joy at the harvest,  
as they are glad when they divide the spoil.  
For the yoke of his burden,  
and the staff for his shoulder,  
the rod of his oppressor,  
you have broken as on the day of Midian.

**P** O Lord, have mercy on us.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Epistle Reading ..... 1 Corinthians 1:10-18

I appeal to you, brothers, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment. For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there is quarreling among you, my brothers. What I mean is that each one of you says, "I follow Paul," or "I follow Apollos," or "I follow Cephas," or "I follow Christ." Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, so that no one may say that you were baptized in my name. (I did baptize also the household of Stephanas. Beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else.) For Christ did not send me to baptize but to preach the gospel, and not with words of eloquent wisdom, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power.

For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

**P** O Lord, have mercy on us.

**C** Thanks be to God.

*Please rise*

**Holy Gospel ..... Matthew 4:12-25**

When [Jesus] heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew into Galilee. And leaving Nazareth he went and lived in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, so that what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:

“The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali,  
the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles—  
the people dwelling in darkness  
have seen a great light,  
and for those dwelling in the region and shadow of death,  
on them a light has dawned.”

From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

While walking by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon (who is called Peter) and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.” Immediately they left their nets and followed him. And going on from there he saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets, and he called them. Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

And he went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction among the people. So his fame spread throughout all Syria, and they brought him all the sick, those afflicted with various diseases and pains, those oppressed by demons, epileptics, and paralytics, and he healed them. And great crowds followed him from Galilee and the Decapolis, and from Jerusalem and Judea, and from beyond the Jordan.

**P** O Lord, have mercy on us.

**C** Thanks be to God.





**Apostles Creed**.....*back cover of hymnal*

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth.  
And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell.  
The third day He rose again from the dead.  
He ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.  
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy Christian Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**Announcement of Prayers**

**Prayer**

**Kyrie**.....*page 227*



**C** Lord, have mer-cy; Christ, have mer-cy; Lord, have mer-cy.

**Lord's Prayer**

**Collects**.....*page 227-228*



**L** O Lord, hear my prayer.



**C** And let my cry come to You.

**Collect of the Day** ..... *(in unison)*

Almighty and everlasting God, mercifully look upon our infirmities and stretch forth the hand of Your majesty to heal and defend us; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

**Additional Collects** ending Amen.

**Benedicamus** ..... *page 228*

**Benediction** ..... *page 228*

**Sending Hymn**..... *"You Knit Me Together and Called Me By Name"*



1 You knit me to - geth - er and called me by name.  
2 You take all my fail - ings and work them for good.  
3 You use me to wit - ness of Je - sus, my Lord.



You loved me and formed me and craft - ed my frame.  
You guide all my do - ings to serve as I should.  
You teach me the words so Your name is a - dored.



You set works be - fore me to glo - ri - fy You.  
You grant me Your gifts as a bless - ing to all.  
You give me Your strength un - til all is re - vealed.



You fill me with strength for the tasks I will do.  
You prom - ise to be an - y place that You call.  
You stay by my side un - til time is re - pealed.

# Dismissal ..... (Bethlehem's Mission)

**P** Grow in Christ,

**C** Live in Love and Share the Faith!

## Postlude

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### Next week's readings:

**OT: Micah 6:1-8; Epistle: 1 Corinthians 1:18-31; Gospel: Matthew 5:1-12**

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**Attendance Last Saturday: 38**

**Total Offering: \$164,520.37**

**Home Use: \$3,956.00**

**Attendance Last Sunday: 70**

**Missions: \$800.00**

**Benevolences/Non-Offering: \$159,764.37**

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### Serving us today:

Elder ..... Willie Crespo

Musician ..... Gary Moege, Lorraine Miller

Altar Committee..... Darlene Laubenstein (Chair), Julie Crespo,  
Karon Harding, Georgia Luker, Amy Martin

Flower Committee ..... Penny Humphrey (Chair), Lori Sloan

### This Week's Schedule

Sunday	12:00 p.m.	Thrivent Planning Meeting
	3:00 p.m.	Youth Catechesis
Monday	9:30 a.m.	Exercise Class
	2:00 p.m.	Moms and Tots at the Park
	6:00 p.m.	4-H
Tuesday	9:30 a.m.	Quilting
	5:15 p.m.	Education Board Meeting
Wednesday	9:30 a.m.	Exercise Class
	10:30 a.m.	Bible Study
	6:30 p.m.	Choir Practice
Thursday	9:30 a.m.	Pastor at Warrensburg Christian School
	1:00 p.m.	Games and Cards Group
Friday	9:30 a.m.	Exercise Class
Saturday	5:30 p.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday	8:00 a.m.	The Lutheran Hour broadcast on 96.9
	9:00 a.m.	Radio Broadcast 98.5 (can also be heard at <a href="http://www.blchurch.com">www.blchurch.com</a> , under the Sermons tab)



9:15 a.m. Sunday School/Adult Bible Class  
10:30 a.m. Holy Communion

## Prayers

**For Sustenance, Healing, and Provision**—We remember those who are dealing with illness, are homebound or in nursing homes, are undergoing and recovering from surgery, as well as going through hospitalization and rehabilitation: Mel Bockelman, Paula Brewer, Ray & Mary Carstensen, Bob & Barbara Compton, Marion Droege, Tommy Fatka, Wilma Gertz, Karen Haase, Bret & Valerie Hartwig, Don Hillsman, Jr., Mary Johnson, Wanda Kreisel, Rohn Luker, Neala Ann (Cody Droege's niece), Judy Pierce, Maryanna Savery, Denny Spanton, Rose Steitz, & Joe Zeman.

**For Military Members**—We remember all service and support personnel who are deployed and stationed away from us and their families: Andy Burden, Ty Carter and Chance Hillsman.

**Prayer Requests & Spiritual Care**—If you would like to make a prayer request, contact Pr. Joel or email the church office. Also, if you're feeling the strain, feel free to call or text Pr. Joel or contact your elder or the church office. We rely upon the Holy Spirit and his gifts in Christ during every time of uncertainty, and can never be thankful enough for the gift of each other!

## Special Days for Members This Week

**Birthdays**—Caleb Thomas-22<sup>nd</sup>, Gracyn VanWey-22<sup>nd</sup>, Steve Goldsmith-24<sup>th</sup>, Samantha Brown-25<sup>th</sup>, Lisa Gulick-25<sup>th</sup>, Roberta Kohler-25<sup>th</sup>, Samantha Fatka-27<sup>th</sup>, Debbie Hagle-27<sup>th</sup>.

## Worship Services

**Saturday Services start at 5:30 p.m. Sunday Services are at 10:30 a.m.** Sunday's Services are live on Facebook and YouTube and the webpage at [blchurch.com](http://blchurch.com).

## Sunday School and Christian Education

**Wednesday Bible Study**—We are reading and discussing our way through the writings of the prophet Zechariah. **Join us in the conference room from 10:30 a.m. to noon** for this biblical journey together!

**Sunday Bible Study (9:15-10:10 a.m. in the conference room)**—We're using Trevor Sutton's 2018 book *Clearly Christian: Following Jesus in This Age of Confusion* as an inroad to Scripture, the Christian faith, and life. Join us for this discussion and exploration of who Christ is and what believing and living in Him really means!

**Sunday School is at 9:15 a.m. on Sunday mornings downstairs for ages Preschool through 12<sup>th</sup> grade.** We invite all children of the congregation (and outside too!) to come and be a part of this time set aside for growing together in Christ.

**Faith Night**—Join others in the Fellowship Hall on **Wednesday, February 1, from 5:30-6:00 p.m.** for a simple meal (bring something simple you'd like to share) and conversation, followed by a discussion from 6:00 to 6:45. We will discuss the meaning and significance of Jesus' presentation in the temple (forty days after his birth--celebrated Feb. 2) for our lives each day.

### **Youth Opportunities**

**Youth Church Worker Event**—Across the country and throughout the world, the church desperately needs pastors, teachers, and other church workers. Jesus says, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest." (Matthew 9:37-38) To inform our students about different opportunities in church work, **The Holy Cross Emma youth group** will host a church worker panel during their meeting on **Sunday, January 22 from 6:30-7:30 p.m.** in the Holy Cross School basement. While the event will be geared towards Jr. High and High School students, anyone is welcome.

**YouthLead Missouri** is a leadership training for high school youth. This conference will be held on **February 18-20, 2023 at Rocky Mount, Missouri.** Youth will receive practical training to help prepare them to be leaders in their own churches and community. Bethlehem would pay for any youth wanting to go to this mentorship/leadership training. Please let Pr. Joel or Penny Humphrey know if you are interested.

### **Music**

**Great News, we have a Choir Director!** Peggy Forstad, a veteran choir director with over 40 years' experience, has graciously agreed to lead us in joyful song to proclaim God's word. Choir rehearsals begin **January 25th and every Wednesday from 6:30 pm-8:00 pm in the Conference Room.** The first half-hour is dedicated to fellowship, then a full one-hour rehearsal. All previous and **prospective** choir members are invited to attend. Please give this opportunity prayerful consideration to strengthen our church and the unified Body of Christ.

### **Mary Martha Guild**

**Altar Flowers**—The Mary-Martha Guild invites you to **donate flowers** to honor a birthday, anniversary or other occasion, or honor the memory of a loved one who has passed away. To reserve a date to donate flowers, please call the office or Penny Humphrey.

**Recycling**—Please consider bringing all of your *aluminum cans* to Bethlehem to be recycled! You can place your bags by the shed in the parking lot. Proceeds go to the Lutheran World Relief through the Guild.

### Fellowship

**Exercise Class** happens at **9:30 a.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays** in the Fellowship Hall. This class is low impact exercise open to anyone, men or women. For more information, contact Judy Smith.

**The Games and Card Group** meets on **Thursdays at 1:00 p.m.** in the Youth Room downstairs. Anyone, men and women, are welcome to come. If you have any questions, please contact Melvin Theroff.

**The Quilting Group** meets on the **second and fourth Tuesday of the month from 9:30 a.m. until 2:30 p.m.** (September through May). Anyone is welcome to help with this project. No special sewing skills are needed. Bring your own lunch. If you have any questions, please contact Georgia Luker.

### This & That

**Thinking Spring**—As we look toward a return of green growth before too long, it would be great to gather core groups of people who want to be involved with what needs to be done in our gardens and nature trail on a regular basis. If you'd like to be part of these stewarding groups, let Pr. Joel or Shawn Lindley know so that you can be put on a list for project discussion and planning.

**Offering Envelopes**—We are still waiting on offering envelopes to arrive! For the time being, you may use a blank envelope for your offering. Please make sure you put your name and where you want the funds designated to on the front of the envelope.

**Country Kitchen Cards**—We have Country Kitchen Cards. Stop by the office if you would like to purchase one. They are \$10 and you get 10 buy-one- get-one free meal deals. All proceeds go to the youth group. Thanks for your support!

**Ongoing thanks** to those who generously give to the Bethlehem Emergency Fund, which enables Pr. Joel to assist members and certain people in the community who are in crisis situations. Much appreciation for your good support!

**Katy Trail will be hosting a mobile medical clinic on January 24, from 9am-3pm in the parking lot of the Food Center-137 East Culton.** If you need some care or know someone that does, please check out Bethlehem's Facebook page where it has been shared.

## 2023 Elders

**Willie Crespo** (last name begins A-F) 660-679-8121, [crespo6fam@gmail.com](mailto:crespo6fam@gmail.com)

**Ricky Bertels** (last name begins G-K), 660-262-8080, [rick1janice2@gmail.com](mailto:rick1janice2@gmail.com)

**Jack Easterwood** (last name begins L-O) 660-678-2045, [easter.egg2380@gmail.com](mailto:easter.egg2380@gmail.com)

**Alan Miller** (last name begins P-Z) 660-909-1764, [alormiller@aol.com](mailto:alormiller@aol.com)



A blessing is neither earned nor deserved but received.

**“And all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you, if you obey the voice of the Lord your God”** (Deuteronomy 28:2). Likewise, life ensues as a gift indicating God’s grace and a privilege affirming His favor.

A blessing means speaking, a promise humbly hidden in simple words. **“Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed”** (John 20:29). Likewise, every life has promise and purpose, no matter what size, skills, or circumstances.

Blessed amounts to more than being merely happy, healthy, attractive, affluent, or influential. **“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied”** (Matthew 5:6). Likewise, every human life exceeds just physical functions and emotional assessments.

A blessing comes from God and connects to Him.

**“So shall they put my name upon the people of Israel, and I will bless them”** (Numbers 6:27).

Likewise, every human being embodies God’s creation, reflects His incarnation, and ensures His ongoing and increasing involvement.

A blessing implies multiplication and abundance. **“I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore”** (Genesis 22:17). Likewise, even at the beginning, every human person makes our heart bigger and our world better.

Blessings often issue from loved ones of significant age and experience. **“[Elizabeth in her old age] exclaimed with a loud cry, ‘Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb!’”** (Luke 1:42). Likewise, every neighbor draws us beyond appearances and expectations.

Blessing consists not only of substance but of activity. **“If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them”** (John 13:17). Likewise, life sets love in motion and puts joy into practice.

Life is what God blesses us with and what He blesses us for—life together and life forever!



Equipping Lutherans and their neighbors to be Gospel-motivated voices **For Life**  
[lutheransforlife.org](http://lutheransforlife.org) • [info@lutheransforlife.org](mailto:info@lutheransforlife.org)  
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## Contact Information

**Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 607 N. Maguire, Warrensburg, MO 64093**

### **Our Mission**

· Grow in Christ · Live in Love · Share the Faith

### **Our Vision**

To be a community of believers, disciples, and servants while we deepen our personal faith and reach others for Christ.



#### **Rev. Joel R. Kurz**

Tuesday & Thursday: 8am–5pm, Wednesday & Friday: 10am-5pm

Otherwise by appointment

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#### **Bookkeeper:**

Teresa Hillsman

Tuesday: 9am-11am

Thursday: 9am-11am

[financial@blchurch.com](mailto:financial@blchurch.com)

Please note that Bethlehem Lutheran Church has a closed-circuit video system. This allows for live streaming on the web, viewing of the service on screens in the building and helps to enhance our security. Please see a trustee or an elder if you have any questions.