

Blessed
are those
who mourn

MATTHEW 5:4



+ Fourth Sunday After The Epiphany +

January 29, 2023

AS WE GATHER

Why do the Beatitudes resonate with us? Yes, we who follow Christ are poor in spirit, we hunger for righteousness, and we know some persecution; but so do others, those who follow other gods. The difference is that, at the deepest level, God has promised blessings while we experience all those human emotions and take what action we think best. Those blessings come to us by grace, simply because God has chosen us, without any merit or worthiness in us. We are not worthy, just as God's Old Testament people did not merit His attention, but we and they received it nonetheless. God has chosen to make us worthy by sending His Son in our place. In today's Readings, He explains what pleases Him. Only Christ lived the perfect life, but the Gospel certainly moves us to respond to God's choosing us, as best we can, in love and service.

REGARDING COMMUNION

Epiphany means "the manifesting" or "showing forth." Jesus was *made known* as God in flesh by the descent of the Holy Spirit and voice of the Father when baptized, as well as through the miracles of healing he did for the ill and suffering. We come to our Lord's Table as a people baptized into the name of the Holy Triune God ... as Christians who desire to continue in the faith and life of Jesus. Our Lord Jesus *makes himself known* to us still as we gather at the altar to receive his body and blood in the bread and wine for our forgiveness and healing and strength. Then we go forth to *make him known* to others in word and witness. ***Since Christian denominations have differing understandings of Holy Communion, if you are not a member of a Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod congregation and have not communed here before, we ask that you speak with the pastor or elder prior to communing with us the first time. Those not communing are invited to cross their arms over their chests and approach the pastor for a blessing during the distribution. Also, if certain factors prohibit you from partaking of regular wine, non-alcoholic wine is available in the center circle of the tray. If you would like to begin sharing this sacred meal with us on a regular basis, please ask the pastor for a time of faith instruction and formation.***

***If you are in need of a gluten-free wafer for Communion,
please let Pastor or an Elder know.***

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/exit. **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

Please rise, as able.

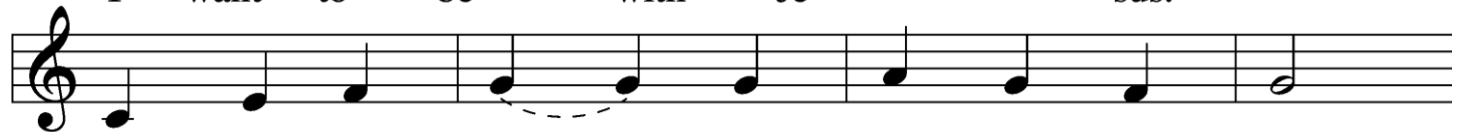
Invocation Hymn "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light", #411



1 I want to walk as a child of the light.
2 I want to see the bright-ness of God.
3 I'm look - ing for the com - ing of Christ.



I want to fol - low Je - sus.
I want to look at Je - sus.
I want to be with Je - sus.

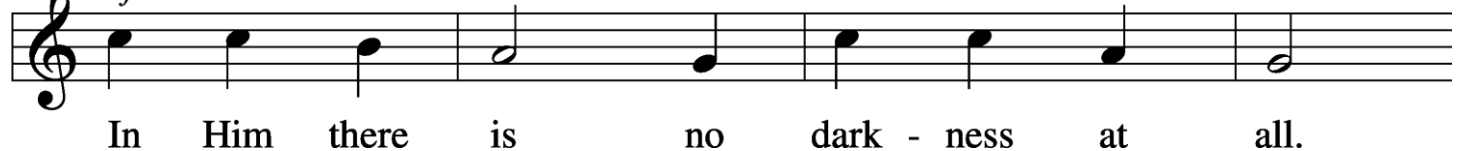


God set the stars to give light to the world.
Clear Sun of Righ - teous - ness, shine on my path,
When we have run with pa - tience the race,

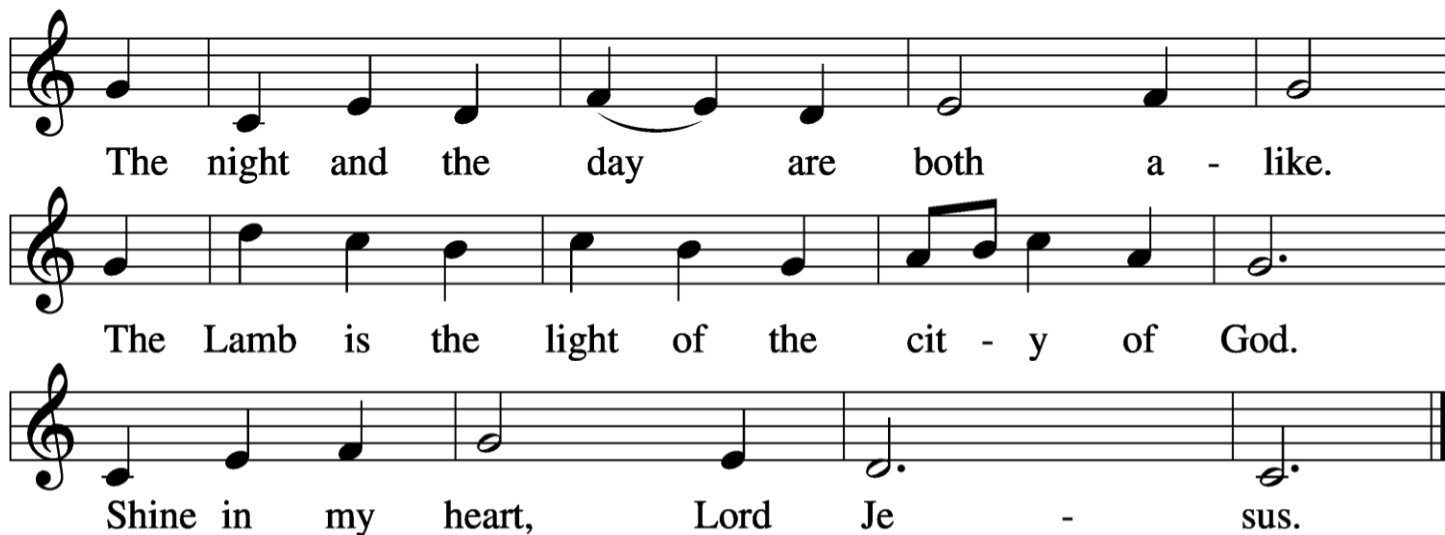


The star of my life is Je - sus.
And show me the way to the Fa - ther.
We shall know the joy of Je - sus.

Refrain



In Him there is no dark - ness at all.



The night and the day are both a - like.

The Lamb is the light of the cit - y of God.

Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.

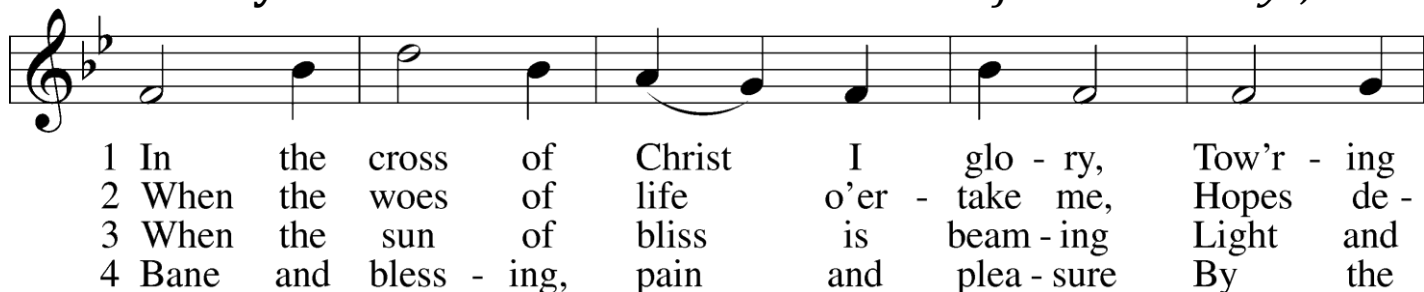
Divine Service, Setting Four **Confession and Absolution**

Invocation and Confession & Absolutionpage 203

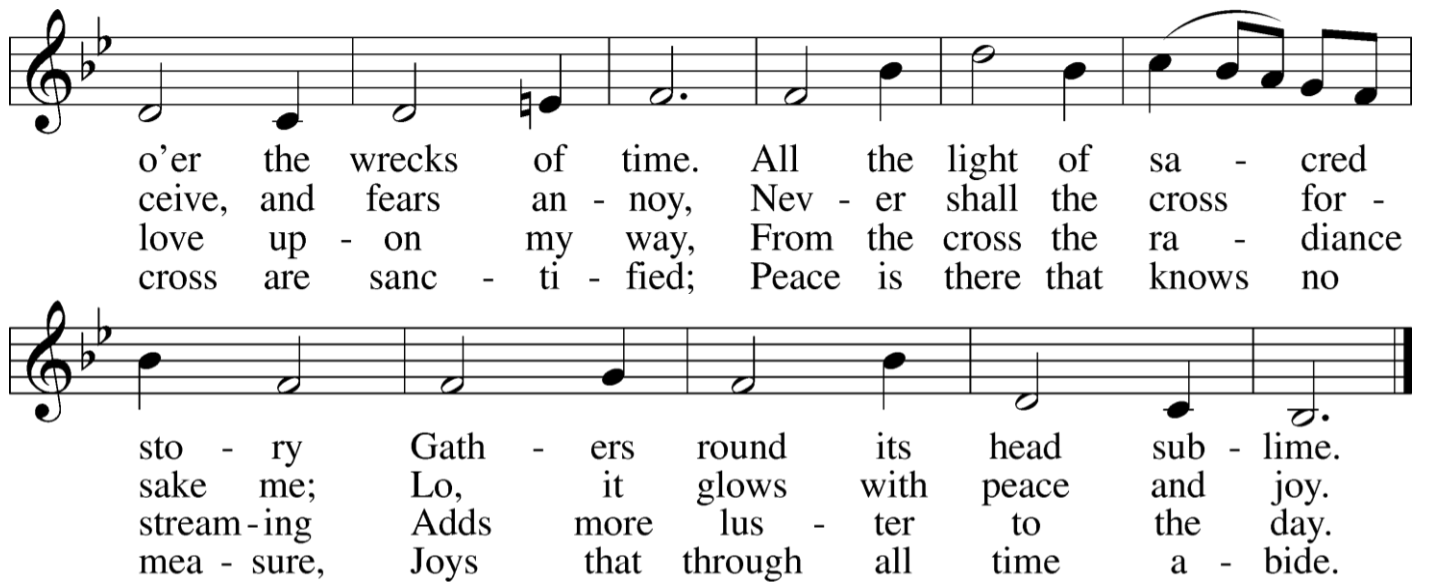
- P** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.
- P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,
- C** who made heaven and earth.
- P** If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?
- C** But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.
- P** Since we are gathered . . .God, be merciful to me, a sinner.
- C** Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.
- P** Almighty God, . . . through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- C** Amen.

Service of the Word

Entrance Hymn *"In the Cross of Christ I Glory", #427*



1 In the cross of Christ I glo - ry, Tow'r - ing
 2 When the woes of life o'er - take me, Hopes de -
 3 When the sun of bliss is beam - ing Light and
 4 Bane and bless - ing, pain and plea - sure By the



o'er the wrecks of time. All the light of sa - cred
ceive, and fears an - noy, Nev - er shall the cross for -
love up - on my way, From the cross the ra - diance
cross are sanc - ti - fied; Peace is there that knows no
sto - ry Gath - ers round its head sub - lime.
sake me; Lo, it glows with peace and joy.
stream - ing Adds more lus - ter to the day.
mea - sure, Joys that through all time a - bide.


Text and tune: Public domain

Kyriepage 204




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


Gloria in Excelsis.....page 204



C 1 To God on high be glo - ry And peace to all the earth;
2 To You, O sole - be - got - ten, The Fa - ther's Son, we pray;
3 For You a - lone are ho - ly; You on - ly are the Lord.



Good-will from God in heav - en Pro - claimed at Je - sus' birth!
O Lamb of God, our Sav - ior, You take our sins a - way.
For - ev - er and for - ev - er, Be wor - shipped and a - dored;



We praise and bless You, Fa - ther; Your ho - ly name, we sing—
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus; Re - ceive our heart - felt cry,
You with the Ho - ly Spir - it A - lone are Lord Most High,



Our thanks for Your great glo - ry, Lord God, our heav'n-ly King.
Where You in pow'r are seat-ed At God's right hand on high—
In God the Fa-ther's glo - ry. "A - men!" our glad re - ply.

Salutation.....page 205

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** And also with you.
- P** Let us pray.

Collect of the Day (*spoken in unison*)

Almighty God, You know we live in the midst of so many dangers that in our frailty we cannot stand upright. Grant strength and protection to support us in all dangers and carry us through all temptations; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Please be seated

Old Testament Reading..... **Micah 6:1-8**

Hear what the LORD says:

Arise, plead your case before the mountains,
and let the hills hear your voice.

Hear, you mountains, the indictment of the LORD,
and you enduring foundations of the earth,
for the LORD has an indictment against his people,
and he will contend with Israel.

"O my people, what have I done to you?

How have I wearied you? Answer me!

For I brought you up from the land of Egypt
and redeemed you from the house of slavery,
and I sent before you Moses,
Aaron, and Miriam.

O my people, remember what Balak king of Moab devised,
and what Balaam the son of Beor answered him,
and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal,
that you may know the saving acts of the LORD."

“With what shall I come before the LORD,
and bow myself before God on high?
Shall I come before him with burnt offerings,
with calves a year old?
Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams,
with ten thousands of rivers of oil?
Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?”
He has told you, O man, what is good;
and what does the LORD require of you
but to do justice, and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with your God?

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle Reading 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

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. For it is written,

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, whom God made our wisdom and our righteousness and sanctification and redemption. Therefore, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Please rise

Alleluia and Versepage 205



C Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



C These things are writ - ten that you may be - lieve that



Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.



C Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Holy Gospel **Matthew 5:1-12**

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the fifth chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

Seeing the crowds, [Jesus] went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him.

And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying:

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

“Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

“Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

“Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.

“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

“Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your

reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Nicene Creed page 206

**I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

Please be seated

Hymn of the Day "O Christ, Who Called the Twelve", #856



1 O Christ, who called the Twelve To rise and fol - low You, For -
2 O Christ, who taught the Twelve The truth for a - ges sealed, Whose
3 O Christ, who led the Twelve A - mong the des - o - late And
4 O Christ, who sent the Twelve On roads they'd nev - er trod To
5 O Christ, th'a - pos-tles' Lord, The mar - tyrs' strength and song, The



sak - ing old, fa - mil - iar ways For ven - tures bold and new:
words and works a - wak - ened faith, The ways of God re - vealed:
broke as bread of life for all Your love com - pas - sion - ate:
serve, to suf - fer, teach, pro - claim The near - er reign of God:
cru - ci - fied and ris - en King To whom the saints be - long:



Grant us to hear Your call To risk se - cu - ri - ty And,
In - struct us now, we pray, By Your em - pow'ring Word. True
Lead us a - long the ways Where hope has near - ly died And
Send us on ways where faith Tran - scends ti - mid - i - ty, Where
Though gen - er - a - tions pass, Our trib - ute still we bring, Our



bound in heart and will to You, Find per - fect lib - er - ty.
teach - er, be for all who seek Their light, their life, their Lord.
help us climb the lone - ly hills Where love is cru - ci - fied.
love in - forms and hope sus - tains Both life and min - is - try.
hymns a sac - ri - fice of praise, Our lives an of - fer - ing.

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Sermon "Mourning, Comforting, & Blessing"

Offering & Offertory

Please rise

Prayer of the Church

P Lord, in your mercy.

C Hear our prayer.

Service of the Sacrament

Communion Liturgypages 208-210

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

P It is truly good, right, and beneficial . . . evermore praising You and saying:



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth a - dored;



Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.



Sing ho - san - na in the high-est, sing ho - san - na to the Lord;



Tru - ly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

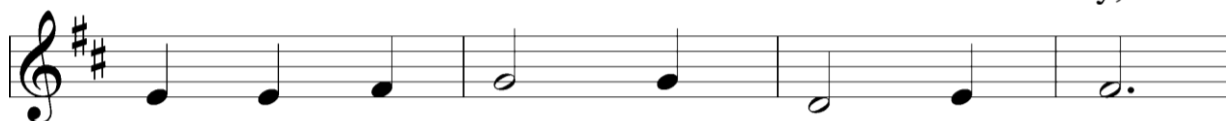
Agnus Deipage 210



C 1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,



You take the sin of the world a - way;
You take the sin of the world a - way;



O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,



Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

Please be seated, until motioned to rise & proceed forward if going for Communion or a blessing.

Instrumental

(Communion Hymns—Sunday Only)

Communion Hymn.. "Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness", #636 (1-4)



1 Soul, a - dorn your - self with glad - ness, Leave the
2 Has - ten as a bride to meet Him, And with
3 He who craves a pre - cious trea - sure Nei - ther
4 Now in faith I hum - bly pon - der O - ver



gloom - y haunts of sad - ness, Come in - to the day - light's
lov - ing rev - 'rence greet Him. For with words of life im -
cost nor pain will mea - sure; But the price - less gifts of
this sur - pass - ing won - der That the bread of life is



splen - dor, There with joy your prais - es ren - der.
mor - tal He is knock - ing at your por - tal.
heav - en God to us has free - ly giv - en.
bound - less Though the souls it feeds are count - less:



Bless the One whose grace un - bound - ed This a - maz - ing
O - pen wide the gates be - fore Him, Say - ing, as you
Though the wealth of earth were prof - fered, None could buy the
With the choic - est wine of heav - en Christ's own blood to



ban - quet found - ed; He, though heav'n - ly, high, and
 there a - dore Him: Grant, Lord, that I now re -
 gifts here of - fered: Christ's true bod - y, for you
 us is giv - en. Oh, most glo - rious con - so -



ho - ly, Deigns to dwell with you most low - ly.
 ceive You, That I nev - er - more will leave You.
 riv - en, And His blood, for you once giv - en.
 la - tion, Pledge and seal of my sal - va - tion!

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Communion Hymn *"Son of God, Eternal Savior", #842*



1 Son of God, e - ter - nal Sav - ior, Source of life and
 2 As You, Lord, have lived for oth - ers, So may we for
 3 Come, O Christ, and reign a - mong us, King of love and
 4 Son of God, e - ter - nal Sav - ior, Source of life and



truth and grace, Word made flesh, whose birth a - mong us
 oth - ers live. Free - ly have Your gifts been grant - ed;
 Prince of Peace; Hush the storm of strife and pas - sion,
 truth and grace, Word made flesh, whose birth a - mong us



Hal - lows all our hu - man race, You our Head, who, throned in
 Free - ly may Your ser - vants give. Yours the gold and Yours the
 Bid its cru - el dis - cords cease. By Your pa - tient years of
 Hal - lows all our hu - man race: By Your pray - ing, by Your



glo - ry, For Your own will ev - er plead: Fill us with Your
 sil - ver, Yours the wealth of land and sea; We but stew - ards
 toil - ing, By Your si - lent hours of pain, Quench our fe - vered
 will - ing That Your peo - ple should be one, Grant, O grant our



love and pit - y, Heal our wrongs, and help our need.
of Your boun - ty Held in sol - emn trust will be.
thirst of plea - sure, Stem our self - ish greed of gain.
hope's fru - i - tion: Here on earth Your will be done.

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Please rise

Post Communion Canticle..... *“Nunc Dimittis” page 211*



1 O Lord, now let Your ser - vant De -
2 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, All



part in heav'n - ly peace, For I have seen the
glo - ry to the Son, All glo - ry to the



glo - ry Of Your re - deem - ing grace:
Spir - it, For - ev - er Three in One;



A light to lead the Gen - tiles Un -
For as in the be - gin - ning, Is



to Your ho - ly hill, The glo - ry of Your
now, shall ev - er be, God's tri - une name re -



peo - ple, Your cho - sen Is - ra - el.
sound - ing Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

Post-Communion Collect..... *page 212*

Benedicamus and Benediction..... *page 212*

Sending Hymn *“Lord, Whose Love through Humble Service”, #848*



1 Lord, whose love through hum - ble ser - vice Bore the weight of
 2 Still Your chil - dren wan - der home - less; Still the hun - gry
 3 As we wor - ship, grant us vi - sion, Till Your love's re -
 4 Called by wor - ship to Your ser - vice, Forth in Your dear



hu - man need, Who up - on the cross, for - sak - en,
 cry for bread; Still the cap - tives long for free - dom;
 veal - ing light In its height and depth and great - ness,
 name we go, To the child, the youth, the a - ged,



Of - fered mer - cy's per - fect deed, We, Your ser - vants, bring the
 Still in grief we mourn our dead. As, O Lord, Your deep com -
 Dawns up - on our quick - ened sight, Mak - ing known the needs and
 Love in liv - ing deeds to show; Hope and health, good - will and



wor - ship Not of voice a - lone, but heart, Con - se -
 pas - sion Healed the sick and freed the soul, Use the
 bur - dens Your com - pas - sion bids us bear, Stir - ring
 com - fort, Coun - sel, aid, and peace we give, That Your



crat - ing to Your pur - pose Ev - 'ry gift that You im - part.
 love Your Spir - it kin - dles Still to save and make us whole.
 us to tire - less striv - ing, Your a - bun - dant life to share.
 ser - vants, Lord, in free - dom May Your mer - cy know and live.

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Dismissal (Bethlehem's Mission)

- Grow in Christ,
- Live in Love and Share the Faith!**

Postlude

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Next week's readings:
OT: Isaiah 58:3-9a, EP: 1 Cor. 2:1-16, G: Matt. 5:13-20

Attendance Last Saturday: 25	Attendance Last Sunday: 60
Total Offering: \$4,166.08	Missions: \$0.00
Home Use: \$3,757.08	Benevolences/Non-Offering: \$409.00

Serving us today:

Elders Willie Crespo, Jack Easterwood
Musicians Jerrode Marsh, 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

Monday	9:30 a.m.	Exercise Class
	2:00 p.m.	Moms and Tots at the Park
	6:30 p.m.	Scouts
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 www.blchurch.com , under the Sermons tab)
	9:15 a.m.	Sunday School/Adult Bible Class
	10:30 a.m.	Holy Communion

Prayers

Of Rejoicing with Jesse & Stacy Jenkins and Diana Holland on their reception into communicant membership here at Bethlehem, plus with Colin & Paige Hart and Mathew Privett who have transferred their membership from sister congregations in the state to here. May our lives in Christ flourish together with in His grace!

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: Jerry Bell,

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!

Altar Flowers

The beautiful floral arrangements on the altar this weekend have been placed by Diana Holland—in loving memory of her grandson, Jake Holland, who passed away in 2019.

Special Days for Members This Week

Birthdays—Delaney Clemons-4th, Ryeley Hillsman-4th, Austin Lowe-4th

Anniversary—Bret and Valerie Hartwig-1st

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.

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 12th 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 every day.

Vacation Bible School—Mark your calendars for **June 23-25!** Vacation Bible School will give children a chance to dive into *God's Living Water: Covered in Jesus' Grace*. Watch for more details as the date get closer.

Youth Opportunities

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

Choir Practice is held on **Wednesdays from 6:30 p.m.-8:00 p.m.** 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 through songs of faith.

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 do so, there is a poster across from the mailboxes and you can sign up for the specific date you would like. You can also 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

Dr. Rich Rudowske will be installed as the Executive Director for Lutheran Bible Translators on **Saturday, February 4 at 2:00 p.m. at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Concordia.** Afterwards (**3:15-5:00 p.m.**) there will be an open house reception at the Lutheran Bible Translators International Offices at 205 S. Main Street, Bldg 5, Concordia. Everyone is welcome to attend!

Valentine Fellowship—The Fellowship Committee is planning a Valentine fellowship time after both **Saturday and Sunday services on the weekend of February 11-12.** Stay after and enjoy some tasty treats and drinks, plus worthwhile time visiting with others!

"Souper" Bowl Drive—The Food Center will be taking monetary donations to purchase soup this year. You can also donate cans of soup by leaving them at the church or taking them to the Food Center on Monday, Wednesday and Friday afternoons. There is a great need right now.

Mark Your Calendars for a Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner here on February 21 from 5-7 p.m.! Known to many as Fat Tuesday (or Mardi Gras in French), this day before Ash Wednesday became associated with pancakes because the last of the eggs and fats had to be used up before the Lenten fast from them (until they could be eaten again on Easter Sunday). This will be an open-to-the-community event, with all free-will donations collected going to the Food Center. *You will also learn how this more than 500 year-old tradition began in the same English town where "Amazing Grace" was written 250 years ago this year!* Spread the word and keep a lookout for opportunities to help, as well.

Thrivent Choice Dollars—Members with 2022 choice dollars available need to designate these funds **before March 31** or they will expire. You may direct your choice dollars to Bethlehem or your choice of another organization on the Thrivent list. Choice Dollars may be designated at [Thrivent.com/Thrivent Choice](https://www.thrivent.com/ThriventChoice), or by calling 800-847-4836 and when prompted say "Thrivent Choice". This past year Bethlehem Thrivent members used choice dollars to assist with the

annual Warrensburg Angel Tree Project and food and supplies for Bethlehem's Vacation Bible School. We also funded several other mission type projects with either Choice Dollars or many Action Team Project Grants from various Thrivent members of Bethlehem. Please contact Larry Haase if you have questions or seek information on how you can be involved with our activities or projects.

Thinking Spring & Garden/Trail Groups—As we look toward the return of green growth before too long, consider staking your claim as part of the Garden & Greenspace Group (3G) or Nature Trail Crew! By helping out in this way, you're saying you want to be involved in tending to our wonderful spots of nature here at Bethlehem. Plan on attending an organizing and planning meeting on **Saturday, February 11 at 10:00 a.m. in the conference room**, and if you can't make the meeting, let Shawn Lindley or Pr. Joel know. Help us steward this treasure together and grow in gratitude for the Lord's good earth!

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!

2023 Elders

Willie Crespo (last name begins A-F) 660-679-8121, crespo6fam@gmail.com

Ricky Bertels (last name begins G-K), 660-262-8080, rick1janice2@gmail.com

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

Alan Miller (last name begins P-Z) 660-909-1764, alormiller@aol.com

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

Office: 660-747-6742

Cell Phone: 660-441-5710

Email: pastor@blchurch.com

Website: www.blchurch.com Facebook: [blcwarrensburg](https://www.facebook.com/blcwarrensburg)

Office Manager:

Cindy Smith

Monday–Friday: 8am-5pm

660-747-6742

officemanager@blchurch.com

Bookkeeper:

Teresa Hillsman

Tuesday: 9am-11am

Thursday: 9am-11am

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.