



Baptism of Jesus

Worship with Holy Communion

January 7, 2024

Welcome to Bethel Lutheran Church



We are glad you are here, and we pray God will be real to you as you worship with us. Bethel is a Reconciling in Christ congregation; therefore, we invite all people, including those of all races, ethnicities, gender identities and expressions, sexual orientations, ages, economic levels, and abilities. God loves all creation and holds us all, so we welcome you who walk through our doors and you who are outside those doors. We honor and appreciate the rich diversity of age, sexual orientation, race, belief, emotional and physical health, gender identity and expression, marital status and station in life bring to the Bethel family and our relationships. We commit ourselves to embracing the work of anti-racism, social and economic justice, and environmental care.

Communion - We will celebrate Holy Communion together via Zoom, as well as gathered in person. Please have bread/cracker(s) and a cup of wine/grape juice ready if you and those with you would like to participate. If you do not have access to wine or grape juice, you may receive Communion without the cup—Christ is present in the bread, as Jesus said, “I am the Bread of Life.” (John 6:35)

GATHERING

Prelude

God Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens

By W. Walker



Restrooms are located in the basement on the east side of the building. An all gender restroom is located behind the worship space next to the church office. Please ask the Usher or Greeter for assistance. There is also a rocking chair in the rear of the Sanctuary. Please use it as you wish.

Address 5658 North Denver Avenue • Portland, Oregon 97217 • **Email** bethel@bethelpdx.org • **Website** www.bethelpdx.org

Thanksgiving for Baptism

Please stand in body or spirit

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
the fountain of living water,
the rock who gave us birth,
our light and our salvation.

Amen.

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,
we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness.
Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.
We give you thanks, O God,
for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters
and by your Word you created the world,
calling forth life in which you took delight.

Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family.
Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom.
At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit.
By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons,
making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life,
and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ.
Shower us with your Spirit,
and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.

To you be given honor and praise
through Jesus Christ our Lord
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Amen.



Gathering Song of Praise

We Are Marching In the Light of God

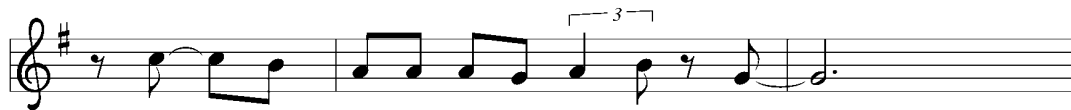
We Are Marching in the Light of God



Si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos', si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha -
We are march - ing in the light of God, we are march - ing in the



nyen' kwen - khos'. Si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos',
light of God. We are march - ing in the light of God,



si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.
we are march - ing in the light of God.



Si - ya - ham - ba (ham - ba, si - ya - ham - ba) oo
We are march - ing (march - ing, we are march - ing) oo



si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.
we are march - ing in the light of God.



Si - ya - ham - ba (ham - ba, si - ya - ham - ba) oo
We are march - ing (march - ing, we are march - ing) oo



si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.
we are march - ing in the light of God.

Additional stanzas ad lib.:

We are dancing ...

We are praying ...

We are singing ...

Text: South African traditional; tr. Freedom Is Coming, 1984

Music: SIYAHAMBA, South African traditional

Tr. © 1984 Utryck, admin. Walton Music Corp.

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Prayer of the Day

Let us pray together:

Holy God, creator of light and giver of goodness, your voice moves over the waters. Immerse us in your grace, and transform us by your Spirit, that we may follow after your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Please be seated.

WORD

Scripture Reading

Genesis 1:1-5

A reading from Genesis.

¹In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, ²the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. ³Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. ⁴And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

Word of God, Word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

Scripture Reading

Acts 19:1-7

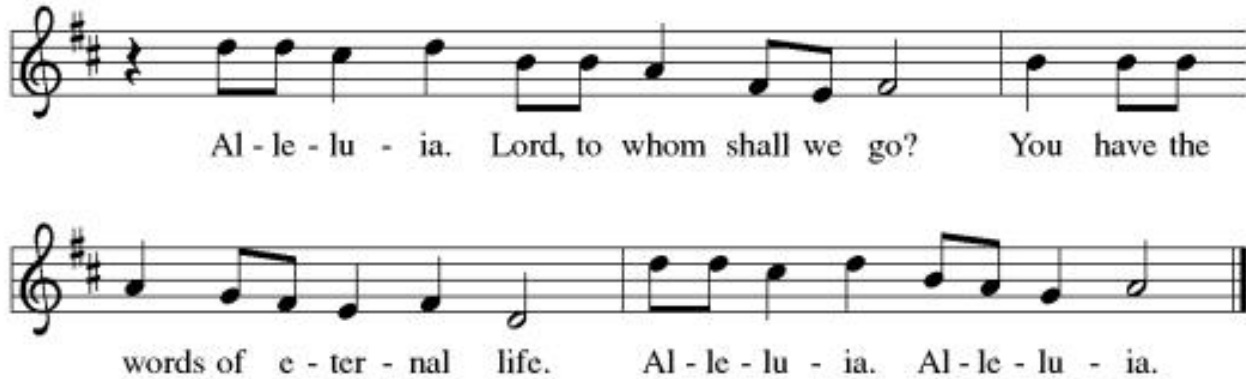
A reading from Acts.

¹While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul passed through the interior regions and came to Ephesus, where he found some disciples. ²He said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?" They replied, "No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit." ³Then he said, "Into what then were you baptized?" They answered, "Into John's baptism." ⁴Paul said, "John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, in Jesus." ⁵On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. ⁶When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied—⁷altogether there were about twelve of them.

Word of God, Word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation

Please stand in body or spirit



Gospel Reading

Mark 1:4-11

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

⁴John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. ⁸I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

⁹In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. ¹¹And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

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

Please be seated

Children's Time

Sermon

Hymn of the Day

Please Stand in body or spirit

Crashing Waters at Creation

Crashing Waters at Creation



- 1 Crash - ing wa - ters at cre - a - tion, or - dered by the Spir - it's breath,
- 2 Part - ing wa - ter stood and trem - bled as the cap - tives passed on through,
- 3 Cleans - ing wa - ter once at Jor - dan closed a - round the one fore - told,
- 4 Liv - ing wa - ter, nev - er end - ing, quench the thirst and flood the soul.



first to wit - ness day's be - gin - ning from the bright - ness of night's death.
wash - ing off the chains of bond - age— chan - nel to a life made new.
o - pened to re - veal the glo - ry ev - er new and ev - er old.
Well - spring, source of life e - ter - nal, drench our dry - ness, make us whole.

Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955–1993

Music: STUTTGART, attr. Christian F. Witt, 1660–1716; adapt. Henry J. Gauntlett, 1805–1876

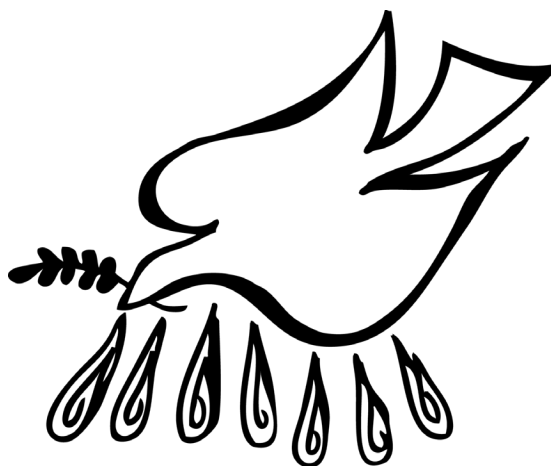
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Prayers of Intercession

The response to each prayer is: God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Sharing of Peace — *Take time to share the peace on Zoom and in person*



COMMUNION MEAL

For those worshiping virtually, please gather your bread and wine to participate in Holy Communion.

Offering

You may use one of our options for giving: The offering plate will be passed by the ushers, Venmo @BethelLutheran-Church phone # digits 6064, PayPal, see our website bethelpdx.org for link, online at: <http://bethelpdx.org/donate> Additionally you may give by mail. Thank you for supporting the many ministries of Bethel!

Offertory

Offering Prayer

Let us pray.

Blessed are you, Holy One,

for all good things come from you.

In bread and cup you open heaven to us.

Meet us at this table,

that we receive what we seek

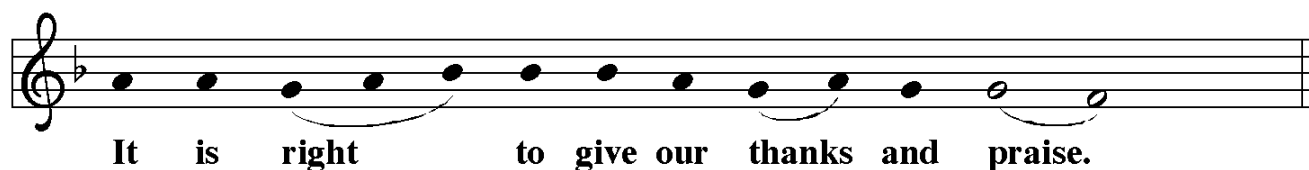
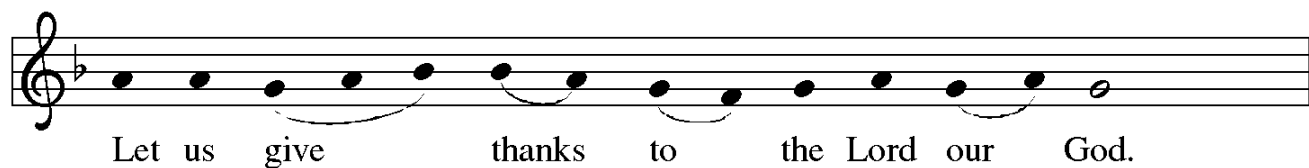
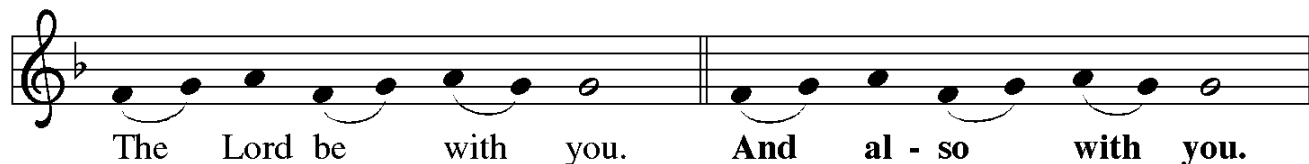
and follow your Son, Jesus,

in whose name we pray.

Amen.

Great Thanksgiving

The Pastor will guide you when to take the bread and cup to eat and drink.



The Thanksgiving continues with the preface.



*The presiding minister continues with the Thanksgiving at the Table. At the end, all say: **Amen.***

The Lord's Prayer

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Sharing the Bread and Cup

Communion Music

Christ Be Our Light

By Bernadette Farrell



SENDING

Announcements

Blessing

God who names you,
Christ who claims you,
and the Holy Spirit who dwells in you,
✠ bless you and remain with you always.

Amen.

Sending Song

For the Beauty of the Earth
Traditional Hymn

The Sending.

Go in peace. You are God's beloved.

Thanks be to God.



Stewardship of Service	This week – Jan 7, 2024	Next week – Jan. 14, 2024
Ministers	All Baptized Members of Bethel	All Baptized Members of Bethel
Pastor	Pastor Leon LaCross	Pastor Leon LaCross
Music Director/Musician	Jamie Vandenberg	Shlomo Farber
Reader	TBD	Tana Bishop
Zoom Host	Joann Knoll	Volunteer needed!

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Pray For:

Pray for the people in Israel, Palestine, and all of the Middle East as they suffer war, violence, terror, and retribution. Show the world a path to peace and justice.

Let us continue to pray for all victims of gun violence.

Pray for peace and justice in Russia and Ukraine, Armenia and Azerbaijan.

Pray for peace and justice and safety among our houseless neighbors. Help us understand how we can share your love with them.

Pray for Bethel leaders, including Pastor Leon LaCross, Music Director Shlomo Farber, Admin Assistant Kerry Czuba, the 2023 Church Council members, and for all the members and friends of Bethel Lutheran Church.

Pray for Ju Ju Moody for a successful immigration process.

Pray for the Bethel Youth Drop-In Center Board as they prepare for the Summer 2024 Day Camp. Send us excellent applicants for Director and Staff.

Pray for Shlomo Farber, that his family and friends in Israel may be safe.

Pray for JulieAnn and Marlo Edman as they move into their new home. In thanksgiving for their family as they assist through that process.

Pray for Ella Belle Schwartz, Pr. Leon's cousin's baby, as she is welcomed into the world and getting stronger in the neonatal intensive care unit.

Pray for the young leaders who recently received confirmation, that they grow in faith and gain a deeper understanding of Jesus as a guiding, loving force in their lives.

Pray for our children, while they take time off during winter break to celebrate family and friends.

Pray for those who are ill:

- **Mark Sjostrom**, Svea's uncle, as he recovers from cancer treatments and health complications.
- **Neil Marshall** (Nash's Portland family) as Neil undergoes treatment for a brain tumor.
- **Faith Moser** (mother of Joann Noll) as Faith enters her second century!
- **David Gyles** for his improved lung health.
- **Leo Lawrence** for recovery from neuropathy surgery.
- **John Knight and family** as John continues in memory care.
- **Laura Day**, mother of Natalie Peterson, in her diagnosis and treatment of cancer.
- **Gary Andeen** as he receives treatments for lung cancer.
- **Amy Bishop McDonald** for her diagnosis and surgery for breast cancer.
- **Chuck Huntley**, brother of Marjorie Strieff, for his ongoing health.
- **Glenn Chase**, in thanks for his continued good health.

- **Jackie Calder** for healing and health that allows travel and volunteer work
- **Mary Rix** as she undergoes treatment for breast cancer.
- **JulieAnn Edman*** for continued healing as she undergoes her treatment.

***Send notes to JulieAnn please email her at jedman999@gmail.com.**

Pray for all those who have passed away that they experience the loving embrace of God's love.

Continuing prayers for well-being for our loved ones Timothy, Elizabeth, Faith, Jim, Rob, Jacob, Miles, Matthew, Andrew, Nash, and Patricia--may they walk in light and peace.

Pray in thanksgiving for all the blessings received this week.

Pray we know that God is close and that we are open to receiving and sharing God's love.

Pray for Bethel Lutheran Church.

Mark Your Calendars...See what's happening at Bethel and Beyond this week:

01/10 7:00 PM Drop-In Board on Zoom
 01/11 Noon Crafternoon w/Pr. Leon
 01/11 4:30-5:30 PM Happy Hour on Zoom
 01/14 9:00 AM Sunday Coffee Hour on Zoom
 01/14 10:00 AM Sunday Worship: in person or on Zoom
 01/15 Synopsis from each program head to come to Bethel's email.



Correction from donations of poinsettias:

Thanks also to Christi Mowe

Send

Our ministry

After his baptism, Jesus began his ministry. He taught his friends how to love, pray, share, and care for people everywhere. How do you love, pray, share, and care for people?

Draw pictures of you doing *your* ministry below.

LOVE

PRAY

SHARE

CARE



Thank you, God, for baptism splashes. Help me to help you care for all your children. Amen

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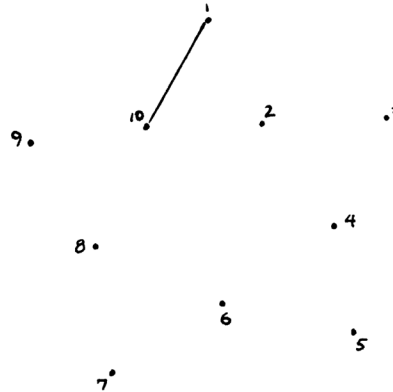
Kids Celebrate

Baptism of Our Lord



gather

Welcome to worship. Today is the first Sunday in the season of Epiphany, which is sometimes called the season of light. It is also the day when we celebrate Jesus' baptism.



Connect the dots to discover one of the symbols of Epiphany. Then inside the symbol, draw a picture of the place where people are baptized in your church.

hear & celebrate

Splashed with the Spirit!

Mark 1:4-11

Read today's gospel story, using these pictures for the words.



Jesus



baptized



John the Baptist



God's Spirit



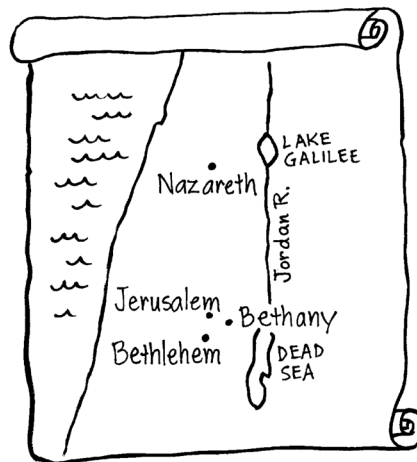
Jordan River

WAS BY IN THE .
 AS WAS COMING OUT OF THE
 WATER, THE HEAVENS OPENED UP
 AND CAME DOWN TO HIM. THEN
 HEARD A VOICE THAT SAID,
 "YOU ARE MY SON, THE BELOVED;
 WITH YOU I AM WELL PLEASED."
 AFTER BEING , STARTED HIS
 MINISTRY.

this week

Celebrate baptism by playing with water.

Where in the world...



1. Find Bethlehem, where Jesus was born.
2. Find Nazareth, where Jesus grew up.
3. Find the Jordan River. Draw Jesus being baptized by John.
4. Draw God's Spirit in the shape of a dove coming to Jesus at his baptism.
5. Look at a map when you get home, and find the place where you were baptized.



Read a book about baptism. *Water, Come Down* by Walter Wangerin, Jr. is a great one!