



Baptism of Jesus

Worship with Holy Communion

January 12, 2025

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

Chopin Nocturne with Go Tell It On The Mountain



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.

Holy God, holy and merciful, holy and mighty, you are the river of life, you are the everlasting wellspring, you are the fire of rebirth.

Glory to you for oceans and lakes, for rivers and streams; from the Columbia and Willamette Rivers to the mighty Pacific Ocean.

Honor to you for cloud and rain, for dew and snow.
Your waters are below us, around us, above us: our life is born in you.
You are the fountain of resurrection.

Praise to you for your saving waters:
Noah and the animals survive the flood, Hagar discovers your well.
The Israelites escape through the sea, and they drink from your gushing rock.
Naaman washes his leprosy away,
and the Samaritan woman will never be thirsty again.

Praise to you for the water of baptism and for your Word that saves us in this sacrament.
Breathe your Spirit into all who are gathered here and into all creation.
Illumine our days. Enliven our bones. Dry our tears.
Wash away the sin within us, and drown the evil around us.

Satisfy all our thirst with your living water, Jesus Christ, our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.



Gathering Song of Praise

Shall We Gather at the River



- 1 Shall we gath - er at the riv - er, where bright an - gel feet have trod,
- 2 On the mar - gin of the riv - er, wash - ing up its sil - ver spray,
- 3 Ere we reach the shin - ing riv - er, lay we ev - 'ry bur - den down;
- 4 Soon we'll reach the shin - ing riv - er, soon our pil - grim - age will cease;



with its crys - tal tide for - ev - er flow - ing by the throne of God?
we will walk and wor - ship ev - er, all the hap - py gold - en day.
grace our spir - its will de - liv - er, and pro - vide a robe and crown.
soon our hap - py hearts will quiv - er with the mel - o - dy of peace.

Refrain



Yes, we'll gath - er at the riv - er, the beau - ti - ful, the beau - ti - ful riv - er;



gath - er with the saints at the riv - er that flows by the throne of God.

Text: Robert Lowry, 1826–1899

Music: HANSON PLACE, Robert Lowry

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray together:

Almighty God, you anointed Jesus at his baptism with the Holy Spirit and revealed him as your beloved Son. Keep all who are born of water and the Spirit faithful in your service, that we may rejoice to be called children of God, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Please be seated.

WORD

Scripture Reading

Isaiah 43:1-7

A reading from Isaiah.

- ¹ But now thus says the Lord,
he who created you, O Jacob,
he who formed you, O Israel:
Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;
I have called you by name, you are mine.
- ² When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;
and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;
when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,
and the flame shall not consume you.
- ³ For I am the Lord your God,
the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.
I give Egypt as your ransom,
Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you.
- ⁴ Because you are precious in my sight,
and honored, and I love you,
I give people in return for you,
nations in exchange for your life.
- ⁵ Do not fear, for I am with you;
I will bring your offspring from the east,
and from the west I will gather you;
- ⁶ I will say to the north, "Give them up,"
and to the south, "Do not withhold;
bring my sons from far away
and my daughters from the end of the earth—
- ⁷ everyone who is called by my name,
whom I created for my glory,
whom I formed and made."

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

Scripture Reading

Acts 8:14-17


A reading from Acts.

¹⁴ Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. ¹⁵ The two went down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit ¹⁶ (for as yet the Spirit had not come upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus). ¹⁷ Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

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

Gospel Acclamation

Please stand in body or spirit



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

Gospel Reading

Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

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

¹⁵As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, ¹⁶John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

²¹Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, ²²and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And 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



COMMUNION MEAL

For those worshipping 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!

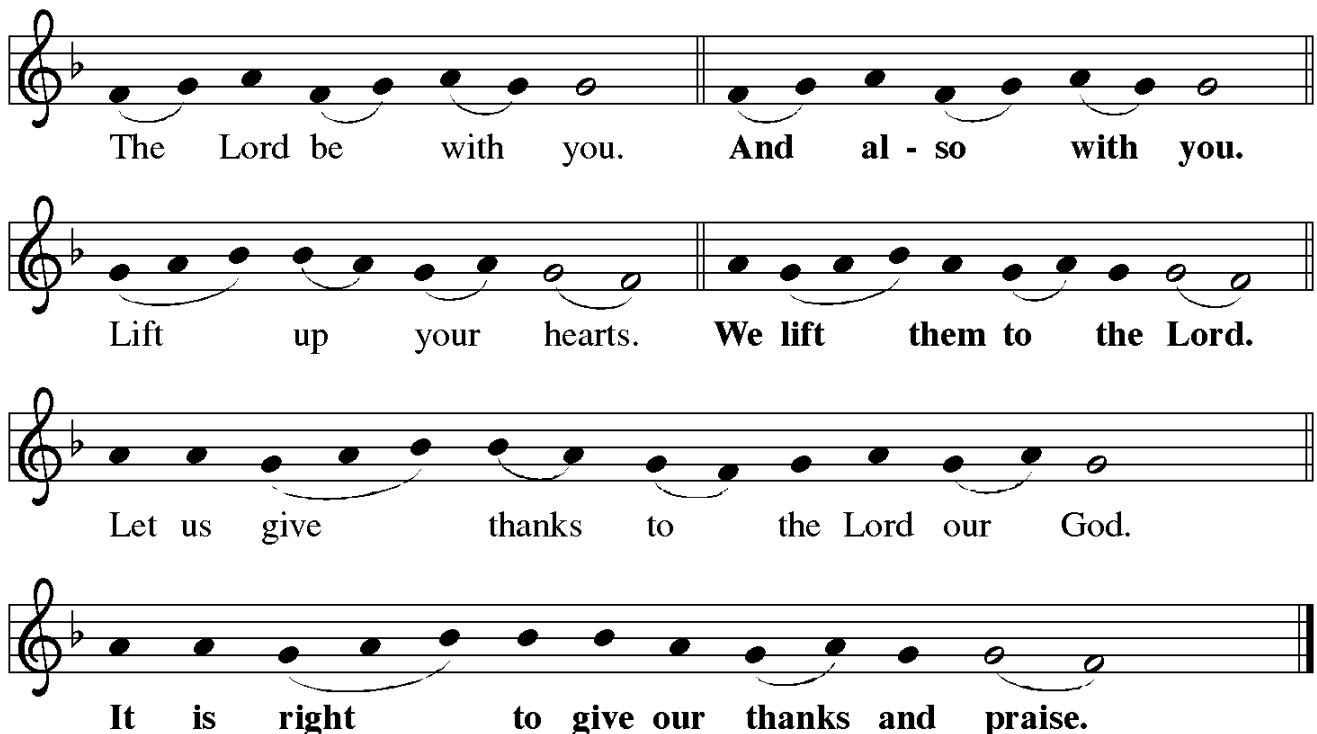
Offertory

OFFERING PRAYER

God of grace, your love reaches to the heavens,
and your abundance to the depths of the seas.
Bless what we offer to your service:
our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts.
Let us overflow with gratitude and generosity,
now and always.
Amen.

Great Thanksgiving

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



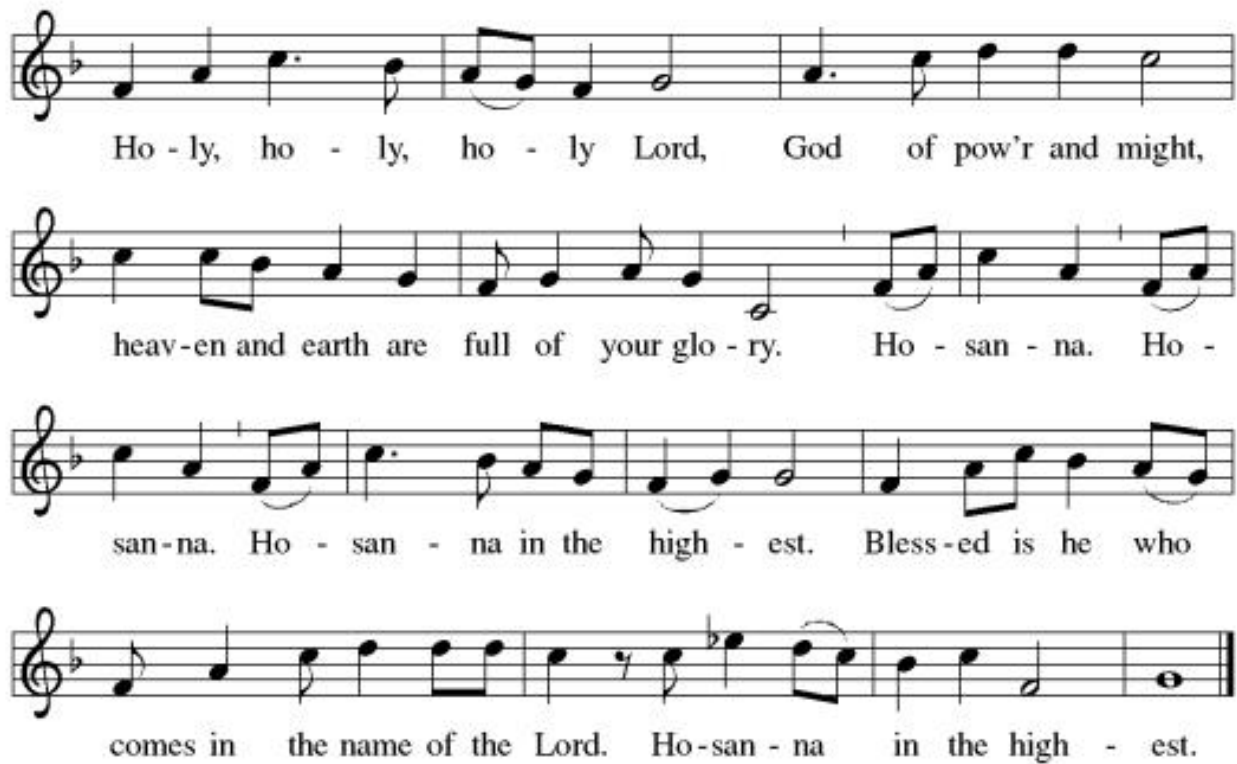
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

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.

The Thanksgiving continues with the preface.



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

*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

Twass in the Moon of Wintertime

By Richard Proulx



SENDING

Announcements

Blessing

The Spirit of the triune God
✠ bless you with joy,
anoint you with compassion,
and send you in love.
Amen.

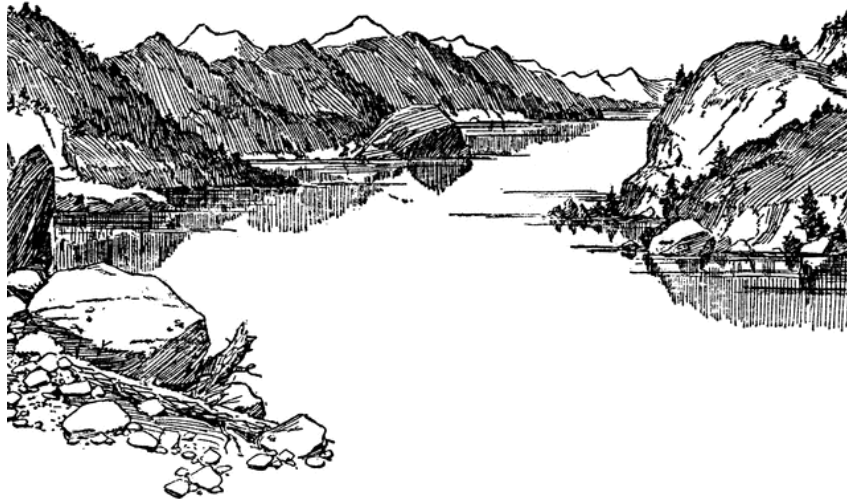
Sending Song

The Work of Christmas
Arr. By Damn Forrest

The Sending.

Go in peace. Live in hope.

Thanks be to God.



Stewardship of Service	This week – Jan. 12, 2025	Next week – Jan. 19, 2025
Ministers	All Baptized Members of Bethel	All Baptized Members of Bethel
Pastor	Pastor Leon LaCross	Pastor Leon LaCross
Musician	Colin Shepard	Shlomo Farber
Reader	TBD	TBD
Zoom Host	Joann Knoll	Volunteer needed!

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Pray For:

Pray for the people in Israel, Palestine, all of the Middle East, Ukraine, and Georgia 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 Ukraine, Holy Land, and Yemen.

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 2024 Church Council members, and for all the members and friends of Bethel Lutheran Church.

Pray for the Bethel Youth Drop-In Center Board as we begin our search for a director and staff.

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

Pray for Julia Rankin in her seminary journey.

Pray for Sean Fitzgerald (Nikki Bucholz), Kim Bucholz's son-in-law who has been deployed to Iraq.

Pray for our children, as they return back to school after break.

Pray for the teachers, school staff, parents, guardians, and grandparents who care for our children.

Pray for the following:

- **Mark Sjostrom,** Svea's uncle, as he recovers from cancer treatments and health complications
- **Faith Moser** (mother of Joann Noll) and her daughters as Faith moves into assisted living.
- **David Giles** as he discontinues treatment for lung cancer.
- **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.
- **Chuck Huntley,** brother of Marjorie Strieff, for his ongoing health.
- **Glenn Chase,** in thanks for his continued good health.
- **Jackie Calder,** in thanks for healing and health that allows her to travel and to accomplish loving volunteer work.
- **Lorraine Griffey** for health, stamina, and joy.
- **Rick Van Dyke,** brother to Jim Van Dyke, as Rick lives with the uncertainty of his illness and works with his medical team to prepare for treatment.
- **Darin Schmidt,** a former Bethelite, and his wife Jessica, as they navigate a diagnosis of liver cancer.
- **Bob Enke,** cousin of JulieAnn Edman, for healing from a fall and for getting the care he needs.
- **Denny Hepp,** for treatment & care as he battles brain cancer.
- **Marjorie Strieff** that she recovers fully from a recent illness and grieves the loss of her brother.
- **Miles Bard** for health and stamina.
- **Pam Coffman** as she navigates treatment for lung cancer.

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

Especially for the family of **Rhonda Pedersen** at her passing.

For the friends and family of **Lee Clingman** at this passing.

For the friends and family of synod council member **Violet Thetford** who passed away unexpectedly.

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

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

Pray for Bethel Lutheran Church.

What's Up This Week at Bethel!

- 01/12 9:00 AM Sunday Coffee Hour on Zoom
- 01/12 10:00 AM Sunday Worship: in person or on Zoom
- 01/14 Priority Deadline for Ministry/Committee Reports
- 01/15 7:00 PM YDIC Board Meeting on Zoom
- 01/15 7:00 PM New Horizons Band Practice
- 01/16 4:30 PM - 5:30 PM Bethel Happy Hour
- 01/19 9:00 AM Sunday Coffee Hour on Zoom
- 01/19 10:00 AM Sunday Worship: in person or on Zoom

Jazz Music
with
Northwest Tempo
Sunday, Jan. 26
at 4:00 PM

At
Bethel Lutheran Church
5658 N. Denver Ave.
Portland, OR 97217



bethelpdx.org ·
donations accepted



Attention!

It's time to make your contribution to the annual report! Below is a list of the various ministries and committees here at Bethel. Each leader is asked to please write a brief summary of how things went in 2024, please include all members in your ministry/committee.

Your contribution is vital! **The priority due date for reports will be Tuesday, Jan. 14th. Final deadline is Jan. 21st. Report will be printed on Jan. 30th. Email your report: bethellutheran@bethelpdx.org**

This schedule allows your most humble administrative assistant enough time to put together the report. Historical reports that are not dependent on the January council meeting, Jan. 15th, can be written immediately. Special thanks to Jim Van Dyke for submitting his report already!

Below is the list of committees. Please include pictures of your ministries at work if you have some. Thank you for all you are doing to keep Bethel buzzing along.

Pastor's Report
Statistical Report
Worship & Music
Property Management
Constitutional Revision
Drop-In Center
Angel Project
Bethel Bees
Bethel Players
Fun Committee
St. John's Committee
Women's Prayer Group
MACG
Financial Report

Council Membership & Elections - Nominations are being taken now! Please contact Pr. Leon LaCross, Jim VanDyke, or JulieAnn Edman if you or someone you know would like to be on the Council.