



4th Sunday after Epiphany

Worship with Holy Communion

February 2, 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

Jesus Christ the Apple Tree

By Elizabeth Poston



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

Confession and Forgiveness

Please stand in body or spirit

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
our creator,
our protector,
our wellspring of life.

Amen.

Trusting that God receives our words and the meditations of our hearts, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Merciful God,
you speak blessing and compassion into the world.

**Forgive us for the ways we act
with judgment, cruelty, or indifference.**

**We ignore the needs of our neighbors;
we resist your call to oppose injustice;
we give in to scarcity and fear;
we assume the worst about one another.**

**Cleanse us from our faults
and release us from their grasp.**

Show us your lovingkindness.

**Restore our hearts and repair your world,
that we may live in Christ's ways.**

Amen.

God proclaims these words of assurance:
"Do not fear, for I have redeemed you.

I have called you by name. You are mine."

In † Christ, you are forgiven.

In the Spirit, you are made free.

Refreshed by the waters of mercy,
live anew as beloved children of God.

Amen.



Praise, praise, praise the Lord! Praise God's ho - ly name. Al - le - lu - ia!

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The musical score consists of four staves of music in a single system. Each staff begins with a treble clef. The first two staves have lyrics underneath them. The third and fourth staves have lyrics underneath them. The music is written in a simple, melodic style with various note values and rests.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray together:

Almighty and ever-living God, increase in us the gifts of faith, hope, and love; and that we may obtain what you promise, make us love what you command, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Please be seated.



WORD

Scripture Reading

Jeremiah 1:4-10

A reading from Jeremiah.

⁴ Now the word of the Lord came to me saying,

⁵ "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you,
and before you were born I consecrated you;
I appointed you a prophet to the nations."

⁶ Then I said, "Ah, Lord God! Truly I do not know how to speak, for I am only a boy." ⁷ But the Lord said to me,

"Do not say, 'I am only a boy';
for you shall go to all to whom I send you,
and you shall speak whatever I command you.

⁸ Do not be afraid of them,
for I am with you to deliver you,
says the Lord."

⁹ Then the Lord put out his hand and touched my mouth; and the Lord said to me,
"Now I have put my words in your mouth.

¹⁰ See, today I appoint you over nations and over kingdoms,
to pluck up and to pull down,
to destroy and to overthrow,
to build and to plant."

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

Scripture Reading

1 Corinthians 13:1-13

A reading from Corinthians.

¹ If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. ² And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. ³ If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

⁴ Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant ⁵ or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; ⁶ it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. ⁷ It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

⁸ Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. ⁹ For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; ¹⁰ but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. ¹¹ When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. ¹² For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. ¹³ And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

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 4:21-30

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

²¹ Then Jesus began to say to all in the synagogue in Nazareth, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing." ²² All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth. They said, "Is not this Joseph's son?" ²³ He said to them, "Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, 'Doctor, cure yourself!' And you will say, 'Do here also in your hometown the things that we have heard you did at Capernaum.'" ²⁴ And he said, "Truly I tell you, no prophet is accepted in the prophet's hometown. ²⁵ But the truth is, there were many widows in Israel in the time of Elijah, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months, and there was a severe famine over all the land; ²⁶ yet Elijah was sent to none of them except to a widow at Zarephath in Sidon. ²⁷ There were also many lepers in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed except Naaman the Syrian." ²⁸ When they heard this, all in the synagogue were filled with rage. ²⁹ They got up, drove him out of the town, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they might hurl him off the cliff. ³⁰ But he passed through the midst of them and went on his way.

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

He Comes to Us as One Unknown



1 He comes to us as one un-known, a breath un - seen, un -
2 He comes when souls in si - lence lie and thoughts of day de -
3 He comes to us in sound of seas, the o - cean's fume and
4 He comes in love as once he came by flesh and blood and
5 He comes in truth when faith is grown; be - lieved, o - beyed, a -



heard; as though with - in a heart of stone, or shriv - eled seed in
part; half - seen up - on the in - ward eye, a fall - ing star a -
foam; yet small and still up - on the breeze, a wind that stirs the
birth; to bear with - in our mor - tal frame a life, a death, a
dored; the Christ in all the scrip - tures shown, as yet un - seen, but



dark - ness sown, a pulse of be - ing stirred, a pulse of be - ing stirred.
cross the sky of night with - in the heart, of night with - in the heart.
tops of trees, a voice to call us home, a voice to call us home.
sav - ing name, for ev - 'ry child of earth, for ev - 'ry child of earth.
not un - known, our Sav - ior and our Lord, our Sav - ior and our Lord.

Text: Timothy Dudley-Smith, b. 1926

Music: REPTON, C. Hubert H. Parry, 1848–1918

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Prayers of Intercession

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

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

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!

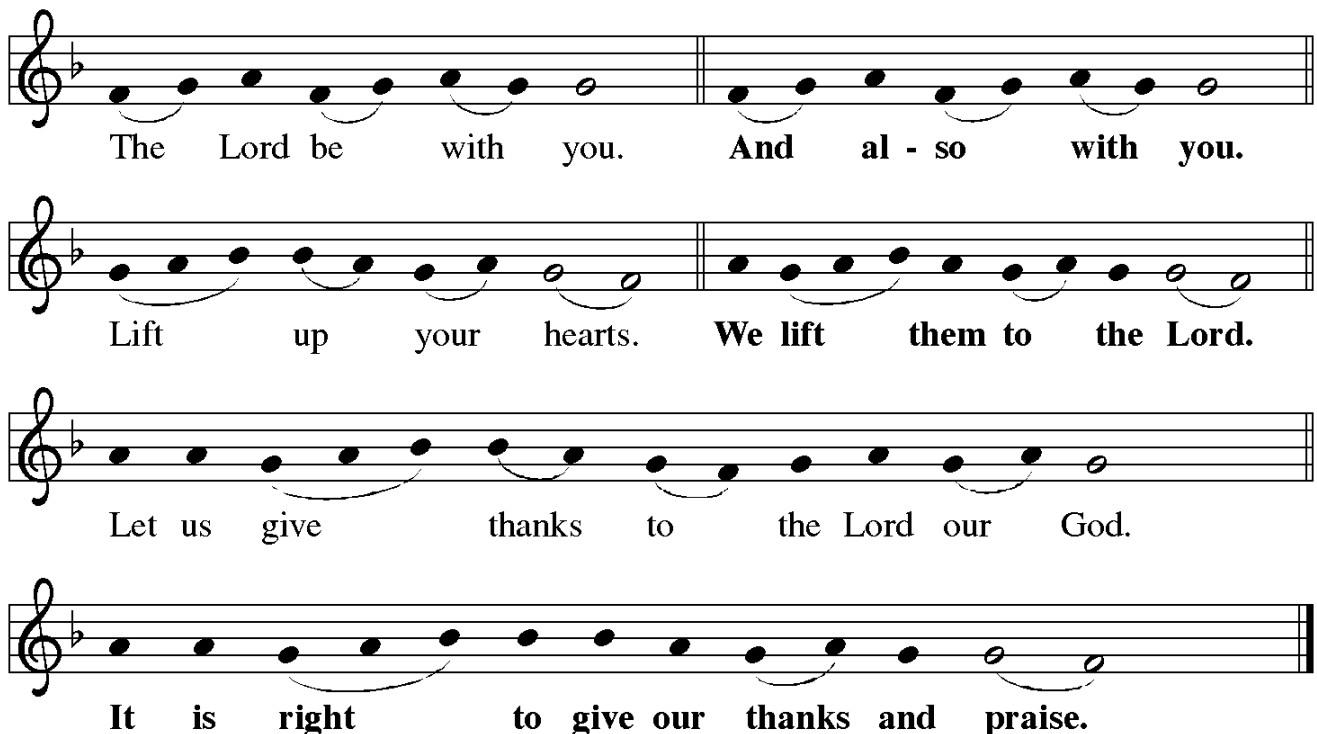
Offertory

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.



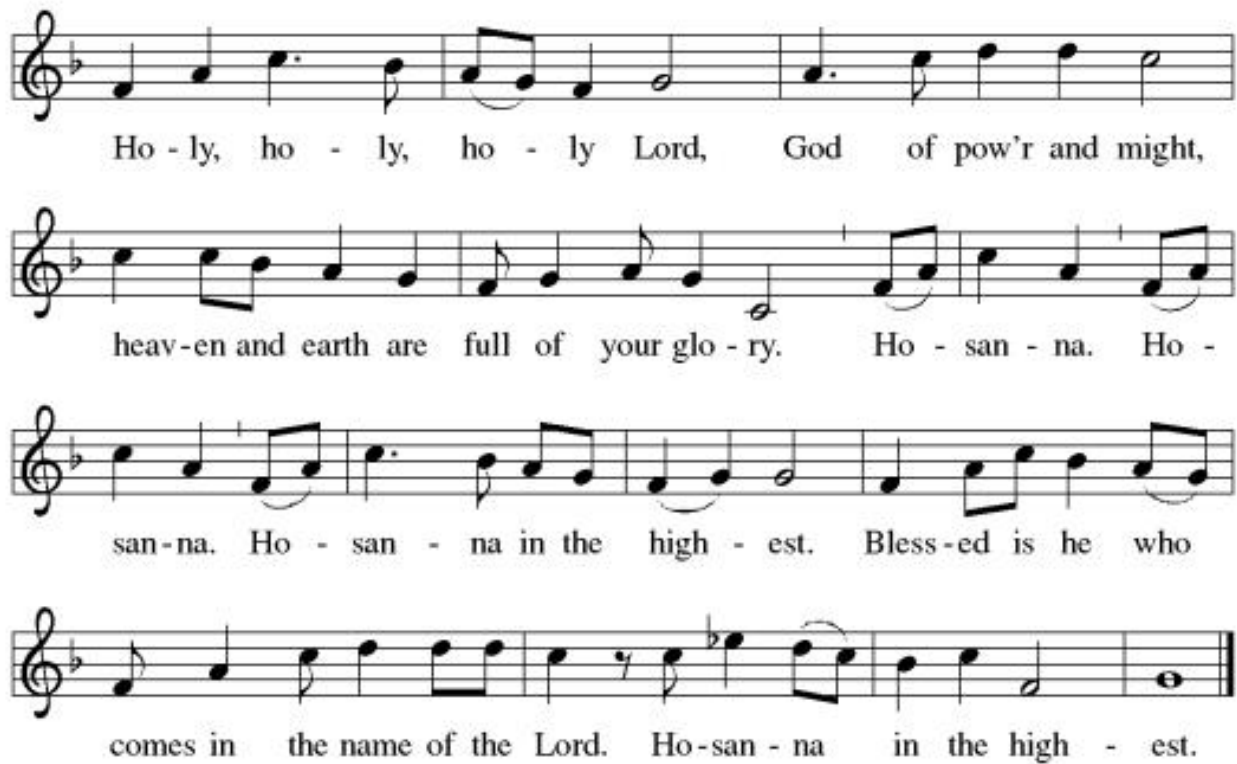
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

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.

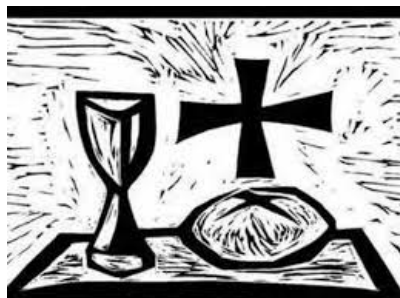
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Sharing the Bread and Cup

Communion Music

No One is Alone

By Stephen Sondheim



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

Won't You Let Me Be Your Servant
Traditional Hymn

The Sending.

Go in peace. Live in hope.

Thanks be to God.



Stewardship of Service	This week – Feb 2, 2024	Next week – Feb. 9, 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 Noll	Volunteer needed!

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Pray For:

Pray for those who have been affected by the fires in Southern California.

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 as she finishes her first semester at seminary.

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

Pray for our children, as they anticipate the coming holidays, that they know hope, peace, joy and love.

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.
- **Laura Day,** mother of Natalie Peterson, in her diagnosis and treatment of cancer.
- **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.
- **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 Carol Knight and family as they mourn the loss of John Knight.
And Marjorie Strieff for the loss of her brother Chuck Huntley.

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!

02/02 9:00 AM Sunday Coffee Hour on Zoom
02/02 10:00 AM Sunday Worship: in person or on Zoom
02/02 11:15 AM Annual Meeting (Alt date is Feb. 9)
02/05 8:00 AM-3:00 PM Cash Oregon
02/05 6:30 PM New Horizons Band Practice
02/06 8:00 AM – 3:00 PM Cash Oregon
02/06 4:30 PM - 5:30 PM Bethel Happy Hour
02/09 9:00 AM Sunday Coffee Hour on Zoom
02/09 10:00 AM Sunday Worship: in person or on Zoom



Get Your Taxes Done For Free!

Beginning February 5 till April 10th Bethel is hosting Cash Oregon. If you or someone you know has a household income below \$67,000. Please check the website or call for more requirements and to make an appointment.
www.cashoregon.org or call 503.243.7765



Today at 11:15 AM. Plan on joining in and let's see what the past can teach us and what the future holds.

CALIFORNIA WILDFIRES

YOUR LOVE IS NEEDED

The needs of our neighbors in California are growing every hour as wildfires completely destroy homes and communities. Houses, schools, churches, grocery stores, businesses ... all reduced to ashes.

Our partners at Lutheran World Relief are already preparing a response, including sending LWR Quilts and Kits to affected families. The destruction and need are overwhelming.

Right now, the number one need is financial gifts so that the team at Lutheran World Relief can reach our neighbors as quickly as possible.

HOW TO GIVE

You can give directly through Lutheran World Relief at lwr.org/fires, by scanning the QR code below or by mailing a check to Lutheran World Relief, PO Box 17061, Baltimore, MD 21297-1061. Please write **FIRES** in the memo line.

Gifts can also be made through our congregation. Designate **"LWR FIRES"** when making your gift and we will rush a gift from the church to Lutheran World Relief.

Thank you for sharing God's love with our neighbors when and where they need it most.

Until your love reaches every neighbor.



**LUTHERAN
WORLD RELIEF**

LWR.ORG/FIRES

send

Letting your light shine

Have you heard this song? It goes, "This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine." Jeremiah let his light shine by telling everyone he met about God. You can let your light shine, too.

Color in the flame beside each way you can be a messenger of God's love.



Dear God, please let my light shine when I share your love with others. Amen

this week

Invite a friend to come to church with you.

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kids Celebrate

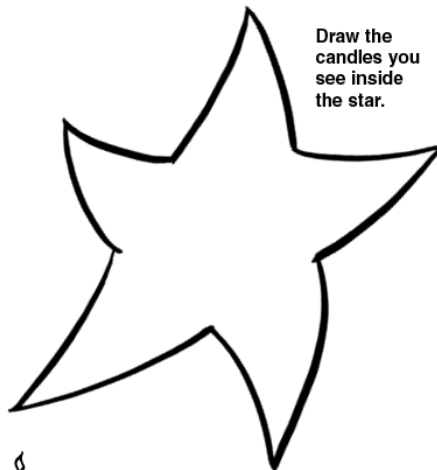
Fourth Sunday after Epiphany



gather

Welcome to worship. During the church season of Epiphany, we hear Bible stories about Jesus, who filled the world with the light of God's love. Candles in our worship space remind us of that happy light. Do you see candles burning? Where are they?

Draw the candles you see inside the star.



What did you learn today in worship?