



# 7th Sunday after Epiphany

Worship with Holy Communion

February 23, 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**

**Prelude**

By Johann Caspar Ferdinand Fischer



*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](mailto:bethel@bethelpdx.org) • **Website** [www.bethelpdx.org](http://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:

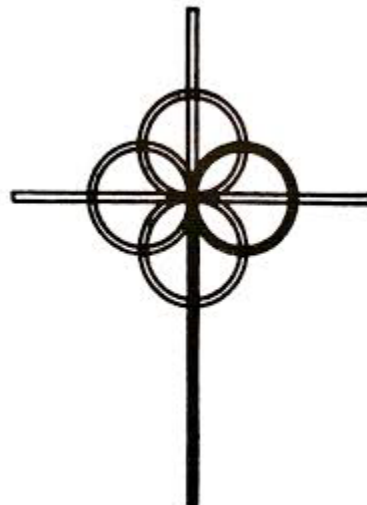
“Do not fear, for I have redeemed you.  
I have called you by name. You are mine.”

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.**



# Gathering Song of Praise

# *Praise, Praise, Praise the Lord*




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



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



Praise God's ho - ly name. Al - le - lu - ia! Praise God's ho - ly name. Al - le - lu - ia!



Praise God's ho - ly name. Al - le - lu - ia! Praise God's ho - ly name. Al - le - lu - ia!

Text: Cameroon traditional, collected by Elaine Hanson  
Music: CAMEROON PRAISE, Cameroon processional; arr. Ralph M. Johnson  
Text and music © 1994 earthsongs. Used by permission.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

## Prayer of the Day

Let us pray together:

**O Lord Jesus, make us instruments of your peace, that where there is hatred, we may sow love, where there is injury, pardon, and where there is despair, hope. Grant, O divine master, that we may seek to console, to understand, and to love in your name, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.**

**Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

## WORD

### Scripture Reading

**Genesis 45:3-11, 15**

A reading from Genesis.

<sup>3</sup> Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?" But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence.

<sup>4</sup> Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Come closer to me." And they came closer. He said, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. <sup>5</sup> And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. <sup>6</sup> For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. <sup>7</sup> God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. <sup>8</sup> So it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. <sup>9</sup> Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, 'Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay. <sup>10</sup> You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. <sup>11</sup> I will provide for you there—since there are five more years of famine to come—so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty.' " <sup>15</sup> And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

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

### Scripture Reading

**1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50**

A reading from 1 Corinthians.

<sup>35</sup> But someone will ask, "How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?" <sup>36</sup> Fool! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. <sup>37</sup> And as for what you sow, you do not sow the body that is to be, but a bare seed, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain. <sup>38</sup> But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body.

<sup>42</sup> So it is with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable. <sup>43</sup> It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. <sup>44</sup> It is sown a physical body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a physical body, there is also a spiritual body. <sup>45</sup> Thus it is written, "The first man, Adam, became a living being"; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. <sup>46</sup> But it is not the spiritual that is first, but the physical, and then the spiritual. <sup>47</sup> The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven. <sup>48</sup> As was the man of dust, so are those who are of the dust; and as is the man of heaven, so are those who are of heaven. <sup>49</sup> Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we will also bear the image of the man of heaven.

<sup>50</sup> What I am saying, brothers and sisters, is this: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.

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 6:27-38**

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

Jesus said: <sup>27</sup> "But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, <sup>28</sup> bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. <sup>29</sup> If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. <sup>30</sup> Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. <sup>31</sup> Do to others as you would have them do to you.

<sup>32</sup> "If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. <sup>33</sup> If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. <sup>34</sup> If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. <sup>35</sup> But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. <sup>36</sup> Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

<sup>37</sup> "Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; <sup>38</sup> give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back."

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

*Please be seated*

## Children's Time

### Sermon

## Hymn of the Day

## Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive

*Please Stand in body or spirit*



- 1 "For - give our sins as we for - give," you taught us, Lord, to pray;
- 2 How can your par - don reach and bless the un - for - giv - ing heart
- 3 In blaz - ing light your cross re - veals the truth we dim - ly knew:
- 4 Lord, cleanse the depths with - in our souls and bid re - sent - ment cease;



but you a - lone can grant us grace to live the words we say.  
that broods on wrongs and will not let old bit - ter - ness de - part?  
how tri - fling oth - ers' debts to us; how great our debt to you!  
then, by your mer - cy rec - on - ciled, our lives will spread your peace.

## 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*

*Please be seated*

# 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](http://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.**

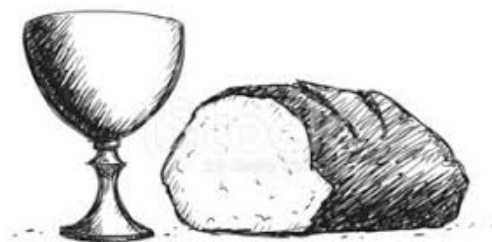
**For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

### **Sharing the Bread and Cup**

#### **Communion Music**

#### **Duetto III**

*By J.S. Bach*





# 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

**Somewhere**  
By Leonard Bernstein

### The Sending.

Go in peace. Live in hope.

**Thanks be to God.**



Stewardship of Service	This week – Feb. 23, 2025	Next week – Mar. 2, 2025
Ministers	All Baptized Members of Bethel	All Baptized Members of Bethel
Pastor/Lay Leader	Pastor Leon LaCross	Jim Van Dyke
Music Director	Shlomo Farber	Colin Shepard
Reader	TBD	TBD
Zoom Host	<b>Joann Noll</b>	<b>Volunteer needed!</b>

Hymns shown on this bulletin are licensed via Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License number SAS10330

All other music used with the artist permission

## Pray For:

**Pray for the people in Israel, Palestine, Holy Land, Ukraine, Georgia and Yemen, 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 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 continues her studies at seminary.**

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

**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.
- **Ronda Bard** to get to the root of her pain and get back to her healthy self.
- **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.
- **Karen Anderson** that she starts feeling better soon.
- **Marlo Edman** who is having surgery on March 6<sup>th</sup>, for a speedy recovery
- **JulieAnn Edman** for useful MRI results.

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

**Especially 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!

- 02/23 9:00 AM Sunday Coffee Hour on Zoom
- 02/23 10:00 AM Sunday Worship: in person or on Zoom
- 02/23 11:00 AM Girl Scout Cookie Sale after Service!
- 02/23 – 03/03 Pr. Leon is out of the Office
- 02/23 4:00 PM Jazz Concert
- 02/26 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM Cash Oregon
- 02/26 5:30 PM Girl Scouts Meet
- 02/26 6:30 PM New Horizons Band Practice
- 02/27 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM Cash Oregon
- 02/27 4:30 PM - 5:30 PM Bethel Happy Hour
- 03/02 9:00 AM Sunday Coffee Hour on Zoom
- 03/02 10:00 AM Sunday Worship: in person or on Zoom



**Girl Scout Cookie Sale  
Today after Church  
Service!**

**Jazz Music**  
with  
**Northwest Tempo**  
Sunday, Feb. 23  
at 4:00 PM

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



[bethelpdx.org](http://bethelpdx.org)  
donations accepted

# GET YOUR TAXES DONE FOR FREE!

BY IRS-CERTIFIED VOLUNTEERS

## Bethel Lutheran Church

### REQUIREMENTS:

- Your household income is below **\$67,000**
- You don't have any of the following:
  - rental property
  - adjustments on education expenses (box 4 or 6 of your 1098-T)
  - self employed income with any of the following (over \$35k in expenses, a loss for the year, inventory, employees, depreciation or amortization, or business use of the home).

**February 5 - April 10, 2025**

### WHAT YOU WILL NEED:

- Social Security card / ITIN card or letter (for everyone on the return)
- Valid Photo IDs for taxpayer(s)
- All W-2's, 1099's, or other income
- Form 1095-A if health insurance via [healthcare.gov](http://healthcare.gov)
- Last year's tax return
- Routing and account numbers for your bank account

### Other common tax information:

- Child care expenses
- Mortgage and property tax statements
- Education expenses (1098-T, 1098-E, receipts of expenses)
- Alimony
- Medical Expenses
- Charitable Donations
- Retirement Plan Contributions
- Notices from: IRS, Oregon Dept. of Revenue



**Location:** Bethel Lutheran Church  
Volunteer Service Provided by MFS CASH Oregon  
5658 N Denver Ave, Portland, OR 97217

**Hours:** Wed. + Thurs. 10 am- 2 pm

Make an appointment at [cashoregon.org](http://cashoregon.org) or call 503-243-7765

Bethel Women's Prayer Group is starting up again in time for Lent.

Join Carol Knight & JulieAnn Edman for a morning of conversation, contemplation and prayer.

We will begin at 8:30 AM at Carol's.

Dates:

March 8

March 22

April 5

April 19

If you are interested in joining, please call or email the office: 503.285.4919, [bethellutheran@bethelpdx.org](mailto:bethellutheran@bethelpdx.org)



# Get Your Ash Over Here at Bethel!

**Wednesday, March 5, 10:00am-4:00pm.**

Looking to get those ashes? You can drive by, stop by or by appointment! If you are close-in Portland, Pr. Leon will give the imposition of ashes right at your door!

Let this be a tangible beginning to Lent as we begin the inward journey to fuel the fire of faith.

email: [bethellutheran@bethelpdx.org](mailto:bethellutheran@bethelpdx.org)

call: 503.285.4919