

Epiphany 4B  
January 28, 2024  
Pastor Kim Swenson



---

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

**GATHERING**

**Worship Volunteers**  
**Assisting Minister:** Sandi Tibbetts  
**Reader:** Peggy Hansen  
**Alter Guild:** Pat Petzel  
**Communion Assistant:** Marilyn Meister  
**Ushers:** Charlie & Sharon Hilla  
**Video Tech:** Pegi BeDell

**Welcome**



1 Dear - est Je - sus, at your word we have come a -  
 2 All our knowl - edge, sense, and sight lie in deep - est  
 3 Ra - diance of God's glo - ry bright, Light of Light from  
 4 Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost, praise to you and



gain to hear you; let our thoughts and hearts be stirred  
 dark - ness shroud - ed till your Spir - it breaks the night,  
 God pro - ceed - ing, Je - sus, send your bless - ed light;  
 ad - o - ra - tion! Grant us what we need the most:



and in glow - ing faith be near you as the prom - is -  
 fill - ing us with light un - cloud - ed. All good thoughts and  
 help our hear - ing, speak - ing, heed - ing, that our prayers and  
 all your gos - pel's con - so - la - tion while we here on



es here giv - en draw us whol - ly up to heav - en.  
 all good liv - ing come but by your gra - cious giv - ing.  
 songs may please you, as with grate - ful hearts we praise you.  
 earth a - wait you, till in heav'n with praise we greet you.

Text: Tobias Clausnitzer, 1619–1684, sts. 1–3; *Gesangbuch*, Berlin, 1707, st. 4; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, adapt.  
 Music: LIEBSE JESU, WIR SIND HIER, Johann R. Ahle, 1625–1673

### Confession & Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,  
 creator of darkness and light,  
 word of truth,  
 wind sweeping over the waters. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

God, our rock and refuge,  
**we pour out our hearts before you.**  
**We have known you but have not always loved you.**  
**We have wounded one another**  
**and sinned against you.**  
**We have not always recognized the Holy Spirit**  
**dwelling in each of us.**  
**Remember your covenant.**  
**Renew your creation.**  
**Restore us,**  
**that we might proclaim your good news to all. Amen.**

The voice of the Lord is upon the waters.  
 God has spoken:  
 The time of grace is now.  
 In Jesus, the reign of God has come near.  
 By the authority of † Jesus Christ,  
 your sins are forgiven.  
 You are God's beloved. **Amen.**

### Hymn of Praise *Glory to you, God*



1 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;  
 2 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;  
 3 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;

yours is the prom - ise, the bless - ing, the birth.  
 yours the ho - san - nas, the dy - ing, re - birth.  
 yours the a - noint - ing, the ra - di - ant worth.

Ours the re - joic - ing for Word giv - en frame;  
 Ours the re - joic - ing for na - ture re - claimed;  
 Ours the re - joic - ing for spir - its a - flame;

ours the thanks - giv - ing to your ho - ly name.

Ours be the tell - ing of deeds great - ly done;

yours be the glo - ry, O God, yours a - lone.

## Prayer of the Day

The grace of the Lord be with you always.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray, Compassionate God, **you gather the whole universe into your radiant presence and continually reveal your Son as our Savior. Bring wholeness to all that is broken and speak truth to us in our confusion, that all creation will see and know your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

**Bethel Choir**      *I Love You Lord*

---

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.*

**WORD**

### **First Reading: Deuteronomy 18:15 -20**

[Moses said:] <sup>15</sup>The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet. <sup>16</sup>This is what you requested of the Lord your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said: "If I hear the voice of the Lord my God any more, or ever again see this great fire, I will die." <sup>17</sup>Then the Lord replied to me: "They are right in what they have said. <sup>18</sup>I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their own people; I will put my words in the mouth of the prophet, who shall speak to them everything that I command. <sup>19</sup>Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet shall speak in my name, I myself will hold accountable. <sup>20</sup>But any prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, or who presumes to speak in my name a word that I have not commanded the prophet to speak—that prophet shall die." Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

### **Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 8:1-13**

<sup>1</sup>Now concerning food sacrificed to idols: we know that "all of us possess knowledge." Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. <sup>2</sup>Anyone who claims to know something does not yet have the necessary knowledge; <sup>3</sup>but anyone who loves God is known by him.

<sup>4</sup>Hence, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that "no idol in the world really exists," and that "there is no God but one." <sup>5</sup>Indeed, even though there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as in fact there are many gods and many lords—<sup>6</sup>yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.

<sup>7</sup>It is not everyone, however, who has this knowledge. Since some have become so accustomed to idols until now, they still think of the food they eat as food offered to an idol; and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. <sup>8</sup>"Food will not bring us close to God." We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. <sup>9</sup>But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become

a stumbling block to the weak. <sup>10</sup>For if others see you, who possess knowledge, eating in the temple of an idol, might they not, since their conscience is weak, be encouraged to the point of eating food sacrificed to idols? <sup>11</sup>So by your knowledge those weak believers for whom Christ died are destroyed. <sup>12</sup>But when you thus sin against members of your family, and wound their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. <sup>13</sup>Therefore, if food is a cause of their falling, I will never eat meat, so that I may not cause one of them to fall.

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

## Gospel Acclamation

**ACS 12**



**Gospel: Mark 1:21-28**

Gospel according to Mark. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>21</sup>[Jesus and his disciples] went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught.<sup>22</sup>They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. <sup>23</sup>Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, <sup>24</sup>and he cried out, "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God." <sup>25</sup>But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be silent, and come out of him!" <sup>26</sup>And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. <sup>27</sup>They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, "What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him." <sup>28</sup>At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

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

## Sermon



1 Cast out, O Christ, cast far a - way the  
 2 Our rag - ing griefs, our jeal - ous fears are  
 3 Once long a - go, from Gal - i - lee, you  
 4 Your word breathes life and health and hope that  
 5 So come, O Christ, and cast a - way the



de - mons that de - stroy: the haunt - ing dreads that  
 Le - gion in their name. Our shack - led hearts im -  
 sailed to storm - tossed shores. And still, in pow'r, you  
 break through e - vil's thrall. You send us, strength - ened,  
 de - mons that de - stroy. Trans - form our lives to



choke our souls, the hates that sti - fle joy.  
 plore your grace to loose our bind - ing shame.  
 brave new paths to breach our bolt - ed doors.  
 home in peace to live your gos - pel call.  
 sense your love and spread a - broad your joy.

Text: Mary Louise Bringle, b. 1953

Music: CONSOLATION, A. Davison, *Kentucky Harmony*, 1816

Text © 2006 GIA Publications, Inc., [giamusic.com](http://giamusic.com). All rights reserved.

Duplication in any form prohibited without securing permission from copyright administrator or reporting usage under valid license.

## Apostles Creed

*Let us together confess the words of the Apostles' Creed.*

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
 creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
 who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
 born of the virgin Mary,  
 suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
 was crucified, died, and was buried;  
 he descended to the dead.\***

**On the third day he rose again;  
 he ascended into heaven,  
 he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
 and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
 the holy catholic church,**

**the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

### **Prayers of the People**

As we celebrate Christ embodied in human form, we pray for God's blessing on the church, the world, and all of creation.

*A brief silence.*

Loving God, we pray that your example of teaching with confidence and authority builds up your church in love. May all church leaders and teachers honor your instruction and model your inclusive ways. God of grace,

**receive our prayer.**

Renewing God, we pray for all of creation, that waterways flow clean and clear, natural spaces are protected, and our planet is healed. Let us commit to thoughtful care of the earth. God of grace,

**receive our prayer.**

Justice-seeking God, we pray for those in government and community leadership, that they lead with honor and mindfulness. May they remember their covenants and be upright in their ways. God of grace,

**receive our prayer.**

Compassionate God, we pray for all in need, especially those who have known rejection, any who struggle with long-term illness or chronic pain, those without access to safe housing or health care, and any who suffer (*especially*). God of grace,

**receive our prayer.**

Still-speaking God, we pray for our congregation, for its artists and musicians, for its educators and caregivers, that all gifts are used to care for those in need and to live out your example of accompaniment, gospel witness, and love. God of grace,

**receive our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

Eternal God, we remember all who have been teachers, mentors, and companions in the church and in our lives (*especially Thomas Aquinas whom we commemorate today*). We trust that all who have died rest in your loving care. God of grace,

**receive our prayer.**

Knowing the Holy Spirit intercedes for us, we offer these prayers and the silent prayers of our hearts in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

**Amen.**

### **Peace**

The peace of Christ be with you always,

**And also with you.**

## Offering

### Offering Prayer

Let us pray, God of goodness and growth, **all creation is yours, and your faithfulness is sure. Word and water, wine and bread: these are signs of your abundant grace. Receive the gifts we bring, and nourish us to proclaim your abiding love in our communities and in the world, through Jesus Christ, our strength and our song. Amen.**

### Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. **And also 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.**

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe,  
for your star shines still in the night sky,  
guiding your people in paths of love and justice.

In the beginning, you brought light into darkness,  
and created a people to reflect your glory.  
When we have lost our way or turned away,  
you shone the light all the brighter,  
calling us through the words of prophets  
and even in the life of your Son,  
who was born as we are born, breathed and ate  
and walked and lived as we do,  
who not only revealed your way but is the way.

And so, with all the choirs of angels,  
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and

God of might, heav - en and earth are full of your

glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Bless - ed is the one who comes in the name of the

Lord. Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

In the night in which he was betrayed,  
 our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
 broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
 Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
 Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
 and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
 This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
 shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
 Do this for the remembrance of me.

Send the power of your Holy Spirit upon these gifts  
 of bread and wine.  
 May this glimpse of your kingdom sustain us,  
 and give us eyes to see you at work in every place,  
 and strength to be your body in the world.  
 In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**

## The Lord's Prayer

Guide us all through the promise of Jesus, your light, who teaches us to pray:

**Our Father, who art in heaven,**

**hallowed be thy name,**

**thy kingdom come,**

**thy will be done,**

**on earth as it is in 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**

## Lamb of God



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the



world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

*Refrain*



Heal - er of our ev - 'ry ill, light of each to - mor - row,



give us peace be - yond our fear, and hope be - yond our sor - row.



1 You who know our fears and sad - ness, grace us with your  
 2 In the pain and joy be - hold - ing how your grace is  
 3 Give us strength to love each oth - er, ev - 'ry sis - ter,  
 4 You who know each thought and feel - ing, teach us all your

*Refrain*



peace and glad-ness; Spir-it of all com-fort, fill our hearts.  
 still un-fold-ing, give us all your vi-sion, God of love.  
 ev - 'ry broth-er; Spir-it of all kind-ness, be our guide.  
 way of heal-ing; Spir-it of com-pas-sion, fill each heart.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: HEALER OF OUR EVERY ILL, Marty Haugen

Text and music © 1987 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. [www.giamusic.com](http://www.giamusic.com). 800.442.3358.

All rights reserved. Used by permission.

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

### Prayer after Communion

Let us pray, Giver of every gift,  
 Christ's body is our food, and we are Christ's body.  
 Raise us to life by your power  
 for the benefit of all and to your glory,  
 now and forever. **Amen.**

---

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

**SENDING**

### Announcements

#### Benediction

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



1 Spread, oh, spread, al - might - y Word, spread the reign of God the Lord.  
 2 Tell of our Re - deem - er's grace, who, to save our hu - man race  
 3 Tell of God the Spir - it giv'n now to guide us on to heav'n,  
 4 Lord of har - vest, great and kind, rouse to ac - tion heart and mind;



Send forth our Cre - a - tor's call, heav-en's gifts ex - tend to all.  
 and to pay re - bel - lion's price, gave him - self as sac - ri - fice.  
 strong and ho - ly, just and true, work - ing both to will and do.  
 let the gath - 'ring na - tions all see your light and heed your call.

Text: Jonathan F. Bahnmaier, 1774–1841; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*, alt.

Music: GOTT SEI DANK, J. A. Freylinghausen, *Geistreiches Gesangbuch*, 1704

Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress

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

### Dismissal

Go in peace. You are God's beloved. **Thanks be to God.**

**Fellowship hour continues in the lounge.**

### Funding for Mission & Budget

Monthly Receipts through 1/22/24 \$ 16,965.20

Monthly Budget Expenses:..... \$ 18,743.00

YTD Receipts through 1/31/24..... \$ 16,915.20

Yearly Budget..... \$ 224,917.00

## The Bethel Weekly

**Fellowship Hour:** Please, if you are able to help on a future date in January, sign up in the hallway. Thanks to Gaye Richardson and Peggy Hansen for hosting today.

**Statements:** Offering statements for 2023 are located in the lounge.

**Pill Bottles:** Bethel will no longer be collecting pill bottles. Please recycle at home.

**Easter Flowers:** Orders for lilies and tulips are due by March 3rd. Order forms are located in the lounge and church office. Cost is \$12 each.

**Handbags for Hope:** In conjunction with the Resurrection Food Pantry, we are asking all the ladies to clean out their closets and bring in any unwanted handbags, purses, clutches etc. They will then be filled with everyday items and distributed at the food pantry.

**Bethel T-Shirts.** Has your Bethel t-shirt shrunk in the drawer or has it stretched in the closet so now it just hangs on you? We will be placing an order for Bethel t-shirts to be here in time for Aebleskiver! The new shirts will have the same logo as in the past; however, the shirts will be lighter weight, similar to Thrivent t-shirts. The cost is \$15 for sizes XS to XL, additional for extended sizes up to 5X. Please see the sign-up sheet in the hallway...hurry, order needs to be placed by February 4<sup>th</sup>.

**Annual Meeting:** is February 18<sup>th</sup> immediately following worship.

**Aebleskiver:** is February 24<sup>th</sup> and will be here before we know it. Sign-up sheets are in the hallway for volunteers, ingredients and baskets. Please have all items for baskets at church by February 14<sup>th</sup>.

**Bethel Photo Directory:** If you haven't already done so, please submit a recent photo for the new church directory. It can be emailed to the church or brought to the office for scanning.