



**Worship Assistants**

Assisting Minister: Charlie Hilla

Reader: Sharon Hilla

Altar Guild: Pat Petzel

Communion Assist: Dar Schuurmans

Ushers: Jerry Boettcher & Howard Schroeder

Video Tech: Pegi BeDell

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

**GATHERING**

**Welcome**



1 Bap - tized in wa - ter, sealed by the Spir - it, cleansed by the  
 2 Bap - tized in wa - ter, sealed by the Spir - it, dead in the  
 3 Bap - tized in wa - ter, sealed by the Spir - it, marked with the



blood of Christ our king: heirs of sal - va - tion, trust - ing his  
 tomb with Christ our king: one with his ris - ing, freed and for -  
 sign of Christ our king: born of the Spir - it, we are God's



prom - ise, faith - ful - ly now God's praise we sing.  
 giv - en, thank - ful - ly now God's praise we sing.  
 chil - dren; joy - ful - ly now God's praise we sing.

Text: Michael Seward, b. 1932

Music: BUNESSAN, Gaelic tune

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### Thanksgiving for Baptism

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

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,  
 clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness,  
 let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

**Holy God, fountain of living water,  
 source of mercy, tender and mighty,  
 you are clothed with majesty and splendor.  
 Your steadfast love fills the earth.**

Your love flows through water,  
 satisfying the thirst of all living things,  
 sustaining life in this community,

nourishing and delighting us.  
We bless you for these gifts of water:  
For The Bay, Lake Michigan, and the Fox River.  
Your steadfast love fills the earth.

Your love flows through water,  
a sign of your saving power:  
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.  
Your steadfast love fills the earth.

Your love flows through the water of baptism  
joined to your life-giving Word:  
your well of mercy and cleansing flood,  
your sea of deliverance from death into life,  
your healing river washing sin away,  
your living water springing up to eternal life.  
Your steadfast love fills the earth.

**Shower us with your Holy Spirit.**  
**Fill us with your love.**  
**Clothe us and all your people with grace.**  
**Embolden us to do justice.**  
**Bless us to love mercy.**  
**Guide us to walk humbly with you,**  
**whom we thank and praise, through Jesus Christ,**  
**in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.**

**Glory to God**

**Cranberry Pg.167-168**

*Refrain*



Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace



to God's peo-ple on earth. Glo-ry to God in the



high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



1 Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al - mighty God and Fa-ther,



we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.

**Refrain**



2 Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God,



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world:



have mer - cy on us; you are seat - ed at the right



hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.

**Refrain**

3 For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord, you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it, in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther.

*Final refrain*

Glo - ry to God in the high - est.

A - men, a - men.

### The Prayer of the Day

The grace of the Lord be with you always.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray, 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. Amen.**

**Bethel Choir**

*Take Me to the Water*

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

**WORD**

### First Reading: Isaiah 43:1-7

<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> 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.

<sup>3</sup>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.

<sup>4</sup>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.

<sup>5</sup>Do not fear, for I am with you;

I will bring your offspring from the east,

and from the west I will gather you;

<sup>6</sup>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—

<sup>7</sup>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.**

**Psalm 29** (read responsively by verse)

<sup>1</sup>Ascribe to the LORD, O heavenly beings,

ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

**<sup>2</sup>Ascribe to the LORD the glory of his name;  
worship the LORD in holy splendor.**

<sup>3</sup>The voice of the LORD is over the waters;

the God of glory thunders,

the LORD, over mighty waters.

**<sup>4</sup>The voice of the LORD is powerful;**

**the voice of the LORD is full of majesty.**

<sup>5</sup>The voice of the LORD breaks the cedars;

the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon.

**<sup>6</sup>He makes Lebanon skip like a calf,**

**and Sirion like a young wild ox.**

<sup>7</sup>The voice of the LORD flashes forth flames of fire.

**<sup>8</sup>The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness;**

**the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.**

<sup>9</sup>The voice of the LORD causes the oaks to whirl,

and strips the forest bare;

and in his temple all say, "Glory!"

**<sup>10</sup>The LORD sits enthroned over the flood;**

**the LORD sits enthroned as king forever.**

<sup>11</sup>May the LORD give strength to his people!  
May the LORD bless his people with peace!

### Second Reading: Acts 8:14-17

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

### Word for All Ages

#### Gospel Acclamation

Cranberry Pg. 171



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?



You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

### Gospel: Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

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

<sup>15</sup>As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, <sup>16</sup>John 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. <sup>17</sup>His 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."

<sup>21</sup>Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, <sup>22</sup>and 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.**

## Sermon

### Hymn of the Day

*Christ, When for Us You Were Baptized*

**Cranberry 304**



1 Christ, when for us you were bap - tized, God's Spir - it on you  
2 God called you, "My be - lov - ed Son"; you are God's ser - vant  
3 Straight-way and stead - fast un - til death you then o - beyed the  
4 Bap - tize us with your Spir - it, Lord; your cross on us be



came, as peace - ful as a dove, and yet as  
true, sent to pro - claim the reign of heav'n, God's  
call to serve with free and will - ing heart, to  
signed, that like - wise in God's ser - vice we may



ur - gent as a flame, as ur - gent as a flame.  
ho - ly will to do, God's ho - ly will to do.  
give your life for all, to give your life for all.  
per - fect free - dom find, may per - fect free - dom find.

Text: F. Bland Tucker, 1895–1984, alt.

Music: LOBT GOTT, IHR CHRISTEN, Nikolaus Herman, 1480–1561

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## Apostle's 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**

With the Spirit of Christ shining upon us, let us boldly pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

You call us by name and form us. We give thanks for the gift of baptism. Nurture the baptized and equip people sent to proclaim the good news, especially Young Adults in Global Mission and international congregations. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Your voice sounds over the waters. Speak words of healing over the rivers and lakes, seas and oceans. Heeding your voice, lead us to care for water, and the land and creatures it nourishes. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

You give strength to your people. Uphold all who serve the common good. Guide federal and state legislators, city and county officials, judges and juries. Strengthen our resolve to serve all in need. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

You are with us in challenging times. Draw near to all who are ill, undergoing treatment, or recovering from surgery. Accompany individuals and families affected by addiction or mental health challenges. Uphold each person as your beloved. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

You draw us into community. Embolden ministries of racial reconciliation, nurture work on behalf of immigrants and refugees, and equip each to use their gifts for the sake of neighbors near and far. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

For what else do the people of God pray?

You grant us peace. Comfort all who grieve. Dwell with us in this life and, at the last, join us with the saints whom you have created, formed, and named. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

We entrust our prayers to you, O God, in the sure and certain hope that your promise is revealed among the people. **Amen.**

## **Peace**

The Peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

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*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

**MEAL**

## **Offering**

## **Offering Prayer**

Let us pray, 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 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.

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

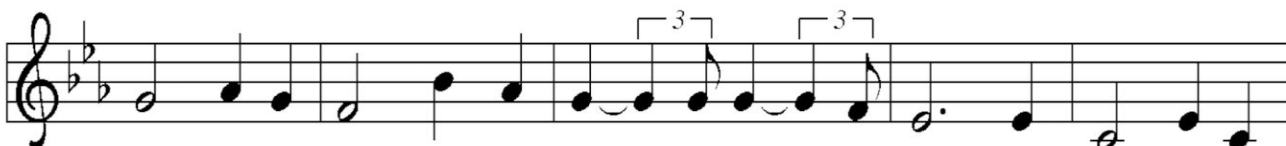
**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen.**

### Lamb of God


Cranberry Pg. 174




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



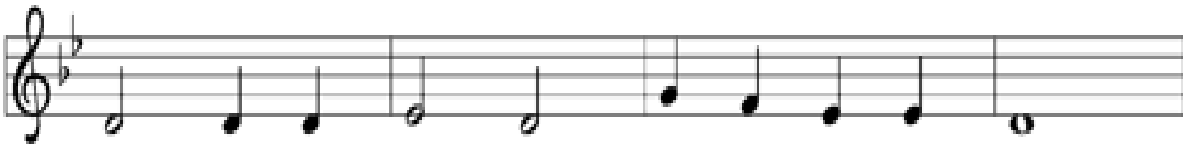
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the



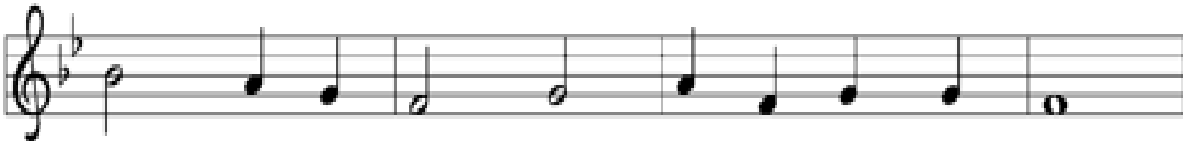
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a -



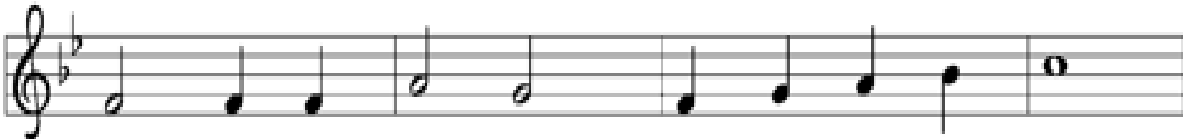
way the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.



1 Spir - it of God, de - scend up - on my heart;  
 2 I ask no dream, no proph - et ec - sta - sies,  
 3 Have you not bid me love you, God and King;  
 4 Teach me to love you as your an - gels love,



wean it from earth, through all its puls - es move;  
 no sud - den rend - ing of the veil of clay,  
 all, all your own, soul, heart, and strength, and mind?  
 one ho - ly pas - sion fill - ing all my frame:



stoop to my weak - ness, strength to me im - part,  
 no an - gel vis - i - tant, no op - 'ning skies;  
 I see your cross; there teach my heart to cling,  
 the bap - tism of the heav'n - de - scend - ed dove,



and make me love you as I ought to love.  
 but take the dim - ness of my soul a - way.  
 Oh, let me seek you and, oh, let me find!  
 my heart an al - tar, and your love the flame.

Text: George Croly, 1780-1860

Music: MORECAMBE, Frederick C. Atkinson, 1841-189



1 Re - mem - ber and re - joice, re - newed by floods of grace.  
 2 In life, in death, we trust in God's most ho - ly name,  
 3 We pledge our - selves a - new to flee the lures of hell,  
 4 God, bless us by your grace; re - mind us of your care.  
 5 Re - mem - ber and re - joice, re - newed by floods of grace.



We bear the sign of Je - sus Christ, that time can - not e - rase.  
 for - ev - er traced by wa - ter sign, and sealed by Spir - it flame.  
 to cling to Christ's com - mu - ni - ty, in jus - tice, peace to dwell.  
 Re - new - ing Spir - it, fill us now, in - spire our work, our prayer.  
 We bear the sign of Je - sus Christ, that time can - not e - rase.

Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947

Music: ST. THOMAS, Aaron Williams, 1731–1776

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### Prayer after Communion

Let us pray, Nourishing God,

**at this table you have refreshed us**

**with holy gifts of food and drink.**

**Strengthen us for service,**

**and send us out to embody your good news**

**of liberation and healing for the sake of the world.**

**In the name of Christ we pray, Amen.**

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

**SENDING**

### Announcements

## Benediction

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
who stood with sinners on the river bank, uphold you. **Amen.**

May the love of God,  
who calls us beloved children, bless you. **Amen.**

May the power of the Holy spirit,  
who descended upon Jesus as a dove,  
give you peace. **Amen.**

## Closing Hymn:

*Baptized and Set Free*

**Cranberry 453**



1 We are peo - ple cre - at - ed, cho - sen by God.  
2 We are fed and we're nour - ished, filled and re - freshed.  
3 We are nour - ished by wa - ter, all liv - ing things,  
4 Now with praise and thanks - giv - ing, we join the song.



Then we're washed, ev - er gent - ly, in mer - cy and love.  
Then our hun - ger re - turns and a - gain we are blessed.  
and by life that the Spir - it a - bun - dant - ly brings.  
All are wel - come! We gath - er to sing loud and strong.



Sin has pow - er no more. Je - sus o - pened the door  
For what - ev - er the need, God is great - er in - deed:  
As we jour - ney toward home, may your pres - ence be known:  
Not en - slaved, but set free! From now on, all will be



to a foun - tain bring - ing heal - ing, and whole - ness and more.  
end - less o - cean, al - ways deep - er than all of our need.  
pre - cious riv - er, ev - er - flow - ing, now car - ry us home.  
one in Je - sus, one in wa - ter, bap - tized and set free!

Text: Cathy Skogen-Soldner, b. 1956  
Music: BAPTIZED AND SET FREE, Cathy Skogen-Soldner  
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## Dismissal

Go and live as God's beloved children,  
with whom God is well pleased. **Thanks be to God.**

## **Funding for Mission & Budget**

Monthly Receipts through 1/7/25: \$20,971.10

Monthly Budget Expenses: \$20,075.00

YTD Receipts through 1/7/25: \$20,971.10

Yearly Budget: \$240,898.00

## **The Bethel Weekly**

**Fellowship Hour:** Please, if you are able to help on a future date in February, sign up in the hallway.

**2025 Offering Envelopes:** Are available in the lounge. Please pick them up so they do not need to be mailed.

**2024 Giving Statements:** Are available in the lounge.

**Ralph Addison Funeral:** Will be tomorrow at 11:00 am with visitation prior from 10:00-11:00 am. Lunch to follow funeral.

**Annual Reports:** Are due by January 16<sup>th</sup>.

**Salvation Army Senior Meal:** Is January 20<sup>th</sup>. Please see the sign-up sheet in the hallway for needed items.

**Newsletter Articles:** Are due January 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**Aebleskiver 2025:** It's never too early to start looking for sales on ingredients and basket items. February 22<sup>nd</sup> will be here before you know it!

**Handbags for Hope:** In conjunction with the Resurrection Food Pantry, we are asking all the ladies to bring in any unwanted purses. Donations are also needed of travel size hygiene items such as toothbrushes, shampoo, lip balm, etc. to fill the purses prior to distribution. Suggestions can be found on the front of the bin in the lounge.

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