

Bethel Lutheran Church
Baptism of Our Lord, Year A
Sunday, January 11, 2026



Pastor Nate Gauerke, ECSW Associate to the Bishop, Director of Transitions

Rowen Erickson Music & Choir Director

Worship Volunteers

Assisting Minister: Charlie Hilla

Reader: Sharon Hilla

Alter Guild: Debbie Kasulke

Communion Assistant: Dawn Schroeder

Ushers: Karl & Bonnie Peterson

Video Tech: Doug Hanson

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

GATHERING

PRELUDE

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 Saward, b. 1932

Music: BUNESSAN, Gaelic tune

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THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
 who makes all things new,
 whose mercy endures forever. **Amen.**

Water! Water! We praise you, O God, for water—

The local bodies of water: The Bay, Lake Michigan, and the Fox River,
 the rain that nourishes animals and plants,
 the water for drinking and bathing.

We praise you, O God, for water.

We praise you, O God, for water.

We praise you, O God, for our water stories—
a flood that cleansed the earth,
the sea that drowned the enemy,
a river that healed leprosy.
We praise you, O God, for water.

We praise you, O God, for water.

We remember the waters of Jesus—
baptized in the Jordan River,
calming the Sea of Galilee,
drinking from Jacob's Well,
healing at the pool of Bethesda,
washing the disciples' feet.
We praise you, O God, for water.

We praise you, O God, for water.

We praise you, O God, for this font,
for through this water
you have birthed us into the family of Christ,
bathed us in forgiveness,
and enlivened us in the Spirit.
We praise you, O God, for baptism.

We praise you, O God, for baptism.

O God, you are the Ocean, sustaining this earth.
O God, you are the River, saving us from death.
O God, you are the Fountain, granting us health and well-being.
We praise you, O God,
today, tomorrow, forever.
Amen, and amen.

Amen, and amen.

THIS IS THE FEAST

Refrain



This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose
2 Sing . . with all the peo - ple of God, and



blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.
join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion:



Pow - er and rich - es, wis - dom and strength, and
Bless - ing and hon - or, glo - ry and might be to

Refrain



hon - or and bless - ing and glo - ry are his.
God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.



3 For the Lamb who was slain has be -

Refrain



gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

God who sent the Light into our world,
God who shone in the Bethlehem manger,
God who spreads the Spirit's rays,
be with you all. **And also with you.**

O God our Father, **at the baptism of Jesus you proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit. Make all who are baptized into Christ faithful to their calling to be your daughters and sons, and empower us all with your Spirit, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

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

WORD

FIRST LESSON: Isaiah 42:1-9

¹Here is my servant, whom I uphold,
my chosen, in whom my soul delights;
I have put my spirit upon him;
he will bring forth justice to the nations.

²He will not cry or lift up his voice,
or make it heard in the street;

³a bruised reed he will not break,
and a dimly burning wick he will not quench;
he will faithfully bring forth justice.

⁴He will not grow faint or be crushed
until he has established justice in the earth;
and the coastlands wait for his teaching.

⁵Thus says God, the LORD,
who created the heavens and stretched them out,
who spread out the earth and what comes from it,
who gives breath to the people upon it
and spirit to those who walk in it:

⁶I am the LORD, I have called you in righteousness,
I have taken you by the hand and kept you;

I have given you as a covenant to the people,
a light to the nations,
⁷to open the eyes that are blind,
to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon,
from the prison those who sit in darkness.
⁸I am the LORD, that is my name;
my glory I give to no other,
nor my praise to idols.
⁹See, the former things have come to pass,
and new things I now declare;
before they spring forth,
I tell you of them.

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

PSALM: Psalm 29 (read responsively by verse)

¹Ascribe to the LORD, you gods,
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.
²**Ascribe to the LORD the glory due God's name;
worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.**
³The voice of the LORD is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders;
the LORD is upon the mighty waters.
⁴**The voice of the LORD is a powerful voice;
the voice of the LORD is a voice of splendor.**
⁵The voice of the LORD breaks the cedar trees;
the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon;
⁶**the LORD makes Lebanon skip like a calf,
and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.**
⁷The voice of the LORD
bursts forth in lightning flashes.
⁸**The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness;
the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.**
⁹The voice of the LORD makes the oak trees writhe and strips the forests bare. And in
the temple of the LORD all are crying, "Glory!"

¹⁰**The LORD sits enthroned above the flood;
the LORD sits enthroned as king forevermore.**

¹¹O LORD, give strength to your people;
give them, O LORD, the blessings of peace.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Repeat alleluia

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

GOSPEL: Matthew 3:13-17

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

¹³Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. ¹⁴John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" ¹⁵But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented. ¹⁶And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. ¹⁷And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."

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

SERMON Pastor Nate Gauerke, ECSW Associate to the Bishop, Director of Transitions

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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FAITH AFFIRMATION: You, O God (New Zealand Prayerbook)

You, O God, are supreme and holy.

You create our world and give us life.

Your purpose overarches everything we do.

You have always been with us.

You are God.

You, O God, are infinitely generous, good beyond all measure.

You came to us before we came to you.

You have revealed and proven your love for us in Jesus Christ,
who lived and died and rose again.

You are with us now. You are God.

You, O God, are the Holy Spirit.

You empower us to be your Gospel in the world.

You reconcile and heal; you overcome death.

You are our God.

We worship you.

Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

As God's beloved children united in Christ, let us pray for the church, the whole human community, and the well-being of the earth, our home.

Steadfast God, give courage to your servant church. Heal our divisions and unite us in mission. Uphold our lay leaders, missionaries, pastors, and bishops, and all who proclaim hope in a broken world.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Restoring God, cleanse the life-giving waters of rivers, seas, and springs. Create in us an urgent desire to preserve the beauty and bounty of your good creation.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Righteous God, you guide the nations. Reconcile warring enemies and end cycles of violent retribution. Defend the rights of prisoners, detainees, and all who flee from persecution. Sustain international aid workers and peacemakers.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Compassionate God, you care for all in distress. Provide safety and support for those seeking asylum or in need of shelter. Be near to the dying, and comfort all who are grieving or ill.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Loving God, awaken the gifts of the Spirit in this congregation, that we may serve Christ by loving one another, our neighbors, and our enemies. We pray for travelers and those who are homebound.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

For what else do the people of God pray?

Promising God, in baptism we die and rise with Christ. We give thanks for those who have gone before us, and we trust that we will join them in your everlasting peace. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Confident that the Holy Spirit receives our prayers and answers us, we commend all for whom we pray to God's loving-kindness made known to us in Christ Jesus our Savior. **Amen.**

PEACE

God makes peace within us. **Let us claim it.**

God makes peace between us. **Let us share it.**

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

MEAL

OFFERING

OFFERING PRAYER

God of majesty,

no eye has seen, no ear has heard

what you have prepared for those who love you,

yet in this meal you reveal the wideness of your mercy.

Use what we have gathered

to feed us with the reign of God come near,

Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

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.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all nations; in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son;

and in the miracle of water turned to wine he revealed your glory.

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:

On that night when he gave himself up for us, as he sat at the table and broke bread with his friends, he said: "Take and eat; this is my body which is broken for you.

Remember me each time you do this."

After they had eaten, he took the cup, and said: "Remember me as you drink from this, for it is my life, poured out for you—the beginning of a new relationship with God."

Send the power of your Holy Spirit upon these gifts of bread and wine, O God, that we may experience the presence of the Word-made-flesh—Jesus Christ. Breathe your Spirit in us that we may be one body with him—living out his ministry in the world today and every day. This we pray in Jesus' name. **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

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.

COMMUNION HYMN*On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry*

1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an - nounc - es
2 Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin; make straight the
3 We hail you as our Sav - ior, Lord, our ref - uge
4 Stretch forth your hand, our health re - store, and make us
5 All praise to you, e - ter - nal Son, whose ad - vent



that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and heark - en,
way for God with - in, and let us all our
and our great re - ward; with - out your grace we
rise to fall no more; oh, let your face up -
has our free - dom won, whom with the Fa - ther



for he brings glad tid - ings of the King of kings!
hearts pre - pare for Christ to come and en - ter there.
waste a - way like flow'rs that with - er and de - cay.
on us shine and fill the world with love di - vine.
we a - dore, and Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er - more.

Text: Charles Coffin, 1676–1749; tr. composite

Music: PUER NOBIS, European tune, adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1571–1621

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

SENDING

ANNOUNCEMENTS**BENEDICTION**

God the Creator who delights in you,

Jesus the Savior who is born for you,

and the life-giving Spirit who shines on you,

✠ bless you and keep you in hope and peace. **Amen.**



- 1 Wash, O God, our sons and daugh-ters, where your cleans-ing wa-ters flow.
- 2 We who bring them long for nur-ture; by your milk may we be fed.
- 3 Oh, how deep your ho-ly wis-dom! Un-im-ag-ined, all your ways!



Num-ber them a-mong your peo-ple; bless as Christ blessed long a-go.
Let us join your feast, par-tak-ing cup of bless-ing, liv-ing bread.
To your name be glo-ry, hon-or! With our lives we wor-ship, praise!



Weave them gar-ments bright and spark-ling; com-pass them with love and light.
God, re-new us, guide our foot-steps; free from sin and all its snares,
We your peo-ple stand be-fore you, wa-ter-washed and Spir-it-born.



Fill, a-noint them; send your Spir-it, ho-ly dove and heart's de-light.
one with Christ in liv-ing, dy-ing, by your Spir-it, chil-dren, heirs.
By your grace, our lives we of-fer. Re-cre-ate us; God, trans-form!

Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947

Music: BEACH SPRING, *The Sacred Harp*, Philadelphia, 1844

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CHOIR BENEDICTION ANTHEM

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Funding for Mission & Budget

Monthly Receipts through 1/5/26	\$12,461.00
Monthly Budget Expenses:	\$20,033.00
YTD Receipts through 12/31/25:	\$230,251.00

The Bethel Weekly

Fill the Wagon: is back! There is a new shopping list in today's bulletin. Lets fill the wagon again next week, the food pantry needs our help now more than ever.

Salvation Army Senior Meal: Is January 19th. Please see the sign-up sheet in the hallway for needed items.

End of year contribution statements are available for pick up in the lounge.

Brunch for Tarin Carlson: will be during fellowship hour January 25th to celebrate Tarin's life. There is a sign-up sheet in the hallway so we have an estimated number of people attending.

Annual Reports & Meeting: All Bethel committee and organization chair-persons are asked to turn in their annual reports to the church office **by January 15th** so that the 2025 Annual Report can be printed and made available to the congregation by February 1st. The Annual meeting after worship, Sunday, February 15, 2026. Reports will be available February 1st.

Bethel Photo Directory: Ashley has been updating the Directory. Please let her know if you have contact information to update. If you'd like an updated photo you can email the church or bring it to the office for scanning.

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Great Thanksgiving written by Moira Laidlaw, and can be found at www.liturgiesonline.com.au/
