

FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH <i>Nurture with Love, Serve with Hope</i> DECEMBER 28, 2025 PASTOR ELAINA SALMON
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**Prelude**

**Welcome and Announcements**

*(Please stand.)*

THE GATHERING

**Gathering Song**      *"It Came upon the Midnight Clear"*

*It came upon the midnight clear,  
that glorious song of old,  
from angels bending near the earth  
to touch their harps of gold:  
"Peace on the earth, good will to all,  
from heav'n's all-gracious king."  
The world in solemn stillness lay  
to hear the angels sing.*

*Still through the cloven skies they come  
with peaceful wings unfurled,  
and still their heav'nly music floats  
o'er all the weary world.  
Above its sad and lowly plains  
they bend on hov'ring wing,  
and ever o'er its babel sounds  
the blessed angels sing.*

*And you, beneath life's crushing load,  
whose forms are bending low,  
who toil along the climbing way  
with painful steps and slow:  
look now, for glad and golden hours  
come swiftly on the wing;  
oh, rest beside the weary road  
and hear the angels sing!*

## **Greeting**

- P** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- C** **And also with you.**

# Glory to God

## *Gloria a Dios*

*Glo - ria\_a Dios, glo - ria\_a Dios,*  
*Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God,*

*glo - ria\_a Dios en los cie - los.*  
*glo - ry to God in the high - est.*

*Paz pa - ra ti, paz pa - ra mí,*  
*Peace be to you, peace be to me,*

*paz pa - ra to - da la tie - rra.*  
*peace be to all, peace to all the earth.*

## Prayer of the Day

- P Lord God, Grant us courage like Joseph, to care for those we love and those whose names we don't even know, when violence and danger invade our safe spaces. Help us to seek the peace that even Jesus did not have.
- C **Amen.**

*(Please be seated.)*

## THE WORD

### The First Reading Isaiah 63:7-9

I will recount the gracious deeds of the Lord,  
the praiseworthy acts of the Lord,  
because of all that the Lord has done for us  
and the great favor to the house of Israel  
that he has shown them according to his mercy,  
according to the abundance of his steadfast love.  
For he said, "Surely they are my people,  
children who will not act deceitfully,"  
and he became their savior  
in all their distress.  
It was no messenger or angel  
but his presence that saved them;  
in his love and pity it was he who redeemed them;  
he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

- A The Word of the Lord.
- C **Thanks be to God.**

### Psalm 148

- A Hallelujah! Praise the Lord from the heavens;  
praise God in the heights.
- C **Praise the Lord, all you angels;  
sing praise, all you hosts of heaven.**
- A Praise the Lord, sun and moon;  
sing praise, all you shining stars.
- C **Praise the Lord, heaven of heavens,  
and you waters above the heavens.**
- A Let them praise the name of the Lord,  
who commanded, and they were created,

- C**     **who made them stand fast forever and ever,  
giving them a law that shall not pass away.**
- A     Praise the Lord from the earth,  
you sea monsters and all deeps;
- C**     **fire and hail, snow and fog,  
tempestuous wind, doing God's will;**
- A     mountains and all hills,  
fruit trees and all cedars;
- C**     **wild beasts and all cattle,  
creeping things and flying birds;**
- A     sovereigns of the earth and all peoples,  
princes and all rulers of the world;
- C**     **young men and maidens,  
old and young together.**
- A     Let them praise the name of the Lord,  
whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is over earth and heaven.
- C**     **The Lord has raised up strength for the people and praise for all faithful servants,  
the children of Israel, a people who are near the Lord. Hallelujah!**

*(Please stand.)*

### **Gospel Acclamation**

*Glory to you, God, for yours is the earth;  
yours is the promise, the blessing, the birth.  
Ours the rejoicing for Word given frame;  
ours the thanksgiving to your holy name.  
Ours be the telling of deeds greatly done;  
yours be the glory, O God, yours alone.*

### **Gospel Matthew 2:13-23**

Now after the magi had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, "Out of Egypt I have called my son."

When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the magi, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the magi. Then what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled:

"A voice was heard in Ramah,

wailing and loud lamentation,  
Rachel weeping for her children;  
she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.”

When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, “Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child’s life are dead.” Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, “He will be called a Nazarene.”

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

*(Please be seated.)*

### **Sacred Story Engagement**

*(Please stand.)*

### **Hymn of the Day     “Gentle Joseph Heard a Warning”**

*Gentle Joseph heard a warning  
from an angel in the night;  
valiant Mary, maiden mother,  
roused from sleep, prepared for flight:  
thus the Christ-child's fam'ly lived out  
what the prophet had foretold,  
that he might be called from Egypt  
as God's people were of old.*

*Targets of a tyrant's army,  
seeking safety, fleeing strife,  
leaving house and land and kindred,  
spurred by dreams of peaceful life;  
through the desert of unknowing  
and the night of doubt they went,  
guided by God's promised presence,  
by that trust made confident.*

*Give us, God, such faith and courage  
when we move from place to place,  
and to those who come among us,  
make us channels of your grace.*

*Let us see in ev'ry stranger  
refugees from Bethlehem,  
help us offer each one welcome  
and receive the Christ in them.*

### **Prayers of the People**

A Empowered by the news of Christ's birth, let us pray boldly for the church, creation, and all who are in need.

*(a moment of silence)*

A God of grace, you show us mercy not according to our worthiness, but according to the abundance of your steadfast love. Grant us the courage to go into the world and do likewise. Hear us, O God.

**C Your mercy is great.**

A God of abundance, the sun and moon praise you and the shining stars sing of your love. Where we have desecrated your creation, make us into a healing balm for what we have broken. Hear us, O God.

**C Your mercy is great.**

A God of righteousness, when leaders fail to fulfill their calls to enact justice, you suffer alongside us. Propel those in power to see you reflected in the faces of all they serve. Hear us, O God.

**C Your mercy is great.**

A God of life, you claim us as your own and care for us as Christ's siblings. Pour out your compassion in every place your people suffer, and protect them in the palm of your hand. We pray especially for . . . Hear us, O God.

**C Your mercy is great.**

A God of compassion, you nurture children as the apple of your eye. As you sheltered your son Jesus from Herod's grasp, shelter all children in danger. As you comforted Rachel, comfort all who have lost children to violence. Hear us, O God.

**C Your mercy is great.**

A God of love, you console those who weep for lost beloved ones. Even as we mourn, we offer thanks for those who have gone before us, trusting in your comfort and protection. Hear us, O God.

**C Your mercy is great.**

A With the joy of Christ's birth in our hearts, we commend our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your boundless mercy and eternal love; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

**C Amen.**

## **Sharing of Christ's Peace**

P     The peace of Christ be with you always.  
C     **And also with you.**

*(Please be seated.)*

## THE MEAL

### **Invitation to the Offering**

P     All creation teems with the abundance of God's provision:  
          mountains and hills, fruit trees and cedars,  
          creeping things and flying birds!  
          Our lives bear witness to the abundance of God's love and mercy,  
          for God has lifted us up and carried us in our need.  
          In joyful praise,  
          we offer to God a portion of all we have received.

### **Offering**

### **Special Music**

*(Please stand.)*

### **Offertory Song       *"Bread of Life"***

*Bread of life, hope of the world,  
Jesus Christ, our brother:  
feed us now, give us life,  
lead us to one another.*

*A child is born for us,  
a son is giv'n to us,  
In our midst, Christ our Lord and God  
comes as one who serves.   Refrain*

*You are the hope of all,  
our promise and our call,  
Radiant light in our darkness,  
truth to set us free.*



## Offertory Prayer

- A God of every good gift,  
We offer what we have back to you,  
knowing that your Son is the greatest gift we will ever receive.  
Grant us glad and generous hearts,  
ever and always,
- C **Amen.**

## Eucharistic Prayer

- P The Lord be with you.  
C **And also with you.**  
P Lift up your hearts.  
C **We lift them to the Lord.**  
P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
C **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**
- P Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:  
Blessed are you for the birth of creation.  
Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.  
Blessed are you for your promise to your people.  
Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.  
Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.  
Blessed are you for your Son Jesus,  
the Word made flesh.
- 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.
- Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:  
C **Christ has died.**  
**Christ is risen.**  
**Christ will come again.**
- P With this bread and cup  
we remember your Word dwelling among us,  
full of grace and truth.  
We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection.  
We look with hope for his coming.

**C      Come, Lord Jesus.**

P      Holy God, we long for your Spirit.  
Come among us.  
Bless this meal.  
May your Word take flesh in us.  
Awaken your people.  
Fill us with your light.  
Bring the gift of peace on earth.

**C      Come, Holy Spirit.**

P      All praise and glory are yours,  
Holy One of Israel,  
Word of God incarnate,  
Power of the Most High,  
one God, now and forever.

**C      Amen.**

### **Lord's Prayer**

P      Remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray,  
**C      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, the power and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

### **Invitation to Communion**

P      God is now in flesh appearing.  
Come to the feast of joy!

*(Please be seated.)*

### **Communion Distribution**

Communion Songs  
"Lamb of God"

## LAMB OF GOD

*Mass of a Joyful Heart*  
Steve Angrisano



Lamb of God, you take a - way the

sins of the world: have mer - cy on us.

sins of the world: grant us peace.

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*"What Feast of Love"*

*What feast of love is offered here,  
what banquet come from heaven?  
What food of everlasting life,  
what gracious gift is given?  
This, this is Christ the king,  
the bread come down from heaven.  
Oh, taste and see and sing!  
How sweet the manna given!*

*What light of truth is offered here,  
what covenant from heaven?  
What hope of everlasting life,  
what wondrous word is given?  
This, this is Christ the king,  
the sun come down from heaven.  
Oh, see and hear and sing!  
The Word of God is given!*

*What wine of love is offered here,  
what crimson drink from heaven?  
What stream of everlasting life,  
what precious blood is given?  
This, this is Christ the king,*

*the sweetest wine of heaven.  
Oh, taste and see and sing!  
The Son of God is given!*

*(Please stand.)*

### **Communion Blessing**

P     May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his  
      grace.  
C     **Amen.**

### **Prayer after Communion**

A     Christ Jesus,  
      You have fed us with love incarnate,  
      and we are utterly changed.  
      Send us forth from this meal to be forces for change in this world,  
      as we find the YES within each of us,  
C     **Amen.**

SENDING

### **Blessing**

P     May God bless you with courage, as you seek the YES within you;  
      May Christ be born again in every risk you take for the sake of the world;  
      And may the Holy Spirit remind you, again and again, that you are never alone, and that  
      you are loved beyond measure.  
C     **Amen.**

### **Sending Song    “Go Tell It On the Mountain”**

#### *Refrain*

*Go tell it on the mountain,  
over the hills and ev'rywhere;  
go tell it on the mountain  
that Jesus Christ is born!*

*While shepherds kept their watching  
o'er silent flocks by night,  
behold, throughout the heavens  
there shone a holy light. Refrain*

*The shepherds feared and trembled*

*when, lo, above the earth  
rang out the angel chorus  
that hailed our Savior's birth. Refrain*

*Down in a lonely manger  
the humble Christ was born;  
and God sent us salvation  
that blessed Christmas morn. Refrain*

**Dismissal**

P      Go in peace to nurture with love and serve with hope.  
C      **Thanks be to God!**

## *PRAYERS FOR THE COMMUNITY*

MariLynn Bergmark	Jessica Kean	Ken Rose
Sue Blender	Zepplyn Killmer	Frank Roy
Sharon Bolerjack	Lenny Kobilca	Ben Sabourin
Hazel Brant	Carrie Koon	George Scheel
Scott Browne	Rev. John Lang	Bernie Schroeder
Evelyn Cahill	Nancy Lang	Tim Schroeder
Tom Casey	Sue Lucheon	Virginia Schroeder
Gary Cobbett	Scott Lundgren	Josh Shaw
Sidney Colburn	Dede Machowski	Sharon Skopec
Jim Connelly	Ashley Maestre	Gene Sobba
Beau Dowling	Hanna Mau	Gary Sperka
Finley Engnell	Jim McKeever	Gary Szafranski
Elwood Faulhaber	Ruth Ann Miller	Dom Thielmann
Abby Galvin	Omni Rook Myers	Kayley Koter Taddeo
David Gilchrist	Linda Nelson	Chuck Vlcek
Mike Hoffman	Dave Nommenson	Rick Vorel
Monica Johnson	Charlotte Pohlman	Kyle Williams
Pat Johnson	Misty Pounder	George Woolet
Caty K	Brilee Robbins	

For Sean Acosta, Dustin Johnson, Steve Kleinfelder, Damen McDermott,  
Chad Peters, Mitch Pohlman and all others serving our country and their families.

For those we name in our hearts, and for those who have not yet found Jesus.

### Acknowledgements

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*What Feast of Love* Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939 Text © 1993 Delores Dufner, OSB. Published by OCP Publications *Christ, Be Our Light* Text: Bernadette Farrell, b. 1957 Text © 1993 Bernadette Farrell. Published by OCP Publications

*Go Tell It On The Mountain* Text: African American spiritual, refrain; John W. Work Jr., 1872-1925, stanzas, alt.

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## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**SERVING TODAY** — Glenda Anderson

**ACOLYTE** — Blaise Kissick

**MUSICIANS** — Sue Gray and Carol Rhoades

**TECH CREW** — Gary Gray and Zach Howell

**A DONATION TO THE WINDOW RESTORATION FUND** was given in memory of Judy Faulhaber by Gerald Johnson.

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