

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY:**

**Almighty God, you wonderfully created and yet more wonderfully restored the dignity of human nature. In your mercy, let us have the divine life of Jesus Christ who came to share our humanity, and who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.**

### **First Reading: Exodus 13:1-3a, 11-15**

<sup>1</sup>3The LORD said to Moses: <sup>2</sup>Consecrate to me all the firstborn; whatever is the first to open the womb among the Israelites, of human beings and animals, is mine. <sup>3</sup>Moses said to the people, “Remember this day on which you came out of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, because the LORD brought you out from there by strength of hand; no leavened bread shall be eaten.”<sup>11</sup>“When the LORD has brought you into the land of the Canaanites, as he swore to you and your ancestors, and has given it to you, <sup>12</sup>you shall set apart to the LORD all that first opens the womb. All the firstborn of your livestock that are males shall be the Lord’s. <sup>13</sup>But every firstborn donkey you shall redeem with a sheep; if you do not redeem it, you must break its neck. Every firstborn male among your children you shall redeem. <sup>14</sup>When in the future your child asks you, ‘What does this mean?’ you shall answer, ‘By strength of hand the LORD brought us out of Egypt, from the house of slavery. <sup>15</sup>When Pharaoh stubbornly refused to let us go, the LORD killed all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, from human firstborn to the firstborn of animals. Therefore I sacrifice to the LORD every male that first opens the womb, but every firstborn of my sons I redeem.’”

### **Psalm: Psalm 111**

<sup>1</sup>Praise the LORD! I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart, in the company of the upright, in the congregation.

**<sup>2</sup>Great are the works of the LORD, studied by all who delight in them.**

<sup>3</sup>Full of honor and majesty is his work, and his righteousness endures forever.

**<sup>4</sup>He has gained renown by his wonderful deeds; the LORD is gracious and merciful.**

<sup>5</sup>He provides food for those who fear him; he is ever mindful of his covenant.

**<sup>6</sup>He has shown his people the power of his works, in giving them the heritage of the nations.**

<sup>7</sup>The works of his hands are faithful and just; all his precepts are trustworthy.

**<sup>8</sup>They are established forever and ever, to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness.**

<sup>9</sup>He sent redemption to his people; he has commanded his covenant forever. Holy and awesome is his name.

**<sup>10</sup>The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; all those who practice it have a good understanding. His praise endures forever.**

### **Second Reading: Colossians 3:12-17**

<sup>12</sup>As God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. <sup>13</sup>Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. <sup>14</sup>Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. <sup>15</sup>And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. <sup>16</sup>Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. <sup>17</sup>And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

## **Gospel: Luke 2:22-40**

<sup>22</sup>When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord <sup>23</sup>(as it is written in the law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord”), <sup>24</sup>and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.”<sup>25</sup>Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. <sup>26</sup>It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. <sup>27</sup>Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, <sup>28</sup>Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, <sup>29</sup>“Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; <sup>30</sup>for my eyes have seen your salvation, <sup>31</sup>which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, <sup>32</sup>a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.” <sup>33</sup>And the child’s father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. <sup>34</sup>Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, “This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed <sup>35</sup>so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.” <sup>36</sup>There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, <sup>37</sup>then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. <sup>38</sup>At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem. <sup>39</sup>When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. <sup>40</sup>The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

## THIS WEEK AT BETHANY

Today: December 29<sup>th</sup>  
First Sunday of Christmas

No Adult SS  
No Youth SS  
9:30-Coffee Fellowship  
10:30-Worship  
6:00-Bethany Prayer Group

**Tuesday: December 31<sup>st</sup>**

8:30-Prayer Group  
9:30-Tuesday Coffee @ Bethany

**Wednesday: January 1<sup>st</sup>**

**HAPPY NEW YEAR**

**Saturday: January 4<sup>th</sup>**

8:00-Mens Group

Sunday: January 5<sup>th</sup>  
Second Sunday of Christmas

9:15-Adult SS  
9:15-Youth SS  
9:30-Coffee Fellowship  
10:30-Worship w/Communion

**Rescheduled Christmas Program**

4:00-Laurens Care Center Svc

6:00-Bethany Prayer Group

**Prayer Concerns:** Bethany Lutheran Church members, nursing home residents, Iowa storm/flood victims, those suffering any illness, Don DeHaan, Ed Schmidt, Dorothy Smith, Bill Belt, Janelle Mason, Warren Hawk, Linda Galbraith, Tim Burton, Desiree Welty, Roberta Baker, Pastor John Mayer, Pete Runneberg, Elizabeth Dunbar, Monica Isom, Don Ehlers, Lisa Anderson, Bill Alexander, Eli Honer, Dorothy Sandvig, Pastor James Puotyual, Carol Schmidt, Gloria Bell, Cenon Zarzoso, Helen Dodge, Patricia Bentsen. Our youth, parents & teachers, our military & missionaries.

**Lector:** Marilyn Ehlers

**Ushers:** December 29<sup>th</sup> -Volunteers

January 5<sup>th</sup> -Myles & Shirley Pedersen

**Acolytes:** Bethany Youth

**Weekly Budget Needs: \$2817.00**

Faith Promise                      Worship

Sunday School                      Adult SS                      Youth SS

**Birthdays:** December 29 – John Hersom; 30 – Julie Dawson; 31 – Curtis Hudson, Ashley Akridge; January 1 – Camille Roberts

**Anniversary:** January 2 – Bill & Pat Alexander

\*\*\*Please note that the blue CH (Celebration Hymnal) is located under the pew in front of you.

Thank you Rich for this Sunday Morning Service  
**Altar Flowers:**

*An asterisk (\*) indicates when to stand (as able)*

### ORDER OF THE SERVICE

PRELUDE/ RINGING OF THE BELL /

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

### WORSHIP OF PRAYER & MEDITATION

\*CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS                      P.56

\*HYMN *It Came upon the Midnight Clear*                      **LBW 54**

\*GREETING                      P.57

\*KYRIE                      P.57

\*HYMN OF PRAISE                      P.59

\*PRAYER OF THE DAY                      *(bulletin-in unison)*

### MEDITATION ON GOD'S WORD

FIRST READING: **Exodus 13:1-3a, 11-15**

Psalm: **Psalm 111**                      *(bulletin – responsively)*

SECOND READING: **Colossians 3:12-17**

\*ALLELUIA VERSE                      P.62

\*THE HOLY GOSPEL: **Luke 2:22-40**

\*GOSPEL RESPONSES                      P.63

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON

**Rich Ehlers**

HYMN *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly*

**LBW 44**

APOSTLES' CREED

P65

### OFFERING OURSELVES TO GOD

OFFERING / Processional "Offertory Psalm"                      P.75

\*PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Leader: ...Lord in your mercy

Response: **Hear our prayer.**

\*THE LORD'S PRAYER                      P.76

### OUR SENDING

\*BENEDICTION

\*HYMN *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*                      **LBW 60**

\*DISMISSAL

.....



**December 29, 2024**  
**First Sunday of Christmas**

**WORSHIP, LOVE, ACCEPT  
TOGETHER IN CHRIST'S NAME**

213 S. Harrison, PO Box 151

Laurens, IA 50554

Ph. 712-841-2181

Email: bethanylnalc@gmail.com

Pastor David Klappenbach

Cell 419-603-8350 Home 712-841-2532

Shirley Mc Kiernan Organist

Website: www.bethanylutheran-laurens.org

To our visitors! Welcome to our Sunday Service.  
We are happy to have you sharing in our worship  
service and ask for the opportunity to meet you.  
We invite you to complete the visitor card in front  
of you and give to an usher. Please come again!

***We are a  
Christ-Centered  
Mission-Driven  
Traditionally-Grounded  
Congregationally-Focused  
Church.***