

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, you wonderfully created and yet more wonderfully restored the dignity of human nature. In your mercy, let us hare 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: Isaiah 63:7-14

⁷I 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. ⁸For he said, “Surely they are my people, children who will not deal falsely”; and he became their savior ⁹in all their distress. It was no messenger or angel but his presence that saved them; in his love and in his pity he redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old. ¹⁰But they rebelled and grieved his holy spirit; therefore he became their enemy; he himself fought against them. ¹¹Then they remembered the days of old, of Moses his servant. Where is the one who brought them up out of the sea with the shepherds of his flock? Where is the one who put within them his holy spirit, ¹²who caused his glorious arm to march at the right hand of Moses, who divided the waters before them to make for himself an everlasting name, ¹³who led them through the depths? Like a horse in the desert, they did not stumble. ¹⁴Like cattle that go down into the valley, the spirit of the LORD gave them rest. Thus you led your people, to make for yourself a glorious name.

PSALM: Psalm 111

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

²Great are the works of the LORD, studied by all who delight in them.

³Full of honor and majesty is his work, and his righteousness endures forever.

⁴He has gained renown by his wonderful deeds; the LORD is gracious and merciful.

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

⁶He has shown his people the power of his works, in giving them the heritage of the nations.

⁷The works of his hands are faithful and just; all his precepts are trustworthy.

⁸They are established forever and ever, to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness.

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

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

SECOND READING: Galatians4:4-7

⁴But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, ⁵in order to redeem

those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. ⁶And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” ⁷So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

GOSPEL: Matthew 2:13-23

¹³Now after they 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.” ¹⁴Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, ¹⁵and 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.” ¹⁶When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, 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 wise men. ¹⁷Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah: ¹⁸“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.” ¹⁹When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, ²⁰“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.” ²¹Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. ²²But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over 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. ²³There 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 Nazorean.”

THIS WEEK AT BETHANY

Today: December 28th	Sunday: January 4th
First Sunday after Christmas	Second Sunday after Christmas
No ADULT OR Youth SS	9:15-Youth & Adult SS
9:30-Coffee Fellowship	9:30-Coffee Fellowship
10:30-Worship	10:30-Worship w/Communion
11:45-Bethany Prayer Group	11:45-Bethany Prayer Group
Tuesday: December 30th	Take down Christmas
8:15-Prayer Group	Decorations following Worship
9:30-Tuesday Coffee @ BLC	
Thursday: January 1, 2026	
Happy New Year	
Saturday: January 3rd	
8:00-Mens Group	

Prayer Concerns: Bethany Lutheran Church members, nursing home residents, storm/flood/fire victims, those suffering any illness Pat Boughey, Tom Shewell, Mary Roat, Todd & Elizabeth Woods, Myles Pedersen, Jerry Runneberg Pastor John Mayer, Monica Isom, Eli Honer, Dorothy Sandvig, Gloria Bell, Helen Dodge, Patricia Bentsen. Our youth, parents & teachers, our military & Missionaries

Lectors: Marilyn Ehlers
Ushers: December 28th -Volunteers
January 4th -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

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

Altar Flowers:

Thank you Rich Ehlers for providing the Worship service this morning

An asterisk () indicates when to stand (for those who are able)*

ORDER OF THE SERVICE

PRELUDE/ RINGING OF THE BELL	
WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS	
*CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS	P.56
*HYMN <i>Angels from the Realm of Glory</i>	LBW 50
*GREETING	P.57
*KYRIE	P.57
*HYMN OF PRAISE	P.59
*PRAYER OF THE DAY	<i>(bulletin-in unison)</i>
FIRST READING: Isaiah 63:7-14	
PSALM: Psalm 111	<i>(bulletin – responsively)</i>
SECOND READING: Galatians 4:4-7	
*ALLELUIA VERSE	P.62
* THE HOLY GOSPEL: Matthew 2:13-23	
*GOSPEL RESPONSES	P.63
CHILDREN’S SERMON	
SERMON	Rich Ehlers
HYMN <i>Infant Holy, Infant Lowly</i>	LBW 44
APOSTLES CREED	P.65
OFFERING	P.75
*OFFERTORY HYMN	P.75
*PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH	
*PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH	
Leader: ...Lord in your mercy	
Response: Hear our prayer.	
* THE LORD’S PRAYER	CH 631
*BENEDICTION	P.76
*HYMN <i>It Came upon the Midnight Clear</i>	LBW 54
*DISMISSAL	



December 28th, 2025
First Sunday after Christmas

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

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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