

## 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: Isaiah 63:7-14

<sup>7</sup>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. <sup>8</sup>For he said, “Surely they are my people, children who will not deal falsely”; and he became their savior <sup>9</sup>in 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. <sup>10</sup>But they rebelled and grieved his holy spirit; therefore he became their enemy; he himself fought against them. <sup>11</sup>Then 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, <sup>12</sup>who 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, <sup>13</sup>who led them through the depths? Like a horse in the desert, they did not stumble. <sup>14</sup>Like 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

<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: Galatians 4:4-7

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

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

## GOSPEL: Matthew 2:13-23

<sup>13</sup>Now 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.” <sup>14</sup>Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, <sup>15</sup>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.” <sup>16</sup>When 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. <sup>17</sup>Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah: <sup>18</sup>“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.” <sup>19</sup>When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, <sup>20</sup>“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.” <sup>21</sup>Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. <sup>22</sup>But 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. <sup>23</sup>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 Nazorean.”

## THIS WEEK AT BETHANY

**Today: December 28<sup>th</sup>**  
First Sunday after Christmas

No ADULT OR Youth SS

9:30-Coffee Fellowship

10:30-Worship

11:45-Bethany Prayer Group

**Tuesday: December 30<sup>th</sup>**

8:15-Prayer Group

9:30-Tuesday Coffee @ BLC

**Thursday: January 1, 2026**

Happy New Year

**Saturday: January 3<sup>rd</sup>**

8:00-Mens Group

**Sunday: January 4<sup>th</sup>**  
Second Sunday after Christmas

9:15-Youth & Adult SS

9:30-Coffee Fellowship

10:30-Worship w/Communion

11:45-Bethany Prayer Group

Take down Christmas

Decorations following Worship

**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 28<sup>th</sup> - Volunteers

January 4<sup>th</sup> -Myles & Shirley Pedersen

**Acolytes:** Bethany Youth

**Weekly Budget Needs:** \$2817.00

Faith Promise

Sunday School

Worship

Adult 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

\*CONFESSON & FORGIVENESS P.56

\*HYMN *Angels from the Realm of Glory* LBW 50

\*GREETING P.57

\*KYRIE P.57

\*HYMN OF PRAISE P.59

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

**FIRST READING:** Isaiah 63:7-14

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

**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 *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly* 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 *It Came upon the Midnight Clear* LBW 54

\*DISMISSAL



**December 28<sup>th</sup>, 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**