

Welcome to Bethania Lutheran Kirke



Third Sunday after Epiphany

January 26, 2025

4120 Wright Avenue, Racine, WI 53405 (262)632-7267

**Order of Worship
for
Sunday, January 26, 2024**

God's glory is revealed in the reading of scripture. People stand at attention. People weep. People prostrate themselves in prayer. The unity of the church is another reflection of God's glory. Most gloriously, the promises of God are fulfilled in the person of Jesus Christ. Gather round. Listen up. Glimpse the glory of God.

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SHARING JOYS & CONCERNS

GATHERING

(Please rise)

CALL TO WORSHIP

P: Today is a day of rejoicing!

C: It is a time to celebrate!

P: Jesus offers us a plan of action!

C: No longer are we trapped, wondering what we should be doing.

P: Jesus speaks to us of freedom, release from captivity, recovery of sight.

C: Jesus outlines the kind of disciples that are needed in God's world. AMEN.

OPENING PRAYER

P: Let us pray,

C: Leading and Guiding God, you have opened the doors to us for true service. We are encouraged to become involved in ministries of peace and justice. The light of promise is reflected in your Spirit which rests in each one of us. Get us ready to serve you. Guide our lives, as we learn more of what you would have us do. AMEN.

PROCESSIONAL & GATHERING HYMN

" Hark, the Glad Sound!" #35

Lutheran Book of Worship –Green Hymnal

SALUTATION

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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Blessed Lord God, you have caused the holy scriptures to be written for the nourishment of your people. Grant that we may hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that, comforted by your promises, we may embrace and forever hold fast to the hope of eternal life, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen

(Please be seated)

WORD

OUR FIRST LESSON is from the book of Nehemiah, chapter 8, verses 1 through 3. 5 through 6 and 8 through 10.

The exiles have returned and rebuilt Jerusalem. Now Ezra, the priest, reads the law of Moses to them in the public square. When they hear it, they weep for their sins and for the long years in exile, but Ezra reminds them that "the joy of the LORD is your strength."

¹ All the people [of Israel] gathered together into the square before the Water Gate. They told the scribe Ezra to bring the

book of the law of Moses, which the LORD had given to Israel.² Accordingly, the priest Ezra brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding. This was on the first day of the seventh month.³ He read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law.⁵ And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up.⁶ Then Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God, and all the people answered, "Amen, Amen," lifting up their hands. Then they bowed their heads and worshiped the LORD with their faces to the ground.⁸ So they read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading.⁹ And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, "This day is holy to the LORD your God; do not mourn or weep." For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law.¹⁰ Then he said to them, "Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our LORD; and do not be grieved, for the joy of the LORD is your strength."

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

OUR SECOND LESSON is from the book of First Corinthians; chapter 12, verses 12 through 31a.

The apostle and pastor Paul uses the metaphor of the human body to describe how intimately connected we are in the church. For this struggling congregation in Corinth, Paul delivers a vital message of unity that is a mark of the church today.

¹² For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. ¹³ For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

¹⁴ Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. ¹⁵ If the foot would say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁶ And if the ear would say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁷ If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? ¹⁸ But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. ¹⁹ If all were a single member, where would the body be? ²⁰ As it is, there are many members, yet one body. ²¹ The eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you," nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." ²² On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, ²³ and those members of the body that we think less honorable we clothe with greater honor, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect; ²⁴ whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior member, ²⁵ that there

may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. ²⁶ If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it.

²⁷ Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.

²⁸ And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers; then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues.

²⁹ Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? ³⁰ Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? ^{31a} But strive for the greater gifts.

L: This is the Spirit speaking to the church.

C: Thanks be to God!

(Please rise)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

(WOV #783)

We do not live by bread alone
But by every word,
That proceeds from the mouth of god
Al-le-lu, Al-le-lu-ia

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke the 4th chapter.

C: Glory to you O Lord.

GOSPEL: Luke 4:14-21

Near the beginning of Jesus' public ministry, he visits his hometown of Nazareth. In the words of Isaiah, he states and claims his identity, purpose, and mission.

¹⁴ Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. ¹⁵ He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.

¹⁶ When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, ¹⁷ and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

¹⁸ "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me
to bring good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives
and recovery of sight to the blind,
to let the oppressed go free,
¹⁹ to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

²⁰ And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. ²¹ Then he began to say to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you O Christ.

(Please be seated)

MESSAGE

(Please rise)

HYMN OF THE DAY -

“Arise Your Light Has Come” #652

With One Voice—Blue Hymnal

PRAYER SONG

(WOV #772)

O Lord, hear my prayer,
O Lord, hear my prayer:
when I call, answer me.
O Lord, hear my prayer,
O Lord, hear my prayer:
come and listen to me.

PRAYERS

P: With the Spirit of Christ shining upon us, let us boldly pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

P: As your word is opened in our midst, we give thanks for all who share scripture: for parents, grandparents, and godparents; teachers and mentors; deacons, pastors, bishops, and scholars. Inspire passion for the stories of faith. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

P: As heavens declare your glory and the sky proclaims your work, we lift our voices in awe of quarks and atoms, vast stars and solar systems. Guide us to speak on behalf of your handiwork. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

P: As Jesus proclaimed life and freedom in his community, energize communities and nations to eliminate poverty, engage in prison ministry and transformative justice, and envision new ways of working together for your promised reign. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

P: As your word and presence revive the soul, accompany all experiencing depression, anxiety, or eating disorders; be a source of strength for all affected by memory loss and their caregivers; draw near to all undergoing medical treatment or surgery *especially* Jeff & Sue O., Bonnie, Anita, Grete L., Bettie, Brad L., Tom N., Cathi, Jim & Sharon L., Melanie W., Ingaborg,, and all those we name in our hearts. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

P: As we are made one body in baptism, strengthen all who serve. Renew and inspire all who use their gifts in this congregation, community, and the world *especially our coffee hour hosts, worship assistants, council, and committee members*). God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

P: As our faith is strengthened by saints who have gone before us, we remember leaders of the early church and beloved friends and family who have died *especially* Glenn Meldgaard, Jack Spencer, Carolyne Luetzgen, Jim Thornton, Sheri Parrish, Clara Landon and all those we name in our hearts. God of grace,

C: hear our prayer.

P: We entrust our prayers to you, O God, in the sure and certain hope that your promise is revealed among the people.

C: Amen.

PRAYER SONG (repeated)

(WOV #772)

O Lord, hear my prayer,
O Lord, hear my prayer:
when I call, answer me.
O Lord, hear my prayer,
O Lord, hear my prayer:
come and listen to me.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

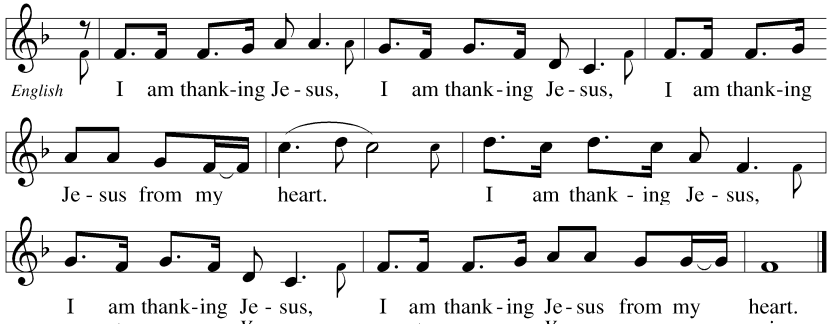
P: May the peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: "And also with you."

(Shaking of hands and sharing the peace with others around you.)

OFFERTORY

(TFF#286)



English I am thank-ing Je - sus, I am thank-ing Je - sus, I am thank-ing
Je - sus from my heart. I am thank - ing Je - sus,
I am thank-ing Je - sus, I am thank-ing Je - sus from my heart.

OFFERING PRAYER

P: God of grace, your love reaches to the heavens,
and your abundance to the depths of the seas.

Bless what we offer to your service:
our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts.

Let us overflow with gratitude and generosity,
now and always.

C: Amen

INTRODUCTION TO THE MEAL

P: Christ be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them up to God.

P: Let us give our thanks to the Holy One.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P: 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 in remembrance of me.

Again after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,

And gave it for all to drink, saying;

This is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you

And for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this in remembrance of me.

LORD'S PRAYER

P: Reaching out to one another let us join our hands and hearts together in the prayer that our Lord taught 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, and the power,
and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: The joy of the Lord is our strength.

Come, eat this meal of gladness.

All are welcome

(Please be seated)

SHARING THE MEAL

For in person, come up the center aisle, receive your communion wafer, carefully dip your wafer into the wine. If grape juice/ covid safe is preferred let the assistant know.

For at home using plain bread/crackers and wine/grape juice.

COMMUNION HYMN -

" One Bread, One Body" # 710

With One Voice—Blue Hymnal

(Please rise)

COMMUNION BLESSING

L: May the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: Amen

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P: Nourishing God,
at this table you have refreshed us
with holy gifts of food and drink.
Strengthen us for service,
and send us out to embody your good news
of liberation and healing for the sake of the world.
In the name of Christ we pray,

C: Amen.

BLESSING

P: The Spirit of the triune God
✠ bless you with joy,
anoint you with compassion,
and send you in love.

C: AMEN!

SENDING HYMN -

" The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve" # 723

With One Voice—Blue Hymnal

RECESSIONAL

A: We follow the cross of Christ into the world.

(Congregation turns as the cross passes them—so they are facing the back of the church)

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Live in hope.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE



Jeff & Sue O., Bonnie, Anita, Grete L., Bettie, Brad L. ,
Tom N., Cathi, Jim & Sharon L., Melanie W., Ingaborg,,
The family & friends of Sheri Parrish, the family and
friends of Clara Landon

TODAYS WORSHIP LEADERS:

Worship Leader: Pastor Paul Nuechterlein

Lector: Robin Barnes

Communion Assistants: Robin & John Barnes

Building Host, Offering Presenter: John Barnes

Coffee Hour: Open Altar Flowers: Open

Live Stream Tech: A Volunteer

Musician: William Mueller

WORSHIP LEADERS NEXT WEEK (Sunday 2/2):

Worship Leader: Pastor Paul Nuechterlein

Lector: Anne Woodward

Communion Assistants: Kelly Imhoff & Jerod Alderson

Building Host, Offering Presenter: Kelly Imhoff

Coffee Hour: Open Altar Flowers: Anita Nielsen

Live Stream Tech: A Volunteer

Musician: William Mueller



ANNUAL
CONGREGATIONAL
MEETING

TODAY, JANUARY 26 2025
Following Worship in the Hearth Room

EMPTIES FOR CASH

"one persons junk is another persons treasure"

- ★ Bring in your empty **inkjet** cartridges—black or color.
- ★ Do not put any tape on the cartridge.
- ★ Place your empty cartridge in a zip type plastic bag. (ex: ziplock)

Bethania will receive \$2 per cartridge.

NO Toners please.



If you have anyone you would like to have added to the prayer chain **please contact Kelly Imhoff at 262-554-1558, the church office 262-632-7267 or by email: bethaniaprayer-chain@wi.twcbc.com**

COFFEE HOUR HOSTS NEEDED

Please consider hosting coffee hour. The coffee will be started by the building opener. Treats may be store bought or homemade.

Sign up sheet is on the bulletin board outside Pastors office.

Cans FOR K-9's



We are still collecting aluminum cans to help support the Racine County K-9 program.

EMPTYES FOR CASH

"one persons junk is another persons treasure"

- ★Bring in your empty inkjet cartridges—black or color.
- ★Do not put any tape on the cartridge.
- ★Place your empty cartridge in a zip type plastic bag. (ex: ziplock)

Bethania will receive \$2 per cartridge.

NO Toners please.

The Calendar....

Sunday, January 26, 2025—Third Sunday After Epiphany

9:30a.m. . -Worship In Person & on Facebook Live

10:30a.m. – Coffee Hour /Congregational meeting

Friday, January 31, 2025

8:00am to 3:00p.m. —RUSD Fell. Hall

Sunday, February 2, 2025—Fourth Sunday After Epiphany

9:30a.m. . -Worship In Person & on Facebook Live

10:30a.m. – Coffee Hour

Note: The church office is closed for health reasons unless otherwise noted.