

BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH
(507-962-3270)

Sunday, January 22, 2023

Pastor Nita Parker (507-360-7582)

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[Welcome Rev. Rebecca Sullivan](#)

Music: Glenda McGaffee
Lay Reader: Heather Erickson
Deacon: Deb Warner
Ushers: Sandager family



GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

P: Most merciful God,

C: we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN “ I Love to Tell the Story” #661

- 1.) I love to tell the story of unseen things above,
of Jesus and his glory, of Jesus and his love.
I love to tell the story, because I know it's true;
it satisfies my longings as nothing else would do.

2.) Refrain

I love to tell the story; 'twill be my theme in glory
to tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love.

- 3.) I love to tell the story: how pleasant to repeat
what seems, each time I tell it, more wonderfully sweet!
I love to tell the story, for some have never heard
the message of salvation from God's own holy word.**

Refrain

I love to tell the story; 'twill be my theme in glory
to tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love.

- 4.) I love to tell the story, for those who know it best
seem hungering and thirsting to hear it like the rest.
And when, in scenes of glory, I sing the new, new song,
I'll sing the old, old story that I have loved so long.**

Refrain

I love to tell the story; 'twill be my theme in glory
to tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love.

GREETING

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.**

KYRIE (sung) pg. 203

- 1.) Have mercy on us, Lord, and hear our solemn prayer.
We come to hear your living word; it saves us from despair.**
- 2.) Have mercy on us, Christ, and wash away our sin.
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may begin.**
- 3.) Have mercy on us, Lord, make sin and shame depart. Renew us with your
saving pow'r; create in us new hearts!**

CANTICLE OF PRAISE (Sung) pg. 204

- 1.) Glory be to God in heaven; peace, goodwill to all the earth.
Mighty God of all creation, Father of surpassing worth:
we exalt you, we adore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.
Saints and angels bow before you; here on earth our songs we raise.**
- 2.) Glory be to Christ forever, Lamb of God and Lord of love.
Son of God and gracious Savior, you have come from heav'n above;
on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.
Hear our prayer; restore, forgive us; in your promise firm we stand.**
- 3.) Holy One we now acclaim you; Lord alone, to you we call;
Holy One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:
Jesus Christ, with God the Spirit, in the Father's splendor bright.
For the peace that we inherit, glory be to God on high!**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

C: Lord God, your lovingkindness always goes before us and follows after us. Summon us into your light and direct our steps in the ways of goodness that come through the cross of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 9:1-4

¹There will be no gloom for those who were in anguish. In the former time [the Lord] brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he will make glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations. ²The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness— on them light has shined. ³You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. ⁴For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.

R: The word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Psalm 27:1, 4-9

R: The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom then shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

C: One thing I ask of the Lord; one thing I seek; that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life; to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord and to seek God in the temple.

R: For in the day of trouble God will give me shelter, hide me in the hidden places of the sanctuary, and raise me high upon a rock.

C: Even now my head is lifted up above my enemies who surround me. Therefore, I will offer sacrifice in the sanctuary, sacrifices of rejoicing; I will sing and make music to the Lord.

R: Hear my voice, O Lord, when I call; have mercy on me and answer me.

C: My heart speaks your message— “Seek my face.” Your face, O Lord, I will seek.

R: Hide not your face from me, turn not away from your servant in anger. Cast me not away—you have been my helper; forsake me not, O God of my salvation.

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 1:10-18

¹⁰Now I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you be in agreement and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same purpose. ¹¹For it has been reported to me by Chloe’s people that there are quarrels among you, my brothers and sisters. ¹²What I mean is that each of you says, “I belong to Paul,” or “I belong to Apollos,” or “I belong to Cephas,” or “I belong to Christ.” ¹³Has Christ been divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? ¹⁴I thank God that I baptized none of you

except Crispus and Gaius, ¹⁵so that no one can say that you were baptized in my name. ¹⁶(I did baptize also the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else.) ¹⁷For Christ did not send me to baptize but to proclaim the gospel, and not with eloquent wisdom, so that the cross of Christ might not be emptied of its power.

¹⁸For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

R: The word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION page 205

Alleluia! Lord and Savior: open now your saving word.

Let it burn like fire within us; speak until our hearts are stirred.

Alleluia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

GOSPEL: Matthew 4:12-23

¹²Now when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. ¹³He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, ¹⁴so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: ¹⁵“Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali, on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles— ¹⁶the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned.”

¹⁷From that time Jesus began to proclaim, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” ¹⁸As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. ¹⁹And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fish for people.” ²⁰Immediately they left their nets and followed him. ²¹As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. ²²Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed him. ²³Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people.

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

Children’s Message

Sermon by Rev. Rebecca Sullivan

HYMN OF THE DAY “Will You Come and Follow Me” #798

- 1.) "Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown, will you let my name be known,
will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?

- 2.) "Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare, should your life attract or scare?
Will you let me answer pray'r in you and you in me?

- 3.) "Will you let the blinded see if I but call your name?
Will you set the pris'ners free and never be the same?
Will you kiss the leper clean, and do such as this unseen,
and admit to what I mean in you and you in me?"
- 4.) "Will you love the you you hide if I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same?
Will you use the faith you've found to reshape the world around,
through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?"
- 5.) Lord, your summons echoes true when you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.
In your company I'll go where your love and footsteps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

P: With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P: Merciful God, **C:** receive our prayer.

SHARING THE PEACE

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

MEAL

OFFERING

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

Cast me not away from your presence and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

Restore to me the joy of your salvation and uphold me with your free Spirit.

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

OFFERING PRAYER

P: Let us pray.

C: God of mercy and grace, the eyes of all wait upon you, and you open your hand in blessing. Fill us with good things at your table, that we may come to the help of all in need, through Jesus Christ, our redeemer and Lord. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

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.

PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ.

In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh you have opened the eyes of faith to a new and radiant vision of your glory, that, beholding the God made visible, we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn.

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heav'n and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

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.

LORD'S PRAYER

P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

C: Our Father, who are in heaven, hallowed by 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

Come to the banquet, for all is now ready.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

SENDING OF COMMUNION

Gracious God, loving all your family with a mother's tender care: As you sent the angel to feed Elijah with heavenly bread, assist those who set forth to share your word and sacrament with those who are *sick, homebound, and imprisoned*. In your love and care, nourish and strengthen those who will receive this sacrament, and give us all the comfort of your abiding presence through the body and blood of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✝ give you peace.

Amen.

SENDING SONG "Shine, Jesus, Shine" #671

**Shine, Jesus, shine, fill the land with the Father's glory;
blaze, Spirit, blaze, et our hearts on fire.**

**Flow, river, flow, flood the nations wit grace and mercy;
send forth your Word, Lord, and let there be light!**

- 1.) Lord, the light of your love is shining, in the midst of the darkness, shining,
Jesus, light of the world, shine upon us; set us free by the truth you now
bring us. Shine on me, Shine on me.

**Shine, Jesus, shine, fill the land with the Father's glory;
blaze, Spirit, blaze, et our hearts on fire.**

**Flow, river, flow, flood the nations wit grace and mercy;
send forth your Word, Lord, and let there be light!**

- 2.) As we gaze on your kingly brightness, so our faces display your likeness,
Ever changing from glory to glory, mirrored here, may our lives tell you
story. Shine on me, shine on me;

**Shine, Jesus, shine, fill the land with the Father's glory;
blaze, Spirit, blaze, et our hearts on fire.**

**Flow, river, flow, flood the nations wit grace and mercy;
send forth your Word, Lord, and let there be light!**

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **C:** Thanks be to God.

PRAYERS NEEDED* Please keep these people in your prayers:**

*Marcia Brandt, Larry Parker, Justine Heintzman & Jerry Johnson (Angie Johnson's dad)
Waiting to be baptized, Marley Ruth Steensma, Keeley Elizabeth Goossens &
Myles Jeffrey Bass*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

UPCOMING EVENTS:

The **Education Committee** met last week, and we are planning a few new activities for the youth for the spring. On **Jan. 29th** kids/families are asked to meet at the church at **1:30pm** and we will carpool from **Brandon to McHardy Park**. We will go sledding, play in the snow and have fun. Following the activities, we will enjoy hot chocolate and goodies. Kids are invited to come with us without parents, we will hope to have enough adults to do supervision.

Feb. 11th at 9am, the younger youth group will meet at the church to make **Valentine cards** and practice singing. Then on Sunday morning they will go to the Nursing home to hand out the Valentine Cards to the residents.

Hills Christian School Soup Supper is set for Feb. 17th from 5-7pm. Serving Homemade soups, pie, desserts, BBQs and ice cream bar with toppings. Come join us!

Sunday, February 26 following worship service.
Bethlehem/Flowerfield Cemetery Annual Board Meeting.

TRINITY MISSIONS

Trinity Missions - the group that goes to Greenville MS, the dates are set for March 14-17, 2023. This is a very fun group, a wonderful mission trip, with lots of others who are from Lutheran churches in MN, IA, and NE. This year I have heard from friends that this group has had several who cannot make this trip work. Is anyone from here interested in going?

Last year I had Paul Hulls from Jeffers, and his daughter and her family from Valley Springs join us in worship and talk about the trip. If you want to know more about the trip, let me know! If you are interested in going, let me know! If you would like to help contribute to the funds necessary to pay for the work in homes, let me know! I really want to go this year, and at this point, I am up in the air! This trip is one that is really and truly **God's Work with Our Hands!**

