

BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

Pastor Lori Bonkoski

Sunday, January 18, 2026

Music: Glenda McGaffee

Lay Reader: Ethan Rozeboom



WELCOME/ANNOUCEMENTS

SILENT PRAYER

***Please stand as you are able**

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God, the Creator of heaven and earth, the Word who spoke life into being, the Wind stirring the waters.

Amen.

Let us turn in confession to the one who knows us completely.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Mighty God, lover of justice,

you call us to life in community, but we have served our own interests at the expense of our neighbors. We have sown deceit where honesty was needed. We say the right words, but our hearts are far from you. Turn us to seek your face. Knit us together and give us the mind of Christ, that we may do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with you, our God. Amen.

The former things have passed away, and new things God now declares: Like a spring of water that never fails, God covers you in the righteousness of Christ, and forgives your sin in ✝ Jesus' name. May the Spirit give you strength to live for others, and bless you with the gift of peace.

Amen.

***GATHERING HYMN #314 "Arise, Your Light Has Come!"**

1. Arise, your light has come! The Spirit's call obey; show forth the glory of your God which shines on you today.

2. Arise, your light has come! Fling wide the prison door; proclaim the captive's liberty, good tidings to the poor.

3. Arise, your light has come! All you in sorrow born, bind up the brokenhearted ones and comfort those who mourn.

4. Arise, your light has come! The mountains burst in song! Rise up like eagles on the wing, God's pow'r will make us strong.

***GREETING:**

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.

***KYRIE – Have Mercy on Us, Lord**

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!

***HYMN OF PRAISE ELW p.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**

Holy God, our strength and our redeemer, by your Spirit hold us forever, that through your grace we may worship you and faithfully serve you, follow you and joyfully find you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

FIRST READING: Isaiah 49:1-7

¹ Listen to me, O coastlands; pay attention, you peoples from far away! The LORD called me before I was born; while I was in my mother's womb he named me. ² He made my mouth like a sharp sword; in the shadow of his hand he hid me; he made me a polished arrow; in his quiver he hid me away. ³ And he said to me, "You are my servant, Israel, in whom I will be glorified." ⁴ But I said, "I have labored in vain; I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity; yet surely my cause is with the LORD and my reward with my God."

⁵ And now the LORD says, who formed me in the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob back to him, and that Israel might be gathered to him, for I am honored in the

sight of the LORD, and my God has become my strength—⁶ he says, “It is too light a thing that you should be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to restore the survivors of Israel; I will give you as a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth.”

⁷ Thus says the LORD, the Redeemer of Israel and his Holy One, to one deeply despised, abhorred by the nations, the slave of rulers, “Kings shall see and stand up; princes, and they shall prostrate themselves, because of the LORD, who is faithful, the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you.”

P: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

RESPONSIVE READING: Psalm 40:1-11

¹ I waited patiently upon the LORD, who stooped to me and heard my cry.

² **The LORD lifted me out of the desolate pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a high cliff, making my footing sure.**

³ The LORD put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God; many shall see, and stand in awe, and put their trust in the LORD.

⁴ **Happy are they who trust in the LORD! They do not turn to enemies or to those who follow lies.**

⁵ Great are the wonders you have done, O LORD my God! In your plans for us, none can be compared with you! Oh, that I could make them known and tell them! But they are more than I can count.

⁶ **Sacrifice and offering you do not desire; you have opened my ears: burnt-offering and sin-offering you have not required.**

⁷ And so I said, “Here I am; I come. In the scroll of the book it is written of me:

⁸ **‘I love to do your will, O my God; your law is deep within me.’”**

⁹ I proclaimed righteousness in the great assembly; I have not restrained my lips, O LORD, you know.

¹⁰ **I have not hidden your righteousness in my heart; I have spoken of your faithfulness and your deliverance; I have not concealed your steadfast love and truth from the great assembly.**

¹¹ You are the LORD; do not withhold your compassion from me; may your steadfast love and your truth continually keep me safe.

SECOND READING: I Corinthians 1:1-9

¹ Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes,

² To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, together with all those who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours:

³ Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

⁴ I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, ⁵ for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind ⁶ just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you ⁷ so that you are not lacking in any gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁸ He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be

blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹ God is faithful, by whom you were called into the partnership of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

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 READING: John 1:29-42**

²⁹ [John the Baptist] saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, "Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!" ³⁰ This is he of whom I said, 'After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me.' ³¹ I myself did not know him, but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel." ³² And John testified, "I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. ³³ I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' ³⁴ And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Chosen One."

³⁵ The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, ³⁶ and as he watched Jesus walk by he exclaimed, "Look, here is the Lamb of God!" ³⁷ The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. ³⁸ When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, "What are you looking for?" They said to him, "Rabbi" (which translated means Teacher), "where are you staying?" ³⁹ He said to them, "Come and see." They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o'clock in the afternoon. ⁴⁰ One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. ⁴¹ He first found his brother Simon and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which is translated Anointed). ⁴² He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, "You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas" (which is translated Peter).

P: This is, the Gospel of our Lord **C: Thanks be to God**

MESSAGE – Pastor Lori

***HYMN OF THE DAY #696 "Jesus Calls Us; o'er the Tumult"**

1. Jesus calls us; o'er the tumult of our life's wild, restless sea, day by day his clear voice sounding, saying, "Christian, follow me".
2. As of old Saint Andrew heard it by the Galilean lake, turned from home and toil and kindred, leaving all for Jesus' sake.
3. Jesus calls us from the worship of the vain world's golden store, from each idol that would keep us, saying, "Christian, love me more."
4. In our joys and in our sorrows, days of toil and hours of ease, still he calls, in cares and pleasures, "Christian, love me more than these."

5. Jesus calls us! By your mercy, Savior, may we hear your call, give our hearts to your obedience, serve and love you best of all.

***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, from there 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 life everlasting. Amen.

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

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

***PEACE**

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **C:** And also with you.

***OFFERING**

***OFFERING SONG #303 "Brightest and Best of the Stars" vs 4**

4. Vainly we offer each ample oblation, vainly with gifts would his favor secure; richer by far is the heart's adoration, dearer to God are the prayers of the poor.

***OFFERING PRAYER**

God of majesty, no eye has seen, no ear has heard what you have prepared for those who love you, yet in this meal you reveal the wideness of your mercy. Use what we have gathered to feed us with the reign of God come near, Jesus Christ, our Savior 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.

P: It is indeed right, our duty and 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; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. 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 Lord p. 207 ELW

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.

***WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

***LORD'S PRAYER**

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.

COMMUNION

***BLESSING**

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you now and forever. **Amen.**

***POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

Radiant God, we have seen your glory in the face of Jesus Christ. In the sacrament of his body and blood you have drawn us to your heart. Send us from this table with delight, that our lives may reflect the beauty of your love, and bear witness to all we have seen and heard, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

***BENEDICTION**

May the triune God, who has put a new song in your mouth and tuned your heart for praise ✠ bless you now and forever.

Amen.

***SENDING HYMN #866 "We Are Marching in the Light"**

1. We are marching in the light of God, we are marching in the light of God. We are marching in the light of God, we are marching in the light of God. We are marching, (marching, we are marching, marching,) we are marching in the light of God. We are marching, (marching, we are marching, marching,) we are marching in the light of God.

2. We are dancing in the light of God, we are dancing in the light of God. We are dancing in the light of God, we are dancing in the light of God. We are dancing, (dancing, we are dancing, dancing,) we are dancing in the light of God. We are dancing, (dancing, we are dancing, dancing,) we are dancing in the light of God.

3. We are praying in the light of God, we are praying in the light of God. We are praying in the light of God, we are praying in the light of God. We are praying, (praying, we are praying, praying,) we are praying in the light of God. We are praying, (praying, we are praying, praying,) we are praying in the light of God.

4. We are singing in the light of God, we are singing in the light of God. We are singing in the light of God, we are singing in the light of God. We are singing, (singing, we are singing, singing,) we are singing in the light of God. We are singing, (singing, we are singing, singing,) we are singing in the light of God.

***DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy.

Thanks be to God.

Prayer Concerns: : Doug Boeve, Marvin Albers, Addison Swenson, Starla Scholten, Doug McGuire, Jim Boeve

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Annual Meeting Sunday, January 25, 2026 immediately following worship service.

Looking ahead, **Bingo!** Saturday, February 7. Meal 5:30-6:30, freewill donation. Bingo 6:30- 8pm.