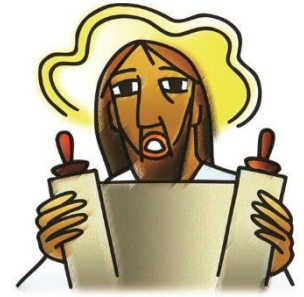


Third Sunday after Epiphany
January 26, 2025 – 10am
Modern Worship, ELW Setting 10



Prelude Music

Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, our creator, our protector, our wellspring of life.

C: Amen.

P: Trusting that God receives our words and the meditations of our hearts, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Merciful God,

C: ... you speak blessing and compassion into the world. Forgive us for the ways we act with judgment, cruelty, or indifference. We ignore the needs of our neighbors; we resist your call to oppose injustice; we give in to scarcity and fear; we assume the worst about one another. Cleanse us from our faults and release us from their grasp. Show us your lovingkindness. Restore our hearts and repair your world, that we may live in Christ's ways. Amen.

P: God proclaims these words of assurance: "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you. I have called you by name. You are mine." In † Christ, you are forgiven. In the Spirit, you are made free. Refreshed by the waters of mercy, live anew as beloved children of God.

C: Amen.

Gathering Song:

Open Your Ears, O Faithful People

ELW 519

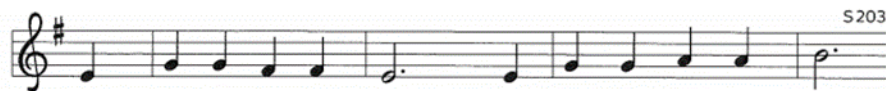
Greeting

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

p. 203



1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.
2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.
3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.



We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.
Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

Prayer of the Day

A: Let us pray together,

C: 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. Amen

First Reading: Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10

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

Psalm 19

1 The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky proclaims its maker’s handiwork.

2 One day tells its tale to another, and one night imparts knowledge to another.

3 Although they have no words or language, and their voices are not heard,

4 their sound has gone out into all lands, and their message to the ends of the world, where God has pitched a tent for the sun.

5 It comes forth like a bridegroom out of his chamber; it rejoices like a champion to run its course.

6 It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens and runs about to the end of it again; nothing is hidden from its burning heat.

7 The teaching of the Lord is perfect and revives the soul; the testimony of the Lord is sure and gives wisdom to the simple.

8 The statutes of the Lord are just and rejoice the heart; the commandment of the Lord is clear and gives light to the eyes.

9 The fear of the Lord is clean and endures forever; the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.

10 More to be desired are they than gold, more than much fine gold, sweeter far than honey, than honey in the comb.

(continued on next page)

11 By them also is your servant enlightened, and in keeping them there is great reward.

12 **Who can detect one's own offenses? Cleanse me from my secret faults.**

13 Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins; let them not get dominion over me; then shall I be whole and sound, and innocent of a great offense.

14 **Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my strength and my redeemer.**

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia

p. 205

S 205a

Al - le-lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.

Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.

Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

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.

P: A reading from... **C: Glory to You, O Lord.**

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.**

Sermon

Pastor Paul Busekist

Song of the Day:

Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness

ELW 843

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.

(continued on next page)

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 the Church / Sign of the Peace *(Let us give one another a sign of peace according to your comfort level.)*

Offering

Offering Song:

David Husser

Offertory:

We Place upon Your Table, Lord (v. 1 & 3)

ELW 467

Offering Prayer

A: Let us pray together.

C: 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. Amen.

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 *(Please note: gluten-free wafers and white grape juice cups are available)*

Communion Songs:

***Let Us Break Bread Together
One Bread, One Body***

ELW 471

ELW 496

Final Blessing

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

C: Amen.

Sending Song:

My Lighthouse

In my wrestling and in my doubts, in my failures you won't walk out.
Your great love will lead me through.

You are the peace in my troubled sea. –whoa-oh-
You are the peace in my troubled sea.

In the silence you won't let go. In the questions, your truth will hold.
Your great love will lead me through

You are the peace in my troubled sea. –whoa-oh-
You are the peace in my troubled sea.

(continued on next page)

My lighthouse, my lighthouse shining in the darkness
I will follow you, Oh- my lighthouse, my lighthouse.

I will trust the promise you will carry me
safe to shore—safe to shore—safe to shore—safe to shore.

I won't fear what tomorrow brings. With each morning I'll
rise and sing. My God's love will lead me through.

You are the peace in my troubled sea. -whoa-oh-
You are the peace in my troubled sea.

My lighthouse, my lighthouse shining in the darkness.
I will follow you, Oh-my lighthouse, my lighthouse.

I will trust the promise you will carry me
safe to shore—safe to shore—safe to shore—safe to shore.

Fire before us you're the brightest. You will lead us
through the storms (hey). REPEAT 3 times

My lighthouse, my lighthouse shining in the darkness.
I will follow you, Oh-my lighthouse, my lighthouse.

I will trust the promise you will carry me
safe to shore—safe to shore—safe to shore—safe to shore.

Dismissal

A: Go in peace. Live in hope.

C: **Thanks be to God.**



Bethlehem *January 26, 2025*
LUTHERAN CHURCH

1050 Peninsula Drive
Traverse City, MI 49686
(231) 947-9880
www.bethlehemtc.org

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

1/26—Ron Hellenga

1/28—Jim Monroe

2/1—Karen Feahr

1/26—Patricia Duzenbery

1/28—Zeke Clemons

Thank You from Traverse City High School: We received a very nice thank you from the staff and students for Christmas gifts. One of the thanks came from a student who wrote: “My name is Alessa & I have been at TCHS for about a year now. Thank you for supporting our school. It means a lot to us. I really appreciate everything I got. It makes me feel really happy to see that you care!”

VISIONING TEAM UPDATE: First and foremost, many thanks to all who have participated within the Visioning Process over the past several months. A special thank you to Kelly Thomson and the Liv Arbors Community as we utilized their facility at our last gathering on January 11. Your hospitality is appreciated!! Our progress remains strong as we are closing in on a final product. The Visioning Team will be continuing our work at the end of the month, Tuesday, January 28, from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m., in order to finely tune our work and prepare to share the results with the congregation. Many hands do make light work... we are grateful for all who have participated along the way! Stay tuned... more to come!!!!

Worship Servants for January 26

Assisting Minister—Peggy Burns

Lector—Pam Reid

Musicians: David Husser, Denice Bossardet, Pr Paul

Today's altar flowers are donated: *By the Congregation in thanks for all of God's blessings*

Hospitality—Tom Fink / Deb Hissong

A/V—Dale Wentzloff / Barbara Oster

Cookies/Coffee—VOLUNTEER / Mary Ann Tanis

Welcome Table— Gail Goldsmith

Bell Ringer— Gail Goldsmith

Front Door Monitors— Craig & Maureen Bauer

Altar Guild— Gail Goldsmith / Mary Ann Tanis

Tech Support—Julia Acker

Counters—Carl Lehto / Cindy Cuba

COLLEGE/MILITARY MAILINGS: The Christian Education Committee would like to remember our college and military members who are living away from home. Please give the following information to Nancy Ammann by February 2nd: Name and COMPLETE address. Information can be sent to my email which is nmammann@gmail.com OR placed in my mailbox at church OR you can give me a call at 946-8433. Thank you, Nancy Ammann

Calling all bakers! We need your help to support Single MOMM! Single MOMM is an incredible local nonprofit that supports single mothers of all backgrounds by addressing the core issues of single motherhood and providing innovative and diverse solutions for families desiring to reach self-sufficiency. Now, Bethlehem has a chance to support this important mission - in a way that we excel at! Single MOMM is hosting a Valentine's Day event for local mothers, and Bethlehem has volunteered to donate homemade baked goods for their dessert bar and to pair with their soup and salad dinner. All desserts, breads, and rolls will be so appreciated by these moms! They expect to have 120-130 single mothers in attendance. There will be a sign up sheet in the Narthex - please fill in your name, what you plan to make, and how many servings. Donations should be marked "Single MOMM" and dropped off to BLC (either in the kitchen or Alanna's office) by Tuesday, February 4th. This is an incredible chance for Bethlehem to engage with the local community and support an important cause - thank you for your generosity and support! Contact Alanna with any questions.

Are you grieving something from a death or something else? It could be any kind of loss, and it hurts. We have a place for you here at Bethlehem on the 1st Monday of the month from 3:30 to 4:30 and the 3rd Monday of the month from 5:30 to 6:30 in the Youth Room. The next dates will be February 3 and February 17. If you have any questions, please contact Peggy Burns at 231 392-6913.

LET'S PLAY GAMES: On February 16th after church let's have a game day. Please bring your favorite game and a snack to share. There will be sandwich fixings and beverage available. So come and have fun. Please sign up in the Narthex. Any questions talk with Gail or Alanna.

Our next Third Thursday Service will be on February 20th with a Taize 2 service. The meal will start at 5:45pm and will include a baked potato bar, with several toppings, salad, desserts and beverages., dessert and beverages. The service begins at 7:00pm. We hope to see you there.

Alcoholics Anonymous: TC Groups will hold their Open Talk here at Bethlehem on three Saturday nights of each month from 8:00-9:00pm. They will not meet here on the second Saturday due to Contra on that night where they will meet at their TC Group office across from Sara Lee.

Coffee and Cookies on Sunday: Remember that treats and a drink on Sunday are appreciated by all. The sign-up sheet has many BLANK spaces so please take a moment to sign up to bring cookies or some other tasty treat on the Sunday that works best for you. Or sign up to prepare the coffee to give our loyal volunteer Mary Ann Tanis a day off.

Looking for A/V Volunteers! Would you be interested in volunteering to help with audio/visual up in the choir loft during services? We are looking to add a few more A/V volunteers to our list! Our current volunteers are absolutely fantastic! We would love to add a few more people to the rotation and have a few more people on the list. If you would be interested in learning, please contact Barbara Oster.

CHAIR YOGA: Chair Yoga continues every Monday at 3:00 in the Fellowship Hall. The group will not meet for the rest of December. Cost is \$5.00 per person. It is slow paced stretches that helps with balance, flexibility and relaxation. Come and try it out.

Volunteers for Watching the Front Door During Worship: The Safety and Security Committee has the new sign up sheets available. We need volunteers who can be available to stay in the Gathering Space to lock the doors and let in late comers for Sundays. We appreciate all of the volunteers. If you have any questions, the committee members are Gail Goldsmith, Maureen Bauer, Jana Rockne and Jan Stretlien

The January issue of the STAR is now available. If you receive the weekly email, your February issue will be emailed on February 1st. The shut-ins will receive an issue by mail. There will also be a few copies available on the counter by the mailboxes. You may also contact the office at 947-9880 to request that mail delivery continues. For current issues of the Star, feel free to check online at www.bethlehemtc.org < About Us > “The Online Bethlehem Star” or type this URL to get these directly: <http://www.bethlehemtc.org/the-bethlehem-star-newsletter>.

Wednesday Bible Studies:

The Adult Bible Study meets from 9:30am—11:30am with the topic of the Book of 1 Corinthians

The Zoom Bible Study meets from 1:30pm—3:00pm -- The book will be *Up from Dust: Martha's Story*, a historical fiction by Heather Kaufman. Contact either Pr. Paul or Barbara with questions.

PROTECT OUR CARPET: spills always happen, but we now have TWO consistent ways to deal with them. Thanks to an anonymous donor we now have an actual carpet cleaning machine stored in the maintenance closet. If you cause one or see a spot, please grab the spot cleaner in the squirt container in the cabinet below the coffee makers in the Fellowship Hall. Just follow the directions on the bottle and we should be able to keep our carpet in good condition. But, if the stain is too big or too resistant, please use the carpet cleaning machine. Thank you!!

ANY AVAILABLE DRIVERS OUT THERE?: There is a delightful couple in our congregation who have good mobility but due to other health issues currently cannot drive. They would love to be able to attend church on Sunday mornings. They live at the east end of 14th street so it should be an easy pick-up and drop off for any members coming from the south or west side of town. When we established this service before for a member we had 4 volunteer groups who each selected one Sunday of the month to do the driving. Can you do that? If so please contact Cindy Monroe at cmonroe@chartermi.net or 231 631 0887. We will also have a list of alternates if you have to be out of town for one of your designated weekends.

Christian Care Giving Visitation 1 Thessalonians 5:11 Therefore encourage on another and build up each other, as you are doing. As a Ministry we are called to take care of each other. Our goal is to provide care for all of those in need and to make sure no one feels alone and not cared for by our congregation. You are loved and wanted by all of your church family. If we can help you or you know of anyone who has a need, please let me know. Peggy Burns cobaltblues2003@yahoo.com or 231 392 6913 If you would like to be a caregiver please let me know.

Food pantry news: Winter has definitely come in with a bang. In order to keep our food pantry open in these freezing temperatures, we have to shift the types of items we keep it stocked with. Foods in cans and glass jars can't withstand these temperatures. Therefore, consider picking up dry good, especially things like powdered milk, cereal, and pasta. We can also stock hand and foot warmers and some personal care items. Thank you in advance for your generous and continued support of our little pantry. Suzanne and Kathie

You are Invited to Sunday Morning Adult Education: it is that time again, time to power up our learning and sharing of Scripture. Adult Education has resumed. We will meet in the Youth Room from 9:15 to 9:45 each Sunday to discuss the lessons for the day. This is a relaxed venue, with inquisitive sharing, practical application, and an opportunity to get better acquainted with your brothers and sisters in Christ! We hope you will join... All Are Welcome!!!!

Spotlight on Zeke: So many of us enjoy Zeke's talents with religious music, but did you know that he plays other kinds of music at various locations in the Traverse City area? Here is a list of his engagements in the next month that are close to TC:

Wed 1/29—The Pub, Traverse City 7:00pm

GET A TREAT AND TAKE A SEAT!!! Remember that on the final Sunday of month, we are moving our coffee hour into the Fellowship Hall. This allows each person to sit for a moment and perhaps visit with someone new. So, on that Sunday each month be sure to take a turn into the Fellowship Hall. We will have a reminder sign on the counter in the Gathering Space to help you remember. Thank you!

Building and Office Hours are: 9:00am – 2:30pm, Monday – Thursday. Office Phone #: 231-947-9880

Offerings: Even though the offering plates are passed during the service, you may use the vase in the back of the Sanctuary if you prefer not to touch the offering plate.

IMPORTANT NOTICE: We often find the front door and/or the kitchen door unlocked when there is no one in the building. Please be sure that the doors are locked when you leave.

Please Note:

Barbara Oster/Administrative Assistant works 9:00am-2:30pm on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday

Phil Anderson/Bookkeeper works 8:30am-12:30pm on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.

Alanna Steffunick-Boomer/Ministry Coordinator works 9:00am-2:30pm – in the office on Tuesday and Wednesday and from home on Thursday – **Please note that this is a new schedule**

Looking for a link to last month's full Council minutes? Type this address/url into your web browser to get the latest approved minutes from Council: bethlehemtc.org/Council-Minutes OR you may call the office to request a copy.

Prayer Requests:

- Prayer Chain: Please contact Jan Stretlien at jstretlien@gmail.com or 231-947-3265
- Prayers read from the altar: Please call Administrative Assistant in the church office 231-947-9880 or admin@bethlehemtc.org

Celebrate a new child in your life with a rose on the baptismal font! Cost \$10.00 per rose. Contact Barbara Oster at beo6475@yahoo.com or 231.668.7038.

Norm Fred has helped a previously homeless couple for a few years. They are proud people and do not like to be given charity but they will accept help in the form of donated cans that they can recycle for money. Please bring in your recyclables in for them. **Leave them in plastic bags by the garage.** These are nice people. There, but for the Grace of our God, go we.

Are you looking for the Caring Table for your donations? It has been moved inside the coat room to the right. Your donations are very much appreciated.

LOST AND FOUND: If you lose something in the church building, please check our new Lost and Found box located in the Coat Room. Also, if you find something, please put it in the box.

Yarn Available: There is yarn available free for the taking located in the cabinets located under the mailboxes in the Narthex. Take what you need.

Name tags: Your name tags are in your mailboxes. Please retrieve them so you can proudly wear them on Sunday mornings. We often have visitors and with so many recent new members it helps them if they can see a friendly face and attach a name to it.

A big thank you to all who have turned in Olesons' slips. On January 7th, we received a check from Olesons for \$317.06. Olesons' slips never expire. Please continue to turn in your Olesons receipts to Bethlehem. Thanks so much!!! **Also, the area for the Oleson receipts is in the lower cabinets below the mailboxes (under the A-B-Cs...).** **The cabinet door is marked with the receptacle inside. Unfortunately, we are no longer collecting the receipts from Family Fair.**

Hoop's Pet Food Pantry: This is the only pet food pantry in NW lower Michigan. They primarily provide dry food, wet food, treats, cat litter and toys for mostly dogs and cats but they will support any type of pet to the best of their ability. Please visit them at the Square Deal Country Store, 900 Woodmere Ave, TC **from 11:00am – 2:00pm on the 1st and 3rd Saturday of every month** with your donations OR you may leave donations in the tub on our "donations" table in the coat room. The volunteers have expressed their appreciation when receiving our donations.

Have something important going on at Bethlehem that you'd like others to know about? Maybe a Small Group? A Club Event? Feature it on the Screen Announcements, weekly emails and on our Facebook Events Page! If there is something you'd like featured or included in any of these, please reach out to alanna.steffunick@bethlehemtc.org **If you are not getting the weekly emails for any reason, please contact Alanna.**

Please consider signing up for Altar Flowers for a Sunday service. Please use the sign-up poster in the Narthex by signing on the date you request. Then fill out a pink slip with the necessary information and place it and a check for \$40 (payable to Bethlehem Lutheran Church or BLC) in the offering plate on Sunday morning (Preferable) or during the week, in the Administrative Assistant's mailbox near the church office entrance. You may select either "in honor" or "in memory" or "to celebrate". If someone has already signed on the date you would like, feel free to add your name – we welcome more than one on a Sunday.

The church calendar is below. Please be sure to notify the office (admin@bethlehemtc.org or 231.947.9880) to be sure that your group is of the calendar.

Sunday, January 26

SAFE HARBOR

9:15am—Sunday School
9:15am—Adult Education (YR)
10:00am—Worship Service (S)
2:00pm—Piano Class (S)

Monday, January 27

2:30pm—Choir rehearsal (S)
3:00pm—Chair Yoga (FH)

Tuesday, January 28

SAFE HARBOR

Bulletin articles due today

9:00am—LWR Quilters (FH)
9:00am—Property Work Group



Wednesday, January 29

9:30am—Adult Bible Study (Library)
11:30am—Music Rehearsal (S)
1:30pm—Zoom Bible Study (Zoom & YR)

Thursday, January 30

5:30pm—ACA (FH)

Saturday, February 1

8:00pm—AA (FH)

Sunday, February 2

9:15am—Sunday School
9:15am—Adult Education (YR)
10:00am—Worship Service (S)
11:15am—Worship and Music meeting (CR)
12:30pm—Youth Discipleship Class at Feast of Victory

Calling All Bakers!

Donations of desserts, breads, and rolls are needed to support an event for single mothers!

Check your weekly email for more information!

Single | MOMM

coffee, chocolate, and connecting changes everything



Audio / Visual Volunteers Needed!

We are looking for a few more volunteers to add to our A/V team!

**Our current volunteers are absolutely fantastic!
We'd like to add a few more people to the rotation!**

If you would be interested, reach out to Barbara Oster.

