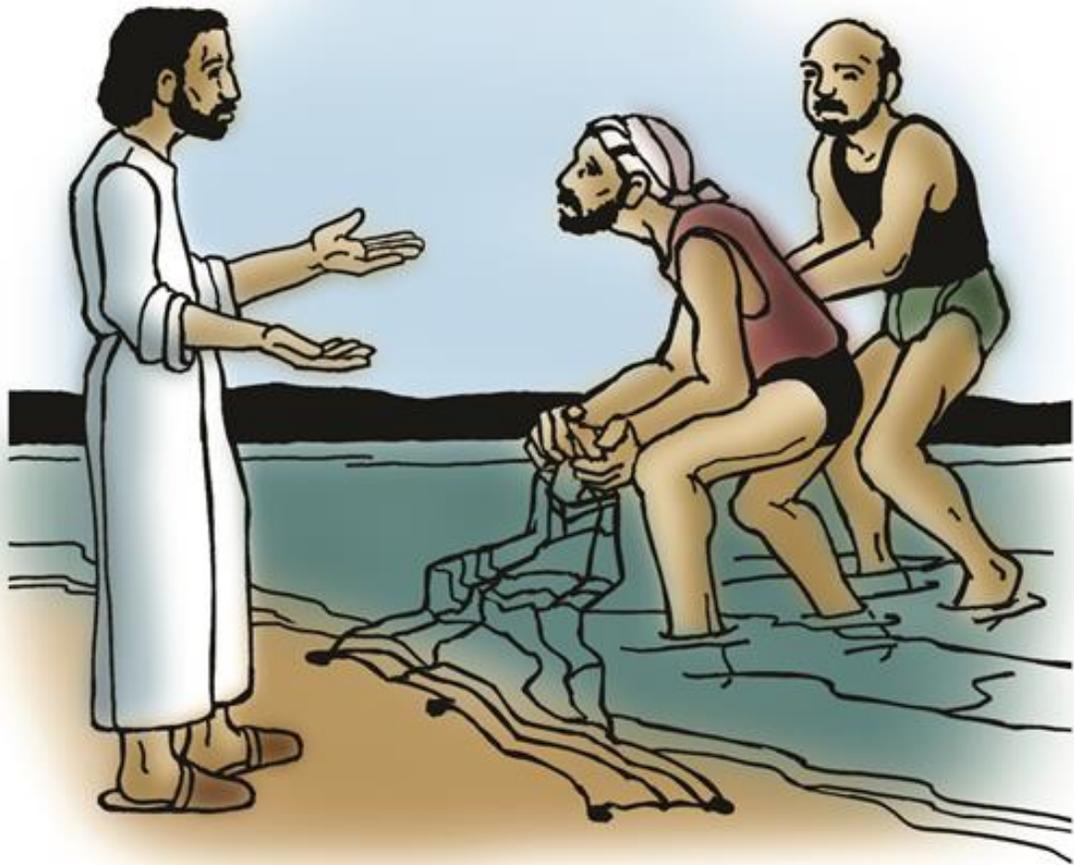


# Bethlehem Lutheran & St. Stephen's Episcopal



Third Sunday after Epiphany

## Announcements

**Welcome to all who came to Bethlehem Lutheran Church today!**

Holy Communion may be received at the altar with individual cups of wine/juice and bread; or if you choose to remain seated, individual cups of wine/juice and wafer are available in the narthex. Those at home, we welcome you to the table with your own bread and wine/juice.

We welcome Father Stephen Day as our presider today.  
George Kimmer will deliver the sermon.

**Special Offering for January is Christikon**

**Please remember in your prayers: Sharon K, Connie A, Rob E, Jeanne W, Lyle, Lisa & Lindsey, Pastor Kim & Terri W, Eva, and Josh.**  
Special note: Prayer requests will be listed for one month with the understanding that prayers will be extended beyond that with notification.

**If you are in need of pastoral leadership or spiritual counsel, please leave a message at the church (406)248-6427 or email [bethlehembillings@gmail.com](mailto:bethlehembillings@gmail.com).**

Please look for the new flower calendar for 2026, Sign up to donate flowers for your special occasions or memorials. Altar Guild will supply the flowers for two weeks. All donations and special requests can be placed in the globe in the back with a note.

**The link for the service is: [www.facebook.com/BethlehemBillings](https://www.facebook.com/BethlehemBillings)**

**Showers for our unhoused neighbors** –We at Bethlehem, in cooperation with St Vincent DePaul and the Salvation Army, provide showers for our unhoused neighbors on Mondays and Wednesdays. If you are willing to help, call Chelsea at 360-915-2762 or Terri Wilker at 406-425-3713

**Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church**  
**St Stephen's Episcopal Church**

40 10<sup>th</sup> Street West                      Billings, MT 59102  
3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany              January 25, 2026  
9:30 Worship                                      Setting 8

**Introduction**

*Jesus begins his public ministry by calling fishers to leave their nets and follow him. In Jesus the kingdom of God has come near. We who have walked in darkness have seen a great light. We see this light most profoundly in the cross—as God suffers with us and all who are oppressed by sickness, sin, or evil. Light dawns for us as we gather around the word, the font, and the holy table. We are then sent to share the good news that others may be “caught” in the net of God’s grace and mercy.*

**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.

***C. Amen.***

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

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P: Mighty God, lover of justice,  
***C: 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.***

P: 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.  
**C. Amen.**

**Gathering Song:** *ELW #482 I Come With Joy*

### **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

*Refrain*



Ky-ri - e e - lei - son, on our world and on our way.



Ky-ri - e e - lei - son, ev-'ry day.



- 1 For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the
- 2 That we may live out your im - passioned re - sponse to the
- 3 For peace in our hearts, . . . for peace in our homes, . . for
- 4 For your Spir - it to guide; that you cen - ter our lives in the



u - ni - ty of all; for  
hun - gry and the poor; that  
friends and fam - i - ly; for  
wa - ter and the word; that you



this ho - ly house, for all who wor-ship and praise,  
we may live out . . . . truth and jus - tice and grace,  
life and for love, . . . . for our work and our play,  
nour-ish our souls . . . with your bod - y and blood,



let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

*Refrain*

## CANTICLE OF PRAISE

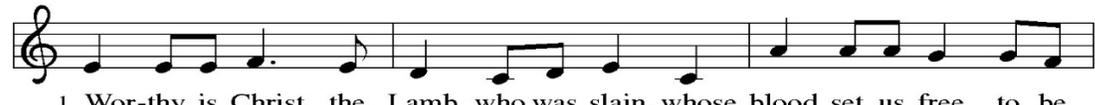
*Refrain*



This is the feast of vic - t'ry for our God, for the



Lamb who was slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.



1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be

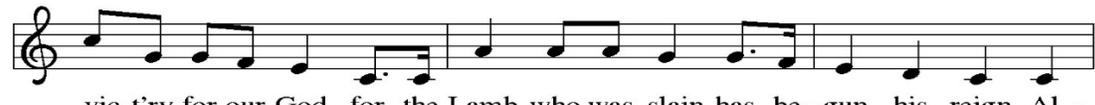


peo - ple of God. Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, and

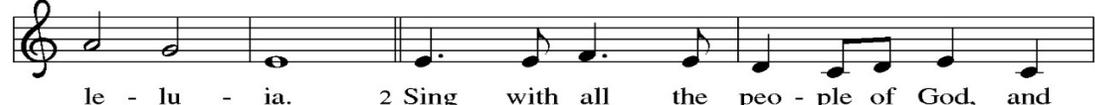
*Refrain*



hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his. This is the feast of



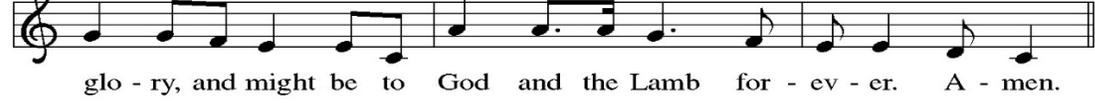
vic - t'ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain has be - gun his reign. Al -



le - lu - ia. 2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and

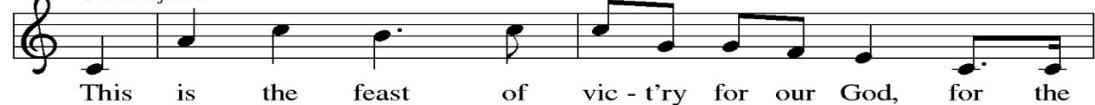


join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or,

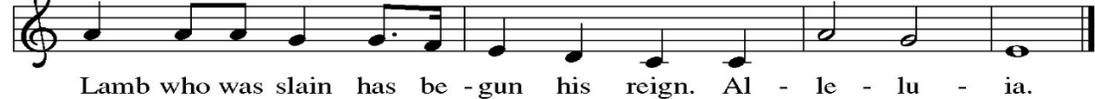


glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

*Final refrain*



This is the feast of vic - t'ry for our God, for the



Lamb who was slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

## Prayer of the Day

*Lord God, your loving kindness 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

*The northern tribes of Zebulun and Naphtali experienced the gloom of defeat by Assyrian military forces, but they are assured that their condition will be reversed when God makes a light-filled appearance. The joy they will experience will resemble celebrations of great harvests, because God will deliver them from everything that diminishes or oppresses them.*

<sup>1</sup> There 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.

<sup>2</sup> The people who walked in darkness  
have seen a great light;  
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—  
on them light has shined.

<sup>3</sup> You have multiplied exultation;  
you have increased its joy;  
they rejoice before you  
as with joy at the harvest,  
as people exult when dividing plunder.

<sup>4</sup> For 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.

Word of God, Word of Life

***Thanks be to God***

**Psalm: Psalm 27:1, 4-9**

<sup>1</sup> 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?

<sup>4</sup> *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<sup>1</sup> in the temple.*

<sup>5</sup> For in the day of trouble God will<sup>1</sup> give me shelter,

hide me in the hidden places of the sanctuary, and raise me high upon a rock.

<sup>6</sup> *Even now my head is lifted up above my enemies<sup>1</sup> who surround me.*

*Therefore I will offer sacrifice in the sanctuary, sacrifices of rejoicing; I will sing and make music<sup>1</sup> to the LORD.*

<sup>7</sup> Hear my voice, O LORD, when I call;

have mercy on me and<sup>1</sup> answer me.

<sup>8</sup> *My heart speaks your message “Seek my face.”*

*Your face, O LORD,<sup>1</sup> I will seek.*

<sup>9</sup> 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**

*Paul calls on the Corinthians to end their dissensions and share the unified outlook of the gospel. Discord arises when we forget that we belong not to human leaders or institutions but to Christ. Indeed, the unifying word of the cross of Christ is the center of the gospel and the power of God’s salvation.*

<sup>10</sup> Now 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 knit together in the same mind and the same purpose. <sup>11</sup> For it has been made clear to me by Chloe’s people that there are quarrels among you, my brothers and sisters. <sup>12</sup> What 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.” <sup>13</sup> Has Christ been divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? <sup>14</sup> I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, <sup>15</sup> so that no one can say that you were baptized in my name. <sup>16</sup> I did baptize also the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else. <sup>17</sup> For 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.

<sup>8</sup> For 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.

Word of God, Word of Life

***Thanks be to God***

### Gospel Acclamation

*Alleluia.* A voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased." *Alleluia.* (Matt. 3:17)

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the  
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

### Gospel: Matthew 4:12-23

*Jesus begins his public ministry shortly after John the Baptist is imprisoned by Herod. He proclaims the nearness of God's reign and calls four fishermen to be his first disciples.*

<sup>12</sup> Now when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. <sup>13</sup> He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, <sup>14</sup> so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:

<sup>15</sup> "Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali,  
on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the gentiles—

<sup>16</sup> the 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.”

<sup>17</sup> From that time Jesus began to proclaim, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.”

<sup>18</sup> As 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 fishers.

And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of people.” <sup>20</sup> Immediately they left their nets and followed him. <sup>21</sup>

As 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. <sup>22</sup> Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

<sup>23</sup> Jesus went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people.

The Gospel of Lord  
*Praise to you, O Christ.*

**Sermon**    George Kimmet

**Hymn of the Day**    *ELW #798 Will You Come and Follow Me*

### **Prayers of Intercession**

As God’s beloved children united in Christ, let us pray for the church, the whole human community, and the well-being of the earth, our home.

*A brief silence.*

Holy One, you entrust the message of the cross and the mission of the gospel to the church in every land. Guide the newly baptized and deepen the faith of all who follow Christ.

Merciful God,

***C: Receive our prayer.***

Holy Creator, you lavish creation with splendor, and we praise you for the gift of life. Teach us to live as wise stewards, sharing the earth's resources with all inhabitants of this garden planet.

Merciful God,

***C: Receive our prayer.***

Holy Judge, your power is love, and you judge the nations by the measure of Christ. Free any who are unjustly accused or wrongly condemned. We pray for those in authority.

Merciful God,

***C: Receive our prayer.***

Holy Lover, you care for vulnerable young children, frail elders, and any who are sick especially Sharon, Connie, Rob, Jeanne, Lyle, Lisa & Lindsey, Pastor Kim & Terri W, Eva, and Josh. We pray for all who are affected by natural disasters. Provide for their needs and relieve their suffering. Merciful God,

***C: Receive our prayer.***

Holy Giver, you gather, forgive, and shape us as disciples of Christ. Nurture in us a spirit of patience and respect, that we may love one another as you love us. Merciful God,

***C: Receive our prayer.***

Holy Savior, you free us from the power of death. Lead and guide us until we come at last into the communion of all your saints in light. Merciful God,

***C: Receive our prayer.***

Confident that the Holy Spirit receives our prayers and answers us, we commend all for whom we pray to God's loving-kindness made known to us in Christ Jesus our Savior.

***C: Amen.***

## **PEACE**

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

***C: And also with you.***

*Share a sign of peace with your neighbors.*

## **OFFERING**

The collection globe is available at the rear of the church. Online viewers may send a check to Bethlehem Lutheran Church at 40 10<sup>th</sup> Street West, Billings, MT 59102  
Thank you for the support of our ministries.

### **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 (Setting 8)**

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 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; 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:

## Sanctus (Holy)

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry, full of your glo-ry. Ho -  
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high -  
est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -  
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

The image shows a musical score for the Sanctus (Holy) in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of five staves of music. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff begins with 'Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,'. The second staff continues with 'heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry, full of your glo-ry. Ho -'. The third staff has 'san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high -'. The fourth staff starts with 'est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -'. The fifth and final staff concludes with 'san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.' The music features a variety of note values including quarter, eighth, and sixteenth notes, as well as rests and a repeat sign at the end.

## Words of Institution

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.

*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**

Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!  
Come to the table; taste and see.

## Agnus Dei (Lamb of God)

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the  
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the  
world; grant us peace, grant us peace, Lamb of God.

The image shows a musical score for the Agnus Dei. It consists of four staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 3/4 time. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The music is written in a simple, melodic style with lyrics: "Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have". The second staff continues: "mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the". The third staff continues: "world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the". The fourth staff concludes: "world; grant us peace, grant us peace, Lamb of God." The music ends with a double bar line.

### Distribution

The Body of Christ given for you  
The Blood of Christ given for you

Communion Hymn: ELW #396 *Spirit of Gentleness (refrain)*

Spirit, Spirit of gentleness  
Blow through the wilderness  
Calling and free  
Spirit, Spirit of restlessness  
Stir me from placidness, wind  
Wind on the sea

**Prayer after Communion**

*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.*

**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.

**C: Amen.**

**Sending Song** *ELW# 815 I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light*

**Dismissal**

P: Go in peace. Share the good news.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## **Upcoming Commemorations**

### **Conversion of Paul**

**Sunday, January 25, 2026**

The week of prayer begun by the remembrance of Peter's confession now comes to an end as we recall the pivotal moment in the life of the other pillar of the early church, the apostle Paul. His encounter with the risen Christ turned him from persecutor of the followers of Christ to one of their leaders.

### **Timothy, Titus, and Silas, missionaries**

**Monday, January 26, 2026**

These three early Christian men were missionary companions of the apostle Paul. Timothy became bishop of Ephesus, Titus bishop of Crete, and Silas was imprisoned with Paul at Philippi until they were delivered by an earthquake.

## All Are Welcome

Christian community should be a place of absolute welcome. Christ has welcomed us, whoever we are. Because of this, we at Bethlehem Lutheran Church are glad to welcome you. None of the distinctions that seem to divide our world apply here!

We welcome you if you are:

- \* young, old or in between;
- \* white, black, native, Hispanic, or whatever your ancestry;
- \* married, single, divorced, a single parent, or whatever your family of choice;
- \* rich, poor, middle class, employed or unemployed;
- \* a lifelong Christian, just now seeking faith, or not really sure;
- \* straight, gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered, questioning, or any other identity;
- \* healthy of mind and body, living with mental illness, disabled or sick;
- \* struggling with addiction, in recovery, or if you love those who are;
- \* liberal, conservative, or ambivalent;
- \* homeless, a former convict, or in any way someone longing for acceptance.

At Bethlehem, we offer safety, love and the ministry of Word and Sacrament to everyone who seeks it. Come and be part of this welcome, as an equal, as a free and beloved child of God!

ALL ARE WELCOME!

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