



Bethlehem Lutheran Church & Early Childhood Center



Baptism of Our Lord

January 12, 2025

Worship Services

9:00 am | 10:30 am

Welcome to Bethlehem!

We hope you feel a warm welcome here at Bethlehem Lutheran Church. Please visit our website at www.blcenc.org for more information about the congregation. If you are visiting with us, please fill out an information card and place it in the offering basket so we can stay connected.

CHILDREN

All children are welcome in the sanctuary for worship at Bethlehem. If you prefer, there is a comfort room at the back of the sanctuary. Busy bags are available in the narthex. After Children's Time at our 10:30 AM service children ages 3 years – 6th grade may either attend our Learning Circle program or remain with you.

COMMUNION

We practice **open communion**, meaning all are welcome to participate. We commune by intinction where the pastor dips the bread into a divided chalice with white wine or red grape juice. There is a gluten-free station on the left side of the sanctuary. We are happy to bring communion to individuals with limited mobility.

PARTICIPATION & ACCESSIBILITY

The different movements that happen during worship (sitting, standing, making the sign of the cross) are all optional; please engage as you are comfortable or able. Hearing assistance devices are located at the back of the sanctuary and large-print bulletins are available in the narthex. If you, or someone you know, identify as neurodivergent and have questions about how to participate in worship or in one of our church ministries, please feel free to ask either the pastors or the church office for help.

PRAYER

In addition to the pastors, our Stephen Ministers are always available to pray with you about whatever is on your heart this day. Please look for the folks wearing a blue name tag with the Stephen Ministry logo. Healing prayer stations are available during communion on the second Sunday of each month.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

From : "Now the Feast and Celebration: "Now the Feast," "As the Grains of Wheat," and "Lamb of God" - Text and Tunes: Marty Haugen, ©1990 GIA Publications, Inc. "God of Promise, Let These Signs of Grace" - Text and Tune STELLAN: Paul Damico-Carper, ©2017 Augsburg Fortress Publishers. "Wash, O God, Our Sons and Daughters" - Text: Ruth Duck, 1989 Abingdon Press; Tune BEACH SPRING: *The Sacred Harp*, 1844, Public Domain, arr. ©1978 Augsburg Fortress Publishers. "Wade in the Water" - Text and Tune: African American spiritual, Public Domain. For previous copyrighted selections, all rights reserved. Reprinted under One license.net License No. A-706214. Other hymn selections are in the Public Domain. Permission to podcast/stream the music in the service obtained from One License with License #A-706214.
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GATHERING

WELCOME

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

L: We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the face of the deep waters, and as a part of all that you created, you made humankind in your own image.

C: May we strive to see the image of God, the spark of the divine, in each and every person that we meet.

L: In the cleansing waters of his baptism, you named and claimed Jesus as your beloved Son.

C: And you pour out your unconditional grace upon each of us as well.

L: You sustained your people in the wilderness with water from the rock.

C: May your love bubble up in our lives like a living spring that overflows and blesses those whose cups are empty and dry.

L: From the Red Sea to the mighty Jordan River, water has played a central role in how you have chosen to love and save your people.

C: May the living water of your Word sustain us, enliven us, and lead us into ways of mercy, truth, and hope.

L: Just as a small rock can cause cascading ripples to multiply across the surface, we know that one small act of love, acceptance, welcome, or kindness can have far-reaching effects.

C: Stir up our hearts, that we might help your justice to roll down like waters, and your righteousness be like an ever-flowing stream.

L: Just as light dances across ocean waves, may our hearts dance with joy as we give thanks and praise to you, the water of life.

C: Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

Shall We Gather at the River – ELW 423 vs. 1 – 3



- 1 Shall we gath - er at the riv - er, where bright an - gel feet have trod,
- 2 On the mar - gin of the riv - er, wash - ing up its sil - ver spray,
- 3 Ere we reach the shin-ing riv - er, lay we ev - 'ry bur - den down;
- 4 Soon we'll reach the shin-ing riv - er, soon our pil-grim-age will cease;



with its crys - tal tide for - ev - er flow-ing by the throne of God?
we will walk and wor - ship ev - er, all the hap-py gold - en day.
grace our spir - its will de - liv - er, and pro-vide a robe and crown.
soon our hap - py hearts will quiv - er with the mel - o - dy of peace.



Yes, we'll gath - er at the riv - er, the beau-ti-ful, the beau-ti-ful riv - er;



gath - er with the saints at the riv - er that flows by the throne of God.

GREETING

L: 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.

HYMN OF PRAISE

Now the Feast and Celebration vs. 2



Now the feast and cel - e - bra - tion,



all of cre - a - tion sings for joy



to the God of life and love and



free-dom: praise and glo - ry for ev -



er - more!



2. Pow - er and rich - es, wis-dom and



might, all hon - or and glo - ry to Christ



to Refrain

for ev - er.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: Let us pray ...

C: Amen.

CHILDREN'S TIME (10:30 AM)

WORD

SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 43:1-7

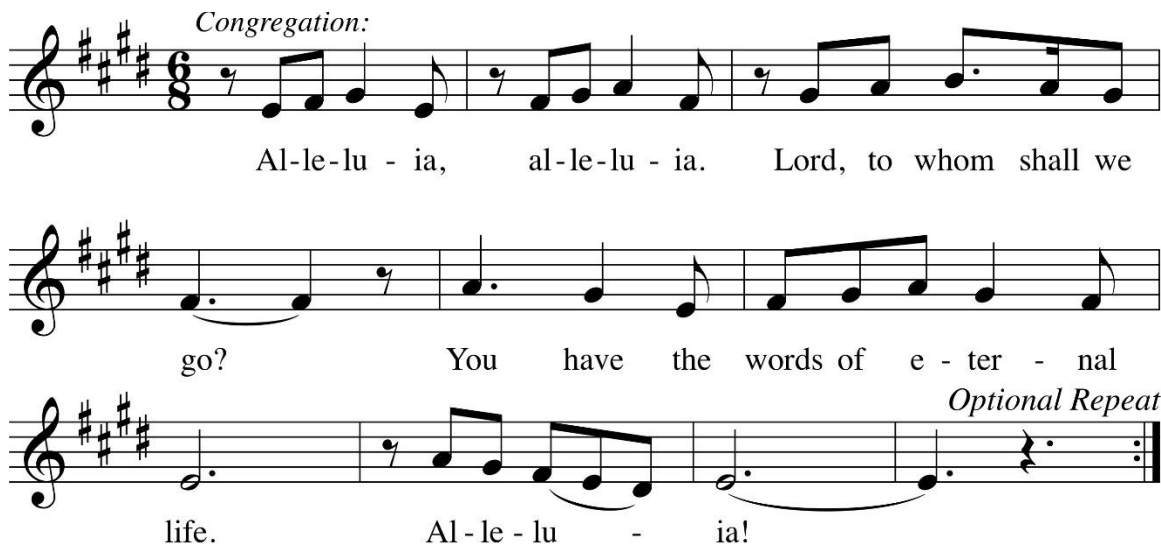
R: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Now the Feast and Celebration

Congregation:



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

Optional Repeat

GOSPEL READING

Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

R: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

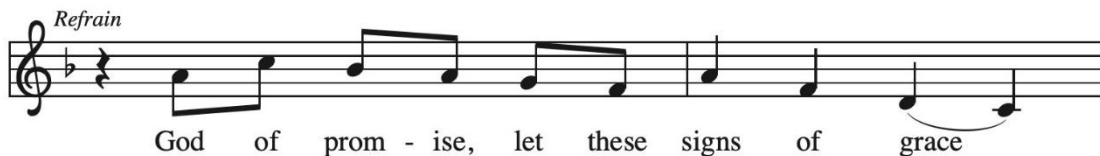
SERMON

Pastor Sam Nelson

HYMN OF THE DAY

God of Promise, Let These Signs of Grace – ACS 959

Vs. 1, 2, & 5



2 Word of pro - claim - ing,	soak - ing our dry - ness,
3 Oil of a - noint - ing,	breath on the wa - ter,
4 Bright light of Eas - ter	fra - grant with pow - er,
5 Robe of a - dop - tion	cleav - ing the dark - ness,
	grow - ing God's fam - 'ly,



plant - ing your prom - ise— the voice from a - bove:
 nam - ing us ho - ly while hold - ing our pain—
 shin - ing up - on and with - in us to - day—
 wrap - ping our bro - ken - ness in the di - vine—



“This is my child, my be - loved.”
 mark of the life that we gain.
 bea - con of hope on the way.
 love be - come sym - bol and sign.

Refrain

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

L: Lord in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

THE SHARING OF THE PEACE

L: The peace of the Lord be with you always,

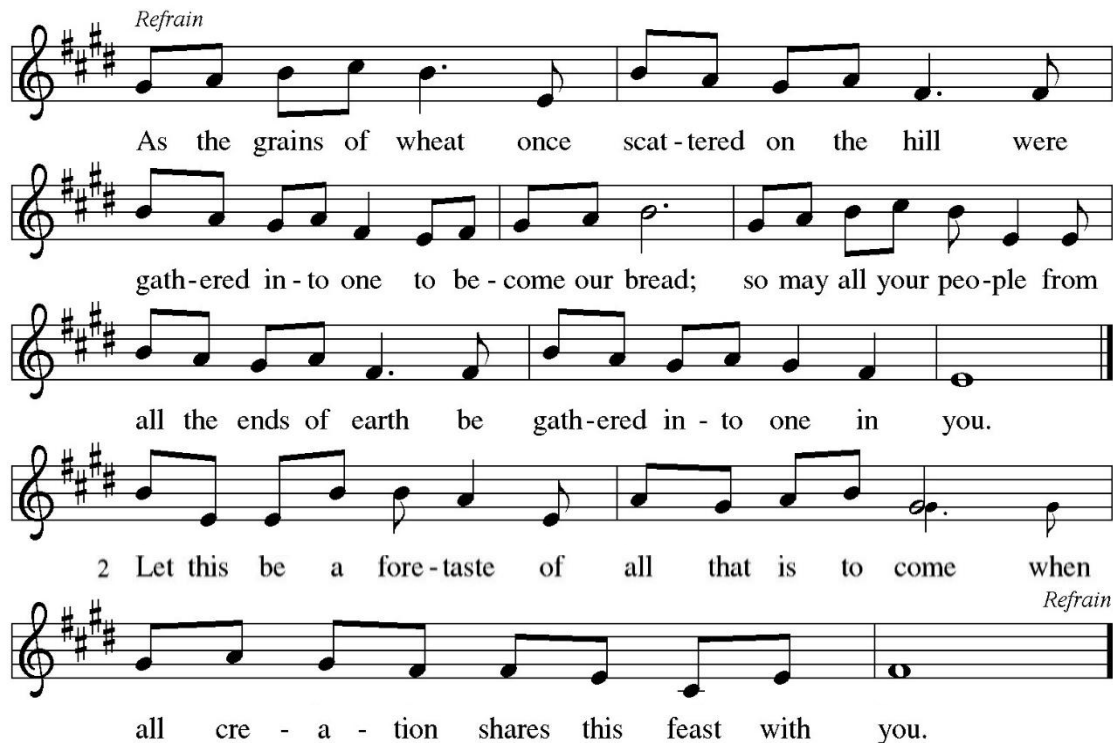
C: And also with you!

OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS AND OURSELVES

OFFERTORY RESPONSE

As The Grains of Wheat – ELW 465 vs. 2

Refrain



As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were
gath-ered in - to one to be - come our bread; so may all your peo-ple from
all the ends of earth be gath-ered in - to one in you.
2 Let this be a fore-taste of all that is to come when
Refrain
all cre - a - tion shares this feast with you.

MEAL

GREAT THANKSGIVING & WORDS OF INSTITUTION

L: The Lord be with you,

C: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts,

C: We lift them to the Lord.

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

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.

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

Lamb of God vs. 2 & 3



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
 you break the chains of ha - tred and
 you are the way of jus - tice and
 you are the way of mer - cy and

Congregation:

world: have mer - cy on us, mer - cy on us,
 fear:
 peace:
 love.

Final Stanza*Congregation or Assistant:*

mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you

Congregation:

take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace,



grant us peace, grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMN

Wash, O God, Our Sons and Daughters – ELW 445



- 1 Wash, O God, our sons and daughters, where your cleans-ing wa-ters flow.
- 2 We who bring them long for nur-ture; by your milk may we be fed.
- 3 Oh, how deep your ho-ly wis-dom! Un-im-ag-ined, all your ways!



Num-ber them a-mong your peo-ple; bless as Christ blessed long a-go.
Let us join your feast, par-tak-ing cup of bless-ing, liv-ing bread.
To your name be glo-ry, hon-or! With our lives we wor-ship, praise!



Weave them gar-ments bright and spark-ling; com-pass them with love and light.
God, re-new us, guide our foot-steps; free from sin and all its snares,
We your peo-ple stand be-fore you, wa-ter-washed and Spir-it-born.



Fill, a-noint them; send your Spir-it, ho-ly dove and heart's de-light.
one with Christ in liv-ing, dy-ing, by your Spir-it, chil-dren, heirs.
By your grace, our lives we of-fer. Re-cre-ate us; God, trans-form!

SENDING

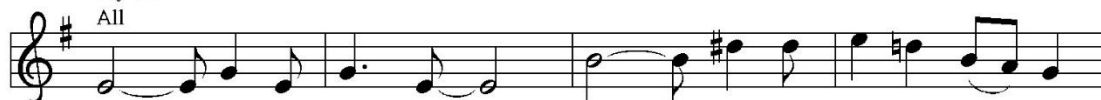
ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

SENDING HYMN

Wade in the Water – ELW 459 vs. 1 & 2

Refrain
All



Wade in the wa - ter, wade in the wa - ter, chil - dren,



wade in the wa - ter, God's a - goin' - a trou - ble the wa - ter.

Leader



All

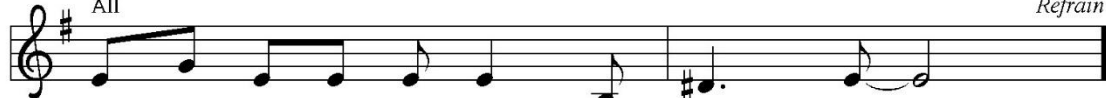
1 See that host all dressed in white,
2 See that band all dressed in red, God's a - goin' - a trou - ble the
3 Look o - ver yon - der, what do I see?
4 If you don't be - lieve I've been re - deemed,

Leader



wa - ter. the lead - er looks like the Is - rael - ite.
looks like the band that . . Mo - ses led.
the Ho - ly Ghost a - com - ing on me.
just fol - low me down to . . . Jor - dan's stream.

All



God's a - goin' - a trou - ble the wa - ter.

Refrain

DISMISSAL

L: Go in peace, live in the light!

C: Thanks be to God!

All Are Welcome!

We live in a diverse world. We are hurting, broken and heavy hearted. We are loving, joyous, and above all, we are welcoming. Regardless of the color of your skin, or the color of your hair; regardless of your gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, relationship status, or political affiliation, you are welcome here. We honor indigenous people and are committed to the work of anti-racism and the stewardship of the creation.

If you are Buddhist, Roman Catholic, agnostic, Muslim, Jewish, seeking, have never set foot in a church, or are a life long Lutheran; you have a place here. If you own, rent, or have nothing at all; you are welcome here. If you are neurodivergent, fully abled, disabled, or a person of differing abilities; if you have regrets, fears, addictions, or afflictions; you have a place here.

All who are wise and all who are confused, all who have found love and all who have lost it, all who celebrate this welcome statement and all who fear it - are welcome here.

Come as you are and be celebrated for who you are. Your place is here. Bethlehem Lutheran is an All are Welcome church.



Reconciling in Christ



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America

Electronic Giving at Bethlehem

Offering gifts can be made electronically on our website **www.blcenc.org** under the contribute tab, or by scanning this QR code. There are options for one-time donations, recurring gifts, and special offerings. **No account is needed to donate on our website.**



You can also use the **Vanco Mobile App**. Simply download it from your app store, and search "Bethlehem Lutheran Church Encinitas" by name (there is no invite code). If you already have an account from our website, the same login information will work. If not, please sign up with a new account. **Thank You for Supporting Bethlehem!**



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