



MISSION – GIVE BACK

The Fourth Sunday in Epiphany

BETHEL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH | York, Nebraska

January 31, 2021

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

We are pleased that you have chosen to worship the Lord with us today. Large print hymnals and hearing assisted devices are available upon request. Restrooms are located on the north side of the main level and in the lower level. If you have any questions or need assistance with anything please ask one of our ushers

CONNECTION CARDS: Visitors, or members with contact information changes, please fill out our online connection card at bethelyork.com, member connect tab, or scan this code.



SERVICE NOTES FOR THIS SUNDAY

Communion

We are celebrating the Lord's Supper today. Scripture tells us that we need to examine ourselves before we receive the Lord's Supper so that we do not take it in a harmful manner. (1 Cor. 11:27-29) For help in preparation see page 156 in the front of the hymnal.

Visitors: Because we do not want you to receive the Lord's Supper in a harmful manner we ask that you do not come forward for the Lord's Supper today if you are not members of a WELS or ELS church. The pastor will be happy to share with you the Biblical basis for this practice.

SERVING IN WORSHIP

Worship Leader
Pianist

Pastor Mark A. Haefner
Mr. Steven Springborn

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THE SERVICE OF WORD AND SACRAMENT

A version of the historic liturgy of the Christian church

OPENING HYMN

O God, Your Hand the Heavens Made | 481

1 O God, your hand the heavens made And all that they contain;
The world appeared at your command, And in it now you reign.
The restless sea, the land, the sky Your handiwork declare;
The touch of your creative pow'r Is present ev'rywhere.

2 To us are given gifts divine; All talents you have sent.
Inspire us now to use them well Your kingdom to extend.
We hold each gift a trust from you Nor claim it as our own;
We gratefully acknowledge, Lord, All things are yours alone.

3 Deliver us from selfish aims; True stewards we would be.
Endow us with a deep desire To live unselfishly.
A full accounting we must give And see you face to face;
Let us approach your throne with joy, Supported by your grace.

INVOCATION

please stand, if able

[M] The grace of our Lord (+) Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

[C] **And also with you.**

CONFESSION

[M] God invites us to come into his presence and worship him with humble and penitent hearts. Therefore, let us acknowledge our sinfulness and ask him to forgive us.

[C] **Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful, and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in**

eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.

ABSOLUTION

M God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son (+) and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

LORD, HAVE MERCY

M For all that we need in life and for the wisdom to use all your gifts with gratitude and joy, hear our prayer, O Lord.



C: Lord, have mer - cy.

M For the steadfast assurance that nothing can separate us from your love and for the courage to stand firm against the assaults of Satan and every evil, hear our prayer, O Christ.



C: Christ, have mer - cy.

M For the well-being of your holy Church in all the world and for those who offer here their worship and praise, hear our prayer, O Lord.



C: Lord, have mer - cy.

- M** Merciful God, maker and preserver of life, uphold us by your power and keep us in your tender care:



- M** The works of the Lord are great and glorious; his name is worthy of praise.

O LORD, OUR LORD



how glo - rious is your name in all the earth.

O Son of God, e - ter - nal Word of the Fa - ther,

you came to live with us; you made your Fa - ther known;

you washed us from our sins in your own blood. You are the

King of glo - ry; you are the Lord! O Lord, our Lord,

how glo - rious is your name in all the earth.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M Let us pray.

Gracious God, all that we have comes from you: our bodies and minds, our strength and intelligence, our time and abilities, our energy and possessions. Guard us from the temptation to use these gifts only for our personal benefit. Make us willing to use them joyfully in service to you and to your people, through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: A - men.

The Word

FIRST LESSON

Exodus 35:20-36:7

²⁰So the whole community of Israel departed from the presence of Moses. ²¹Then everyone whose heart moved him and everyone whose spirit was willing came back and brought offerings to the LORD for the construction of the Tent of Meeting and for all the things to be used in its services and for the holy garments. ²²They came back, both men and women, all those whose hearts were willing. They brought brooches, earrings, signet rings, armlets, and all kinds of gold jewelry. Every person who came presented a wave offering of gold to the LORD. ²³Everyone who had blue, purple, and scarlet material, fine linen, goats' hair, rams' skins dyed red, and hides of sea cows brought them. ²⁴Everyone who presented an offering of silver and bronze brought it as the LORD's special offering, and everyone who had acacia wood for any use in the project brought it. ²⁵All the women who were skilled spun thread with their hands and brought what they had spun: the blue, the purple, and the scarlet material and the fine linen. ²⁶All the women who were willing and skillful spun the goats' hair. ²⁷The tribal leaders brought the onyx stones and the stones to be mounted on the vest and the pouch, ²⁸also the spices, and the olive oil for the Light, for the anointing oil, and for the fragrant incense. ²⁹The people of Israel brought a voluntary offering to the LORD. Every man and woman whose heart was willing contributed to all the work which the LORD had commanded Moses to do.

³⁰Moses said to the people of Israel, "See, the LORD has called by name Bezalel the son of Uri, the son of Hur, from the tribe of Judah. ³¹He has filled him with the Spirit of God, with wisdom, understanding, knowledge, and skill in all kinds of crafts. ³²He has the ability to create designs and to work in gold, silver, and bronze. ³³He can cut and engrave precious stones for mounting and can carve wood. He works skillfully in all kinds of crafts. ³⁴The LORD has also put into his heart the ability to teach others—both he and Oholiab son of Ahisamak, from the tribe of Dan. ³⁵He has filled them with skill to work in all kinds of crafts: designing, embroidering in blue, purple, and scarlet, working with fine linen, and weaving—all kinds of workmanship and designing."

Moses continued, "Bezalel and Oholiab shall work with every skilled man, in whom the LORD has put wisdom and understanding, who knows how to carry out all the work for completing everything for the sanctuary, according to everything that the LORD has commanded."

²So Moses called Bezalel and Oholiab, and every skilled man into whose heart the LORD had put the needed wisdom and skill, that is, everyone whose heart stirred him up to come and join in the work. ³They received from Moses all the materials which the people of Israel had brought as a special offering for the task of completing everything for the sanctuary, and the people continued to bring voluntary offerings to Moses every morning. ⁴All the skilled craftsmen who were performing all the work for the sanctuary came from the specific work which they were doing. ⁵Each of them told Moses, "The people have brought more than enough to complete the work which the LORD commanded."

⁶So Moses gave a command that was passed throughout the camp: "No man or woman should provide anything else for the offering for the sanctuary." So the people were restrained from bringing more, ⁷because the material they had brought was sufficient to complete all the work, with some left over. (EHV)

M The word of the Lord

C Thanks be to God.

SECOND LESSON

2 Corinthians 8:1-15

Now brothers, we want you to know about the grace of God that was given in the churches of Macedonia: ²In a severe test of trouble, their overflowing joy and their deep poverty overflowed into an abundance of their generosity. ³I testify that of their own free will they gave according to their ability, and even beyond their ability, ⁴pleading with us with an urgent request for the gracious privilege of joining in this service to the saints. ⁵And they did this not as we had expected, but in keeping with God's will they gave themselves first to the Lord and then to us. ⁶As a result we urged Titus, since he had already made a beginning, to bring to completion this gracious gift on your part. ⁷But just as you overflow in every way—in faith, in word, in knowledge, in all diligence, and in your love for us—see that you also overflow in this gracious gift.

⁸I do not say this as a command, but to test how genuine your love is, by comparing it with the eagerness of others. ⁹For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that although he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that through his poverty you might become rich.

¹⁰And I am giving advice in this matter because it is going to be helpful for you. Last year, you were not only the first to take action, but also the first to be willing. ¹¹Now bring the work to completion too, so that your eagerness to start may be matched by your completing it with what you have. ¹²For if the eagerness is there, a gift is acceptable according to what someone has, not according to what he does not have.

¹³Certainly, our goal is not that others take it easy while you are burdened, but that there may be equality. ¹⁴At the present time, your abundance will provide what they lack, in order that their abundance will also provide what you lack—in this way there will be equality. ¹⁵As it is written, “The one who gathered much did not have too much, and the one who gathered little did not have too little.” (EHV)

M The word of the Lord

C **Thanks be to God.**

VERSE OF THE DAY

M Alleluia. God is able to make all grace overflow to you, so that in all things, at all times, having all that you need, you will overflow in every good work. Alleluia.



GOSPEL

Luke 7:36-50

please stand, if able

M The Gospel according to Luke chapter 7.

³⁶A certain one of the Pharisees asked Jesus to eat with him. Jesus entered the Pharisee’s house and reclined at the table. ³⁷Just then a sinful woman from that town

learned that he was reclining in the Pharisee's house. She brought an alabaster jar of perfume, ³⁸stood behind him near his feet weeping, and began to wet his feet with her tears. Then she began to wipe them with her hair while also kissing his feet and anointing them with the perfume. ³⁹When the Pharisee who had invited him saw this, he said to himself, "If this man were a prophet, he would realize who is touching him and what kind of woman she is, because she is a sinner."

⁴⁰Jesus answered him, "Simon, I have something to tell you."

He said, "Teacher, say it."

⁴¹"A certain moneylender had two debtors. The one owed five hundred denarii and the other fifty. ⁴²When they could not pay, he forgave them both. So, which of them will love him more?"

⁴³Simon answered, "I suppose the one who had the larger debt forgiven."

Then he told him, "You have judged correctly." ⁴⁴Turning toward the woman, he said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I entered your house, but you did not give me water for my feet. Yet she has wet my feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair. ⁴⁵You did not give me a kiss, but she, from the time I entered, has not stopped kissing my feet. ⁴⁶You did not anoint my head with oil, but she has anointed my feet with perfume.

⁴⁷Therefore I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven; that is why she loved so much. But the one who is forgiven little loves little." ⁴⁸Then Jesus said to her, "Your sins have been forgiven."

⁴⁹Those reclining at the table with him began to say among themselves, "Who is this who even forgives sins?"

⁵⁰He said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you. Go in peace." (EHV)

M This is the Gospel of the Lord.



be seated

HYMN OF THE DAY

We Give Thee but Thine Own | **485**

1 We give thee but thine own, Whate'er the gift may be;
All that we have is thine alone, A trust, O Lord, from thee.

2 May we thy bounties thus As stewards true receive
And gladly, as thou blessest us, To thee our firstfruits give.

3 Oh, hearts are bruised and dead, And homes are bare and cold,
And lambs for whom the shepherd bled Are straying from the fold.

4 To comfort and to bless, To find a balm for woe,
To tend the lone and fatherless, Is angels' work below.

5 The captives to release, To God the lost to bring,
To teach the way of life and peace—It is a Christlike thing.

6 And we believe thy Word Though dim our faith may be:
Whate'er for thine we do, O Lord, We do it unto thee.

SERMON

please stand, if able

NICENE CREED

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one being with the Father.**

Through him all things were made.

**For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary,
and became fully human.**

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate.

He suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

We believe in the Holy Spirit,

**the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

be seated

OFFERING *Please place your offering in the plate in the entry.*

1 Corinthians 16:2 (NIV) On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with his income

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

[M] Gracious God and Father, we praise you for the countless blessings, which we receive from your hand: the beauties of creation and the bounties of the earth, the joy of life and the pleasure of friendship, the good of work and the gift of rest, the privilege to share happiness and sorrow with one another. Above all we praise and thank you for your saving Word and for your Son's body and blood, which you give us to eat and to drink in the sacrament. Through these means of grace, you send the Holy Spirit into our hearts and unite us to Jesus and to the whole Christian Church on earth.

[C] **Strengthen us through this heavenly food; increase our trust in Christ and our love for one another.**

[M] Great God and Lord, without your continuing help we easily waver in our faith, lose courage, and grow careless in our watchfulness. The times and days are perilous. Give us strength to face the evils of each day with fresh confidence. Open our lips to speak of your grace, and move us to use the gifts that you give us to share your Word of salvation with all people. Protect and prosper the family, the school, the government, and all good institutions that you have established for the benefit of society. Remember in mercy those who are sick and suffering, and bring your healing to troubled homes and lives.

[C] **Move us to pray for those in need and to help them with deeds of kindness.**

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

M Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer.

M Now, eternal God and Father, keep us in the saving faith and so enable us to overcome all things through our Lord Jesus Christ, in whose name we join in praying.

LORD'S PRAYER

C **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.**

The Sacrament

A man ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without recognizing the body of the Lord eats and drinks judgment on himself. 1Co 11:28-29 (NIV1984)

M The Lord be with you.



C: And al - so with you.

M Lift up your hearts.



C: We lift them up to the Lord.



M Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



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

Praise to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In love he has blessed us with every spiritual blessing. In the past he spoke to us through the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, who is the radiance of his glory. Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ. To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and thanks and honor and glory for ever and ever:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



C: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly is the Lord of hosts.



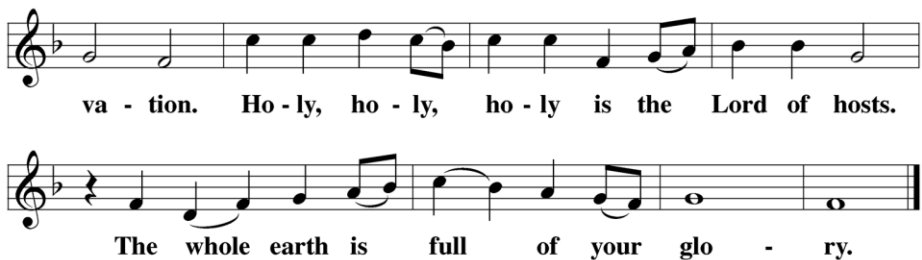
The whole earth is full of your glo - ry.



You are my God, and I will ex - alt you.



I will give you thanks, for you have be - come my sal -



va - tion. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly is the Lord of hosts.

The whole earth is full of your glo - ry.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

- [M]** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

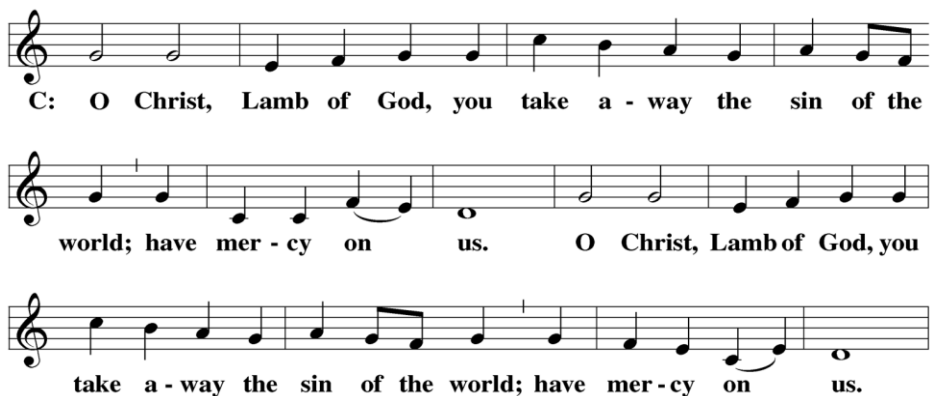
Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.



C: A - men.

O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD



C: O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.



DISTRIBUTION

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us | 486

1 Lord of glory, you have bought us With your lifeblood as the price,
Never grudging for the lost ones That tremendous sacrifice,
And with that have freely given Blessings countless as the sand
To th' unthankful and the evil With your own unsparing hand.

2 Grant us hearts, dear Lord, to give you Gladly, freely, of your own.
With the sunshine of your goodness Melt our thankless hearts of stone
Till our cold and selfish natures, Warmed by you, at length believe
That more happy and more blessed 'Tis to give than to receive.

3 Wondrous honor you have given To our humblest charity
In your own mysterious sentence, "You have done it unto me."
Can it be, O gracious Master, That you need what we can do,
Saying by your poor and needy, "Give as I have giv'n to you"?

4 Yes, the sorrow and the suff'rings Which on ev'ry hand we view
Channels are for gifts and off'rings Due by solemn right to you,
Right of which we may not rob you, Debt we may not choose but pay
Lest that face of love and pity Turn from us another day.

5 Lord of glory, you have bought us With your lifeblood as the price,
Never grudging for the lost ones That tremendous sacrifice.
Give us faith to trust you boldly, Hope, to stay our souls on you;
But, oh, best of all your graces, With your love our love renew.

THANK THE LORD



C: Thank the Lord and sing his praise. Tell ev-'ry-one what he has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and proud - ly bear his name.



He re-news his prom-is - es and leads his peo-ple forth in joy with



shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

PRAYER

- Hear the prayer of your people, O Lord, that the lips which have praised you here may glorify you in the world, that the eyes which have seen the coming of your Son may long for his coming again, and that all who have received in his true body and blood the pledge of your forgiveness may be restored to live a new and holy life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C: A - men.

BLESSING

- The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and ✚ give you peace.



HYMN

Brothers, Sisters, Let Us Gladly | 484

1 Brothers, sisters, let us gladly
Give to God our all, our best—
Service hearty, thorough, honest,
With a living love impressed.
All our duty, all our striving,
All our time to him belong;
Praise him, then, with true devotion;
Come before him with a song.

2 By his mercy, by his bounty,
By the gift of Christ, his Son,
What great goodness he has shown us,
What high marvels he has done!
Let us to him promptly, freely,
Yield our bodies and our souls,
Thankful that his love protects us,
That his wisdom all controls.

3 Gracious Lord, accept our service
For the sake of Christ, your Son;
Lo, our hope abides now only
In the righteousness he won.
Bless and save us; help and guide us;
Watch to comfort and restore
Till in heav'n we rest rejoicing,
Praising you forevermore.

Communion Procedure

- Elders usher communicants into the center aisle, single file, 6ft. apart
- Communicants approach the Pastor who will be in the center aisle in front of the altar, one by one.
- Communicants receive and eat the bread, then receive and drink the wine from the Pastor who speaks the words "This is Christ's body given for you," "this is Christ's blood shed for you."
- After receiving the bread and wine together with the body and blood, communicants return to their seats, either to the right or left according to the side they came from. Empty cups are placed in the baskets as usual.
- After all have communed, the pastor speaks the words of dismissal and the Nunc Dimittis is sung.



NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today: 10:30 AM Worship with Communion
Elders Meet

Monday: 10:45 AM Bethel Women's Guild

Tuesday: 7 PM Trinity Board

Wednesday: 7 PM Online Bible Study – Lesson 4

Saturday: 8:30 AM Men's Bible Study in Utica
10:30 AM BIC Class

Sunday: 10:30 AM Worship
Congregational Meeting

Congregational Meeting: Next Sunday after church there will be an open forum/congregational meeting to discuss the possibility of sharing a Pastor/Campus Pastor with NELHS. All are welcome to come and share their thoughts. This meeting is for information only, no votes will be taken. The thoughts you share will help the voters as they consider this possibility.

Women's Guild: Note the new time – 10:30 AM. All women are welcome. Moms are welcome to bring their children. There will be an opening devotion, short business meeting and snacks.

Men's Bible Study: Men, you are invited to join us on Saturday at 8:30 AM as we continue our study of Prof. Deutschlander's book "The Narrow Lutheran Middle." We meet at the Utica Auditorium. We won't be serving anything so bring your own coffee and snack if you want.

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 17th. We will be holding weekly Lenten Worship at 6:30 PM. Area pastors will be doing a pulpit exchange. No food or fellowship is planned at this time.

In our prayers: Richard Ewerdt



Find us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/bethelyork



Personal assisted listening devices are available.

Given to the Lord: Attendance: Worship 61, Facebook 5 live, 25 clicks. Audio/slides 15, Online Bible Class 0 from Bethel. Offerings: Operating: Needed 2,870.30, Given 659.801, Trinity: 45.00, Mission Festival WELS World Missions 2,426.00. **To God be the glory!**

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