



# Bethel

## Lutheran Church

22 Brook Street, Morris, MN 56267  
Sunday Worship: 10:00am  
[www.morris.clclutheran.org](http://www.morris.clclutheran.org)  
A member congregation of the   
*Church of the Lutheran Confession*  
Pastor Johnathan Schnose 989-820-7717  
RevSchnose@gmail.com

### 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany

February 8, 2026

#### Opening Hymn #359 *Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies*

1. Christ, whose glory fills the skies,  
Thou, the true, the only Light,  
Sun of Righteousness, arise,  
Triumph o'er the shades of night.  
Dayspring from on high, be near;  
Day-star, in my heart appear.

2. Dark and cheerless is the morn  
Unaccompanied by Thee;  
Joyless is the day's return  
Till Thy mercy's beams I see,  
Till they inward light impart,  
Glad my eyes, and warm my heart.

3. Visit, then, this soul of mine,  
Pierce the gloom of sin and grief;  
Fill me, Radiancy Divine,  
Scatter all my unbelief.  
More and more Thyself display,  
Shining to the perfect day.

## Invocation

P We worship today in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C ♫Amen.

## Confession & Absolution

P Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God, our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

P Our help is in the name of the Lord.

C ♫Who made heaven and earth.

P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord

C ♫And Thou forgavest the iniquity of my sins.

P Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto Thee that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against Thee by thought, word, and deed. Wherefore we flee for refuge to Thine infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Thy grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

P & C O most merciful God, who has given Thine only-begotten Son to die for us, have mercy upon us and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by Thy Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of Thee and of Thy will and true obedience to Thy Word, to the end that by Thy grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

P Almighty God, our heavenly Father, hath had mercy upon us and hath given His only Son to die for us and for His sake forgiveth us all our sins. To them that believe on His name He giveth power to become the sons of God and hath promised them His Holy Spirit. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved. Grant this, Lord, unto us all.

C ♫Amen.

### **Gloria Patri**

C ♫Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

### **The Kyrie**

C ♫Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.

### **Gloria in Excelsis – (Hymn #238 v.1)**

All glory be to God alone,  
Forevermore the Highest One,  
Who doth our sinful race befriend,  
And grace and peace to us extend.  
Among mankind may His good will  
All hearts with deep thanksgiving fill.

### **The Salutation**

P The Lord be with you

C ♫And with thy spirit.

### **The Collect for the Day**

P Let us pray..... who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C ♫Amen

### **The First Lesson – Isaiah 58:3-9a**

<sup>3</sup>“Why have we fasted, and you see it not? Why have we humbled ourselves, and you take no knowledge of it?’ Behold, in the day of your fast you seek your own pleasure, and oppress all your workers. <sup>4</sup>Behold, you fast only to quarrel and to fight and to hit with a wicked fist. Fasting like yours this day will not make your voice to be heard on high. <sup>5</sup>Is such the fast that I choose, a day for a person to humble himself? Is it to bow down his head like a reed, and to spread sackcloth and ashes under him? Will you call this a fast, and a day acceptable to the Lord? <sup>6</sup>Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of wickedness, to undo the straps of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? <sup>7</sup>Is it not to share your bread with the hungry and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover him, and not to hide yourself from your own flesh? <sup>8</sup>Then shall your light break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up speedily; your righteousness shall go before you; the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard. <sup>9</sup>Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer; you shall cry, and he will say, ‘Here I am.’”

### **Psalm of the Day – Psalm 27:1-9**

*Antiphon – Surely God’s salvation is near to those who fear Him.*

<sup>1</sup>Praise the Lord! Blessed is the man who | fears the Lord,\*  
**who greatly delights in his com- | mandments!**

<sup>2</sup>His offspring will be mighty | in the land;\*

**the generation of the upright | will be blessed.**

<sup>3</sup>Wealth and riches are | in his house,\*

**and his righteousness endures for- | ever.**

<sup>4</sup>Light dawns in the darkness for the | upright;\*

**he is gracious, merciful, and | righteous.**

<sup>5</sup>It is well with the man who deals generous- | ly and lends;\*

**who conducts his affairs with | justice.**

<sup>6</sup>For the righteous will nev- | er be moved;\*

**he will be remembered for- | ever.**

<sup>7</sup>He is not afraid of | bad news;\*

**his heart is firm, trusting | in the Lord.**

<sup>8</sup>His heart is steady; he will not | be afraid,\*

**until he looks in triumph on his adver- | saries.**

<sup>9</sup>He has distributed freely; he has given to the poor; his

righteousness endures for- | ever;\*

**his horn is exalted in | honor.**

**Glory be to the Father and | to the Son\***

**and to the Holy | Spirit,**

**as it was in the be- | ginning,\***

**is now, and will be forever. | Amen**

*Antiphon – Surely God's salvation is near to those who fear Him.*

### **The Second Lesson – 1 Corinthians 2:1-16**

<sup>1</sup>And I, when I came to you, brothers, did not come proclaiming to you the testimony of God with lofty speech or wisdom. <sup>2</sup>For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. <sup>3</sup>And I was with you in weakness and in fear and much trembling, <sup>4</sup>and my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but

in demonstration of the Spirit and of power,<sup>5</sup>that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.<sup>6</sup>Yet among the mature we do impart wisdom, although it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to pass away.<sup>7</sup>But we impart a secret and hidden wisdom of God, which God decreed before the ages for our glory.<sup>8</sup>None of the rulers of this age understood this, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.<sup>9</sup>But, as it is written, “What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him”—<sup>10</sup>these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God.<sup>11</sup>For who knows a person’s thoughts except the spirit of that person, which is in him? So also no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God.<sup>12</sup>Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God.<sup>13</sup>And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual.<sup>14</sup>The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned.<sup>15</sup>The spiritual person judges all things, but is himself to be judged by no one.<sup>16</sup>“For who has understood the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?” But we have the mind of Christ.

### **Verse of the Day – Mark 5:16b**

Alleluia. Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven. Alleluia.

## **The Gospel – Matthew 5:13-20**

<sup>13</sup>[Jesus said:] “You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people’s feet. <sup>14</sup>“You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. <sup>15</sup>Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. <sup>16</sup>In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven. <sup>17</sup>“Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. <sup>18</sup>For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished. <sup>19</sup>Therefore whoever relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. <sup>20</sup>For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.”

## **Confession of Faith**

### **Apostle's Creed**

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord; Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, Born of the Virgin Mary; Suffered under Pontius Pilate, Was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell; The third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven And sitteth**

**on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; From  
thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Ghost; The holy Christian  
Church, the communion of saints The forgiveness of sins;  
The resurrection of the body; And the life everlasting.  
Amen.**

**Hymn of the Day #775  
*Thy Strong Word***

1. Thy strong word did cleave the darkness;  
At Thy speaking it was done.

For created light we thank Thee,  
While Thine ordered seasons run.  
Alleluia, alleluia!

Praise to Thee who light dost send!  
Alleluia, alleluia,  
Alleluia without end!

2. Lo, on those who dwelt in darkness,  
Dark as night and deep as death,  
Broke the light of Thy salvation,  
Breathed Thine own life-giving breath.  
Alleluia, alleluia!

Praise to Thee who light dost send!  
Alleluia, alleluia,  
Alleluia without end!

3. Thy strong Word bespeaks us righteous;  
Bright with Thine own holiness,  
Glorious now, we press toward glory,  
And our lives our hopes confess.  
Alleluia, alleluia!

Praise to Thee who light dost send!  
Alleluia, alleluia,  
Alleluia without end!

4. From the cross Thy wisdom shining  
Breaketh forth in conqu'ring might;  
From the cross forever beameth  
All Thy bright redeeming light.  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
Praise to Thee who light dost send!  
Alleluia, alleluia,  
Alleluia without end!

5. Give us lips to sing Thy glory,  
Tongues Thy mercy to proclaim,  
Throats that shout the hope that fills us,  
Mouths to speak Thy holy name.  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
May the light which Thou dost send  
Fill our songs with alleluias,  
Alleluias without end!

6. God the Father, light-creator,  
To Thee laud and honor be.  
To Thee, Light of Light begotten,  
Praise be sung eternally.  
Holy Spirit, light revealer,  
Glory, glory be to Thee.  
Mortals, angels, now and ever  
Praise the holy Trinity!

## **Sermon Text – 1 Corinthians 2:1-16**

### **Sermon *The Righteousness of Christ***

#### **Offertory**

♪Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Thy presence; and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation; and uphold me with Thy free spirit.

#### **Offering of Thankful Hearts**

#### **Prayer of the Church**

P: Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

P: Give counsel and aid, O Lord, for Your people cry to You in weakness and in need. Bless and prosper Your Church according to Your purpose, that she may be salt and light, giving bold witness to the redemption You have provided in Jesus Christ and giving shape to Your love by showing compassion to all in need.

**1. Forth in Thy name, O Lord, I go,  
My daily labor to pursue,  
Thee, only Thee, resolved to know  
In all I think or speak or do.**

P: Bless our Synod, her congregations and schools, her pastors, teachers, musicians and all her faithful servants. Bless all preparations for the coming convention this summer, especially those gathering nominations for elected office. Send laborers into Your harvest and sustain those whom You

have sent, that they may be faithful and steadfast in their work.

**2. The task Thy wisdom has assigned,  
O let me cheerfully fulfill;  
In all my works Thy presence find,  
And prove Thy good and perfect will.**

P: Holy God, according to Your wisdom You establish rulers of this age for a time. Remember President Trump, Governor Walz, and all those You have placed in authority, that they might fulfill their duties with wisdom.

**3. Thee may I set at my right hand,  
Whose eyes my inmost substance see,  
And labor on at Thy command,  
And offer all my works to Thee.**

P: Merciful Lord, give healing to the sick, relief to the suffering, comfort to the grieving and peace to the dying [especially \_\_\_\_\_]. According to Your will, deliver them from their afflictions, sustain them in their struggles and give them patience in their adversities.

**4. Give me to bear Thine easy yoke,  
And ev'ry moment watch and pray,  
And still to things eternal look,  
And hasten to Thy glorious day.**

P: O God, give Your blessing to our homes, to husbands and wives, to the children in their care, and to extended family. Guide us to serve each other in love. Make our homes places of blessing and peace where Your Word is spoken, forgiveness is shown and love is demonstrated in word and deed. Endow us with the mind of Christ by the work of Your

Spirit, that we do not dismiss Your gifts as folly, but judge and discern all things according to Your wisdom.

**5. For Thee delightfully employ  
Whate'er Thy bounteous grace has giv'n,  
And run my course with even joy,  
And closely walk with Thee to heav'n.**

P: All these things we pray, O Lord, in confidence of Your mercy. Supply us with all things needed and beneficial to us and to our faith, and keep from us all things harmful, that we may rest our fears in You and be granted a clear conscience and peace; through **\*please stand\*** Jesus Christ, our Lord, who taught us to pray:

### **The 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.**

### **The Benediction**

P: The Lord bless you and keep you, The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you, The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

C ♫Amen, Amen, Amen.

### **Closing Hymn #412 *May We Thy Precepts, Lord, Fulfil***

1. May we Thy precepts, Lord, fulfil

And do on earth our Father's will  
As angels do above;  
Still walk in Christ, the living Way,  
With all Thy children and obey  
The law of Christian love.

2. So may we join Thy name to bless,  
Thy grace adore, Thy power confess,  
From sin and strife to flee.

One is our calling, one our name,  
The end of all our hopes the same,  
A crown of life with Thee.

3. Spirit of Life, of Love, and Peace,  
Unite our hearts, our joy increase,  
Thy gracious help supply.  
To each of us the blessing give  
In Christian fellowship to live,  
In joyful hope to die.

## Silent Prayer

*All scripture quotations, unless otherwise indicated, are taken from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®(ESV), copyright © 2001 by Crossway Bibles, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.*

*Portions of the Liturgy from the Divine Service, Setting Three from Lutheran Service Book.*

*Prayer of the Church - Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-88 (alt). (Public Domain). Lutheran Service Book Hymn 854 License #100014283.*