

# Black Forest Lutheran Church

12455 Black Forest Rd., Colorado Springs, CO 80908

Church office - 495-2221 Tues. - Fri. 9:00a-2:00p

Ken Hohag, Pastor

Andrew Koetsier, Youth and Family Director

First Sunday After Christmas / Sunday, December 31, 2023

The order of worship is in the **red** hymnal. **Hymns** are in the back of the hymnal.  
Liturgy is in the front listed as p.

*Please turn off your cellphone*

## GATHERING

Prelude and Announcements  
Brief Order of Confession p. 94  
\*Gathering Song *Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn* **red 242**  
Greeting/Kyrie p. 138  
Prayer of the Day  
Almighty God, you wonderfully created and yet more wonderfully restored the dignity of human nature. In your mercy, let us share the divine life of Jesus Christ who came to share our humanity, and who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, on God, now and forever. Amen.

## WORD

Children's Sermon Pastor Ken  
First Reading Isaiah 61:10-62:2  
Second Reading Galatians 4:4-7  
Gospel Acclamation p. 142  
Gospel Luke 2:22-40  
Response: **Thanks be to God**  
Sermon Rejoicing In God Andrew Koetsier  
\*Hymn of the Day *O Lord, Now Let Your Servant* **red 313**  
Apostles' Creed p. 105  
Prayers of Intercession Response: **Hear our Prayer**  
Sharing of the Peace

## MEAL

Offering *The Bells of Christmas* **red 298**  
\*Offering Prayer  
Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: our selves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.  
Great Thanksgiving p. 144  
Lord's Prayer p. 145  
Lamb of God p. 146  
Distribution Hymns **red 278, 276, 289**  
\*Prayer after Communion

\*Congregation please stand

*Continued on next page*

## SENDING

Benediction  
Sending Song *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice*  
Dismissal  
Postlude

**red 288**

**Our mission is to glorify God through  
worship, prayer, education, and service as  
ambassadors of Christ.**

**Visitors and Members**—Please sign our blue Friendship Book and pass it down the row. A nursery for infants & toddlers is through the narthex double doors. A nursing chair with a retractable privacy screen for mothers and changing table are available in the nursery.

**Holy Communion Instructions**—All baptized Christians are invited to the Lord's table. Grape juice is available in the pre-filled glasses for those who cannot drink wine. Gluten-free bread is also available.

**Wiggle Worship at 10:30a**—After the children's sermon, kiddos ages 4-7 can follow a teacher for wiggle worship. They will return to their parents during the offering.

	<u>Serving Today</u>	
	<b>8:00</b>	<b>10:30</b>
<b>Acolytes</b>	Jason Yonce	Aggie Weyers
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Roxie Larson	Francesca Wahlborg
<b>Assistants</b>	Kathy Schwindt/Don Crist	Andrew Betts & Laura Betts
<b>Greeters</b>	Wilda Nussbaum	Keith & Shari Kraus
<b>Nursery Attendants</b>	Emma Jackson	Stephanie Strasner
<b>Organ</b>	Barb Gurnett	
<b>Readers</b>	Rebecca Hohag	Keith Kraus
<b>Recorder</b>	Mary Benson	
<b>Sound</b>	Nate Knapp	Patrick Turechek
<b>Ushers</b>	Zach & Lisa Regennitter	David Meyer/Cesar Shinall
<b>Wiggle Worshipers</b>		Jessica Worrell
		Emma Jackson
		Eleanor Makowsky

*Flowers are given today in Celebration of Kathy Steinke's 92<sup>nd</sup> Birthday  
and by the Kerstein's to the Glory of God.*

**First Reading**  
**Isaiah 61:10-62:2**

**61** <sup>10</sup> I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. <sup>11</sup> For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations. **62** For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her vindication shines out like the dawn, and her salvation like a burning torch. <sup>2</sup> The nations shall see your vindication, and all the kings your glory; and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the LORD will give.

**Second Reading**  
**Galatians 4:4-7**

**4** <sup>4</sup> But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, <sup>5</sup> in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. <sup>6</sup> And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, 'Abba! Father!' <sup>7</sup> So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

**Gospel**  
**Luke 2:22-40**

**2** <sup>22</sup> When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord <sup>23</sup> (as it is written in the law of the Lord, 'Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord'), <sup>24</sup> and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, 'a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.' <sup>25</sup> Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. <sup>26</sup> It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. <sup>27</sup> Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, <sup>28</sup> Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, <sup>29</sup> 'Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; <sup>30</sup> for my eyes have seen your salvation, <sup>31</sup> which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, <sup>32</sup> a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.' <sup>33</sup> And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. <sup>34</sup> Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, 'This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed <sup>35</sup> so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.' <sup>36</sup> There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband for seven years after her marriage, <sup>37</sup> then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshipped there with fasting and prayer night and day. <sup>38</sup> At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem. <sup>39</sup> When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. <sup>40</sup> The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favour of God was upon him.