

WELCOME TO BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH

FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT

December 3, 2023

8:00 & 9:30 AM

We are so glad you are here in God's house for worship.

Before worship, talk to God!

(see inside cover of hymnal for pre-service prayer prompts)

During worship, let God talk to you!

After worship, talk to one another.

If You're a Visitor, let us get to know you.

Scan the QR Code here:



Parents of Young Children: *We love to have children in worship.* God put the wiggle in children; don't feel you have to completely suppress it in God's house. We know the presence of children in worship is a gift to the church! It is in the Lord's house that we learn how to listen and speak to our God with our brothers and sisters in faith. Feel free to quietly explain the parts of the service and the actions of those leading worship. Children learn how to worship by copying you. If you have a need, we have "worship bags" in the Narthex filled with items to help children and families during worship. There is a *Nursery* across the courtyard in the office complex, where you as a parent may take your little one needing a break. You are then able to return to church and continue your worship of the Lord.

Please place cell phones and electronic devices on mute as you join us in worship this morning. Thank you.

PRELUDE: *"Herr Christ, der ein'ge Gottes-Sohn, BWV 601"*

~ J. S. Bach

Organ

"Nun, komm, der Heiden Heiland, BWV 599 & 661"

WELCOME

OPENING HYMN:

“The Advent of Our King”

LSB 331



1 The ad - vent of our King Our prayers must now em - ploy,
2 The ev - er - last - ing Son In - car - nate deigns to be,
3 O Zi - on's daugh - ter, rise To meet your low - ly King,



And we must hymns of wel - come sing In strains of ho - ly joy.
Him - self a ser - vant's form puts on To set His ser - vants free.
Nor let your faith - less heart de - spise The peace He comes to bring.

INVOCATION:

Leader: God who never fails us, whose forgiveness is sure,
whose steadfast love endures eternally,
who comes to us in grace and whose presence we now enter
People: **God the Father, + Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

LIGHTING OF THE WREATH:

Leader: Lord of Light, unending source of glory and grace,
we thank You for this wreath's light
that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent.
As we light the candles on this wreath,
kindle within us the fire of Your Spirit
that we may be light shining in the darkness
and enlighten us with Your grace,
that we may welcome others as You Lord have welcomed us.
Grant this through Christ whose coming is certain
and whose day is drawing near. Amen.

RESPONSIVE ANTHEM:

“The Advent of Our King”

LSB 331



2 The ev - er - last - ing Son In - car - nate deigns to be,



Him - self a ser - vant's form puts on To set His ser - vants free.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS:

Leader: Together let us honestly and humbly confess
that we have not made good on our promises to God
and have sinned against Him in thought, word and deed.

(Time for silent reflection.)

Leader: Loving and forgiving God,

**People: We confess that we are held captive by sin.
On occasion we accidentally go astray, often we intentionally wander.
We confess that we have not desired Your advent
as much as we have desired the things of this world
and we that have failed to welcome You as we ought.
Advent not only calls us to be ready,
to be the voice crying out to many to prepare the way for the Lord;
we yet confess,
that we have neglected to pass on that which we have received.
Restore us, O God.
Wake us and turn us from our sin;
and for the sake of Christ, set us free from guilt
and deliver us from Your wrath. Amen.**

Leader: I am here with Good News for you!
Your sins are forgiven, and you are free-
Free from all that holds you back
Free to live in peace with God
Free to serve others as if you were serving Him!
Go in the freedom that His advent brings. Amen.

LITANY OF DELIVERANCE:

Leader: Come down and make Your name known;
rend the heavens and come down
that even the mountains tremble before You!

People: Come down and make Your name known.

Leader: When You did awesome things that we did not expect, You came down.

People: Come down and make Your name known.

Leader: No eye has seen any God besides You
who acts on behalf of those who wait for Him.

People: Come down and make Your name known.

Leader: You are the potter, we are the clay; we are the work of Your hands.

People: Come down and make Your name known.

Leader: Do not remember our sins for we are Your people.

People: Come down and make Your name known.

Leader: Come down and make Your name known.

People: Jesus, the Lord who saves is His name.

Leader: Come down and make Your name known.

RESPONSIVE ANTHEM:

“Despair Not, My Soul, Nor to Sorrow Give Way” Bethany Choir

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING: *Isaiah 64:1-9*

If only you would split open the heavens and come down!
The mountains would quake at your presence.
Be like the fire that kindles brushwood and makes water boil.
Come down to make your name known to your enemies.
The nations will tremble in your presence.
When you did awe-inspiring things that we didn't expect,
you came down and the mountains quaked in your presence.
No one has ever heard, no one has paid attention,
and no one has seen any god except you.
You help those who wait for you.

You greeted the one who gladly does right and remembers your ways.
You showed your anger, because we've sinned. We've continued to sin for a long time.

“I can guarantee this truth: This generation will not disappear until all these things take place. The earth and the heavens will disappear, but my words will never disappear.

“No one knows when that day or hour will come. Even the angels in heaven and the Son don’t know. Only the Father knows. Be careful! Watch! You don’t know the exact time. It is like a man who went on a trip. As he left home, he put his servants in charge. He assigned work to each one and ordered the guard to be alert. Therefore, be alert, because you don’t know when the owner of the house will return. It could be in the evening or at midnight or at dawn or in the morning. Make sure he doesn’t come suddenly and find you asleep. I’m telling everyone what I’m telling you: ‘Be alert!’ ”

– GW ®

SERMON HYMN:

“O Lord, How Shall I Meet You”

LSB 334



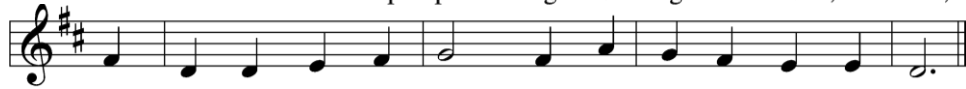
1 O Lord, how shall I meet You, How wel - come You a - right?
3 I lay in fet - ters, groan - ing; You came to set me free.
4 Love caused Your in - car - na - tion; Love brought You down to me.
5 Sin's debt, that fear - ful bur - den, Can - not His love e - rase;
6 He comes to judge the na - tions, A ter - ror to His foes,



Your peo - ple long to greet You, My hope, my heart's de - light!
I stood, my shame be - moan - ing; You came to hon - or me.
Your thirst for my sal - va - tion Pro - cured my lib - er - ty.
Your guilt the Lord will par - don And cov - er by His grace.
A light of con - so - la - tions And bless - ed hope to those



O kin - dle, Lord most ho - ly, Your lamp with - in my breast
A glo - rious crown You give me, A trea - sure safe on high
Oh, love be - yond all tell - ing, That led You to em - brace
He comes, for you pro - cur - ing The peace of sin for - giv'n,
Who love the Lord's ap - pear - ing. O glo - rious Sun, now come,



To do in spir - it low - ly All that may please You best.
That will not fail or leave me As earth - ly rich - es fly.
In love, all love ex - cel - ling, Our lost and fall - en race.
His chil - dren thus se - cur - ing E - ter - nal life in heav'n.
Send forth Your beams so cheer - ing, And guide us safe - ly home.

SERMON: "And... You're Done!"

Text: Isaiah 64:1-9

HYMN OF THE DAY: "Savior of the Nations, Come"

LSB 332



1 Sav - ior of the na - tions, come, Vir - gin's Son, make
2 Not by hu - man flesh and blood, By the Spir - it
3 Here a maid was found with child, Yet re - mained a
△ 8 Glo - ry to the Fa - ther sing, Glo - ry to the



here Your home! Mar - vel now, O heav'n and earth,
of our God, Was the Word of God made flesh—
vir - gin mild. In her womb this truth was shown:
Son, our king, Glo - ry to the Spir - it be



That the Lord chose such a birth.
Wom - an's off - spring, pure and fresh.
God was there up - on His throne.
Now and through e - ter - ni - ty.

OFFERING: *The Offering Box is located in the center aisle. If you so desire, Text Giving is now available by texting GIVE to 562-210-0463. For On-line Giving information, contact Maraley at mshaeffer@bethanylutheran.org or call 562-421-4711, ext. 21. Thank you!*

CONSECRATING THE GIFTS:

Leader: Generous God, You have created all that is,
and provide for us in every way.
Bless all that we offer, that through these gifts
the world will receive the deliverance that comes only in Jesus,
Emmanuel, God with us, amen.

APOSTLES' CREED: (** catholic means the universal Christian Church*)

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord.

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.**

He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell. On the third day He rose again.

He ascended into heaven,

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy *catholic Church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH:

Leader: O Lord, Desire of the Nations for whom we long,
we thank you for the gift of patience as we wait Your Advent.
Grant us peace in our hearts as we wait with the hope of Simeon to sing,
“My eyes have seen Your salvation, a light to reveal You to the nations
and the glory of Your people.”
We pray this in the name of Jesus, Your gift of deliverance to the world.

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.

+ *Service of the Sacrament* +

The Lord's Supper is celebrated at Bethany in the joyful confession that our Lord gives us His very Body and Blood for the forgiveness of sins in this sacrament. God intends this gift for His children who recognize their sin, trust in Christ as their Savior, desire to live for Him alone and join in this joyful confession.

To help you prepare for communion we invite you to take a few moments of quiet prayer. For aid there are prayers on the front page of the hymnal for both before and after the reception of communion. Or simply pray, *Dear Lord Jesus, at Your gracious invitation You invite me to come to You, to eat and drink Your holy body and blood as You Yourself have promised to give in this sacrament of Your altar. Forgive me of my sin, through this Your meal of Forgiveness. Let me experience the fullness of Your love, through this Your meal of love. Strengthen my faith, through this meal of Yours that calls for and bestows faith. Empower me to live for You, through this Your meal that promises life everlasting and equips me for daily living as one who has received You and Your gifts.*

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

*For those communing, who so desire, the center cups in each tray are alcohol free.
The wafers next to the Christ candle side are gluten free;
for those with dietary restrictions, please take a gluten free wafer.*

In our 9:30 a.m. service we will practice the Easter tradition of continuous communion. We will not kneel at the altar, rather we will join the procession of saints and come forward and remain standing as we receive the bread and wine. After receiving the elements, you are invited to return to your seat and continue in meditation, prayer and song.

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS:

“Lord Jesus Christ, Life-Giving Bread” LSB 625

1 Lord Je - sus Christ, life - giv - ing bread, May I in grace
2 To pas - tures green, Lord, safe - ly guide, To rest - ful wa -
3 O bread of heav'n, my soul's de - light, For full and free
4 I do not mer - it fa - vor, Lord, My weight of sin
pos - sess You. Let me with ho - ly food be fed,
ters lead me; Your ta - ble well for me pro - vide,
re - mis - sion I come with prayer be - fore Your sight
would break me; In all my guilt - y heart's dis - cord,
In hun - ger I ad - dress You. Pre - pare me well
Your wound - ed hand now feed me. Though wea - ry, sin -
In sor - row and con - tri - tion. Your righ - teous - ness,
O Lord, do not for - sake me. In my dis - tress

(Song Continued on next page.)

for You, O Lord, And, hum-bly by my prayer im - plored,
ful, sick, and weak, Ref - uge in You a - lone I seek,
Lord, cov - er me That I re - ceive You wor - thi - ly,
this com - forts me That You re - ceive me gra - cious - ly,

Give me Your grace and mer - cy.
To share Your cup of heal - ing.
As - sured of Your full par - don.
O Christ, my Lord of mer - cy!

“O God, My Faithful God”

LSB 696

1 O God, my faith - ful God, True foun - tain ev - er flow - ing,
2 Grant me the strength to do With read - y heart and will - ing
3 Keep me from say - ing words That lat - er need re - call - ing;
4 Lord, let me win my foes With kind - ly words and ac - tions,
6 And on that fi - nal day When all the dead are wak - ing,

With - out whom noth - ing is, All per - fect gifts be - stow - ing:
What - ev - er You com - mand, My call - ing here ful - fill - ing;
Guard me lest i - dle speech May from my lips be fall - ing;
And let me find good friends For coun - sel and cor - rec - tion.
Stretch out Your might - y hand, My death - ly slum - ber break - ing.

Give me a health - y frame, And may I have with - in
That I do what I should While trust - ing You to bless
But when with - in my place I must and ought to speak,
Help me, as You have taught, To love both great and small
Then let me hear Your voice, Re - deem this earth - ly frame,

A con - science free from blame, A soul un - stained by sin.
The out - come for my good, For You must give suc - cess.
Then to my words give grace Lest I of - fend the weak.
And by Your Spir - it's might To live in peace with all.
And bid me to re - joice With those who love Your name.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE BLESSING:

Leader: The Creator of the stars bless your Advent waiting
The long-expected Savior fill you with His hope,
The Spirit who leads to Christ,
guide your journey in Jesus + now and forevermore. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN: "The Advent of Our King" LSB 331

4 As judge, on clouds of light, He soon will come a - gain
5 Be - fore the dawn - ing day Let sin's dark deeds be gone,
△ 6 All glo - ry to the Son, Who comes to set us free,
And His true mem - bers all u - nite With Him in heav'n to reign.
The sin - ful self be put a - way, The new self now put on.
With Fa - ther, Spir - it, ev - er one Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

POSTLUDE: Postlude on "St. Thomas" Organ
~ George A. Burdett

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"The Advent of Our King" LSB 331
Text: Charles Coffin, 1676-1749; tr. John Chandler, 1806-76, alt. Tune: Aaron Williams, 1731-76;
setting: *The Lutheran Hymnal*, 1941. Text and music: Public domain.

"O Lord, How Shall I Meet You" LSB 334
Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607-1676; tr. *The Lutheran Hymnal*, 1941, alt. Tune: Johann Crüger, 1598-1662;
setting: Richard J. Heschke, b. 1939. Setting: © 2006 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved.
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“Savior of the Nations, Come” LSB 332

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“Lord Jesus Christ, Life-Giving Bread” LSB 625

Text: Johann Rist, 1607-67; tr. Arthur T. Russell, 1806-74, alt.

Tune: *Theütsch kirchen ampt*, Strassburg, 1525; setting: *The Lutheran Hymnal*, 1941.

Text and Music: Public Domain

“O God, My Faithful God” LSB 696

Text: Johann Heermann, 1585-1647; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-78, alt.

Tune: *Neu-vermehrtes... Gesangbuch*, 3rd ed., Meiningen, 1693; setting: *The Lutheran Hymnal*, 1941.

Text and Music: Public domain.

SERVING GOD’S HOUSE TODAY:

Children’s Sermon... Alissa Brege

Lector 8:00... Elsie Rivera

Organist... Robert Bottoms

Liturgists... Pastor Kyle Blake, Karl Fink

Lector 9:30... Diana Orr

Choir Director... Noah Freeman

Preacher... Senior Pastor Kevin L. Kritzer

ARE YOU RECEIVING THE BETHANY BULLET?

The *Bethany Bullet* is a weekly capsule of worship highlights, and important information about events taking place at Bethany Lutheran Church. If you would like to receive the *Bethany Bullet* please email Aimee Coleman at acoleman@bethanylutheran.org with your name and email address. Tell a friend about the *Bethany Bullet!*

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO HEAR TODAY’S SERMON OR PREVIOUS SERMONS AGAIN...

You can hear them as podcasts on our website www.bethanylutheran.org.

REGULAR CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:

Monday – Thursday from 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM noon.

Closed Fridays.

CHRISTMAS SEASON WORSHIP SERVICES

*We will have plenty of opportunity to
“Come and Adore Him, Christ the Lord”
in worship over this Christmastide.*



Christmas Concerts

Sunday, December 10th at 3:00 and 7:00 PM at **Bethany Lutheran Church**
Please join the music ministries of Bethany Lutheran Church & School for this event!

Bethany Lutheran School Christmas Program

Sunday, December 15th at 9:00 AM and 6:30 PM at **Bethany Lutheran Church**
“*One Starry Night*” by the K – 2nd grade children

Wednesday Advent Worship Services

December 6th, 13th and 20th at 6:30 PM at **Bethany Lutheran Church**

Christmas Eve Worship Services

Sunday, December 24th

Sunday Morning, December 24th at 9:30 AM at **Bethany Lutheran Church**

(Bethany has **ONLY 9:30 AM Service** – **NO** 8:00 AM)

There will be **NO 11:00 AM** Sunday Morning Service at **Holy Cross Lutheran Church**

Family Evening Services at 3:00 and 5:00 PM at **Bethany Lutheran Church**

Evening Worship Service at 7:00 PM at **Holy Cross Lutheran Church**

Evening Worship Service at 11:00 PM at **Bethany Lutheran Church**

Christmas Day Festival Service with Holy Communion

Monday, December 25th at 9:30 AM at **Bethany Lutheran Church**

There will be **NO** Christmas Day Service at **Holy Cross Lutheran Church**

