

# WELCOME TO BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH

## 2<sup>nd</sup> SUNDAY IN ADVENT

*December 10, 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**

**WELCOME**

1 Hark! A thrill - ing voice is sound - ing! "Christ is  
 2 Star - tied at the sol - emn warn - ing, Let the  
 3 See, the Lamb, so long ex - pect - ed, Comes with  
 4 So, when next He comes in glo - ry And the  
 Δ 5 Hon - or, glo - ry, might, do - min - ion To the  
 near," we hear it say. "Cast a - way the  
 earth - bound soul a - rise; Christ, its sun, all  
 par - don down from heav'n. Let us haste, with  
 world is wrapped in fear, He will shield us  
 Fa - ther and the Son With the ev - er -  
 works of dark - ness, All you chil - dren of the day!"  
 sloth dis - pel - ling, Shines up - on the morn - ing skies.  
 tears of sor - row, One and all, to be for - giv'n;  
 with His mer - cy And with words of love draw near.  
 liv - ing Spir - it While e - ter - nal a - ges run!

**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.

People: Grant this through Christ whose coming is certain  
and whose day is drawing near. Amen.

ADVENT RESPONSE: "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" LSB 357

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of five staves of music with lyrics underneath. The lyrics are: "1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som cap - tive Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here Un - til the Son of God ap - pear. Refrain Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!"

**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 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.

**FIRST SCRIPTURE READING: *Isaiah 40:1-11***

“Comfort my people! Comfort them!” says your God.  
“Speak tenderly to Jerusalem and announce to it  
that its time of hard labor is over  
and its wrongs have been paid for.  
It has received from the LORD double for all its sins.”

A voice cries out in the desert:

“Clear a way for the LORD.  
Make a straight highway in the wilderness for our God.  
Every valley will be raised.  
Every mountain and hill will be lowered.  
Steep places will be made level.  
Rough places will be made smooth.  
Then the LORD’s glory will be revealed  
and all people will see it together.  
The LORD has spoken.”

A voice called, “Call out!”

I asked, “What should I call out?”

“Call out: All people are like grass,  
and all their beauty is like a flower in the field.  
Grass dries up,  
and flowers wither when the LORD’s breath blows on them.

Yes, people are like grass.  
Grass dries up,  
and flowers wither,  
but our God's word will last forever."

Go up a high mountain, Zion.  
Tell the good news!  
Call out with a loud voice, Jerusalem.  
Tell the good news!  
Raise your voice without fear.  
Tell the cities of Judah:  
"Here is your God!"

The Almighty LORD is coming with power  
to rule with authority.  
His reward is with Him,  
and the people He has won arrive ahead of Him.  
Like a shepherd He takes care of His flock.  
He gathers the lambs in His arms.  
He carries them in His arms.  
He gently helps the sheep and their lambs. – GW ®

**MINISTRY OF MUSIC:**

*"Come to Us, O Lord"*  
~ Eric J. Marshall

Pat Gagan

**SECOND SCRIPTURE READING: 2 Peter 3:8-14; 18**

**D**ear friends, don't ignore this fact: One day with the Lord is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. The Lord isn't slow to do what he promised, as some people think. Rather, He is patient for your sake. He doesn't want to destroy anyone but wants all people to have an opportunity to turn to Him and change the way they think and act.

The day of the Lord will come like a thief. On that day heaven will pass away with a roaring sound. Everything that makes up the universe will burn and be destroyed. The earth and everything that people have done on it will be exposed.

All these things will be destroyed in this way. So think of the kind of holy and godly lives you must live as you look forward to the day of God and eagerly wait for it to come. When that day comes, heaven will be on fire and will be destroyed. Everything that makes up the universe will burn and melt. But we look forward to what God has promised—a new heaven and a new earth—a place where everything that has God’s approval lives.

Therefore, dear friends, with this to look forward to, make every effort to have Him find you at peace, without spiritual stains or blemishes...

But grow in the good will and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Glory belongs to Him now and for that eternal day! Amen. – GW ®

## **CHILDREN’S SERMON**

### **THE HOLY GOSPEL: *Mark 1:1-8***

**T**his is the beginning of the Good News about Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

The prophet Isaiah wrote,

“I am sending my messenger ahead of you  
to prepare the way for you.”

“A voice cries out in the desert:  
‘Prepare the way for the Lord!  
Make His paths straight!’ ”

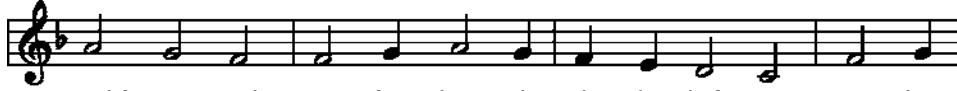
John the Baptizer was in the desert telling people about a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. All Judea and all the people of Jerusalem went to him. As they confessed their sins, he baptized them in the Jordan River.

John was dressed in clothes made from camel’s hair. He wore a leather belt around his waist and ate locusts and wild honey.

He announced, “The one who comes after me is more powerful than I. I am not worthy to bend down and untie His sandal straps. I have baptized you with water, but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.” – GW ®



1 “Com - fort, com - fort ye My peo - ple, Speak ye peace,” thus  
 2 Yea, her sins our God will par - don, Blot - ting out each  
 3 Hark, the her - ald’s voice is cry - ing In the des - ert  
 4 Make ye straight what long was crook - ed; Make the rough - er



saith our God; “Com - fort those who sit in dark - ness, Mourn - ing  
 dark mis - deed; All that well de - served His an - ger He no  
 far and near, Call - ing sin - ners to re - pen - tance, Since the  
 plac - es plain. Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, As be -



’neath their sor - rows’ load. Speak ye to Je - ru - sa - lem  
 more will see or heed. She hath suf - fered man - y a day,  
 King - dom now is here. O that warn - ing cry o - bey!  
 fits His ho - ly reign. For the glo - ry of the Lord



Of the peace that waits for them; Tell her that her  
 Now her griefs have passed a - way; God will change her  
 Now pre - pare for God a way; Let the val - leys  
 Now o’er earth is shed a - broad, And all flesh shall



sins I cov - er And her war - fare now is o - ver.”  
 pin - ing sad - ness In - to ev - er - spring - ing glad - ness.  
 rise to meet Him And the hills bow down to greet Him.  
 see the to - ken That His Word is nev - er bro - ken.

SERMON: “When It Positively, Absolutely Has to Be There...”

Text: Isaiah 40:1-11





1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry An - nounc - es  
 2 Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin; Make straight the  
 3 We hail Thee as our Sav - ior, Lord, Our ref - uge  
 4 Lay on the sick Thy heal - ing hand And make the  
 Δ 5 All praise, e - ter - nal Son, to Thee Whose ad - vent



that the Lord is nigh; A - wake and hear - ken,  
 way for God with - in, And let us all our  
 and our great re - ward; With - out Thy grace we  
 fall - en strong to stand; Show us the glo - ry  
 sets Thy peo - ple free, Whom with the Fa - ther



for he brings Glad tid - ings of the King of kings!  
 hearts pre - pare For Christ to come and en - ter there.  
 waste a - way Like flow'rs that with - er and de - cay.  
 of Thy face Till beau - ty springs in ev - 'ry place.  
 we a - dore And Ho - ly Spir - it ev - er - more.

**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](mailto: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.

**NICENE CREED:** (\* *catholic means the universal Christian Church*)

**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;  
by the power of the Holy Spirit  
he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man.  
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.  
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.  
He has spoken through the prophets.  
We believe in one holy \*catholic 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.**

#### **PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH:**

Leader: O Lord, the One who speaks things into existence,  
we thank You for the gift of silence and speech.  
Teach us to listen to Your Word  
and with hearts at peace to join the Baptizer and sing,  
“blessed are the voicing crying out, ‘prepare the way for the Lord,  
make straight paths for Him.”  
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.

## SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

### THE BLESSING:

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

### CLOSING HYMN: *"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"* LSB 338



1 Come, Thou long-ex-pect-ed Je-sus, Born to set Thy peo-ple free;  
2 Born Thy peo-ple to de-liv-er; Born a child and yet a king!



From our fears and sins re-lease us; Let us find our rest in Thee.  
Born to reign in us for-ev-er, Now Thy gra-cious king-dom bring.



Is-rael's strength and con-so-la-tion, Hope of all the earth Thou art,  
By Thine own e-ter-nal Spir-it Rule in all our hearts a-lone;



Dear de-sire of ev-'ry na-tion, Joy of ev-'ry long-ing heart.  
By Thine all-suf-fi-cient mer-it Raise us to Thy glo-rious throne.

## POSTLUDE

+ + + + + +

### COPYRIGHT PERMISSIONS

Liturgy (or the appropriate portion thereof) from *Lutheran Service Book*  
©2006 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission. License #000012696

“Hark! A Thrilling Voice is Sounding” LSB 345

*The voice of John the Baptist proclaims that Christ’s coming is near—  
News that thrills the longing hearts of all believers.* Text: Latin, c. 5<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> cent.;  
tr. Edward Caswall, 1814-78, alt. Music: William H. Monk, 1823-89. Text and Music: Public domain

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” LSB 357

Text: Latin, c. 12<sup>th</sup> cent.; *Psalterium Canticum Catholicarum*, Köln, 1710;  
tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-66 alt. Tune: French, 15<sup>th</sup> cent.; setting: C. Winfred Douglass, 1867-1944  
Text and music: Public domain.

“Come to Us, O Lord”

CCLI Song# 6507066. Eric J. Marshall. ©2012 Scot Family Reunion Songs.  
Admin by Scot Family Reunion, LLC. All rights reserved.  
For use solely with the SongSelect Terms of Use. All rights reserved. [www.ccli.com](http://www.ccli.com)  
CCLI License # 396555

“Comfort, Comfort Ye My People” LSB 347

Text: Johann Olearius, 1611-84; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-78, alt.  
Tune: *Trente quatre Pseaumes de David*, Geneva, 1551, ed. Louis Bourgeois;  
setting: *The Lutheran Hymnal*, 1941. Text and music: Public domain

“On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry” LSB 344.

Text: Charles Coffin, 1676-1749; tr. composite. Tune: adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1571-1621;  
setting: George R. Woodward, 1848-1934. Text and music: Public domain.

“You Satisfy the Hungry Heart” LSB 641

Text: Omer E. Westendorf, 1916-97. Text: ©1977 Archdiocese of Philadelphia. All rights reserved.  
Reprinted under ONELICENSE #A-706149.

“Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us” LSB 711

Text: *Hymns for the Young*, 4<sup>th</sup> ed., London, 1836, alt. Music: William B. Bradbury, 1816-68.  
Text and music: Public domain.

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus” LSB 338

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-88, alt. Tune: *Southern Harmony*, New Haven, 1835.  
Text and Tune: Public domain.