

December 8, 2024
Advent II

PRELUDE: "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"
~Lauren Delancy

Jubilate Bells

WELCOME

ENTRANCE HYMN: "Hark the Glad Sound"

LSB 349



1 Hark the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, The Sav - ior
2 He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, In Sa - tan's
3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, The bleed - ing
4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of Peace, Thy wel - come



prom - ised long; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare a
bond - age held. The gates of brass be - fore Him
soul to cure, And with the trea - sures of His
shall pro - claim, And heav'n's e - ter - nal arch - es



throne And ev - 'ry voice a song.
burst, The i - ron fet - ters yield.
grace To en - rich the hum - ble poor.
ring With Thy be - lov - ed name.

INVOCATION:

L: Blessed be the Holy Trinity, one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit

P: Who does wondrous things, lifts up the lowly and fills the hungry with goodness.

CONFESSION OF SIN:

L: God of promise, we lift up our souls to You, for You know us through and through.

P: Heavenly Father, remember our sins no more but rather remember us with Your steadfast love. Show us Your ways; teach us Your paths; lead us in justice and truth, and cast our guilt as far as east is from west for the sake of the life, death and resurrection of the Promised One, Jesus Christ.

L: God's favor rests on you! For the sake of Christ your sin is forgiven, you are a child of the Most High, an inheritor of an eternal promise and a recipient of divine mercy; go in the way of peace.

ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING:

L: The King shall come when morning dawns, and light triumphant breaks, when beauty gilds the eastern hills and life to joy awakes.

P: **Oh, brighter than the rising morn when Christ, victorious, rose
And left the lonesome place of death despite the rage of foes.**

OLD TESTAMENT READING: *Malachi 3:1-7b*

"I'm going to send my messenger, and he will clear the way ahead of me. Then the Lord you are looking for will suddenly come to His temple. The messenger of the promise will come. He is the one you want," says the Lord of Armies.

But who will be able to endure the day He comes? Who will be able to survive on the day He appears? He is like a purifying fire and like a cleansing soap. He will act like a refiner and a purifier of silver. He will purify Levi's sons and refine them like gold and silver. Then they will bring acceptable offerings to the Lord. The offerings from Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the past, as in years long ago.

"I will come to judge you. I will be quick to testify against sorcerers, adulterers, lying witnesses, and those who cheat workers out of their wages and oppress widows and orphans. I will also testify against those who deprive foreigners of their rights. None of them fear me," says the Lord of Armies.

"I, the Lord, never change. That is why you descendants of Jacob haven't been destroyed yet. Since the time of your ancestors, you have turned away from my laws and have not followed them. Return to me, and I will return to you," says the Lord of Armies.

"But you ask, 'How can we return?'" -GW®

MINISTRY OF MUSIC: "The Angel Gabriel"
~Arr. Joel Raney

Bethany Choir

EPISTLE READING: *Philippians 1:2-11*

Good will and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ are yours!

I thank my God for all the memories I have of you. Every time I pray for all of you, I do it with joy. I can do this because of the partnership we've had with you in the Good News from the first day you believed until now. I'm convinced that God, who began this good work in you, will carry it through to completion on the day of Christ Jesus. You have a special place in my heart. So it's right for me to think this way about all of you. All of you are my partners. Together we share God's favor, whether I'm in prison or defending and confirming the truth of the Good News. God is my witness that, with all the compassion of Christ Jesus, I long to see every one of you.

I pray that your love will keep on growing because of your knowledge and insight. That way you will be able to determine what is best and be pure and blameless until the day of Christ. Jesus Christ will fill your lives with everything that God's approval produces. Your lives will then bring glory and praise to God. -GW®



HOLY BAPTISM:

9:30 + *Rebecca Elise Neally* +

Elder: Through Baptism, God has made Rebecca a member of the priesthood we all share in Christ Jesus, that together we may present the forgiveness of God in Christ to our world.

People: **We welcome you into the Lord's family. We receive you as a fellow member of the body of Christ and a worker with us in the kingdom of God.**

MINISTRY OF MUSIC: **"Oh, What a Special Night"** Kg-2nd Grade 9:30 am
 ~Singin' Praise: Dan Lueders, Sonja DiNanno

"Emmanuel"
~Arr. Amy Grant

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

HOLY GOSPEL:

Luke 1:46-55

Mary said,

“My soul praises the Lord’s greatness!
My spirit finds its joy in God, my Savior,
because He has looked favorably on me, His humble servant.

“From now on, all people will call me blessed
because the Almighty has done great things to me.
His name is holy.
For those who fear Him,
His mercy lasts throughout every generation.

“He displayed His mighty power.
He scattered those who think too highly of themselves.
He pulled strong rulers from their thrones.
He honored humble people.
He fed hungry people with good food.
He sent rich people away with nothing.

“He remembered to help His servant Israel forever.
This is the promise He made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and His descendants.”-GW®

ADVENT LITANY:

L: “Behold, I am coming soon!’ says the Lord and ‘My reward is with Me!’

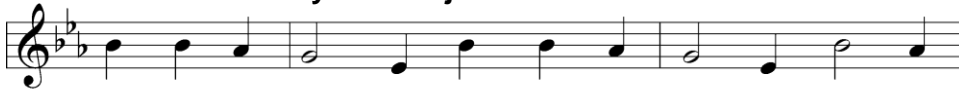
P: **“Blessed are those who wash their robes, that they may have the right to the tree of life.”**

L: “Behold, I am coming soon!’ says the Lord

P: **‘Blessed are those who keep the words of the prophecy in this book.’”**

SERMON HYMN: "My Soul Rejoices"

LSB 933



1 My soul re - joic - es, My spir - it voic - es— Sing the
2 His arm now bar - ing, His strength de - clar - ing— Sing the



great - ness of the Lord! For God my Sav - ior Has shown me
great - ness of the Lord! The proud He scat - ters, Their rule He



fa - vor— Sing the great - ness of the Lord! With praise and
shat - ters— Sing the great - ness of the Lord! Op - pres - sion



bless - ing, Join in con - fess - ing God, who is sole - ly Might - y and
halt - ed; The meek ex - alt - ed. Full are the hun - gry; Emp - ty, the



ho - ly— O sing the great - ness of God the Lord! His mer - cy
wealth - y— O sing the great - ness of God the Lord! Here is the



sure - ly Shall rest se - cure - ly On all who fear Him,
to - ken All that was spo - ken To A - br'ham's off - spring

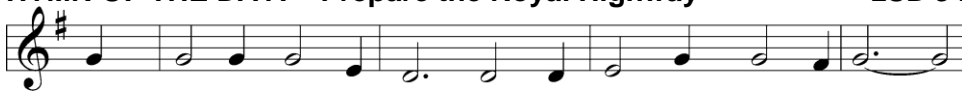


Love and re - vere Him— O sing the great - ness of God the Lord!
God is ful - fill - ing— O sing the great - ness of God the Lord!

MESSAGE: "Coming Soon: Mercy" *Luke 1:46-55*

HYMN OF THE DAY: "Prepare the Royal Highway"

LSB 343



1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; The King of kings is near!
 2 God's peo - ple, see Him com - ing: Your own e - ter - nal king!
 3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen To greet your prom - ised king!
 4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; It comes from heav'n a - bove.



Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley A lev - el road ap - pear!
 Palm branch - es strew be - fore Him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!
 Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion Its trib - ute too should bring.
 His rule is peace and free - dom And jus - tice, truth, and love.



Then greet the King of Glo - ry Fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:
 God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!
 All lands, bow down be - fore Him! All na - tions, now a - dore Him!
 So let your praise be sound - ing For kind - ness so a - bound - ing:

Refrain



Ho - san - na to the Lord, For He ful - fills God's Word!

CONFESSION OF FAITH: 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.**

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!*

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

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.**

***** For our 8:00 a.m. worshippers, the service continues on the bottom of page 11 with the Announcements.**

***** For our 9:30 a.m. worshippers, the service continues with the Celebration of Holy Communion:**

✠ 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 prepare for communion you can find prayer prompts on the front page of the burgundy hymnal. 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 sacred meal. 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. Amen."

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION:

[L]: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: “Take, eat; this is My ✝ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.”

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✝ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

*For those communing, who so desire, the center cups in each tray are **alcohol free**. The wafers on the stand next to the pillar pulpit side (when kneeling for communion) or on the stand in front of the baptismal font (when processing for communion) are **gluten free**.*

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: “Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming” LSB 359



1 Lo, how a rose e'er bloom - ing From ten - der stem hath
 2 I - sa - iah 'twas fore - told it, The rose I have in
 3 This flow'r, whose fra - grance ten - der With sweet - ness fills the
 4 O Sav - ior, child of Mar - y, Who felt our hu - man



sprung! Of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing As proph - ets long have
 mind; With Mar - y we be - hold it, The vir - gin moth - er
 air, Dis - pels with glo - rious splen - dor The dark - ness ev - 'ry -
 woe; O Sav - ior, King of glo - ry, Who dost our weak - ness



sung, It came, a flow - 'ret bright, A - mid the
 kind. To show God's love a - right, She bore to
 where. True man, yet ver - y God, From sin and
 know: Bring us at length we pray To the bright



cold of win - ter, When half - spent was the night.
 us a Sav - ior, When half - spent was the night.
 death He saves us And light - ens ev - 'ry load.
 courts of heav - en, And to the end - less day.

“Jesus Comes Today with Healing”

LSB 620



1 Je - sus comes to - day with heal - ing, Knock - ing at my
 2 Christ Him - self, the priest pre - sid - ing, Yet in bread and
 3 Un - der bread and wine, though low - ly, I re - ceive the
 4 God de - scends with heav'n - ly pow - er, Gives Him - self to



door, ap - peal - ing, Of - f'ring par - don, grace, and peace.
 wine a - bid - ing In this ho - ly sac - ra - ment,
 Sav - ior ho - ly, Blood and bod - y, giv'n for me,
 me this hour In this or - di - nar - y sign.



He Him - self makes prep - a - ra - tion, And I hear His
 Gives the bread of life, once bro - ken, And the cup, the
 Ver - y Lamb of God from heav - en, Who to bit - ter
 On my tongue His pledge re - ceiv - ing, I ac - cept His



in - vi - ta - tion: “Come and taste the bless - ed feast.”
 pre - cious to - ken Of His sa - cred cov - e - nant.
 death was giv - en, Hung up - on the curs - ed tree.
 grace, be - liev - ing That I taste His love di - vine.

- 5 Let me praise God’s boundless favor,
 Whose own feast of love I savor,
 Bidden by His gracious call.
 Wedding garments He provides me,
 With a robe of white He hides me,
 Fits me for the royal hall.
- 6 Now have I found consolation,
 Comfort in my tribulation,
 Balm to heal the troubled soul.
 God, my shield from ev’ry terror,
 Cleanses me from sin and error,
 Makes my wounded spirit whole.

POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING:

L: The God of hope, fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Spirit, through Jesus Christ who's coming we await.

CLOSING HYMN: "From All that Dwell Below the Skies"

LSB 816



1 From all that dwell be - low the skies Let the Cre - a - tor's
2 E - ter - nal are Thy mer - cies, Lord; E - ter - nal truth at -
△ 3 All praise to God the Fa - ther be, All praise, e - ter - nal



praise a - rise; Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
tends Thy Word. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
Son, to Thee. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!



Let the Re - deem - er's name be sung Through ev - 'ry land by
Thy praise shall sound from shore to shore Till suns shall rise and
Whom with the Spir - it we a - dore For - ev - er and for -



ev - 'ry tongue. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
set no more. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
ev - er - more: Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

POSTLUDE

+ + + + + +

COPYRIGHT INFORMATION:

Liturgy from *Lutheran Service Book*, © 2006 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission, LSBHymnLicense.net #000012696

"Hark the Glad Sound" LSB 349 Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702-51. Tune: Thomas Haweis, 1734-1820; setting: *The Lutheran Hymnal*, 1941. Text and music: Public domain.

"The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns" LSB 348 Stanza 3 Text: John Brownlie, 1859-1925, alt.; Public domain.

"My Soul Rejoices" LSB 933 Text: Stephen P. Starke, b. 1955. Tune: Giovanni Giacomo Gastoldi, c. 1556-c. 1622. Text: © 1991 Concordia/Starke. All rights reserved. Reprinted under ONELICENSE #A-706149. Tune: Public domain

"Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming" LSB 359 Text: German, 16th cent., sts. 1-2, 4; Friedrich L.C. Layriz, 1808-59, st. 3; tr. Theodore Baker, 1851-1934, sts. 1-2, alt.; tr. Harriet R.K. Spaeth, 1845-1925, st. 3; tr. John C. Mattes, 1876-1948, st. 4. Tune: *Alte Catholische Geistliche Kirchengeseng*, Köln, 1599; setting: Michael Praetorius, 1571-1621. Text and music: Public domain.

"Jesus Comes Today with Healing" LSB 620 Text: Heinrich Puchta, 1808-58; tr. David W. Rogner, b. 1960 Tune: Johann Löhner, 1645-1705; adapt. Johann Balhausar König, 1691-1758. Setting: *The Lutheran Hymnal*, 1941. Text: ©David W. Rogner. All rights reserved. Reprinted under ONELICENSE #A-706149. Tune: Public domain

"From All That Dwell Below the Skies" LSB 816 Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748, sts. 1-2; William W. How, 1823-97, st. 3. Tune: *Geistliche Kirchengesäng*, Köln, 1623. Text and tune: Public domain.

+ + + + + +

SERVING GOD'S HOUSE TODAY:

Crucifer 8:00...Abigail Rosas
Crucifer 9:30...Emilee Torres
Lector 8:00...Elsie Rivera
Preacher...Pastor Kevin Kritzer
Director of Music & Worship Arts...Noah Freeman
Accompanist...Kevin Bowers
Acolyte 9:30...Aaron Castellanos
9:30...John Holmquist
Children's Message...Leslie Norton

+ + + + + +

If You're a Visitor, WELCOME! We are so glad you have joined us for worship today. If you would like more information about Bethany and its ministries, please scan the QR code to the right. You will be directed to Bethany's fillable information form.



+ + + + + +



CHRISTMAS SEASON WORSHIP SERVICES

"Come, Let Us Adore HIM"
worship with us this Christmastide.

Wednesday Advent Worship Services

December 11th
December 18th
6:30 PM at **Bethany Lutheran Church**

Christmas Eve Worship Services: Tuesday, December 24th

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: Wednesday, December 25th

9:30 AM at **Bethany Lutheran Church**