

December 15, 2024
Advent III

PRELUDE

WELCOME

ENTRANCE 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,
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 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.
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.

INVOCATION:

- L:** Blessed be the Holy Trinity, one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit
- P:** **Who has come to redeem His people, remembers His covenant and rescues us from our enemies.**

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 that glorious morn shall dawn upon our race,
The day when Christ in splendor comes and we shall see His face.**

OLD TESTAMENT READING: *Zephaniah 3:14-20*

Sing happily, people of Zion!

Shout loudly, Israel!

Celebrate and rejoice with all your heart, people of Jerusalem.

The Lord has reversed the judgments against you.

He has forced out your enemies.

The king of Israel, the Lord, is with you.

You will never fear disaster again.

On that day Jerusalem will be told,

“Do not be afraid, Zion!

Do not lose courage!”

The Lord your God is with you.

He is a hero who saves you.

He happily rejoices over you,

renews you with His love,

and celebrates over you with shouts of joy.

“I will gather those among you who are troubled because of the festivals.

They bear a burden of disgrace.

At that time

I will deal with all who have overpowered you.

I will rescue those who are lame.

I will gather those who have been scattered.

I will make them praised and famous in all the world,

though they had been ashamed.

At that time I will bring you home.

Yes, at that time I will gather you together.

I will make you famous and praised among all the people of the earth

when I restore your fortunes right before your eyes,” says the Lord.-©GW

EPISTLE READING: *Philippians 4:4-7*

Always be joyful in the Lord! I'll say it again: Be joyful! Let everyone know how considerate you are. The Lord is near. Never worry about anything. But in every situation let God know what you need in prayers and requests while giving thanks. Then God's peace, which goes beyond anything we can imagine, will guard your thoughts and emotions through Christ Jesus. -©GW

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

HOLY GOSPEL: *Luke 1:57-76*

When the time came for Elizabeth to have her child, she gave birth to a son. Her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had been very kind to her, and they shared her joy.

When the child was eight days old, they went to the temple to circumcise him. They were going to name him Zechariah after his father. But his mother spoke up, "Absolutely not! His name will be John."

Their friends said to her, "But you don't have any relatives with that name."

So they motioned to the baby's father to see what he wanted to name the child. Zechariah asked for a writing tablet and wrote, "His name is John." Everyone was amazed.

Suddenly, Zechariah was able to speak, and he began to praise God.

All their neighbors were filled with awe. Throughout the mountain region of Judea, people talked about everything that had happened. Everyone who heard about it seriously thought it over and asked, "What does the future hold for this child?" It was clear that the Lord was with him.

His father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied,

"Praise the Lord God of Israel!
He has come to take care of His people
and to set them free.
He has raised up a mighty Savior for us
in the family of His servant David.
He made this promise through His holy prophets long ago.
He promised to save us from our enemies
and from the power of all who hate us.

He has shown His mercy to our ancestors
 and remembered His holy promise,
 the oath that He swore to our ancestor Abraham.
 He promised to rescue us from our enemies' power
 so that we could serve Him without fear
 by being holy and honorable as long as we live.
 "You, child, will be called a prophet of the Most High.
 You will go ahead of the Lord to prepare His way. -©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: "Rejoice, Rejoice Believers" LSB 515



1 Re - joice, re - joice, be - liev - ers, And let your lights ap - pear;
 2 The watch - ers on the moun - tain Pro - claim the Bride - groom near;
 3 The saints, who here in pa - tience Their cross and suf - f' rings bore,
 4 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;



The eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing, And dark - er night is near.
 Go forth as He ap - proach - es With al - le - lu - ias clear.
 Shall live and reign for - ev - er When sor - row is no more.
 A - rise, O Sun so longed for, O'er this be - night - ed sphere.



The Bride - groom is a - ris - ing And soon is draw - ing nigh.
 The mar - riage feast is wait - ing; The gates wide o - pen stand.
 A - round the throne of glo - ry The Lamb they shall be - hold;
 With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, We plead, O Lord, to see



Up, pray and watch and wres - tle; At mid - night comes the cry.
 A - rise, O heirs of glo - ry; The Bride - groom is at hand.
 In tri - umph cast be - fore Him Their di - a - dems of gold.
 The day of earth's re - demp - tion That sets Your peo - ple free!

MESSAGE: "Coming Soon: Forgiveness" Luke 1:57-76

HYMN OF THE DAY: "Hark a Thrilling Voice is Sounding" LSB 345



1 Hark! A thrill - ing voice is sound - ing! "Christ is
2 Star - tled 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



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



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.

CONFESSION OF FAITH: THE NICENE CREED

**☩: I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary**

and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life † of the world to come. 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.

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: "Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates"

LSB 341



1 Lift up your heads, ye might - y gates! Be - hold, the
2 A righ - teous Help - er comes to thee; His char - iot
3 How blest the land, the cit - y blest, Where Christ the
4 Fling wide the por - tals of your heart; Make it a
5 Re - deem - er, come and o - pen wide My heart to



King of glo - ry waits. The King of kings is draw - ing
is hu - mil - i - ty, His king - ly crown is ho - li -
rul - er is con - fessed! O peace - ful hearts and hap - py
tem - ple set a - part From earth - ly use for heav'n's em -
Thee; here, Lord, a - bid! O en - ter with Thy grace di -



near; The Sav - ior of the world is here. Life and sal -
ness, His scep - ter, pit - y in dis - tress. The end of
homes To whom this King in tri - umph comes! The cloud - less
ploy, A - dorned with prayer and love and joy. So shall your
vine; Thy face of mer - cy on me shine. Thy Ho - ly



va - tion He doth bring; There - fore re - joice and glad - ly sing.
all our woe He brings; There - fore the earth is glad and sings.
sun of joy is He Who comes to set His peo - ple free.
Sov - 'reign en - ter in And new and no - bler life be - gin.
Spir - it guide us on Un - til our glo - rious goal is won.



To God the Fa - ther raise Your joy - ful songs of praise.
To Christ the Sav - ior raise Your grate - ful hymns of praise.
To God the Spir - it raise Your hap - py shouts of praise.
To God a - lone be praise For word and deed and grace!
E - ter - nal praise and fame We of - fer to Thy name.

POSTLUDE

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“The Advent of Our King” LSB 331

Text: Charles Coffin, 1676-1749; tr. John Chandler, alt. Tune: Aaron Williams, 1731-76; setting: *The Lutheran Hymnal*, 1941. Text and music: Public domain.

“The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns” LSB 348: Stanza 4 Text: John Brownlie, alt.; Public domain.

“Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers” LSB 515

Text: Laurentius Laurenti, 1660-1722; tr. Sarah B. Findlater, alt. Tune: Swedish; setting: Henry V. Gerike, b. 1948. Text and tune: Public domain.

“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. 5th-10th cent.; tr. Edward Caswall, 1814-78, alt.; Music: William H. Monk, 1823-89. Text and Music: Public domain

“Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates” LSB 341

Text: Georg Weissel; tr. Catherine Winkworth, alt. Tune: August Lemke; setting: *The Lutheran Hymnal*, 1941. Text and music: Public domain.

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SERVING GOD’S HOUSE TODAY:

Lector 8:00...Matt Ruiz
Liturgist...Vicar John Alwood
Children’s Message...John Alwood

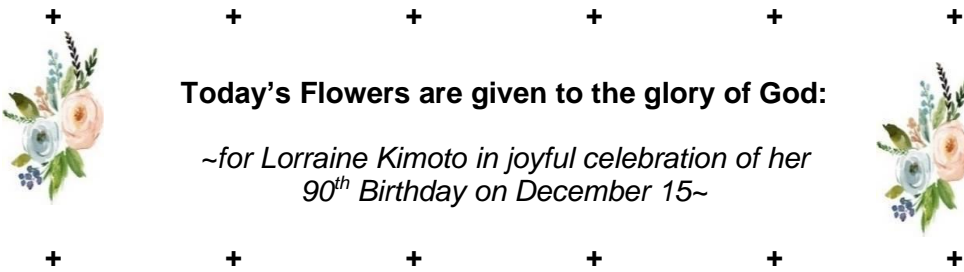
Lector 9:30...Shannon Morgensen
Preacher...Pastor Kyle Blake
Organist...Erica Hantula

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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.



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Today's Flowers are given to the glory of God:

*~for Lorraine Kimoto in joyful celebration of her
90th Birthday on December 15~*



Wednesday Advent Worship Services:

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**



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Please visit our websites to find out more about our Church, School and Preschool. Get weekly updates by signing up for the **Bethany Bullet**—our weekly capsule of worship highlights and campus-wide information.

Bethany Lutheran Church and its Ministries are found at:
www.bethanylutheran.org

Bethany Lutheran School information can be found by visiting their website at:
www.bethanylutheran.org/school/

Bethany Preschool's website: www.bethanylutheran.org/preschool/

To sign up for the weekly **Bethany Bullet**: <https://bit.ly/BethanyBulletSignUp>

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DONATE TO BETHANY'S FLOWER FUND!

Flowers are used to decorate the altar every Sunday, for special seasons such as Christmas and Easter, as well as other important dates during the church calendar. You are able to make two types of donations to the Altar Flower Fund: a general donation and a special request with recognition.



- **A SPECIAL REQUEST WITH RECOGNITION*** is a special type of Altar Flower donation. This request will be printed in the bulletin. For example, it could be given in memory of a person who has gone before us, for a wedding anniversary, baptismal birthday or a birthday celebration, etc. **This recognition has a suggested donation of \$75.**
- **A GENERAL DONATION TO THE ALTAR FLOWER FUND** enables Bethany to have flowers in worship and for our shut-in and hospitalized members to receive flowers from our flower ministry team, even when no one has ordered flowers for specific purposes on Sunday. **This General Donation is for any amount you wish to give.**

*If you are making a **Special Request with Recognition**, please use this form to let us know of your donation **for a specific Sunday date** and what the significance of that donation is towards. **IMPORTANT:** Please complete this form at least **2 weeks prior** to that date, so that information regarding your donation can be printed in the Sunday bulletin for the date requested.

Sign up to donate to Bethany's Altar Flower Fund, please use this URL:

<https://bit.ly/BLCAltarFlowers>



Or scan Bethany's Flower Fund QR code to the right: