

Bethany Lutheran Church

1st SUNDAY IN ADVENT

November 27, 2022

8:00 & 9:30 AM

WELCOME TO BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH

We are so glad you are here in God's house for worship. Here are some things to remember as we are gathered together today:

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; and if you're a visitor, please stop by the Connections table before you leave today and capture the QR codes for more information.

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 **Cry Room** across the courtyard in the office complex, where you as a parent may take your little one needing a break. You will still be able to hear the worship service; and thus be able to 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: *"Change Ring on 'DIVINIUM MYSTERIUM'"* Advanced Adult Bells
~ Fred Gramann

WELCOME

OPENING HYMN:

“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
4 Then stepped forth the Lord of all From His pure and



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:
king - ly hall; God of God, yet ful - ly man,



That the Lord chose such a birth.
Wom - an's off - spring, pure and fresh.
God was there up - on His throne.
His he - ro - ic course be - gan.

CALL TO WORSHIP:

Leader: Blessed be the Lord, Who alone does wondrous things.

People: **Blessed be God's holy name.**

Leader: The name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS:

Leader: Now is the time to wake from our slumber.
Now is the time to confront our own unrighteousness and slothfulness.
Now is the time to turn to God who is faithful and just
and will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

People: **Merciful Lord, come into this world in humility,
Almighty Lord, coming again in great glory,
we confess that we have not welcomed Your powerful presence
nor Your holy reign as we ought.
We have strayed from Your paths.
We have neither been at peace in ourselves,
nor brought Your peace to our neighbors, let alone strangers.
For Your own name's sake forgive us, Lord Jesus;
set us anew on Your way of love,
and move us to welcome Your coming among us. Amen.**

Leader: People of God, our God is a giving God;
He has given a tender shoot, a perfect lamb and holy sacrifice.
Our God is a forgiving God and He forgives you of all your sin;
go to give, go to forgive. Amen.

PRAYER AT THE WREATH:

Leader: Lord of Life, and Light in every age,
You call imperfect people to be bearers of Your light,
bright with Your wisdom, aflame with Your righteousness,
like stars forever.
Enlighten our darkness by the light of Your Christ, kindled in the stable,
magnified on the cross and reflected in the lives of Your people.

People: **Stoke hope within our hearts
and make us shine the brightness of that hope
to a world lost in darkness, without the One,
Who came in the name of the Lord, and is coming again...**

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING: *Isaiah 2:1-5*

This is the message which Isaiah, son of Amoz, saw about Judah and Jerusalem.

In the last days the mountain of the LORD's house
will be established as the highest of the mountains and raised above the hills.
All the nations will stream to it.
Then many people will come and say, "Let's go to the mountain of the LORD,

to the house of the God of Jacob.

He will teach us His ways so that we may live by them.”

The teachings will go out from Zion.

The LORD’s word will go out from Jerusalem.

Then He will judge disputes between nations and settle arguments between many people.

They will hammer their swords into plowblades and their spears into pruning shears.

Nations will never fight against each other, and they will never train for war again.

Come, descendants of Jacob, let’s live in the light of the LORD. – GW ®

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING: *I John 1:1-6*

The Word of life existed from the beginning. We have heard it. We have seen it. We observed and touched it. This life was revealed to us. We have seen it, and we testify about it. We are reporting to you about this eternal life that was in the presence of the Father and was revealed to us. This is the life we have seen and heard. We are reporting about it to you also so that you, too, can have a relationship with us. Our relationship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ. We are writing this so that we can be completely filled with joy.

This is the message we heard from Christ and are reporting to you: God is light, and there isn’t any darkness in Him. If we say, “We have a relationship with God” and yet live in the dark, we’re lying. We aren’t being truthful. – GW ®

MINISTRY OF MUSIC:

“Advent Tidings”

Advanced Adult Bells

~ Matthew Compton

CHILDREN’S SERMON

THE HOLY GOSPEL: *Matthew 24:33-44*

In the same way, when you see all these things, you know that he is near, at the door.

“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.

“When the Son of Man comes again, it will be exactly like the days of Noah. In the days before the flood, people were eating, drinking, and getting married until the day that Noah went into the ship. They were not aware of what was happening until the flood came and swept all of them away. That is how it will be when the Son of Man comes again.

“At that time two men will be working in the field. One will be taken, and the other one will be left. Two women will be working at a mill. One will be taken, and the other one will be left.

“Therefore, be alert, because you don’t know on what day your Lord will return. You realize that if a homeowner had known at what time of the night a thief was coming, he would have stayed awake. He would not have let the thief break into his house. Therefore, you, too, must be ready because the Son of Man will return when you least expect Him. – GW ®

SERMON 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.

SERMON: *“Our God Is For Giving”*

HYMN OF THE DAY: "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light" LSB 411

1 I want to walk as a child of the light.
2 I want to see the bright-ness of God.
3 I'm look - ing for the com - ing of Christ.

I want to fol - low Je - sus.
I want to look at Je - sus.
I want to be with Je - sus.

God set the stars to give light to the world.
Clear Sun of Righ - teous - ness, shine on my path,
When we have run with pa - tience the race,

The star of my life is Je - sus.
And show me the way to the Fa - ther.
We shall know the joy of Je - sus.

Refrain
In Him there is no dark - ness at all.
The night and the day are both a - like.
The Lamb is the light of the cit - y of God.
Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.

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!*

OFFERING PRAYER:

Leader: God who is for giving, forgiving God. You make the desert bloom and send springs of water to thirsty ground. Receive the gifts we give and use them to prepare us to be sent as messengers of Your mercy and grace, Your healing justice, Your love in Jesus.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

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.**

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.**

*****For our 8:00 a.m. worshippers, the service continues on page 10 with the special announcements.**

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

+ Holy Communion +

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.

For those wishing to use a self-contained communion chalice, let an usher know.

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 HYMN: “God Loved the World So that He Gave” LSB 571



1 God loved the world so that He gave His on - ly
2 Christ Je - sus is the ground of faith, Who was made
3 God would not have the sin - ner die; His Son with
4 Be of good cheer, for God's own Son For - gives all
△ 6 Glo - ry to God the Fa - ther, Son, And Ho - ly



Son the lost to save, That all who would in
flesh and suf - fered death; All then who trust in
sav - ing grace is nigh; His Spir - it in the
sins which you have done; And, jus - ti - fied by
Spir - it, Three in One! To You, O bless - ed



Him be - lieve Should ev - er - last - ing life re - ceive.
Him a - lone Are built on this chief cor - ner - stone.
Word de - clares How we in Christ are heav - en's heirs.
Je - sus' blood, Your Bap - tism grants the high - est good.
Trin - i - ty, Be praise now and e - ter - nal - ly!

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE BLESSING:

Leader: Go in peace. Christ is near!

People: **Thanks be to God.**

CLOSING 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.

POSTLUDE:

“Trumpet Finale”

Trumpets and Organ

~ arr. S. Drummond Wolff

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“Hark the Glad Sound” LSB 349

Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702-51. Tune: Thomas Haweis, 1734-1820;
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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.

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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!*