

# ***Bethany Lutheran Church***

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

***December 4, 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.

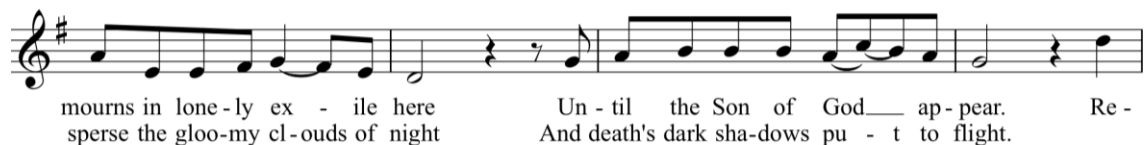
**WELCOME**

OPENING HYMN:

*“O Come, O Come Emmanuel”*



1.O



3.O



## **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 forgiving God  
and He has given a perfect offering, a holy sacrifice,  
a lamb without spot or blemish, His only begotten Son;  
and for His sake, He forgives you all of your sins.  
Our God is a giving God, who has given you, His forgiven people,  
to serve as priests and declare the wonderful deeds of He,  
Who called you out of darkness and into His wonderful light.  
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 such love for You within us,  
that we cannot help, but love others as ourselves  
and share the brilliance of Your love with a world  
that knows not the depth of its meaning outside of the One  
Who came and is coming again, even Jesus Christ our Lord...**

## FIRST SCRIPTURE READING: *Isaiah 11:1-10*

**T**hen a shoot will come out from the stump of Jesse,  
and a branch from its roots will bear fruit.  
The Spirit of the LORD will rest on Him—  
the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of advice and power,  
the Spirit of knowledge and fear of the LORD.  
He will gladly bear the fear of the LORD.  
He will not judge by what His eyes see or decide by what His ears hear.  
He will judge the poor justly.  
He will make fair decisions for the humble people on earth.  
He will strike the earth with a rod from His mouth.  
He will kill the wicked with the breath from His lips.  
Justice will be the belt around His waist. Faithfulness will be the belt around His hips.

Wolves will live with lambs. Leopards will lie down with goats.  
Calves, young lions, and year-old lambs will be together,  
and little children will lead them.  
Cows and bears will eat together. Their young will lie down together.  
Lions will eat straw like oxen. Infants will play near cobras' holes.  
Toddlers will put their hands into vipers' nests.  
They will not hurt or destroy anyone anywhere on my holy mountain.  
The world will be filled with the knowledge of the LORD like water covering the sea.  
At that time the root of Jesse will stand as a banner for the people to gather around.  
The nations will come to Him. His resting place will be glorious. — GW ®

## **SECOND SCRIPTURE READING: *I John 2:1-2, 12***

**M**y dear children, I'm writing this to you so that you will not sin. Yet, if anyone does sin, we have Jesus Christ, who has God's full approval. He speaks on our behalf when we come into the presence of the Father. He is the payment for our sins, and not only for our sins, but also for the sins of the whole world...

I'm writing to you, dear children, because your sins are forgiven through Christ.

– GW ®

## **MINISTRY OF MUSIC:**

***“Herald in the Wilderness”***

Preschool

## **CHILDREN'S SERMON**

### **THE HOLY GOSPEL: *Matthew 3:1-12***

**L**ater, John the Baptizer appeared in the desert of Judea. His message was, “Turn to God and change the way you think and act, because the kingdom of heaven is near.” Isaiah the prophet spoke about this man when he said,

“A voice cries out in the desert:

‘Prepare the way for the Lord! Make His paths straight!’ ”

John wore clothes made from camel's hair and had a leather belt around his waist. His diet consisted of locusts and wild honey.

Jerusalem, all Judea, and the whole Jordan Valley went to him. As they confessed their sins, he baptized them in the Jordan River.

But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming to be baptized, he said to them, “You poisonous snakes! Who showed you how to flee from God's coming anger? Do those things that prove you have turned to God and have changed the way you think and act. Don't think you can say, ‘Abraham is our ancestor.’ I can guarantee that God can raise up descendants for Abraham from these stones. The ax is now ready to cut the roots of the trees. Any tree that doesn't produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into a fire. I baptize you with water so that you will change the way you think and act. But the One who comes after me is more powerful than I. I am not worthy to remove His sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing shovel is in His hand, and He will clean up His threshing floor. He will gather His wheat into a barn, but He will burn the husks in a fire that can never be put out.” – GW ®

SERMON HYMN:

*"There Will Be Rest"*

Are You there? Are You listen-ing? Do You care? Did You plan this?

Oh, great God. Oh, great God.

Sa-vior of the na-tions come and fill this world with grace and love

Hal-le-lu-jah, Hal-le-lu-jah

When all the world is torn a-part and vic-to-ry re-mains with God,

Hal-le-lu-jah, Hal-le-lu-jah. Will there be rest?

You are here, You are listen-ing. And You've met us with for-give-ness.

You are here. You are listen-ing. You hurt more and weep with us.

You make all things new. God, You make us new. Sa-vior of the na-tions come and



SERMON: *"Forgiven"*

Text: 1 John 2:1-2, 12

HYMN OF THE DAY: *"Jesus, Coming Light"*



1 Je-sus, Co-ming  
2 Je-sus, Co-ming  
3 Je-sus, Co-ming  
4 Je-sus, Co-ming



Light, draw near, and spark with-in us hope. Tho-ugh sha-dows fi-ght with  
Light, draw near, and spark with-in us peace. May Your child-ren ga-a-ther  
Light, draw near, and spark with-in us joy. As a hum-ble hea-rth You  
Light, draw near, and spark with-in us love. Heart of Hea-ven la-id a-



all their might, they'll ne-ver ov-er-come. In brill-iance, You don't come to  
in its glow. Warmth bids all come and see. When You re-turn we'll need no  
come to dwell, not speed-ing to de-stroy. / Glad-den hearts and bright-en  
mong the low in the star-glow from a-bove. With love, il-lu-min-ate Your



blind, but on-ly that the blind would see. Ho-san-na! Ha-le-lu-u-ja-h!  
sun, but on-ly Word made Flesh to shine. Ho-san-na! Ha-le-lu-u-ja-h!  
eyes, like spark-led rays in win-ter's dark. Ho-san-na! Ha-le-lu-u-ja-h!  
Church, that ev-ery soul would know its worth. Ho-san-na! Ha-le-lu-u-ja-h!



Je-sus, Com-ing Light, draw near.  
Je-sus, Com-ing Light, draw near.  
Je-sus, Com-ing Light, draw near.  
Je-sus, Com-ing Light, draw near.





**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 Maralee 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.

**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**

**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.**

## + *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 HYMNS:

***“Come To Us O Lord”***

**Verse 1:**

**O living Word please come and dwell in us  
Lord wipe away these tears  
O Ancient Son so long foretold  
We're desperate souls draw near**

**Chorus 1:**

**And we will stand securely  
In the strength of the Lord  
Every heart will surely come  
And adore The Great I Am**

**Verse 2:**

**Our Shepherd King please come and dwell with us  
To fields of grace lead on**

**Chorus 2:**

**And we will stand securely  
In the strength of the Lord  
Every heart will surely come  
And adore The Great I Am  
We need You now  
Break our chains by Your glory and power  
Make us captive to a holy desire  
Come to us O Lord come to us O Lord**

**Bridge:**

**Prince of Peace Emmanuel  
Lord draw us close unto Thyself  
King of kings God's chosen One  
We need You now to Thee we run**

***"Hear Us, Father, When We Pray"***

**LSB 773**

**(Please use burgundy hymnal for the singing of this song.)**

## “Psalm 46”



God is our re - fuge our strength and our shield, an  
Nat - tions in up - roar, men's king - doms, they fall, He  
Come, let us see what the Lord has done, the



ev - er pre - sent help. We will not fear though the earth  
speaks and the earth melts a - way. the worst we im - a - gine the strong-  
ru - ins He brings to the earth. He makes wars to cease to the ends



— gives way. and the moun - tains crash in to the sea.  
- est of storms, our for - tress, it will still re - main.  
— of the earth, He shat - ters the bow and the spear.



*There is a ri - ver who's streams will make glad the ci - ty of our most High King.*



*God is with-in her, and she will not fail, He helps her at break of the day.*  
*God is with-in her, and she will not fail, Last-ten and hear the Lord say: "Be*



still, and know that I am God." "Be

## POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

## SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

## THE BLESSING:

Leader: Go in peace. Christ is near!

People: Thanks be to God.

## CLOSING HYMN: "Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus"

1. Come, thou long expected Jesus,  
2. Born Thy people to deliver,  
Born to set Thy people free.  
Born a child and yet a king!  
Born to our fears and sins release us;  
Born to reign in us for ever,  
Let us find our rest in Thee.  
Now Thy gracious king bring.  
Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion,  
By Thyne own e - ter - nal Spir - it  
Hope of all the earth Thou art,  
Rule in all our hearts a - lone;  
Dear de - sire of ev' - ry nation  
By Thing all suf - fi - cent mer - it  
Joy of ev' - ry long glo - ing heart.  
Rais us to Thy glo - rious throne.

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“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  
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“There Will Be Rest”

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“Jesus, Coming Light”

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“Come to Us, O Lord”

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“Psalm 46”—Be Still

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“Hear Us, Father, When We Pray” LSB 773

Text: Chad L. Bird, b. 1970. Tune: *Geist-reiches Gesang-Buch*, Halle, 1704, ed. Johann A. Freylinghausen;  
Setting: *The Lutheran Hymnal*, 1941. Text: © Chad L. Bird. Reprinted under ONELICENSE #A-706149  
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“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus” LSB 338

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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](http://www.bethanylutheran.org).

## **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](mailto:acoleman@bethanylutheran.org) with your name and email address. Tell a friend about the ***Bethany Bullet!***



**JOB OPPORTUNITY:**

**Holy Cross Lutheran Church is looking for a part time  
Church Office Secretary/Office Manager.**

**If interested, please contact Cindy Morrison at 562-421-4711  
or email her at [cmorrison@bethanylutheran.org](mailto:cmorrison@bethanylutheran.org)  
and she will send you a full description of the job.**