

# ***Bethany Lutheran Church***

## **3<sup>rd</sup> SUNDAY IN ADVENT**

***December 11, 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:*****“Savior of the Nations, Come”***

LSB 332



1. Sav - ior of the na - tions, come; Show the glo - ry of the Son!  
2. Not of hu - man seed or worth, But from God's own mys - tic breath,  
3. Won - drous birth! Oh, won - drous child Of the vir - gin un - de - filed!  
4. God the Fa - ther is his source, Back to God he runs his course;



Ev - 'ry peo - ple, stand in awe; Praise the per - fect Son of  
Fruit in Mar - y's womb be - gun When God breathed the Word, his  
Might-y God and man in one, Ea - ger now his race to  
Down to death and hell de - scends, God's high throne he re - as -



God.  
Son.  
run!  
cends.

**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  
                  and 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 joy within our hearts.  
                  Joy that rests not on the seen but the unseen,  
                  joy that's source is not on what we hold but what You have promised,  
                  joy that does not merely fill our hearts  
                  but flows from our lives into a world lost in darkness  
                  without the One who came in the name of the Lord  
                  and is coming again.

**FIRST SCRIPTURE READING: *Isaiah 35:1-10***

**T**he desert and the dry land will be glad,  
and the wilderness will rejoice and blossom.  
Like a lily the land will blossom.  
It will rejoice and sing with joy.  
It will have the glory of Lebanon, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.  
Everyone will see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God.  
Strengthen limp hands.  
Steady weak knees.  
Tell those who are terrified,  
“Be brave; don’t be afraid.  
Your God will come with vengeance, with divine revenge.  
He will come and rescue you.”  
Then the eyes of the blind will be opened,  
and the ears of the deaf will be unplugged.  
Then those who are lame will leap like deer,  
and those who cannot speak will shout for joy.  
Water will gush out into the desert,  
and streams will gush out into the wilderness.  
Then the hot sand will become a pool,  
and dry ground will have springs.  
Grass will become cattails and rushes  
in the home of jackals.  
A highway will be there, a roadway.  
It will be called the Holy Road.  
Sinners won’t travel on it.  
It will be for those who walk on it.  
Godless fools won’t wander onto it.  
Lions won’t be there.  
Wild animals won’t go on it.  
They won’t be found there.  
But the people reclaimed by the LORD will walk on it.  
The people ransomed by the LORD will return.  
They will come to Zion singing with joy.  
Everlasting happiness will be on their heads as a crown.  
They will be glad and joyful.  
They will have no sorrow or grief. – GW ®

## SECOND SCRIPTURE READING: *I John 3:11-18*

**T**he message that you have heard from the beginning is to love each other. Don't be like Cain. He was a child of the evil one and murdered his brother. And why did Cain murder his brother? Because the things Cain did were evil and the things his brother did had God's approval. Brothers and sisters, don't be surprised if the world hates you.

We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love other believers. The person who doesn't grow in love remains in death. Everyone who hates another believer is a murderer, and you know that a murderer doesn't have eternal life.

We understand what love is when we realize that Christ gave His life for us. That means we must give our lives for other believers. Now, suppose a person has enough to live on and notices another believer in need. How can God's love be in that person if he doesn't bother to help the other believer? Dear children, we must show love through actions that are sincere, not through empty words. – GW ®

## HOLY BAPTISMS:



**9:30**

+ *Ana Kim Millan* +

+ *Adriana Millan* +

+ *Addison Millan* +

+ *Adam Millan* +

**Elder:** Through Baptism, God has made *Ana, Adriana, Addison and Adam* members 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 fellow members of the body of Christ and workers with us in the kingdom of God.**

**MINISTRY OF MUSIC: 9:30**

***"Away In a Manger"***  
and  
***"Oh, What a Special Night"***

BLS K-2<sup>nd</sup> Grade

## CHILDREN'S SERMON

### THE HOLY GOSPEL: *Matthew 11:2-15*

When John was in prison, he heard about the things Christ had done. So he sent his disciples to ask Jesus, "Are you the One who is coming, or should we look for someone else?"

Jesus answered John's disciples, "Go back, and tell John what you hear and see: Blind people see again, lame people are walking, those with skin diseases are made clean, deaf people hear again, dead people are brought back to life, and poor people hear the Good News. Whoever doesn't lose his faith in Me is indeed blessed."

As they were leaving, Jesus spoke to the crowds about John. "What did you go into the desert to see? Tall grass swaying in the wind? Really, what did you go to see? A man dressed in fine clothes? Those who wear fine clothes are in royal palaces.

"Really, what did you go to see? A prophet? Let me tell you that he is far more than a prophet. John is the one about whom Scripture says,

'I'm sending My messenger ahead of you to prepare the way in front of you.'

"I can guarantee this truth: Of all the people ever born, no one is greater than John the Baptizer. Yet, the least important person in the kingdom of heaven is greater than John. From the time of John the Baptizer until now, the kingdom of heaven has been forcefully advancing, and forceful people have been seizing it. All the Prophets and Moses' Teachings prophesied up to the time of John. If you are willing to accept their message, John is the Elijah who was to come. Let the person who has ears listen! – GW ®

**SERMON HYMN:**

***“Comfort, Comfort Ye My People”***

**LSB 347, vs. 1 & 2**

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  
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  
'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,  
Of the peace that waits for them; Tell her that her  
Now her griefs have passed a - way; God will change her  
sins I cov - er And her war - fare now is o - ver.”  
pin - ing sad - ness In - to ev - er - spring - ing glad - ness.

**SERMON: *“Forgiving”***

**Text: 1 John 3:11-18**

HYMN OF THE DAY:    *“Comfort, Comfort Ye My People”*    LSB 347, vs. 3 & 4

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  
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 -  
King - dom now is here. O that warn - ing cry o - bey!  
fits His ho - ly reign. For the glo - ry of the Lord  
Now pre - pare for God a way; Let the val - leys  
Now o'er earth is shed a - broad, And all flesh shall  
rise to meet Him And the hills bow down to greet Him.  
see the to - ken That His Word is nev - er bro - ken.

**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!*

**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 16 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 HYMNS:

### *“Instruments of Your Peace”*



Lord, make us in - stru - ments \_ of Your peace,



where there is ha - tred let Your love \_ in - crease; \_



Lord, make us in - stru - ments \_ of Your peace,



walls of pride \_ and prej - u - dice \_ shall \_ cease

Last time to Coda  $\oplus$



when we are \_ Your in - stru - ments \_ of peace.



1. Where there is ha - tred, we will sow His love;  
2. Where there is blind - ness, we will pray for sight;



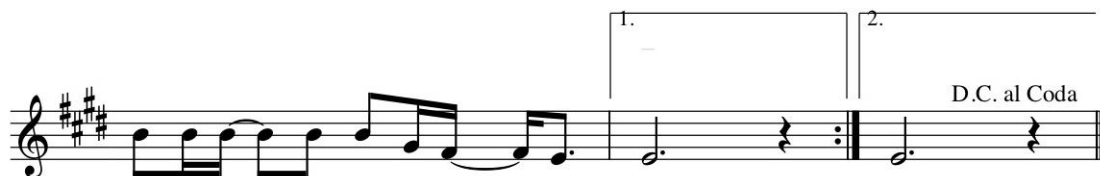
Where there is in - ju - ry, \_ we will nev - er judge.  
Where there is dark - ness, \_ we will shine His light.



Where there is striv - ing, we will speak His peace  
Where there is sad - ness, we will bear their grief,



to the peo - ple cry - ing for re - lease.  
to the mil - lions cry - ing for re - lease.



We will be — His in - stru - ments — of peace. peace.  
We will be — His in - stru - ments — of

⊕ Coda

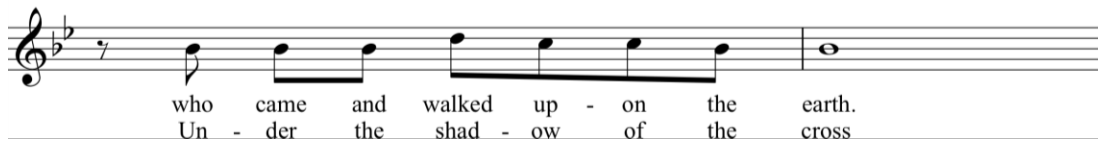


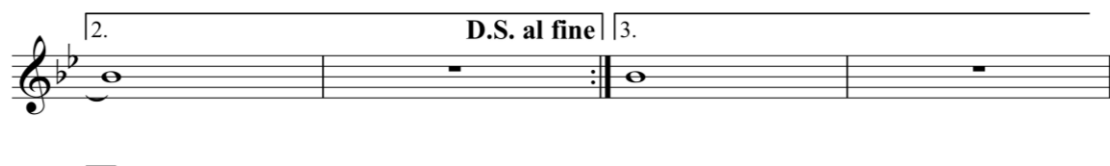
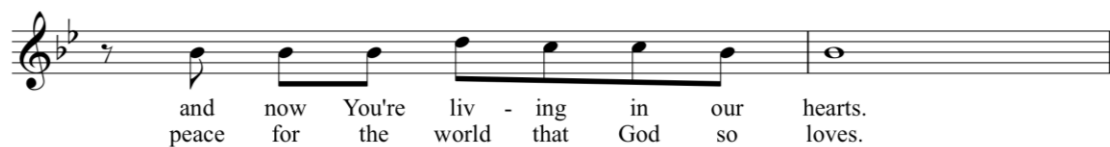
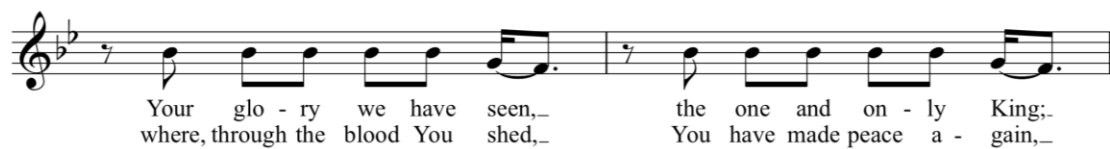
peace. When we are — Your in - stru - ments — of



peace. When we are — Your in - stru - ments — of peace.

## *“Light of the World”*





## POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

## SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

### THE BLESSING:

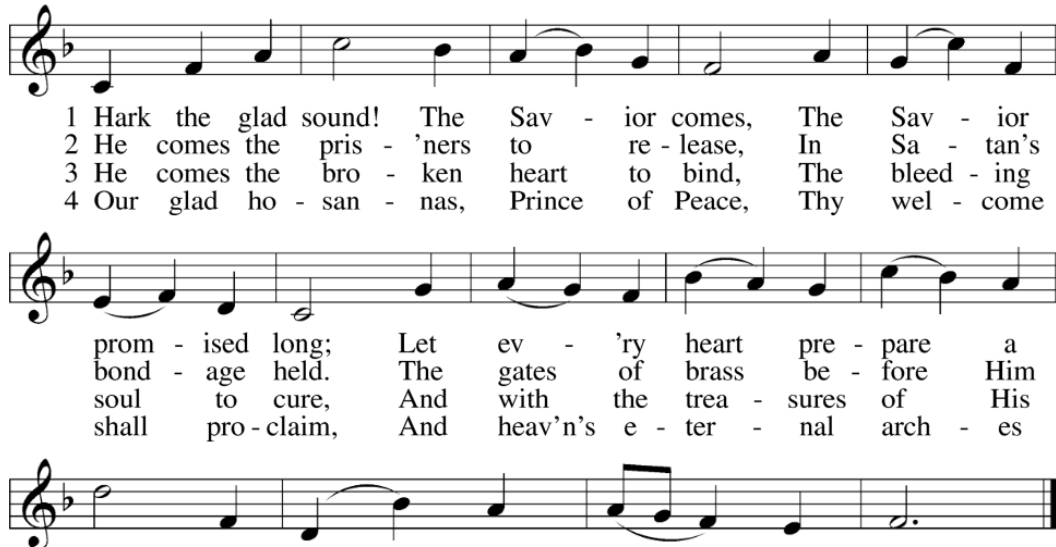
Leader: Go in peace. Christ is near!

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.

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“Savior of the Nations, Come” LSB 332

Text: attr. Ambrose of Milan, 340-397; German version, Martin Luther, 1483-1546; re. William M. Reynolds, 1812-76, sts. 1-2, tr. *Lutheran Service Book*, 2006, sts. 3, 6; Tr. F. Samuel Jansow, 1913-2001, sts. 4-5, 8; tr. Gifford A. Grobrien, b. 1973, st. 7. Tune: *Geystliche gesangk Buchleyn*, Wittenberg, 1524, ed. Johann Walter; setting: *Lutheran Service Book*, 2006. Text (sts. 1-2) and tune: Public domain; (sts. 4-5, 8): © 1978 Concordia Publishing House. Text (sts. 3, 6-7) and setting: © 2006 Concordia Publishing House.

“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

“Instruments of Your Peace”

Copyright forthcoming

“Light of the World”

Matt Redman. Copyright forthcoming

“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

**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).

**CHRISTMAS SEASON WORSHIP SERVICES**

*We will have plenty of opportunity to “Come and Adore Him, Christ the Lord”  
in worship over this Christmastide.*



**Wednesday Advent In-Person Worship Services**

December 14<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> at 9:00 AM Chapel at **Bethany Lutheran Church**

December 14<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> at 12:15 PM at **Holy Cross Lutheran Church**

**There is also ONLINE Advent Zoom Gatherings**

December 14<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:00 PM

The link to the Advent Online Zoom Gatherings is:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82052554657?pwd=VDN6eHN5cWNhVEd0NHFiNW90TkJhUT09>

Meeting ID: 820 5255 4657

Passcode: 905

If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Kyle.

**Christmas Eve Worship Services**

Saturday, December 24<sup>th</sup>

Family Services at 1:00 and 3:00 PM at **Bethany Lutheran Church**

Worship Service at 7:00 PM at **Holy Cross Lutheran Church**

Worship Service at 11:00 PM at **Bethany Lutheran Church**

**Christmas Day Festival Service with Holy Communion**

Sunday, December 25<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 AM at **Bethany Lutheran Church**  
(Bethany has ONE 9:30 AM Service ONLY – **NO** 8:00 AM)

**Please Note:** There is **NO** New Year's Eve Worship Service on Saturday, December 31<sup>st</sup>.

**New Year's Day Worship Service with Holy Communion**

Sunday, January 1<sup>st</sup> at 9:30 AM at **Bethany Lutheran Church**  
(Bethany has ONE 9:30 AM Service ONLY – **NO** 8:00 AM)  
Sunday, January 1<sup>st</sup> at 11:00 AM at **Holy Cross Lutheran Church**