

# *Bethany Lutheran Church*

## 4<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY IN ADVENT

*December 18, 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.

**PRESERVICE MUSIC:** *"Gottes Sohn ist kommen"* (BWV 600, 703, & 724) Organ  
~ by J. S. Bach

## WELCOME

### OPENING 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.

### 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 peace within our hearts, minds and spirits;  
the peace for which the world so desperately seeks,  
but which can only be found in You,  
the Prince of Peace whose returning as King Eternal we await.**

**FIRST SCRIPTURE READING: *Isaiah 7:10-17***

Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, "Ask the LORD your God for a sign. It can be anything you want."

But Ahaz answered, "I won't ask; I wouldn't think of testing the LORD."

"Listen now, descendants of David," Isaiah said. "Isn't it enough that you try the patience of mortals? Must you also try the patience of my God? So the Lord himself will

give you this sign: A virgin will become pregnant and give birth to a son, and she will name him Immanuel [God Is With Us]. He will eat cheese and honey until he knows how to reject evil and choose good. Indeed, before the boy knows how to reject evil and choose good, the land of the two kings who terrify you will be deserted.

“The LORD will bring on you, your people, and your ancestor’s family a time unlike any since Ephraim broke away from Judah. He will bring the king of Assyria. – GW ®

**SECOND SCRIPTURE READING: *I John 4:7-12***

**D**ear friends, we must love each other because love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born from God and knows God. The person who doesn’t love doesn’t know God, because God is love. God has shown us his love by sending his only Son into the world so that we could have life through him. This is love: not that we have loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the payment for our sins. Dear friends, if this is the way God loved us, we must also love each other. No one has ever seen God. If we love each other, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us. – GW ®

**MINISTRY OF MUSIC:**     *“Angels We Have Heard on High”*     The Bethany Choir  
  *“God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen”*

**CHILDREN’S SERMON**

**THE HOLY GOSPEL: *Matthew 1:18-25***

**T**he birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way: His mother Mary had been promised to Joseph in marriage. But before they were married, Mary realized that she was pregnant by the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph was an honorable man and did not want to disgrace her publicly. So he decided to break the marriage agreement with her secretly.

Joseph had this in mind when an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream. The angel said to him, “Joseph, descendant of David, don’t be afraid to take Mary as your wife. She is pregnant by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus [He Saves], because he will save his people from their sins.” All this happened so that what the Lord had spoken through the prophet came true: “The virgin will become pregnant and give birth to a son, and they will name him Immanuel,” which means “God is with us.”

When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him to do. He took Mary to be his wife. He did not have marital relations with her before she gave birth to a son. Joseph named the child Jesus. – GW ®

SERMON HYMN:

*“Once He Came in Blessing”*

LSB 333

1 Once He came in bless - ing, All our sins re -  
 2 Now He gent - ly leads us; With Him - self He  
 dress - ing; Came in like - ness low - ly,  
 feeds us Pre - cious food from heav - en,  
 Son of God most ho - ly; Bore the cross to  
 Pledge of peace here giv - en, Man - na that will  
 save us; Hope and free - dom gave us.  
 nour - ish Souls that they may flour - ish.

SERMON: *“For Giving”*

Text: 1 John 4:7-12

HYMN OF THE DAY:

*“Once He Came in Blessing”*

LSB 333

3 Soon will come that hour \_\_\_\_\_ When with might - y  
 4 Come, then, O Lord Je - sus, From our sins re -  
 pow - er Christ will come in splen - dor  
 lease us. Keep our hearts be - liev - ing,  
 And will judg - ment ren - der, With the faith - ful  
 That we, grace re - ceiv - ing, Ev - er may con -  
 shar - ing Joy be - yond com - par - ing.  
 fess You Till in heav'n we bless You.

**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.

**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:

*“O Lord, How Shall I Meet You”*

LSB 334



1 O Lord, how shall I meet You, How wel - come You a - right?  
2 Your Zi - on strews be - fore You Green boughs and fair - est palms;  
3 I lay in fet - ters, groan - ing; You came to set me free.  
4 Love caused Your in - car - na - tion; Love brought You down to me.



Your peo - ple long to greet You, My hope, my heart's de - light!  
And I too will a - dore You With joy - ous songs and psalms.  
I stood, my shame be - moan - ing; You came to hon - or me.  
Your thirst for my sal - va - tion Pro - cured my lib - er - ty.



O kin - dle, Lord most ho - ly, Your lamp with - in my breast  
My heart shall bloom for - ev - er For You with prais - es new  
A glo - rious crown You give me, A trea - sure safe on high  
Oh, love be - yond all tell - ing, That led You to em - brace



To do in spir - it low - ly All that may please You best.  
And from Your name shall nev - er With - hold the hon - or due.  
That will not fail or leave me As earth - ly rich - es fly.  
In love, all love ex - cel - ling, Our lost and fall - en race.

- 5 Sin's debt, that fearful burden, Cannot His love erase;  
Your guilt the Lord will pardon And cover by His grace.  
He comes, for you procuring The peace of sin forgiv'n,  
His children thus securing Eternal life in heav'n.
- 6 He comes to judge the nations, A terror to His foes,  
A light of consolations And blessèd hope to those  
Who love the Lord's appearing. O glorious Sun, now come,  
Send forth Your beams so cheering, And guide us safely home.



“O Come, O Come Emmanuel”

LSB 357



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som  
2 O come, Thou Wis - dom from on high, Who or - d'rest  
3 O come, O come, Thou Lord of might, Who to Thy  
cap - tive Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly  
all things might - i - ly; To us the path of  
tribes on Si - nai's height In an - cient times didst  
ex - ile here Un - til the Son of God ap - pear.  
knowl - edge show, And teach us in her ways to go.  
give the Law In cloud and maj - es - ty and awe.

*Refrain*  
Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el  
Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

HOLY BAPTISM:



**8:00** + *Nikhil Timothy Sunny* +

Elder: Through Baptism, God has made *Nikhil* 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 worker with us in the kingdom of God.

## SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

### THE BLESSING:

Leader: Go in peace. Christ is near!

People: Thanks be to God.

### CLOSING HYMN: "Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates" LSB 340



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



glo - ry waits. The King of kings is draw - ing near; The  
mil - i - ty, His king - ly crown is ho - li - ness, His  
is con - fessed! O peace - ful hearts and hap - py homes To  
set a - part From earth - ly use for heav'n's em - ploy, A -  
Lord, a - bide! O en - ter with Thy grace di - vine; Thy



Sav - ior of the world is here. Life and sal - va - tion  
scep - ter, pit - y in dis - tress. The end of all our  
whom this King in tri - umph comes! The cloud - less sun of  
dorned with prayer and love and joy. So shall your Sov - 'reign  
face of mer - cy on me shine. Thy Ho - ly Spir - it



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



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

**POSTLUDE: "Improvisation on Macht hoch die Tür"**  
~ Robert Bottoms

Organ

+ + + + + +

**COPYRIGHT PERMISSIONS**

Liturgy (or the appropriate portion thereof) from *Lutheran Service Book*  
©2006 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission. License #000012696

"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" LSB 338  
Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-88, alt. Tune: *Southern Harmony*, New Haven, 1835.  
Text and Tune: Public domain.

"Once He Came in Blessing" LSB 333  
Text: Johann Horn, c. 1490-1547; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-78, sts. 1, 4, alt;  
tr. *Lutheran Service Book*, 2006, sts. 2-3. Tune: Michael Weisse, c. 1480-1534.  
Text (sts. 1, 4) and tune: Public domain.

"O Lord, How Shall I Meet You" LSB 334  
Text: Sts. 4 & 5: Paul Gerhardt, 1607-1676; tr. *The Lutheran Hymnal*, 1941, alt.  
Text: Public domain. Tune: Johann Crüger, 1598-1662; setting: Richard J. Heschke, b. 1939  
Setting: ©2006 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved.  
Reprinted under ONELICENSE #A-706149

"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  
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.

**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!*