

✘ **The First Sunday of Advent** ✘
Bethlehem Lutheran Church
November 26, & 27, 2022

WELCOME IN JESUS' NAME

WELCOME to our guests and members as we gather for worship today! **Please place your names in our red "Record of Fellowship" books.** Also, please give attention to the written "News and Notes".

PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP

Faithful God, whose mercies are new to us every morning, we humbly pray that You would look upon us in mercy and renew us by Your Holy Spirit. Keep safe our going out and our coming in, and let Your blessing remain with us throughout this day. Preserve us in Your righteousness, and grant us a portion in that eternal life which is in Christ Jesus, our Lord. Amen.

WORSHIP NOTES

The Lord Jesus enters Jerusalem "humble, and mounted on a donkey," riding on "a beast of burden" (Matt. 21:5), as He Himself bears the sins of the world in His body. Now He comes by the ministry of the Gospel to save us from sin, death, the devil and hell. Therefore, we sing, "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" (Matt. 21:9). For we are called "to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob," His holy Church, "that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths" (Is. 2:3). By His Word, we "walk in the light of the Lord" (Is. 2:5). That is to live in love, which "does no wrong to a neighbor" (Rom. 13:10). We "cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light," for "salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed" (Rom. 13:11, 12). Hence, the entire Christian life is a time to wake and watch, "for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming" (Matt. 24:42).

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

RINGING OF THE BELL

341 Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

- 1 Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates!
Behold, the King of glory waits.
The King of kings is drawing near;
The Savior of the world is here.
Life and salvation He doth bring;

Therefore rejoice and gladly sing.
To God the Father raise
Your joyful songs of praise.

2 A righteous Helper comes to thee;
His chariot is humility,
His kingly crown is holiness,
His scepter, pity in distress.
The end of all our woe He brings;
Therefore the earth is glad and sings.
To Christ the Savior raise
Your grateful hymns of praise.

3 How blest the land, the city blest,
Where Christ the ruler is confessed!
O peaceful hearts and happy homes
To whom this King in triumph comes!
The cloudless sun of joy is He
Who comes to set His people free.
To God the Spirit raise
Your happy shouts of praise.

4 Fling wide the portals of your heart;
Make it a temple set apart
From earthly use for heav'n's employ,
Adorned with prayer and love and joy.
So shall your Sov'reign enter in
And new and nobler life begin.
To God alone be praise
For word and deed and grace!

5 Redeemer, come and open wide
My heart to Thee; here, Lord, abide!
O enter with Thy grace divine;
Thy face of mercy on me shine.
Thy Holy Spirit guide us on
Until our glorious goal is won.
Eternal praise and fame
We offer to Thy name.

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Stand

*The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their
Baptism.*

P In the name of the Father and of the ✕ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C who made heaven and earth.

P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

C and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

P O almighty God, merciful Father,

C I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

P Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✕ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

✕ Service of the Word ✕

Introit

P Behold, your king is coming to you;
righteous and having salvation.

**C Save us, we pray, O LORD!
O LORD, we pray, give us success!**

P Blessèd is he who comes in the name of the LORD!
We bless you from the house of the LORD.

C The LORD is God, and he has made his light to shine upon us. Bind the festal sacrifice with cords, up to the horns of the altar!

P You are my God, and I will give thanks to you; you are my God; I will extol you.

ALL Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

ALL Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation.

Kyrie

LSB 186

C Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C And with thy spirit.

P Let us pray.

Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come, that by Your protection we may be rescued from the threatening perils of our sins and saved by Your mighty deliverance; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Sit

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 2:1–5

¹The word that Isaiah the son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

²It shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the house of the LORD shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be lifted up above the hills; and all the nations shall flow to it,

³and many peoples shall come, and say: "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths."

For out of Zion shall go the law,
and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.
⁴He shall judge between the nations,
and shall decide disputes for many peoples;
and they shall beat their swords into plowshares,
and their spears into pruning hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
neither shall they learn war anymore.
⁵O house of Jacob,
come, let us walk
in the light of the LORD.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle

Romans 13:8–14

⁸Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet,” and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” ¹⁰Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

¹¹Besides this you know the time, that the hour has come for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed. ¹²The night is far gone; the day is at hand. So then let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light. ¹³Let us walk properly as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and sensuality, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Alleluia

LSB 190

C Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Holy Gospel

Matthew 24:36–44

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-fourth chapter.

C Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

³⁶[Jesus said:] “But concerning that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only. ³⁷As were the days of Noah, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark, ³⁹and they were unaware until the flood came and swept them all away, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ⁴⁰Then two men will be in the field; one will be taken and one left. ⁴¹Two women will be grinding at the mill; one will be taken and one left. ⁴²Therefore, stay awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. ⁴³But know this, that if the master of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁴Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

Nicene Creed

C 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.**

Sit

332 Savior of the Nations, Come

- 1 Savior of the nations, come,
Virgin's Son, make here Your home!
Marvel now, O heav'n and earth,
That the Lord chose such a birth.
- 2 Not by human flesh and blood,
By the Spirit of our God,
Was the Word of God made flesh—
Woman's offspring, pure and fresh.
- 3 Here a maid was found with child,
Yet remained a virgin mild.
In her womb this truth was shown:
God was there upon His throne.
- 4 Then stepped forth the Lord of all
From His pure and kingly hall;
God of God, yet fully man,
His heroic course began.
- 5 God the Father was His source,
Back to God He ran His course.
Into hell His road went down,
Back then to His throne and crown.
- 6 For You are the Father's Son
Who in flesh the vict'ry won.
By Your mighty pow'r make whole
All our ills of flesh and soul.

7 From the manger newborn light
Shines in glory through the night.
Darkness there no more resides;
In this light faith now abides.

Stand

8 Glory to the Father sing,
Glory to the Son, our king,
Glory to the Spirit be
Now and through eternity.

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Sermon

Stand

Prayer of the Church

✠ Service of the Sacrament ✠

Preface

LSB 194

P The Lord be with you.

C And with thy spirit.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them up unto the Lord.

P Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God.

C It is meet and right so to do.

P It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, whose way John the Baptist prepared, proclaiming Him the promised Messiah, the very Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, and calling sinners to repentance that they might escape from the wrath to be revealed when He comes again in glory. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus

LSB 195

**C Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth;
heav'n and earth are full of Thy glory.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is He, blessed is He, blessed is He that cometh
in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.**

Lord's Prayer

LSB 196

**C 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.**

The Words of Our Lord

LSB 197

**P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed,
took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and
gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✕
body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of
Me."**

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and
when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying:
"Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✕
blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This
do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Pax Domini

LSB 197

**P The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C Amen.**

Agnus Dei

LSB 198

**C O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of
the world, have mercy upon us.
O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of
the world, have mercy upon us.
O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of
the world, grant us Thy peace. Amen.**

Sit

Distribution

If you desire to commune, please speak to one of the pastors before the service. Our altar is open to those who confess oneness with us in doctrine, are members of our congregation or sister congregations of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod, and are not under church discipline in another congregation.

Please note that “gluten free” communion wafers are available for those who need them. Please tell the Communion Assistant “gluten free” when he approaches you at the Communion Rail. Also, for those who desire, highly diluted wine is available in individual cups (one drop of wine in the cup of water). Please tell the Communion Assistant “clear” when he approaches you at the Communion Rail.

Distribution Hymns

331 The Advent of Our King

- 1 The advent of our King
Our prayers must now employ,
And we must hymns of welcome sing
In strains of holy joy.
- 2 The everlasting Son
Incarnate deigns to be,
Himself a servant’s form puts on
To set His servants free.
- 3 O Zion’s daughter, rise
To meet your lowly King,
Nor let your faithless heart despise
The peace He comes to bring.
- 4 As judge, on clouds of light,
He soon will come again
And His true members all unite
With Him in heav’n to reign.
- 5 Before the dawning day
Let sin’s dark deeds be gone,
The sinful self be put away,
The new self now put on.

Stand

- 6 All glory to the Son,
Who comes to set us free,
With Father, Spirit, ever one
Through all eternity.

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343 Prepare the Royal Highway

- 1 Prepare the royal highway;
The King of kings is near!
Let ev'ry hill and valley
A level road appear!
Then greet the King of Glory
Foretold in sacred story: Refrain
- ref Hosanna to the Lord,
For He fulfills God's Word!
- 2 God's people, see Him coming:
Your own eternal king!
Palm branches strew before Him!
Spread garments! Shout and sing!
God's promise will not fail you!
No more shall doubt assail you! Refrain
- 3 Then fling the gates wide open
To greet your promised king!
Your king, yet ev'ry nation
Its tribute too should bring.
All lands, bow down before Him!
All nations, now adore Him! Refrain
- 4 His is no earthly kingdom;
It comes from heav'n above.
His rule is peace and freedom
And justice, truth, and love.
So let your praise be sounding
For kindness so abounding: Refrain

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350 Come, Thou Precious Ransom, Come

- 1 Come, Thou precious Ransom, come,
Only hope for sinful mortals!
Come, O Savior of the world!
Open are to Thee all portals.
Come, Thy beauty let us see;
Anxiously we wait for Thee.

2 Enter now my waiting heart,
Glorious King and Lord most holy.
Dwell in me and ne'er depart,
Though I am but poor and lowly.
Ah, what riches will be mine
When Thou art my guest divine!

3 My hosannas and my palms
Graciously receive, I pray Thee;
Evermore, as best I can,
Savior, I will homage pay Thee,
And in faith I will embrace,
Lord, Thy merit through Thy grace.

4 Hail! Hosanna, David's Son!
Jesus, hear our supplication!
Let Thy kingdom, scepter, crown,
Bring us blessing and salvation,
That forever we may sing:
Hail! Hosanna to our King.

Text: Public domain

Stand

Nunc Dimittis

LSB 199

**C Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace
according to Thy word,
for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast
prepared before the face of all people,
a light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of Thy
people Israel.
Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy
Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen.**

Thanksgiving

LSB 200

P O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,

C and His mercy endureth forever.

P Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one

another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

P The Lord be with you.

C And with thy spirit.

Benedicamus

LSB 202

P Bless we the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Benediction

LSB 202

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.

The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give you peace.

C Amen, amen, amen.

349 Hark the Glad Sound

1 Hark the glad sound! The Savior comes,
The Savior promised long;
Let ev'ry heart prepare a throne
And ev'ry voice a song.

2 He comes the pris'ners to release,
In Satan's bondage held.
The gates of brass before Him burst,
The iron fetters yield.

3 He comes the broken heart to bind,
The bleeding soul to cure,
And with the treasures of His grace
To enrich the humble poor.

4 Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace,
Thy welcome shall proclaim,
And heav'n's eternal arches ring
With Thy belovèd name.

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Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Three from Lutheran Service Book

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ASSISTING AT WORSHIP

Preacher

Rev. Patrick Niles

Presiding Minister

Rev. Colin Moon

Organist

Susan Wachter

Lay Readers

Barb Nitsch (5:30)

Dan Blackburn (8:00)

Sue Kubow (10:30)

Communion Assistants

Mark Cyr & Jon Krueger (5:30)

Dave Ames (8:00)

Doug Hasenstein (10:30)

UPCOMING ADVENT SERVICES

8:30am and 6:00pm

Wednesday, November 30th – Presented by grades 4, 5 & 6

Wednesday, December 7th – Presented by grades 3K, 4K, 5K & 8

Wednesday, December 14th – Presented by grades 1, 2, 3 & 7

Wednesday, December 21st – Presented by Pastor

**Soup Suppers will be held on these Wednesday evenings,
beginning at 5:00pm, in the school cafeteria.**