

November 29, 2020 – Advent 1
Bethany Lutheran Church (ELCA)

**RINGING OF BELL AND PRELUDE
WELCOME**

Those gathered are invited to respond with the bold printed words and sing the hymns.

PRAYER AND LIGHTING OF ADVENT CANDLE

We praise you, O God, for this evergreen crown that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent. As we light the first candle on this wreath, rouse us from sleep, that we may be ready to greet our Lord when he comes with all the saints and angels. Enlighten us with your grace, and prepare our hearts to welcome him with joy. Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near. **Amen.**

HYMN DURING LIGHTING OF ADVENT CANDLE

Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah (verse 1)



- 1 Light one can-dle to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 2 Light two can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 3 Light three can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 4 Light four can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.



He shall bring sal - va - tion to Is - ra - el, God ful - fills the prom - ise.
He shall feed the flock like a shep-herd, gent - ly lead them home-ward.
Lift your heads and lift high the gate-way for the King of glo - ry.
He is com - ing, tell the glad tid - ings. Let your lights be shin - ing!

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit,
whose forgiveness is sure
and whose steadfast love endures forever.

Amen.

Together let us honestly and humbly confess
that we have not lived as God desires.

Amen.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Loving and forgiving God,
we confess that we are held captive by sin.
In spite of our best efforts, we have gone astray.
We have not always welcomed the stranger;
We have not always loved our neighbor;
We have not always been Christ to one another.
Restore us, O God.
Wake us up and turn us from our sin.
Renew us each day in the light of Christ. Amen.

People of God, hear this glad news:
by God's endless grace
your sins are forgiven, and you are free—
free from all that holds you back
and free to live in the peaceable realm of God.

May you be strengthened in God's love,
✠ Comforted by Christ's peace,
and accompanied with the power of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection awaken us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and keep us blameless until the coming of your new day, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

HYMN Come Now, O Prince of Peace



O - so - sŏ o - so - sŏ, pyong - hwa - ũi - im - gŭm
1 Come now, O Prince of peace, make us one bod - y.
2 Come now, O God of love, make us one bod - y.
3 Come now and set us free, O God, our Sav - ior.
4 Come, Hope of u - ni - ty, make us one bod - y.



u - ri - ga han - mom i - ru - ge ha - so - sŏ.
Come, O Lord Je - sus, rec - on - cile your peo - ple.
Come, O Lord Je - sus, rec - on - cile your peo - ple.
Come, O Lord Je - sus, rec - on - cile all na - tions.
Come, O Lord Je - sus, rec - on - cile all na - tions.

Text: Geonyong Lee, b. 1947; tr. Marion Pope
Music: OSOSO, Geonyong Lee, b. 1947
Text and music © Geonyong Lee

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading,
preaching, and song.

PSALM 80:1-7, 17-19

Psalm 80 is a prayer for help from a community.

- ¹Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock;
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.
- ²**In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh,
stir up your strength and come to help us.**
- ³Restore us, O God;
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.
- ⁴**O LORD God of hosts,
how long will your anger fume when your people pray?**
- ⁵You have fed them with the bread of tears;
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.
- ⁶**You have made us the derision of our neighbors,
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.**
- ⁷Restore us, O God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

¹⁷Let your hand be upon the one at your right hand,
the one you have made so strong for yourself.

¹⁸And so will we never turn away from you;
give us life, that we may call upon your name.

¹⁹Restore us, O LORD God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

READING: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

As the Christians in Corinth await the advent of Jesus, Paul reminds them how the Lord has already enriched them through spiritual gifts and will continue to strengthen them until the coming day of the Lord.

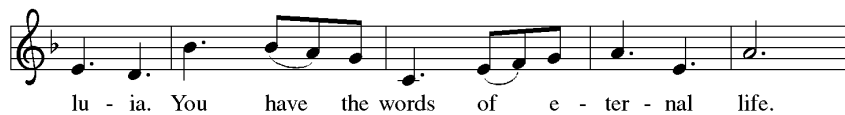
A reading from 1st Corinthians.

⁴I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, ⁵for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind—⁶just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you—⁷so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁸He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL READING: Mark 13:24-37

Jesus encourages his followers to look forward to the day when he returns in power and glory to end all suffering.

[Jesus said:] ²⁴“In those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, ²⁵and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

²⁶Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory. ²⁷Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

²⁸“From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. ²⁹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. ³⁰Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. ³¹Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³²“But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. ³⁴It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. ³⁵Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, ³⁶or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. ³⁷And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

MESSAGE

HYMN *Rejoice, Rejoice Believers*



1 Re - joice, re - joice, be - liev - ers, and let your lights ap - pear;
2 The watch - ers on the moun - tain pro - claim the bride - groom near;
3 The saints, who here in pa - tience their cross and suf - f'ings bore,
4 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;



the eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing, and dark - er night is near.
go forth as he ap - proach - es with al - le - lu - ias clear.
shall live and reign for - ev - er when sor - row is no more.
a - rise, O Sun so longed for, o'er this be - night - ed sphere.



The bride - groom is a - ris - ing and soon is draw - ing nigh.
The mar - riage feast is wait - ing; the gates wide o - pen stand.
A - round the throne of glo - ry the Lamb they shall be - hold;
With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, we plead, O Lord, to see



Up, pray and watch and wres - tle; at mid - night comes the cry.
A - rise, O heirs of glo - ry; the bride - groom is at hand.
in tri - umph cast be - fore him their di - a - dems of gold.
the day of earth's re - demp - tion that sets your peo - ple free!

Text: Laurentius Laurenti, 1660–1722; tr. Sarah B. Findlater, 1823–1907
Music: HAF TRONES LAMPA FÄRDIG, Swedish folk tune

APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**
**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come 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 INTERCESSION

With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

*Each petition ends with, "Lord, in your mercy." Those worshipping respond with, "**Hear our prayer.**"*

Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

During this time, an offering would normally be taken for the mission of Christ's church. We are grateful for your gifts and they are needed to continue the work of the church. We understand in this time some have lost their jobs, hours reduced and may be incurring a financial hardship and therefore unable to financially give; while others may be able to give more. Options on ways to give are found on our website (www.wbbethany.org). Thank you!

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with the gifts of ourselves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**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.**

BLESSING

The Creator of the stars bless your Advent waiting,
the long-expected ✝ Savior fill you with love,
the unexpected Spirit guide your journey,
now and forever.

Amen.

HYMN *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*



Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise God, all



crea - tures here be - low; praise God a - bove, ye



heav'n - ly host; praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

SENDING

Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.

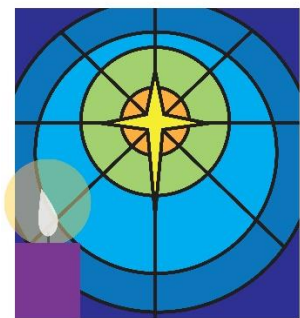
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE



Thank you for worshipping with us this morning! We invite you to join us again next Sunday at 9:30 AM on Facebook. Blessings to you as you shine forth the light of Christ in the world this week! Thanks, and praise to God for everything you do in the name of Jesus Christ!

We will celebrate Holy Communion next Sunday, December 6th. Please contact us to arrange pick up of a prepackaged cup of juice and wafer (see photo to right) or to have it delivered to you ahead of time. You can call Paula at 319-331-9456 or Pastor Chad at Bethany 319-643-5998.



FIRST SUNDAY
OF
Advent

During the four Sundays of Advent and Christmas Eve we will once again be adding items to our worship space which sustain us in our waiting and help guide us toward the joyous celebration of the birth of our Savior. Each week those items will be noted in the bulletin.

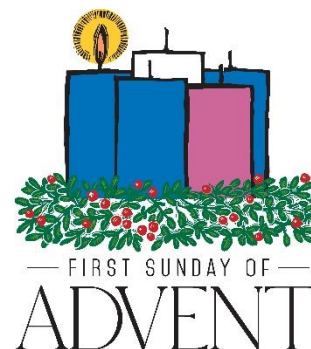
On this first Sunday of Advent we introduce the Advent Wreath along with blue paraments which adorn the altar, lectern, and pulpit. Tradition has it the Advent wreath originated in Germany. This wreath has become a common symbol for many Christians. In addition to the information found on the next page, there is further significance to the candles than just representing the four weeks leading up to Christmas. The first candle (blue) symbolizes the coming of Jesus. As we light this candle, we reflect upon the birth of the Christ child and His eventual return. This candle also represents hope in the promise Christ is our salvation. The second candle (blue) symbolizes peace reminding us Jesus is the "Prince of Peace." The third candle (pink) represents joy, reminding us of the angel's message that a Savior will be born, Christ the Lord. Lastly, the fourth candle (blue) symbolizes God's great love for the world in sending God's Son into the world to redeem it.

As for the paraments upon the altar during Advent; blue is the color of hope, which is a primary theme of the weeks leading up to the festival of Christmas.

One of the best-known customs for the season is the Advent wreath. The wreath and winter candle-lighting amid the growing darkness strengthen some of the Advent images found in the Bible. The unbroken circle of greens is clearly an image of everlasting life, a victory wreath, the crown of Christ, or the wheel of time itself. Christians use the wreath as a sign that Christ reaches into our time to lead us to the light of everlasting life. The four candles mark the progress of the four weeks of Advent and the growth of light. Sometimes the wreath is embellished with natural dried flowers or fruit. Its evergreen branches lead the household and congregation to the evergreen Christmas tree. In many homes, the family gathers for prayer around the wreath.

Sources Consulted:

Debbie Traftan O'Neal, *The Advent Wreath*, Augsburg Publishing 1988.







A weekly devotional has been prepared by Pastor Chad and can be downloaded from our website. (<https://wbbethany.org/wp-admin/post.php?post=135&action=edit>) Once there, you will also find a link to a Google Site Pastor Chad created with additional resources.

ELCA COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

Online Concerts

Free online Christmas programs from our partners at regional ELCA colleges. Registration is required for some performances.

 Saturday, Dec. 5 7:30 p.m. grandview.edu/julefest2020	 Sunday, Dec. 6 3:30 p.m. christmas.stolaf.edu
 Friday, Dec. 4 7:30 p.m. luther.edu/christmas-at-luther	 Friday, Dec. 18 7:00 p.m. wartburg.edu/christmas

*Graphic from Southeastern Iowa Synod Facebook page

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Scripture passage from the New Revised Standard Version (NRSV).